

Regular Meeting #19 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
April 29, 2025

Review Meeting

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. at 210 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH. Commissioner Jeffery Fix called the meeting to order, and Commissioners Steve Davis and David Levacy were also in attendance. 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; Finance Director, Bart Hampson; JFS Director, Corey Clark; IT Director, Daniel Neeley; EMA & Facilities Director, Jon Kochis; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Amy Brown-Thompson; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Clerk of Courts, Branden Meyer; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Deputy JFS Director, Heather O'Keefe; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Interim RPC Director, Holly Mattei; Budget Officer, Staci Knisley; Soil & Water Manager, Nikki Drake; and Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Ray Stemen, Brian Everitt and Brandy Marshall.

Virtual attendees: Lori Hawk, Beth Cottrell, Shelby Hunt, Lori Lovas, Ashley Arter, Belinda Nebbergall, Britney Lee, Tyler Sawmiller, Stacy Hicks, Tony Howard, Jessica Murphy, Jennifer Morgan, Alex Lape, Andrea Spires, Brian Wolfe, Frank, and Greg Forquer.

Welcome

Commissioner Fix opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

Update, County Engineer, Jeremiah Upp

Engineer Upp provided an update on bridge repairs, completed construction in and around the intersections of Refugee and Pickerington Roads, and plans for a multi-use path in that same area.

Commissioner Fix spoke about his appreciation for the improvements to the Refugee and Pickerington Roads intersection and asked for a timeline for the multi-use path.

Engineer Upp stated he is hoping to start construction in 2026. The Engineer continued by showing work on Fosnaugh School Road and spoke about Force Accounts and how they have changed work that could otherwise be completed by his office.

Commissioner Levacy asked about the content of the pad underneath the Fosnaugh School Road box culvert.

Engineer Upp replied that the box culvert was sitting on a compacted stone pad. He then spoke about the Basil-Western Road improvements.

Commissioner Davis asked about existing traffic patterns along Basil-Western Road.

Engineer Upp explained that the timeline is impacted when Federal money is involved in the project.

Commissioner Fix spoke about the importance of parking lot access for local businesses who may be impacted by the Basil-Western Road project.

Engineer Upp stated there will be ample time for business owners to discuss access prior to the project.

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Budget Update, Finance Director, Bart Hampson

Mr. Hampson provided a finance report on the results of the 1st quarter of 2025. He spoke on the financial analysis and reporting for the 1st quarter, and about the revenue and expenses of the General Fund. The report/PowerPoint is available in the minutes of April 29, 2025.

Commissioner Davis asked if there are any anomalies regarding the reported revenue.

Mr. Hamson stated there were not.

Commissioner Fix asked about the reported increase in fees and charges for services and Mr. Hampson replied that the increase is due to timing and is expected to report by year-end as budgeted.

Mr. Hamson stated that sales tax revenue is continuing to increase and spoke about the categories of fund expenses. He spoke about capital improvements and causes for increases in personal services. He reviewed the budget schedule for the remainder of 2025 and added that the 2026 budget schedule had been released.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Hampson and Ms. Knisley for their continued work on the budgets.

Public Comments

Ray Stemen of Lancaster stated that local officials have a large responsibility to utilize public funds efficiently and provided a prayer for those decision makers.

Bryan Everitt of Lancaster, on behalf of the Carnation Solar Project, provided the April newsletter and stated that he is available for any questions people may have about the solar project.

Legal Update

Amy Brown-Thompson spoke about the resolution on the agenda regarding the lease and debt lease between Fairfield County and the Fairfield Medical Center (FMC). She stated it is a 20-year term lease and FMC has indicated they would like an additional 30-year lease.

Commissioner Davis asked for clarification on lease expenses.

Amy Brown-Thompson replied that the lease states that all additional expenses the county would incur would have to be reimbursed by FMC.

County Administration Update

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

Week in Review

Rick Szabrak was listed as one of the Power 125

Rick Szabrak was recognized by Columbus Business First's as one of Central Ohio's 2025 most influential business leaders. The annual ranking of the region's 125 most influential executives, thought leaders, and influencers came out last week. Rick, like the

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others who made the list, is leading conversations about Central Ohio's future. Congratulations to Rick, we look forward to hearing what you have to say next!

April is National County Government Month (NCGM)

April is National County Government Month, and we continue to highlight the vital role counties play in serving their residents. As we move into May, we recognize two important observances: Mental Health Awareness Month and Supervised Visitation Awareness Month. This month, we're proud to spotlight the work of Fairfield County ADAMH and the Fairfield County Visitation Center—two agencies making a lasting difference in our community.

The Fairfield County ADAMH Board is dedicated to raising awareness about mental health and breaking the stigma that surrounds it. Their ongoing mission is to enhance community well-being by addressing mental health challenges and substance use disorders—during May and all year long.

