

Regular Meeting #20 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
May 6, 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; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Clerk of Courts, Branden Meyer; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; JFS Director, Corey Clark; IT Director, Daniel Neeley; EMA & Facilities Director, Jon Kochis; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Austin Lines; Planner, Nicholas Eastham; Soil and Water Manager, Nikki Drake; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; Deputy Workforce Development Director, Deshawn Toney; Chief Deputy Treasurer, Michael Kaper; Urban Technician, Chad Lucht; Information & Communications Coordinator, Tia Dauterman; Area 20 Deputy Director, Baylie Fields; Protective Services Program Administrator, Sarah Fortner; Social Services Supervisor, Elyssa Wanosik; Deputy JFS Director, Heather O'Keefe; Area 20 Apprenticeship Coordinator, Jo Miller; and Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Sherry Pymer, Beth Cottrell, Jim Cottrell; Chris Snider, Ray Stemen, Bob Slater II, and Greg Waidelich.

Virtual attendees: Alex Lape, BGM, Lori Hawk, Rick Szabrak, Jessica Murphy, Shelby Hunt, Ashley Arter, Shannon, Lori Lovas, Deborah, Jennifer Morgan, Jerry Starnier, Stacy Hicks, Greg Forquer, Lynette Barnhart, Britney Lee, Joe Ebel, Lisa McKenzie, Jeanie Wears, Josh Horacek, Angel Conrad, Jane Harf, Jared Collins, and Brian Wolfe.

Welcome

Commissioner Fix opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

Update, Jon Kochis - Airport

Mr. Kochis provided information on the airport hangar project. He stated there would be contracted savings of \$25,000 on pavement and an additional \$21,000 due to the removal of the hangar showers. There have been three increases due to building code requirements and those include the removal of topsoil, electrical upgrades, ten additional egress doors, and additional energy code requirements. The additional energy code requirements total \$120,000 and the other increases add up to \$29,000. A request for a variance in the code would be a 6 month process and could result in other increased costs. If approved, this would be Change Order Number 1 for the project and represents a total increase of \$110,000. Change orders most often occur when going through the permitting process. Mr. Kochis spoke about the current lease contract increases and stated they are locked at a 3% increase for our current renters. Hangar rent rates would incrementally increase for new renters. The airport has approximately 8 renters leave per year, and those hangars are immediately filled from the wait list. He added that the Airport Authority would pay \$191,666 a year for 30 years to repay the county.

Commissioner Fix asked for clarification on the lease rental rates.

Mr. Kochis replied that the airport is above mid-range for hangar lease rates in Central Ohio, and the area has a low cost effective rate compared to other metropolitan areas.

Commissioner Fix asked if there are any concerns that we will have unrented hangars.

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Mr. Kaper and Mr. Kochis replied that the new rate would be an increase of 24 cents per square foot and that the airport should have no issue renting its hangars.

Mr. Kochis stated that Ms. Knisley provided a financial projection that showed the Airport Authority would be able to repay the county's funds and still have monies left for repairs and other costs.

Mr. Kaper stated that the Airport's carry-over will continue to increase and at a rate greater than originally projected.

Mr. Kochis stated that major expenses such as a hangar door breaking are a possibility and that those expenses fall under operational costs which are the responsibility of the Airport Authority. Mr. Kochis provided a PowerPoint (available in the Minutes) which contained a map of the airport.

Commissioner Fix asked about the future expansion of an area on the map identified as area 5 and about area 29A.

Mr. Kochis said area 5 would be challenging to develop due to a creek and added that area 17 is an FAA eligible section. Area 29A is a good property for expansion.

Commissioner Levacy asked about the length of the leases.

Mr. Kochis replied that they are annual with a perpetual renewal and added that the Prosecutor's Office worked on the lease terms in 2021. He further added that the perpetual leases were created by prior individuals on the Commission and Airport Board. New tenants will see a different lease. There are currently 30 individuals and companies waiting for a hangar. Some have been waiting for over two and a half years.

Dr. Brown stated that the Airport Board has the means to pay the land lease and still participate in ways they were unable to in the past.

Mr. Kochis explained that there is an underlying agreement that the Airport Board operates the airport on the Commissioners behalf.

Commissioner Fix thanked Mr. Kochis, Mr. Kaper and the Airport Board for their work on the project.

Listen & Learn, Rick Szabrak – Workforce Development

Mr. Szabrak introduced Tia Dauterman, Deshawn Toney, Jo Miller, and Baylie Fields of the Fairfield County Workforce team. Joe Miller is the new Apprenticeship Coordinator to the Workforce Board who started in February and is responsible for working with local businesses to grow apprenticeships.

