

**Regular Meeting #23 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
June 10, 2025**

Review Meeting

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 210 E. Main St., Lancaster OH. Commissioner Davis called the meeting to order, and the following Commissioners were present: Steve Davis and David Levacy. County employees present: County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle; Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter; Communications & Information Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; JFS Director, Corey Clark; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; Facilities & EMA Director, Jon Kochis; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Steven Darnell; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Interim RPC Director, Holly Mattei; IT Director, Dan Neeley; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; Urban Technician, Chad Lucht; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; Sheriff, Alex Lape; Deputy JFS Director, Heather O'Keefe; and Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Sherry Pymmer, Chris Snyder, Ray Stemen, Amy Eldridge, Dawn Brown, Randall Hunt, Brooke Lowe, Codie Schumaker, and Melanie Swonger.

Virtual Attendees: Josh Horacek, Lori Lovas, Beth Cottrell, Lori Hawk, Joe Ebel, Jerry Starner, Michael Kaper, BGM, Shannon, Ashley Arter, Shelby Hunt, Jeff Barron, Stacy Hicks, Deborah, Jessica Murphy, Jennifer Morgan, Brian Wolfe, and Jim Bahnsen.

Welcome

Commissioner Davis opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and addressing ongoing legislative activity at the State House. He highlighted the potential impact of proposed bills—particularly the elimination of inside millage on county operations. The Commission is working with CCAO to advocate for balanced solutions.

The Commission recognized 911 dispatchers with a proclamation.

Sheriff Lape emphasized the need to classify telecommunicators as first responders, noting their critical role in handling traumatic situations and guiding callers in distress.

Commissioner Levacy shared his past experience as a first responder, stressing how vital dispatchers were before GPS technology and how much harder the job would have been without them.

Public Comments

Ray Stemen of Lancaster stated that he was grateful to see another year and offered a prayer.

Chris Snyder of Somerset announced that National Grid Renewables is now operating under the name Geronimo Power. Last week the construction team visited the site, met with Soil and Water officials, and spoke with the Amanda Township Trustees.

Commissioner Davis noted that a special meeting was held two weeks ago to appoint Administrator Cordle as an ad hoc member to the OPSB.

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Legal Update

None.

County Administration Update

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

Week in Review

Levy Renewal for the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities

The Board of Elections has certified the results of the May 6, 2025, Special Election. The Board of Developmental Disabilities levy was approved. There were 11,332 votes cast of which 7,465 were for the levy and 3,867 were against.

Columbus Dispatch's May 30th Article on the expected Millersport Data Center

The Dispatch ran an article written by Max Filby on a new \$1 billion data center that is expected to start construction by the end of the year in Millersport. The data center will be built by Vantage, a Denver-based company, on the 496 +/- acres annexed into the Village of Millersport near state routes 204 and 37. The project is expected to create hundreds of jobs and become the largest employer in Millersport.

Highlights of Resolutions

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

Resolution Review

There are 36 resolutions on the agenda for the Regular voting meeting.

Resolutions of note:

- A resolution to approve proclamations recognizing 911 Telecommunicators as First Responder, the 120th Anniversary of Anchor Hocking, and Majors Bryan and Laura DeMichael of the Salvation Army.
- A resolution for an Expedited Type II Annexation of .605 acres from Pleasant Township into the City of Lancaster.
- Two resolutions from the Engineer's Office for the crack sealing project.
- Also from the Engineer's Office, an approval of a change order for the Refugee Road Intersection Safety Improvements.

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- A resolution from Facilities to authorize a right of way easement for property owned by the County to members of the former Colonnade Commercial Property Owners Association Inc.
- Job and Family Services resolutions to approve multiple service agreements.
- Four resolutions from the Regional Planning Commission: a development agreement for Sycamore Grove, a change order for Otte Park in Pleasantville, and two participation agreements – one with the Village of Bremen and another with Walnut Township.

