

Regular Meeting #25 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
June 24, 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: Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter; Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, Rochelle Menningen; Communications & Information Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Treasurer, Jim Bahnsen; JFS Director, Corey Clark; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; Facilities & EMA Director, Jon Kochis; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Steven Darnell; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; Magistrate, Josh Horacek; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Planner, Josh Hillberry; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; IT Director, Dan Neeley; and Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Ray Stemen, Beth Cottrell, Jim Cottrell, Chris Snider, Bryan Everitt, Jerry Starner, and Samantha Meadows.

Virtual Attendees: Shelby Hunt, Jennifer Morgan, Lori Hawk, Ashley Arter, Jessica Murphy, Henry, BGM, Shannon, Britney Lee, Lori Lovas, Andy Robberts, Stacy Hicks, Lynette Barnhart, Jared Collins, Toni Ashton, David Uhl, Deborah, Brian Wolfe, Tony Vogel, and Joe Ebel.

Welcome

Commissioner Davis opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

Public Comments

Ray Stemen of Lancaster spoke on the current events taking place in the Middle East and closed his remarks with a prayer.

Beth Cottrell of Amanda expressed that her home is located within the viewshed of the Carnation Solar Project. She voiced concerns regarding increased traffic and potential safety issues associated with the project's construction. Ms. Cottrell requested that the Commissioners formally express their opposition to the solar project.

Bryan Everitt of Lancaster distributed the Carnation Solar Project June newsletter and reiterated that he, Samantha Meadows, and Chris Snider are available to answer questions and address concerns. He emphasized that their primary goal is to provide information to the public.

Sherry Pymer of Millersport commented that the residents in Amanda are experiencing the same challenges her community faced a year ago with the solar companies. She expressed offense at the presence of representatives collecting signatures at the Baltimore Festival and noted that they are also going door to door in areas not directly affected by the solar projects to gather additional signatures.

Legal Update

None.

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County Administration Update

- *The County Administration Update was provided by the Deputy County Administrator, Jeffrey Porter, unless otherwise noted.*

Week in Review

Fairfield County Commissioners to meet July 8, 2025

The next meeting of the Fairfield County Commissioners will be Tuesday, July 8th at 9:00 a.m. There will not be a Review and Regular meeting on July 1st.

Highlights of Resolutions

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

Resolution Review

There are 19 resolutions on the agenda for the Regular voting meeting. There is also a resolution from the Court of Common Pleas that will be walked-on to the agenda.

Resolutions of note:

- The first resolution on the agenda is to adjust two meetings that were previously established by resolution in December of 2024. The August 26, 2025, meeting will move from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and the September 9th meeting will move to September 4th at 10:00 a.m. Both meetings are to be held in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Commissioner Davis noted that while it is uncommon to reschedule meetings mid-year, this summer's CCAO meeting holds particular importance due to anticipated updates on the State budget bill and the Commissioners wish to be in attendance.

- A resolution to approve the by-laws for the South-Central Major Crimes Unit. The Governing Board for Major Crimes agreed to the by-laws on June 11, 2025.

Commissioner Davis addressed the bylaws for MCU and expressed gratitude to the Prosecutor's Office for their assistance in the process.

- A resolution from Economic & Workforce Development to approve the agreement between Aspyr and the South Central Ohio Workforce Partnership. Fairfield County is the administrative and fiscal agent for the Area 20 Workforce

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Development Board/South Central Ohio Workforce Partnership and therefore approves any agreements.

- A resolution from the Engineer to approve the 2025 Drainage Maintenance Districts. The County Engineer, pursuant to R.C. 6137.03, conducts yearly inspections to determine necessary drainage improvements and provides those estimates to the Commissioners for approval.
- A resolution from Facilities to authorize the purchase of tables and chairs for the Sheridan Center. The tables and chairs are to be purchased from Loth Inc., a distributor under the Omnia Cooperative Purchasing Agreement.

Director Kochis stated that there were multiple proposals submitted for the chairs at the Sheridan center and that those chosen were the best price.

- Regional Planning has a resolution to approve an amendment to the development agreement for the Fairfield Career Center – New Lab Building. The amendment allows paid law enforcement/traffic controllers to monitor traffic entering and exiting the campus until proper signage has been installed.
- The Sheriff's Office has three resolutions. Two of the resolutions extend inmate housing agreements with Perry and Athens Counties until the end of 2025. The other resolution is for an agreement for a School Resource Officer for the Fairfield Union School District.
- Community Action has two agreements to approve mortgages through the Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program.

Magistrate Josh Horacek thanked the Commissioners for walking on the resolution from the Court of Common Pleas, noting that it is a recurring agreement with the State used to support supervision, treatment, and related services. He explained that the funds are accepted every two years and are valuable in helping to prevent recidivism.

Budget Review

Mr. Hampson stated the sales tax revenue for June 2025 is up \$101,000 and year-to-date sales tax revenue is up over last year at this time. The year-over-year non-auto sales tax is also up.

Commissioner Davis stated he met with Mr. Hampson to review revenue numbers and will continue to do so.

