

Regular Meeting #15 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
April 8, 2025

Review Meeting

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. at 210 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH. Commissioner Fix called the meeting to order, and the following Commissioners were present: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and David Levacy. County employees present: County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle; Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter; Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, Rochelle Menningen; Communications & Information Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; JFS Director, Corey Clark; IT Director, Daniel Neeley; EMA & Facilities Director, Jon Kochis; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Amy Brown-Thompson; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; GIS & REA Director, Dave Burgei; Map Room Technician, Clayton Finley; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Treasurer, James Bahnsen; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Deputy JFS Director, Heather O'Keefe; Deputy HR Director, Abby Watson; Interim RPC Director, Holly Mattei; District Urban Technician, Chad Lucht; Soil and Water Manager, Nikki Drake; JFS HR Officer, Ashley Fahner; JFS HR Officer, Brittney Ritenour; and Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Ray Stemen, Chris Snider, and Samantha Meadows.

Virtual attendees: Lori Lovas, Beth Cottrell, Jerry Starnier, Michelle Carper, Shelby Hunt, Jennifer Effinger, Nicole Schultz, James Bahnsen, Greg Forquer, BGM, Jessica Murphy, Park Russell, Leighann Adams, Deborah, Lori Hawk, Jared Collins, Baylie Blevins, Shannon, Vince Carpico, Stacy Hicks, Jeff Barron, Randy Carter, Jennifer Morgan, Jeanie Wears, Alex Lape, Joe Ebel, Ashley Arter, Stacy Knight, Josh Horacek, and Brian Wolfe.

Welcome

Commissioner Fix opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

Introduction of New Employee, JFS HR Officer Brittney Ritenour

Ms. O'Keefe introduced the new HR Officer for JFS, Britney Ritenour.

Ms. Ritenour stated she is originally from Zanesville and is happy to be back in the area.

IT (Information Technology) Update, IT Director Dan Neeley

Mr. Neeley provided an IT update and corresponding PowerPoint which can be viewed in the minutes. IT has been involved in new technology services at many new county locations and with several capital projects. The IT team consists of eight individuals who manage the service desk, 1300 user accounts, 1000 endpoint devices, and almost 200 servers. IT has been fielding questions as Microsoft has implemented an October 2025 deadline for the Windows 11 update and will no longer support prior versions.

Commissioner Davis asked what version of Windows is currently being used throughout the county.

Mr. Neeley replied that many large entities, including Fairfield County, stayed on Windows 10 when Windows 11 was first introduced. This is a common practice as new updates can pose different issues. He continued by speaking on cybersecurity, disaster recovery, security cameras, and access control. There were 280 security cameras that were migrated to a new cloud base system and 292 badge readers were replaced with access controlled doors. He added that there are IT/technical staff outside of the eight located in the Administrative Courthouse that assist in

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their respective departments. He also spoke about surveys that are emailed after the completion of service tickets. Those surveys have indicated a 90% satisfaction score with IT assistance.

Commissioner Davis asked if departments in the county reach out to IT for assistance with new processes or implementing new procedures.

Mr. Neeley replied that often someone in IT will see a process that could be improved and will offer suggestions.

Commissioner Davis spoke about IT's ability to now move forward strategically.

Mr. Neeley spoke about staying connected with peers in the industry for new solutions to IT problems.

Commissioner Levacy stated that he feels cybersecurity is of utmost importance.

Mr. Neeley replied that IT has done a good job of getting information out to staff who are now recognizing issues and reporting them.

Commissioner Fix asked about AI tools that are now accessible and if IT is watching for such opportunities.

Mr. Neeley stated AI is being addressed at a policy standpoint with departments.

Mr. Porter spoke about ensuring we are using the correct information in the right systems. We will have a presentation at the Leadership Conference on AI and are looking at the most robust systems to protect our data.

Commissioner Fix thanked Mr. Neeley for retooling the IT team and IT infrastructure of the county.

Public Comments

Ray Stemen spoke about the speed at which technology changes.

Legal Update

Amy Brown-Thompson stated that HB 497 goes into effect April 9th, 2025, which includes contract changes.