Ms. Toney spoke about the Career Readiness program and stated that all eight Fairfield County school districts are participating and there is a Career Readiness Advisor at each of the districts. In 2024 we started asking the students what they needed to achieve the Career Readiness Endorsement, as many were struggling with the combined endorsement and graduation requirements. Some adjustments were made and in just a year we are seeing more students

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connected to the program and able to earn the endorsement. In many cases, obtaining drivers licenses was an obstacle so we started working on ways to help students obtain those.

Commissioner Fix asked if students were dropping out of the program and returning to their home high schools.

Ms. Toney replied that they saw that the Career Readiness Endorsement was too much and difficult to complete for many students, so they looked at ways to assist with obtaining the certifications. We looked at the juniors to see what pieces of the Career Readiness Endorsement they were unable to complete. Sixty-nine students will graduate this year. Seven school districts had students participating in the 2023/2024 school year, and all eight districts had students participating in 2024/2025.

Commissioner Fix asked about the length of time someone would remain an apprentice.

Ms. Toney replied that it depends on the program, some are 6-8 weeks while an electrical apprenticeship is four years. She continued by speaking about the Workforce Center's Summer Camps for students entering the 6th, 7th, or 8th grade. There are four different camps with two sessions each.

Mr. Szabrak thanked Ms. Toney and added that she is doing a great job working with the school districts.

Commissioner Fix asked if there were any other entities in the state working on apprenticeship programs.

Mr. Szabrak stated there are other workforce programs in the state, but they differ greatly from our program. The other programs work more with their local vocational schools. Ohio University received a four year grant for manufacturing. Also, we have a career navigator for STEM. We have three cars owned by the career center which were purchased through a grant for driver's education classes. Mr. Szabrak also spoke about the respiratory and phlebotomy programs and a radiology program being worked on with Hocking College. He added that the team was working with the employees of the 850 jobs affected by Pixelle, which is in the Area 20 workforce territory; and about the Anduril drone manufacturing plant which will hire 4000 people in the next seven years.

Ms. Fields then spoke about some of the special projects being worked on by the Area 20 Workforce board. She added that Tia Dauterman was hired last year to focus on social media, which is getting people to employer hiring events. Area 20 also has a focus on apprenticeships, which is an earn and learn model. She added that they are working with healthcare providers to see where they are experiencing gaps in employment.

Ms. Szabrak added that the state provided a \$500,000 grant for CDL licensing, and the county has a lot on the north side of the airport which will be used for this training.

Commissioner Levacy spoke about the Governor's Workforce Board meeting that is now led by Lt. Governor Jim Tressel, who is very invested in workforce initiatives.

Mr. Szabrak stated that many partners of the Workforce Center provide instructors at their expense.

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Commissioner Fix spoke about having the opportunity to speak with Lt. Governor Tressel who had mentioned that he had already heard great things about what Fairfield County is doing. He thanked the Workforce Development team for the impact they are having and the work they are accomplishing.

Public Comments

Ray Stemen of Lancaster stated that there are a great many responsibilities that county leaders must be invested in and offered a Christian prayer.

Bob Slater II of Walnut Township voiced his frustrations with the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) and added that it is his opinion that Commissioner Davis should appoint a designee to serve as the Ad Hoc member on the OPSB.

Beth Cottrell of Amanda Township stated that the OPSB will conduct their review on Wednesday and asked the Commissioners to publicly oppose the Carnation solar project.

Sherry Pymer of Walnut Township stated that it is not too late to oppose the Eastern Cottontail solar project. She added that it is lawfully allowed for all Commissioners, including the Ad Hoc member, to publicly oppose specific projects. She was disappointed that there was no member of the OPSB present at any of the evidentiary hearings.

Samantha Meadows of EDF Renewables (EDF) stated that the Carnation Solar project would be economically important for Amanda township and that EDF wishes to be a good neighbor to the residents of the area.

Legal Update

None.

County Administration Update

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

Week in Review

May 13th Evening Meeting

Next week's Board of Commissioners' Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 13th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the newly renovated Wigwam Event Center in Violet Township.

Vote Today

If you have not already done so, don't forget to vote.

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Highlights of Resolutions

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

Resolution Review

There are 18 resolutions on the agenda for the Regular voting meeting.