Budget Review

- Budget Director, Bart Hampson, stated that the sales tax continues to hold at \$30 million for the budget and forecast.

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

Items Requiring Response

Informational Items

- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Event, June 11, 2025, 8:00 a.m., Life Church Vineyard, 5550 Lancaster-Newark Rd. NE, Pleasantville
- MCU Governing Board Meeting, June 11, 2025, 11:00 a.m., Fairfield County EMA, 240 Baldwin Dr., Lancaster
- CFLP Board of Director's Meeting, June 13, 2025, 9:00 a.m., Donald Hill County Administration Building, 20 S. Second St., Newark

Commissioner Davis stated that the proposed legislation at the State could have some negative impacts on the CFLP Solid Waste District.

Correspondence

- Board of Elections' Certificate of Result of Election, Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities Renewal Levy
- Columbus Dispatch, Max Filby, May 30, 2025, "Central Ohio in Line for \$1 Billion-Plus Data Center"
- Thank You Note to Commissioner Levacy from the Military Veterans of Olivedale
- Email, AEP, June 2, 2025, Subject: AEP Ohio Base Rate Case Filing
- Correspondence Regarding Industrial Solar Projects

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Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Sheriff Lape reported monitoring the current climate in Los Angeles and potential issues that could arise in the Columbus area but stated they had no intelligence suggesting a public safety concern.

Recorder McKenzie plans to attend the summer conference of the Ohio Recorders Association and noted she would miss the next meeting due to a vendor meeting to review changes to the Recorder's technology systems.

Engineer Upp stated they were working on culverts, bridges, and roads, aiming to complete these early in order to focus on chip sealing later.

Commissioner Davis inquired about the alley behind the building, which was filled with potholes, and asked if Director Kochis could coordinate with the City of Lancaster to prevent further road cracking.

Engineer Upp responded that the material under the pavement likely needed replacement.

Auditor Brown expressed concerns about proposed state legislation and noted the Auditor's association was working with CCAO to find a resolution. She mentioned that Levels 1 and 2 might be impacted and that financial reports had been adjusted accordingly. The month-end financial indicators were mostly positive, with one cautionary note related to the legislation.

Commissioner Davis stated many counties were questioning whether the inside millage was pledged to specific debt obligations.

Auditor Brown continued, stating they were monitoring the county's top employers, with Fairfield Medical Center as the leading employer. She thanked the Sheriff for offering self-defense courses. The final Board of Revision meeting was scheduled for the following day, and DocLink had gone live, allowing multiple political subdivisions to submit data.

Director Szabrak reported that the Chillicothe paper mill extended its closure by another 60 days.

Director Neeley requested continued vigilance regarding cyberattacks and shared two examples of county staff remaining alert.

Director Clark announced that the World Elder Abuse Awareness Breakfast was scheduled for the following day and expressed enthusiasm for the event.

Randall Hunt stated that Community Action would hold the second public hearing for the CHIP program and reported that they were monitoring the state and federal budgets closely.

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Old Business

Commissioner Levacy attended Career Signing Day and the Venture Place groundbreaking, noting both events' positive impact on the community. He also visited Morrow County with CCAO.

New Business

Commissioner Levacy will speak at the Workforce Center at the Phlebotomy program graduation.

Regular (Voting) Meeting

The Commissioners continued to the voting portion of the meeting with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis and David Levacy. County employees present: County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle; Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter; Communications & Information Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; JFS Director, Corey Clark; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; Facilities & EMA Director, Jon Kochis; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Steven Darnell; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Interim RPC Director, Holly Mattei; IT Director, Dan Neeley; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; Urban Technician, Chad Lucht; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; Sheriff, Alex Lape; Deputy JFS Director, Heather O'Keefe; and Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Sherry Pymer, Chris Snyder, Ray Stemen, Amy Eldridge, Dawn Brown, Randall Hunt, Brooke Lowe, Codie Schumaker, and Melanie Swonger.