Supervised Visitation Awareness Month brings attention to the crucial services that provide a safe, neutral setting for children to maintain relationships with non-custodial parents. The Fairfield County Visitation Center plays a key role in supporting families during difficult times, helping to ensure children's safety and emotional well-being. The Visitation Center is getting painted this week.

We commend the dedication of these agencies—and many others in Fairfield County—who support children, adults, and families affected by mental health challenges, substance abuse, and the absence of a safe home. Their work strengthens our community and brings hope to those who need it most.

Evening Meeting

The May 13th Commissioners' Meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. at the Wigwam Event Center in Violet Township.

Transit Rebranding Ribbon Cutting

The Ribbon Cutting for the rebranding of Transit will be this afternoon from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. in the JFS parking lot. Rain is not expected until 7:00 p.m. but please join us rain or shine. Commissioner Davis will be playing an important role in the unveiling.

Issue 2 Yard Signs

Yard signs are still available. Voting is May 6th.

Highlights of Resolutions

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

Resolution Review

There are 16 resolutions on the agenda for the Regular voting meeting.

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Resolutions of note:

- The first resolution on the agenda is for an amendment to the 2013 base lease and lease between Fairfield County and FMC. This amendment will allow for the release of the Harcum House property, which is a part of the 2013 lease.
- There are two resolutions for Economic and Workforce Development to appointment members to the Area 20/21 Workforce Development Board. One resolution appoints Josh Renison to replace Stephen Carson effective July 1, 2025, and the other reappoints Katie Karwatske.

Mr. Szabrak stated there are two representatives from the state on the Workforce Development Board.

- The Engineer's Office has 5 resolutions. One to appropriate from unappropriated. Two resolutions to approve the contract with BUD's Inc., and the notice to commence for two bridge replacements. And two resolutions to approve agreements to cooperate with the Director of Transportation for roundabouts at SR158 and Coonpath and SR204 and Tollgate.

Engineer Upp stated that ODOT received \$86M for the future widening of SR33 from I-270 to Diley Rd. This will benefit all southeastern Ohio. We found out yesterday that we received a grant to replace a bridge just outside of Baltimore and a grant to help with the salt barn.

- Regional Planning has a resolution for the approval of the final acceptance of the Spring Creek Subdivision Section 3-1B public improvements.

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

- *The review of the calendar, invitations received, and correspondence were provided by the Clerk to the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners, Rochelle Menningen.*
- ADAMH Annual Dinner, April 29, 2025, 5:30 p.m., Crossroads, 2095 W. Fair Ave., Lancaster
- Governor's Reception Celebrating Ohio's County Elected Officials, May 1, 2025, 5:00 p.m., The Governor's Residence, 358 N. Parkview Ave., Columbus
- Fairhope Celebrates Life, May 1, 2025, 5:30 p.m., The Mill Event Center, 431 S. Columbus St., Lancaster
- F.O.P. Forest Rose Lodge 50 Fallen Officer Memorial Service, May 7, 2025, 11:00 a.m., Lancaster Downtown Gazebo, Intersection of Main St. and Broad St., Lancaster
- Fairfield Medical Center Foundation's Annual Legendary Philanthropist Award, May 12, 2025, 4:00 p.m., Fairfield Medical Center, South Lobby, 401 N. Ewing St., Lancaster
- Fairfield County Workforce Center, Pre-Apprentice Graduation, May 15, 2025, 11:30 a.m., Workforce Center, 4465 Coonpath Rd. NW, Carroll

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- American Legion Post 283 Dedication of Corporal David A. Johnson Memorial Highway, May 22, 2025, 1:00 p.m., Refugee Rd., Pickerington

Correspondence

- Letter from Senator Tim Schaffer, April 2025, Regarding Pending Legislation
- Email from Marilyn Boyd, Bremen Chamber of Commerce Trustee, Thanking Commissioner Fix for Speaking at Chamber Luncheon
- Correspondence Regarding Industrial Solar Projects
- Letter from the Evergreen Real Estate Group, April 14, 2025, Regarding Green Oaks of Canal Winchester, LLC

Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Nikki Drake stated that the Earth Day celebration was a success despite the weather.

Auditor Brown extended her appreciation of IT for their continued efforts in advancing technological initiatives within the Auditor's Office. As this year marks a sexennial update, the office has experienced heightened activity. The office has updated its fact sheets and informational videos and has received a substantial number of applications for the owner occupancy credit.

Director Szabrak stated that a grant was received from Google for \$139,000 for the Workforce Center and Community Action. The grant will assist Community Action with the weatherization of homes and the HVAC students at the Workforce Center will have the opportunity to learn about weatherization through the grant.

Director Neeley thanked people for helping with the new badge recredentialing.

Director Clark stated that JFS is hoping to have their first placement in July at the new Galia County facility.

Old Business

Commissioner Davis stated that the county has held productive conversations and a saw demo from Uber to accelerate the county's ability to provide transportation services to all parts of the county. The intention is to provide those on-demand services at any time of the day.