County Administration Update

- *The County Administration Update was provided by the County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle, unless otherwise noted.*

April is National County Government Month (NCGM)

National County Government Month is a great opportunity to highlight the role that counties play in serving our residents and all Ohioans. Throughout April we are highlighting some of the essential services that county governments provide. Since April is Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month, and the Child Abuse Prevention Breakfast

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is tomorrow, I will highlight some of the services that Child Protective Services Provide. CPS assesses and investigates reports of child abuse, neglect, or dependency. They work with families to develop case plans and identify safety plans for children who cannot return home, potentially involving the court system if necessary. CPS helps with family support services, foster care and adoption services, and family engagement. They provide ongoing case management to ensure that families receive the necessary support they may need.

April 15th Leadership Conference and Board of Commissioners' Meeting

Next week the Board of Commissioners' Meeting will be at a different time and location. The 2025 Leadership Conference will be held at Alley Park from 8:00 a.m. until noon, and the Commissioners' Meeting will follow at 1:00 p.m.

Highlights of Resolutions

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

Resolution Review

There are 22 resolutions on the agenda for the Regular voting meeting.

Resolutions of note:

- A proclamation recognizing the Bicentennial of the Village of Millersport.

Commissioner Fix read the proclamation and presented it to Commissioner Levacy who spoke about the area while the canal was being built in the early 1800's.

- A resolution of support of State Issue 2, Renewal of the State Capital Improvement Program. Issue 2 will be on the May 6th ballot. This is a renewal and will not increase taxes. The program has provided over \$7 billion to improve Ohio infrastructures for almost 40 years.
- Facilities has a resolution to approve two addendums to the lease agreements with the Ohio Department of Public Safety for BMV space at the One-Stop Building.

Jon said there is a slight change to the lease rate in the agreement.

Ms. Cordle stated that the county must be planful of the timing to changes in the lease agreement due to some state requirements.

- RPC has two resolutions on the agenda. One to accept the Chesapeake subdivision/Milnor Road Improvements and one to approve the conditional acceptance of the Pine Hill Estates Section 2 Subdivision.

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Budget Review

- Budget Director, Bart Hampson,

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

- *The Calendar and Correspondence reviews were provided by Ms. Menningen.*

Informational Items

- OCCO Legislative Reception, April 8, 2025, 5:00 p.m., Statehouse Atrium, 1 Capitol Sq., Columbus
- Child Abuse Prevention Month Breakfast, April 9, 2025, 8:00 a.m., Life Church Vineyard, 5550 Lancaster-Newark Rd. NE, Pleasantville
- Fairfield County 4-H Achievement Awards Program, April 10, 2025, 7:00 p.m., Fairfield County Fairgrounds, Ed Sands Building, 157 E. Fair Ave., Lancaster
- 2025 Local Civics Bee Competition, April 9, 2025, 10:00 a.m., Ohio University Lancaster, 1570 Granville Pike, Lancaster
- CCAO Regional Legislative Briefing, April 21, 2025, 12:00 p.m., The Granville Inn, 314 Broadway E., Granville
- Pickerington Public Library Community Leaders' Luncheon, April 28, 2025, 11:00 a.m., Grace Fellowship Church, The Studio, 1449 Refugee Rd., Pickerington
- Unveiling of The Link, April 29, 2025, 3:30 p.m., Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Wheeling St. Entrance, 239 W. Main St., Lancaster

Correspondence

- City of Lancaster Board of Zoning Appeals, Notice of April 14, 2025, 2:00 p.m., Public Hearing, BZA Case #750 and BZA Case #754

Ms. Cordle added that the BZA cases noticed to the county were evaluated and no issues were noted.

Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Ms. Drake stated that the Soil & Water Conservation District dispersed \$190,000 to farmers for the losses they experienced during the 2024 drought. This money was received from the State of Ohio.

Ms. Mattei stated RPC is continuing to work with local communities on their zoning plans.

Engineer Upp stated his team is working on bridge inspections and the cleaning of road debris ahead of the construction season.

Mr. Burgei stated the Auditor's Office issued a series of fact sheets and have been working on implementing new systems. He added that the new lot split application is running and thanked Ms. Mattei, Mr. Vogel, and Recorder McKenzie for their assistance with the new application. He introduced Clayton Finley as the newest member to the map room team.