Resolutions of note:

- The first resolution on the agenda is for the reappointment of Ms. Elyssa Wanosik to the Central Ohio Regional Prevention Council. Ms. Wanosik was originally appointed in March of 2023. The reappointment will expire March 13, 2027.
- There is a resolution to appropriate monies for Facilities that were paid by CORSA for repairs into the General Fund.
- The Clerk of Courts Legal Division has a resolution on the agenda to authorize the purchase of a 2025 Honda HR-V.

Clerk of Courts Meyer stated the resolution incorrectly lists the Legal Division and should instead be the Title Division.

- The Engineer's Office has 3 resolutions on the agenda to award contracts, the Crack Sealing Project to the Russell Standard Corporation, the 2025 Liquid Asphalt Project to Asphalt Materials, Inc., and the Camp Ground Road Bridge Replacement Project to Lindsay Precast.

Budget Review

- Budget Director, Bart Hampson, provided an update on the sales tax.

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

Items Requiring Response

Informational Items

- White House State Leadership Conference, May 20, 2025, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., White House Complex, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C.
- Fairfield County Sheriff's Office Award Luncheon, May 29, 2025, 12:00 p.m., Liberty Center, 851 Liberty Dr., Lancaster
- Governor's Executive Workforce Board Meeting, May 8, 2025, 10:30 a.m., Columbus State Community College, Workforce Development Building, 4th Floor Ballroom, 315 Cleveland Ave., Columbus
- Lancaster Fairfield County Chamber Awards and Trade Show, May 8, 2025, 5:30 p.m., Fisher Catholic High School, 1803 Granville Pike, Lancaster

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- Fairfield County 4-H Endowment Legacy Dinner, June 12, 2025, 5:00 p.m., Fairfield County Fairgrounds, 157 E. Fair Ave., Lancaster

Correspondence

- Letter and Resume, Juvenile & Probate Divisions Common Pleas Court, April 29, 2025, Re: Nomination for Appointment to the Board of Trustees, Multi-County Juvenile Detention Center

Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Mr. Kaper stated that the payment center drive-thru, located on Chestnut Street in Lancaster, will not be open in time for the second half property tax collections.

Engineer Upp stated that his office is beginning to fill the salt barn and will soon begin construction of their brine station.

Clerk of Courts Meyer stated that they are working to offer legal help through legal aid at the Hall of Justice.

Auditor Brown stated that the map of the month features the islands of Buckeye Lake. She also provided an advanced copy of the MCJDC report for the review packet, thanked Mr. Kochis and his team for updates and security upgrades to the Auditor's Office on the second floor and stated that property owners wishing to schedule appointments would be able to do so online in the coming year.

Ms. Drake stated that her office is helping to promote May as Mental Health Awareness Month with the Fairfield County Suicide Prevention Coalition. The drug collection event had a low turnout but there are multiple locations around the county where people can drop off their expired or unwanted prescription medications.

Mr. Vogel stated that the ODOT Pickerington Road project will be bid out on May 15th.

Mr. Szabrak stated that Economic Development will soon conduct a housing study.

Mr. Kochis stated he had staff that were awarded a grant to assist with firefighter training. He also noted that the repairs for the damage sustained to the BMV at the Pickerington Center have finished.

Mr. Neeley reminded county employees to be mindful of opening any suspicious email links and to verify that they are not a threat to cyber security.

Mr. Clark spoke about the Family Fun Fest which will be held next week at JFS.

Mr. Porter stated he held a meeting with CORSA regarding liability insurance and will be working to better stabilize the increasing rates.

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Old Business

Commissioner Davis stated he continues to hold conversations with Uber management.

Commissioner Levacy said he attended the unveiling of The LINK and thought it was a great event. He also attended an event held by Fairhope Hospice.

Commissioner Fix stated he attended the ADAMH event and was impressed with the speakers. He also spent time meeting with Violet Township staff and officials to discuss economic development in their area. He added that he was able to attend an open house event at the Governor's residence and was joined by fellow county elected officials.

New Business

Commissioner Levacy stated he will attend the Chamber of Commerce Annual Trade Show Awards on Thursday.

Commissioner Davis spoke about his position as the Ad Hoc member on the OPSB and explained that he does not wish to appoint a designee in his place because the burden should fall on him.