Commissioner Levacy stated that the Veterans Hall of Fame continues to progress and thanked Bryan Everitt for assisting the organization.

Commissioner Fix spoke about speaking at the April Bremen Chamber of Commerce luncheon and added that he enjoyed hearing their updates.

New Business

Commissioner Davis stated his excitement about that afternoon's unveiling of the new transit rebranding.

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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 in attendance: County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle; Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter; Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, Rochelle Menningen; Communications & Information Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; Finance Director, Bart Hampson; JFS Director, Corey Clark; IT Director, Daniel Neeley; EMA & Facilities Director, Jon Kochis; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Amy Brown-Thompson; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Clerk of Courts, Branden Meyer; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Deputy JFS Director, Heather O'Keefe; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Interim RPC Director, Holly Mattei; Budget Officer, Staci Knisley; Soil & Water Manager, Nikki Drake; and Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Ray Stemen, Brian Everitt and Brandy Marshall.

Virtual attendees: Lori Hawk, Beth Cottrell, Shelby Hunt, Lori Lovas, Ashley Arter, Belinda Nebbergall, Britney Lee, Tyler Sawmiller, Stacy Hicks, Tony Howard, Jessica Murphy, Jennifer Morgan, Alex Lape, Andrea Spires, Brian Wolfe, Frank, and Greg Forquer.

Announcements

None.

Approval of Minutes for April 22, 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 22, 2025, meeting.

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 Commissioners

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 Commissioners:

2025-04.29.a	A Resolution Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a First Amendment to Base Lease Dated as June 1, 2013, and a First Amendment to Lease Dated as June 1, 2013, Both Between the County of Fairfield Ohio and Fairfield Medical Center, in Connection with the Release of Certain Property from Such Base Lease and Lease; and Authorizing other Documents in Connection Therewith
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Commissioner Fix asked if all the supporting documentation in the resolution was up to date.

Amy Brown-Thompson stated that the resolution is as it needs to be as long as the additional documentation from Dinsmore was added into the supporting documentation.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

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Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Auditor - Finance

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 Auditor - Finance:

2025-04.29.b A resolution authorizing a fund to fund transfer. Auditor – Fund 1080

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 Board of Elections

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 Board of Elections:

2025-04.29.c A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category for Board of Elections; Fund # 2884 SOS 2025 Primary Election Funding

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 Economic & Workforce Development

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 Economic & Workforce Development:

2025-04.29.d A resolution approving the ODJFS representative to the Area 20/21 Workforce Development Board(WDB)

2025-04.29.e A resolution approving the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) representative to the Workforce Development Board (WDB)

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:

2025-04.29.f A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for travel reimbursement

2025-04.29.g A Resolution to Approve the Notice to Commence for the PLE-32 & PLE-33 Bridge Replacements Project

2025-04.29.h A Resolution to Approve the Contract with BUD's, Inc. for the PLE-32 & PLE-33 Bridge Replacements Project.

2025-04.29.i A resolution to approve an agreement to cooperate with the Director of Transportation.

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2025-04.29.j A resolution to approve an agreement to cooperate with the Director of Transportation

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:

2025-04.29.k A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Lease Agreement with Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency for office space at The Tussing Road Government Services Center

Administrator Cordle stated that Community Action will be leasing a small area of the building on Tussing Road.

Commissioner Davis asked what other services are in that building.

Administrator Cordle stated that the Health Department uses the building for their WIC program.

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:

2025-04.29.l 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

2025-04.29.m 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

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 Law Library

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 Law Library:

2025-04.29.n A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated Funds for the Fairfield County Law Library Resources Board (Fund 2761)

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

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Approval of a Resolution from the 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 resolution from the Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission:

2025-04.29.o A resolution to approve Final Acceptance of the Spring Creek Subdivision Section 3-1B Public Improvements

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:

2025-04.29.p A resolution authorizing the approval of payment of invoices for departments that need the Board of Commissioners' approval.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Executive Session

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of David Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to go into executive session to discuss the acquisition or sale of property at 10:08 a.m.

Commissioner Davis asked that the following people be included in the executive session: The County Commissioners, County Administrator, Deputy County Administrator, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, a representative from the Prosecutor's Office, and the Facilities Director.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Executive session began at 10:15 a.m.

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of David Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to leave executive session at 10:43 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Adjournment

With no further business, on the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 10:43 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 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, Commissioners' Hearing Room, 210 E. Main St, Lancaster, OH.

Regular Meeting #18 - 2025 – April 22, 2025

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Motion by: David Levacy

Seconded by: Steve Davis

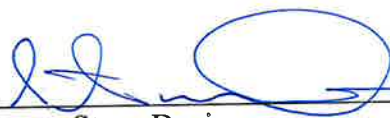
that the April 29, 2025, minutes were approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

*Approved May 6, 2025


Jeff Fix
Commissioner


Steve Davis
Commissioner


David Levacy
Commissioner


Rochelle Menningen, Clerk