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Mr. Finley stated he had just completed the NACo Leadership Training and thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to go through the course. He stated that during the course he was able to highlight the Auditor's Strategic Plan, and many entities have asked for additional information about it.

Mr. Vogel spoke about the previous lot-split program and how the new application is much easier for the public and for internal departments.

Engineer Upp added that it makes a huge difference for people trying to split their lots.

Mr. Szabrak stated that Representative LaRe passed funding through the House that would assist the Workforce Center.

Mr. Kochis provided a picture of the work being done in the office area of the Workforce Center and added that he is excited to be starting on the project.

Mr. Clark spoke about JFS's assistance with a senior citizen who had an attempted fraud incident. The Protective Services Case Worker talked her out of falling for the scam and the bank involved was also appreciative.

Mr. Porter stated the dog shelter is full and there are currently 7 puppies. If your family wants a puppy, please look at the shelter. Inflation has added to the population at the dog shelter. It is an economic situation, and it is being managed.

Old Business

Commissioner Levacy thanked EMA and first responders for all they do during bad weather events.

New Business

None.

Regular (Voting) Meeting

The Commissioners continued to the voting portion of the meeting with the following Commissioners present: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis, and David Levacy. County employees present: County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle; Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter; Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, Rochelle Menningen; Communications & Information Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; JFS Director, Corey Clark; IT Director, Daniel Neeley; EMA & Facilities Director, Jon Kochis; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Amy Brown-Thompson; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; GIS & REA Director, Dave Burgei; Map Room Technician, Clayton Finley; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Treasurer, James Bahnsen; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Deputy JFS Director, Heather O'Keefe; Deputy HR Director, Abby Watson; Interim RPC Director, Holly Mattei; District Urban Technician, Chad Lucht; Soil and Water Manager, Nikki Drake; JFS HR Officer, Ashley Fahner; JFS HR Officer, Brittney Ritenour; and Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Ray Stemen, Chris Snider, and Samantha Meadows.

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Virtual attendees: Lori Lovas, Beth Cottrell, Jerry Starner, Michelle Carper, Shelby Hunt, Jennifer Effinger, Nicole Schultz, James Bahnsen, Greg Forquer, BGM, Jessica Murphy, Park Russell, Leighann Adams, Deborah, Lori Hawk, Jared Collins, Baylie Blevins, Shannon, Vince Carpico, Stacy Hicks, Jeff Barron, Randy Carter, Jennifer Morgan, Jeanie Wears, Alex Lape, Joe Ebel, Ashley Arter, Stacy Knight, Josh Horacek, and Brian Wolfe.

Announcements

There were no additional announcements.

Approval of Minutes for April 1, 2025

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Minutes for Tuesday, April 1, 2025, meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: David Levacy, Steve Davis, and Jeff Fix

Approval of Resolutions from the Fairfield County Commissioners

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from the Fairfield County Commissioners:

2025-04.08.a A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Proclamation

Commissioner Fix read the proclamation and presented it to Commissioner Levacy as a resident and former President of the Village of Millersport Council.

Commissioner Levacy provided some of the history of the canal and the many immigrants who helped to build and operate the canal that led to the settlement of the Village of Millersport.

2025-04.08.b A Resolution in Support of State Issue 2, Renewal of the State Capital Improvement Program, on the May 6 Statewide Ballot

2025-04.08.c A resolution to approve a memo transaction for interest allocation reimbursements for Fairfield Department of Health, Fairfield County Parks, & Fairfield County Port Authority – Fund #7012, #7321, #7308, & #7865

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: David Levacy, Steve Davis and Jeff Fix

Approval of Resolutions from the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities:

2025-04.08.d A resolution to approve a reimbursement for share of costs for Ethernet Services paid to AT&T as a memo expenditure for fund# 2060

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2025-04.08.e A resolution to approve a memo exp./ memo receipt for the cost of transportation for individuals paid to Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit as a memo expenditure for fund# 2060

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: David Levacy, Steve Davis, and Jeff Fix

Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Clerk of Courts – Legal Division

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Clerk of Courts – legal Division:

2025-04.08.f A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category for Clerk of Courts Legal; Fund #2318, Computer Fund

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: David Levacy, Steve Davis, and Jeff Fix