Regular (Voting) Meeting

The Commissioners continued to their 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; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Clerk of Courts, Branden Meyer; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; JFS Director, Corey Clark; IT Director, Daniel Neeley; EMA & Facilities Director, Jon Kochis; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Austin Lines; Planner, Nicholas Eastham; Soil and Water Manager, Nikki Drake; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; Deputy Workforce Development Director, Deshawn Toney; Chief Deputy Treasurer, Michael Kaper; Urban Technician, Chad Lucht; Information & Communications Coordinator, Tia Dauterman; Area 20 Deputy Director, Baylie Fields; Protective Services Program Administrator, Sarah Fortner; Social Services Supervisor, Elyssa Wanosik; Deputy JFS Director, Heather O'Keefe; Area 20 Apprenticeship Coordinator, Jo Miller; and Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Sherry Pymer, Beth Cottrell, Jim Cottrell; Chris Snider, Ray Stemen, Bob Slater II, and Greg Waidelich.

Virtual attendees: Alex Lape, BGM, Lori Hawk, Rick Szabrak, Jessica Murphy, Shelby Hunt, Ashley Arter, Shannon, Lori Lovas, Deborah, Jennifer Morgan, Jerry Starner, Stacy Hicks, Greg Forquer, Lynette Barnhart, Britney Lee, Joe Ebel, Lisa McKenzie, Jeanie Wears, Josh Horacek, Angel Conrad, Jane Harf, Jared Collins, and Brian Wolfe.

Announcements

Ms. Menningen stated the Clerk of Courts resolutions should both be under the Title Division and added that a resolution that was sent out on the first agenda that had to be removed due to an error. The current agenda had been updated.

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Approval of Minutes for April 29, 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 29, 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:

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| 2025-05.06.a | A Resolution to Approve the Reappointment of Ms. Elyssa Wanosik to the Central Ohio Regional Prevention Council |
| 2025-05.06.b | A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in major expenditure object categories for the General Fund# 1001, Facilities. |
| 2025-05.06.c | A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expense for Stop Loss Pool Sub fund & the Self-Funded Healthcare Fund |
| 2025-05.06.d | 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. |
| 2025-05.06.e | A resolution authorizing the approval of repayment of an advance to the General Fund from the FAA FY2021 grant fund# 3011, sub fund# 8272-- Fairfield County Commissioners |

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 Auditor - Payroll

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 - Payroll:

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| 2025-05.06.f | A resolution authorizing a memo expense memo receipt for the General Fund 2% administration fee for managing the county self-insurance program, Fund #5376 to General #1001 - Fairfield County Auditor |
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Dr. Brown stated that the resolution is a normal process to move administrative fees into the general fund.

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 Resolutions from the Fairfield County Clerk of Courts – Title 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 Court – Title Division:

2025-05.06.g A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of a 2025 Honda HR-V, for a Total Cost of \$31,985.00

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

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 Court – Title Division:

2025-05.06.h A Resolution Approving an Account-to-Account Transfer into a Major Expenditure Object Category –1123, Clerk of Courts Title

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 Emergency Management Agency

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 Emergency Management Agency:

2025-05.06.i A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category EMA Funds 2090 (Sub fund) 8221

2025-05.06.j A resolution authorizing an account-to-account transfer for EMA Fund 2890 HMEP Grant 2024/2025

2025-05.06.k A resolution to request for appropriations for receipts for EMA Community Grant Program 2090 (8132)

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:

2025-05.06.l A Resolution to Approve the Contract Bid Award for the 2025 Crack Sealing Project.

2025-05.06.m A Resolution to Approve the Contract Bid Award for the 2025 Purchase of Liquid Asphalt Project.

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2025-05.06.n A Resolution to Approve the Contract Bid Award for the GRE-22 Camp Ground Road Bridge Replacement Project.

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 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 resolution from Fairfield County Job and Family Services:

2025-05.06.o A resolution to approve a memo exp./ memo receipt for the costs of Bus Passes paid to Lancaster-Fairfield Public Transit 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 Resolutions from the South Central Major Crimes Unit

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from the South Central Major Crimes Unit:

2025-05.06.p A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category for Major Crimes; 7864 FY23 Recovery Ohio.

2025-05.06.q A resolution authorizing the approval to extend the due date for repayments on an advance for MCU Fund 7829 (8353) JAG Grant Fund and 7858 (8342) COSSAP DOJ Grant

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:

2025-05.06.r 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

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 10:37 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

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The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, Wigwam Event Center, 10190 Blacklick-Eastern Rd. NW, Pickerington, OH.

Motion by: David Levacy

Seconded by: Steve Davis

that the May 6, 2025, minutes were approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

*Approved on May 13, 2025


Jeff Fix
Commissioner


Steve Davis
Commissioner


David Levacy
Commissioner


Rochelle Menningen, Clerk

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