Virtual Attendees: Josh Horacek, Lori Lovas, Beth Cottrell, Lori Hawk, Joe Ebel, Jerry Starner, Michael Kaper, Shannon, Ashley Arter, Shelby Hunt, Stacy Hicks, Jennifer Morgan, Brian Wolfe, and Jim Bahnsen.

Announcements

None

Approval of Minutes for May 20, 2025

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Minutes for Tuesday, May 20, 2025, meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

Approval of Special Meeting Minutes for May 29, 2025

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Special Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, May 29, 2025, meeting.

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Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

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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| 2025-06.10.a | A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of Proclamations |
| 2025-06.10.b | A Resolution to Approve the Expedited Type II Annexation of .605 +/- Acres from Pleasant Township to the City of Lancaster, Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 709.023, Petitioner Chris Tumblin] |
| 2025-06.10.c | A resolution to approve a fund to fund transfer from the General Fund #1001 to the Flexible Spending Account Fund # 7680. |
| 2025-06.10.d | A resolution authorizing the approval to extend the repayment date of an advance of funds for the CDBG PY2022 grant. |
| 2025-06.10.e | A resolution to approve a memo transactions 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 and Steve Davis

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:

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| 2025-06.10.f | A Resolution Authorizing the Reduction in Major Expenditure Object Category Appropriations for Fund # 3064, FCBDD Capital Project Fund |
| 2025-06.10.g | A resolution authorizing appropriations and fund to fund transfers for inactive capital project fund, Fund 3064 |
| 2025-06.10.h | A resolution to approve a memo exp./ memo receipt for the cost of transportation for individuals paid to Fairfield County Transit as a memo expenditure for fund# 2060 - Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities . |

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis
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Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Court of Common Pleas

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 Court of Common Pleas:

2025-06.10.i A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of Repayment of an Advance to the General Fund from Fund # 2689 - 8328 FY23 Adult Based Corrections

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

Approval of a Resolution 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 resolution from Fairfield County Economic & Workforce Development:

2025-06.10.j A resolution to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the commitment of funds to Hocking College from the Super Rapids funds previously awarded to Fairfield County through an MOU between Fairfield County and the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE)

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

Approval of a Resolution 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 resolution from the Fairfield County Emergency Management Agency:

2025-06.10.k A resolution to reduce appropriations and appropriations in the 2707 Emergency Management Performance Grant Fund

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

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:

2025-06.10.l A Resolution to Approve the Contract with Russell Standard Corporation for the 2025 Crack Seal Project.

2025-06.10.m A Resolution to Approve the Notice to Commence for the 2025 Crack Seal Project

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2025-06.10.n A resolution to approve a Change Order for the FAI-CR7-1.94 Refugee Road Intersection Safety Improvements.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

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:

2025-06.10.o A Resolution Authorizing a Right of Way Easement for Property owned by the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners to members of the former Colonnade Commercial Property Owners Association Inc.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

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:

2025-06.10.p A resolution authorizing the approval of a service contract for Location Services between The County Commissioners Association of Ohio and Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Support Enforcement Agency.

2025-06.10.q A resolution authorizing the approval of a Shared Family Foster Home Agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and Perry County Children Services.

2025-06.10.r 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

2025-06.10.s 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

2025-06.10.t 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

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| 2025-06.10.u | 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 |
| 2025-06.10.v | A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category for Fairfield County JFS; Fund # 2072, Children Services Fund |
| 2025-06.10.w | A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated and a transfer of funds in a Major Expenditure Object Category for Fairfield County JFS; Fund # 2018, Public Assistance Fund |
| 2025-06.10.x | A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and UThrive LLC. |
| 2025-06.10.y | A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and A New Leaf, Inc. |
| 2025-06.10.z | A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and Kids Count Too, Inc. |
| 2025-06.10.aa | A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and Communication Speaks, LLC. |

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Juvenile and Probate Court

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 Juvenile and Probate Court:

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| 2025-06.10.bb | A Resolution to Approve Additional Appropriations by Appropriating from Unappropriated into a Major Expense Object Category – Drug Court #2408 Sub Fund ATP #8209 |
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Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

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Approval of Resolutions 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 resolutions from the Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission:

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| 2025-06.10.cc | A resolution to approve a Development Agreement for the Sycamore Grove, Phase 1B subdivision |
| 2025-06.10.dd | A Resolution to Approve a Change Order #4 for the CDBG PY2022 Village of Pleasantville – Otte Park Concessions + Restroom Pavillion Project. |
| 2025-06.10.ee | A resolution authorizing the approval of a CDBG Participation agreement by Fairfield County Board of Commissioners and the Village of Bremen. |
| 2025-06.10.ff | A resolution authorizing the approval of a CDBG Participation agreement by Fairfield County Board of Commissioners and Walnut Township. |

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

Approval of Resolutions 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 resolutions from the Fairfield County Sheriff:

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| 2025-06.10.gg | A resolution to authorize the establishment of a new fiduciary fund for the Sheriff's Office. |
| 2025-06.10.hh | A Resolution Approving an Account-to-Account Transfer into a Major Expenditure Object Category –1001, General Fund |
| 2025-06.10.ii | A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category for Fairfield County Sheriff, 2027, Weights |

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

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:

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| 2025-06.10.jj | A resolution authorizing the approval of payment of invoices for departments that need Board of Commissioners' approval. |
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Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

CHIP Program Public Hearing, Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency

The public hearing opened at 10:07 a.m.

Randall Hunt, Executive Director of the Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency, stated that the Community Housing Impact and Preservation (CHIP) program grant is a 2-year grant the agency applies for on behalf of the Commissioners. The purpose of the second hearing is to detail what the agency will use the grant.

Melanie Swonger provided a presentation which included the CHIP funding sources and eligible project categories/activities. Melanie explained how the public was engaged and the statistics that were obtained. Lastly, she further detailed the program activities that fall under the CHIP program and the impact they have on recipients.

Commissioner Davis asked how Community Action determines who will receive assistance through the program.

Melanie explained that income eligible recipients are served based on a first-come-first-served basis.

Commissioner Davis asked what the next steps were in the process after the 2nd hearing.

Randall stated that the Commissioners must approve a resolution granting Community Action approval to submit the grant application. There will be a resolution on the Commissioners' agenda for the June 17th meeting.

Sherry Pymer asked if the program includes all townships and villages in the county.

Randall confirmed that the residents in the townships and villages are eligible, and only excludes the City of Lancaster as the city has its own CDBG program.

With no further discussion, the hearing closed at 10:18 a.m.

Adjournment

Sherry Pymer stated that the proposed data center in Millersport must go through the OPSB for approval and has a case number assigned to it.

With no further business, on the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 10:21 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Steve Davis

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The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 17, 2025,
Commissioners' Hearing Room, 210 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH.

Motion by: David Levacy

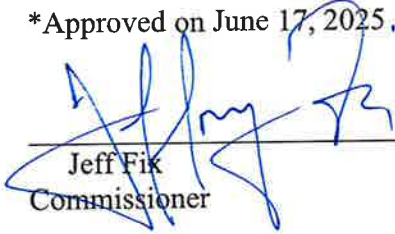
Seconded by: Steve Davis

that the June 10, 2025, minutes were approved by the following vote:

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

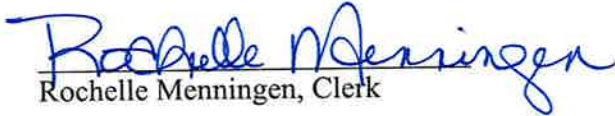
NAYS: None

*Approved on June 17, 2025.


Jeff Fix
Commissioner

Steve Davis
Commissioner


David Levacy
Commissioner


Rochelle Menningen, Clerk