Approval of Resolutions from the Fairfield County Engineer

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from the Fairfield County Engineer:

2025-04.08.g A resolution to request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of Memo receipts and memo expenses for fund 2580 for subdivision inspections of various subdivisions

2025-04.08.h A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category SA-Ditch 2050 Subdivision for West Buckeye Lake/Ballard Lane expenses

2025-04.08.i A Resolution to Approve an LPA Federal Project Agreement with ODOT for the HOC-44 Bridge Rehabilitation Project

2025-04.08.j A Resolution to Approve Advertising for the 2025 Crack Seal Project

2025-04.08.k A resolution of increase appropriations, appropriate from unappropriated, account to account and fund to fund transfer for PLE-32 and PLE-33 Bridge Replacements Project

Engineer Upp stated the resolutions would allow his office to work on the lift station at Buckeye Lake, replace and repair bridges, and work on crack sealing of roads.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: David Levacy, Steve Davis, and Jeff Fix

Approval of a Resolution from Fairfield County Facilities

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from Fairfield County Facilities:

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2025-04.08.l A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of Addendum 4 and Addendum 2 to Lease Agreements with the Ohio Department of Public Safety

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: David Levacy, Steve Davis, and Jeff Fix

Approval of Resolutions from Fairfield County Job and Family Services

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from Fairfield County Job and Family Services:

2025-04.08.m A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Sub Fund 8056 reimbursing Fund 2018

2025-04.08.n A resolution to approve a memo exp./ memo receipt for the costs of Birth Certificates paid to Fairfield County Health Departments as a memo expenditure for fund# 2072 Public Children's Services

2025-04.08.o A resolution to approve a memo exp./ memo receipt for the costs of Transportation paid to Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit as a memo expenditure for fund# 2599 Workforce Fund

2025-04.08.p A resolution to approve a memo exp./ memo receipt for the costs of Transportation paid to Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit as a memo expenditure for fund# 2018 Public Assistance Fund

2025-04.08.q A resolution to approve a memo exp./ memo receipt for the costs of Transportation paid to Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit as a memo expenditure for fund# 2018 Public Assistance Fund

2025-04.08.r A resolution to approve a memo exp./ memo receipt for the costs of Transportation paid to Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit as a memo expenditure for fund# 2599 Workforce Fund

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: David Levacy, Steve Davis, and Jeff Fix

Approval of Resolutions from Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission:

2025-04.08.s A resolution to approve Final Acceptance of the Chesapeake, Milnor Road Improvements Subdivision

2025-04.08.t A resolution to approve Conditional Acceptance of Pine Hill Estates, Section 2 Subdivision

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Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: David Levacy, Steve Davis, and Jeff Fix

Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Sheriff

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Sheriff:

2025-04.08.u A resolution to approve the purchasing of a gun by a retiring officer

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: David Levacy, Steve Davis, and Jeff Fix

Approval of the Payment of Bills

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution for the Payment of Bills:

2025-04.08.v A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of Payment of Invoices for
Departments that Need Board of Commissioners' Approval

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: David Levacy, Steve Davis, and Jeff Fix

Adjournment

Commissioner Davis stated that he will be out of the office on June 3 and June 17, 2025.

Commissioners Fix and Levacy stated they had no conflicts on those dates and would attend the Commission meetings.

With no further business, on the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 10:01 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: David Levacy, Steve Davis, and Jeff Fix

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, Alley Park, 2805 Old Logan Rd. SE, Lancaster, OH.

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Motion by: David Levacy

Seconded by: Steve Davis

that the April 8, 2025, minutes were approved by the following vote:

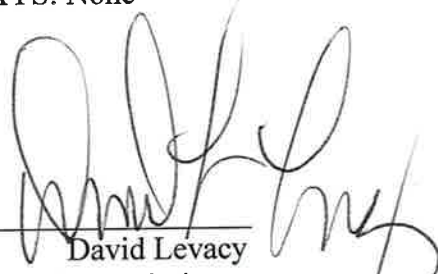
YEAS: David Levacy, Steve Davis, and Jeff Fix
ABSTENTIONS:

NAYS: None

*Approved on April 15, 2025


Jeff Fix
Commissioner


Steve Davis
Commissioner


David Levacy
Commissioner


Rochelle Menningen, Clerk