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

Items Requiring Response

Informational Items

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- Fairfield County Fair Legacy Video Taping, June 26, 2025, 9:15 a.m.
- FCFC Executive Meeting, June 27, 2025, 8:30 a.m., Fairfield County Agricultural Center, 831 College Ave., Lancaster
- Anchor Hocking Worker Appreciation Event, June 28, 2025, 1:00 p.m., Double Edge, 158 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster
- Ribbon Cutting, Grand Reopening of Kroger North Memorial Dr., July 11, 2025, 9:45 a.m., 1621 N. Memorial Dr., Lancaster

Correspondence

- Lancaster Eagle Gazette, June 19, 2025, Jeff Barron, "Fairfield County Commissioners Concerned About Property Tax House Bill Proposal"
- Fairfield County Municipal Court, Criminal/Traffic Fees Collected Report, May 2025
- Correspondence Regarding Large Scale Solar Facilities

Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Treasurer Bahnsen stated that the tax bills for 2nd half collections were mailed last week and added that his office has already begun receiving payments.

Engineer Upp reported that crews are currently completing smaller maintenance culvert projects. Chip sealing is scheduled to begin in July, followed by the department's main project later in the summer. Additionally, two bridge replacement projects are set to begin.

Auditor Brown reported attending the leadership recognition event for Majors Bryan and Laura DeMichael last week. Her office is preparing for the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) audits and she highlighted the effective use of technology in the audit process. The statistical analysis for the sexennial update has also been completed.

Director Szabrak reported that Fairfield County Transit is offering free rides to designated cooling stations during the heat wave. He also noted that the budget contains language that may affect the Millersport data center, and he is collaborating with Senator Schaffer on ways to address this.

Commissioner Davis asked Director Szabrak if he was aware of the state budget timeline.

Director Szabrak was not aware of the timeline.

Commissioner Levacy explained that the Millersport data center would create more jobs than typical data centers which he believes should be taken into account by the legislators.

Director Kochis stated that his office is monitoring the heat wave closely. His office is also coordinating efforts to respond to the train derailment in Sugar Grove which fortunately was

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carrying gravel but will await the complete report of all materials that were being transported on the train.

Director Neeley stated that IT is working closely with the Board of Elections to ensure voter security.

Commissioner Davis asked Director Neeley if he had heard of any indication of potential threats to cybersecurity.

Director Neeley was not aware of any potential threats, but his office continually always operates with a heightened sense of security.

Old Business

Commissioner Levacy thanked Bryan Everitt for his help in getting the Fairfield County Veterans Hall of Fame established as a 501c3.

New Business

Commissioner Levacy plans to attend the Anchor Hocking anniversary celebration and provide a proclamation.

Regular (Voting) Meeting

The Commissioners continued to their voting portion of the meeting with the following Commissioners present: Steve Davis and David Levacy. County employees present: Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter; Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, Rochelle Menningen; Communications & Information Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Treasurer, Jim Bahnsen; JFS Director, Corey Clark; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; Facilities & EMA Director, Jon Kochis; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Steven Darnell; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; Magistrate, Josh Horacek; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Planner, Josh Hillberry; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; IT Director, Dan Neeley; and Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Ray Stemen, Beth Cottrell, Chris Snider, Bryan Everitt, Jerry Starner, and Samantha Meadows.

Virtual Attendees: Shelby Hunt, Jennifer Morgan, Lori Hawk, Ashley Arter, Jessica Murphy, Henry, Shannon, Britney Lee, Lori Lovas, Andy Robberts, Lynette Barnhart, David Uhl, Brian Wolfe, and Joe Ebel.

Announcements

Clerk Menningen stated that there would be a walk-on resolution from the Court of Common Pleas. Additionally, she announced that county offices would be closed Friday, July 4, 2025, in observance of Independence Day.

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Approval of Minutes for June 17, 2025

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Minutes for Tuesday, June 17, 2025, meeting.

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 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:

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|--------------|---|
| 2025-06.24.a | A Resolution Amending Resolutions 2024-12.03.a and 2025-04.22.a, Establishing the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners' 2025 Review Session and Regular Meeting Dates, and Special Meeting Dates |
| 2025-06.24.b | A Resolution to Approve the June 11, 2025, By-Laws for the South Central Major Crimes Unit |
| 2025-06.24.c | A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated Funds in a Major Expenditure Object Category for Fund #2591, HOME Program Income |
| 2025-06.24.d | 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 |
| 2025-06.24.e | A Resolution of Conversion of Prior Year 2024 Encumbrance (X-mode) to Current Year Appropriation and Appropriate from Unappropriated Expenditure Object Category, Fund #2876 |

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

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:

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|--------------|---|
| 2025-06.24.f | Approval for Amendment and One Year Renewal of Space Use Agreement between Fairfield County Commissioners and TeenWorks, LLC at the Fairfield County Workforce Center |
| 2025-06.24.g | A Resolution to Approve an Amendment to the Aspyr and South Central Ohio Workforce Partnership Agreement |

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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 Engineer

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 Engineer:

2025-06.24.h A Resolution to Submit Drainage Improvement Estimates

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:

2025-06.24.i A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of an Agreement for the Purchase of Tables and Chairs for the Sheridan Center with Loth Inc.

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

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:

2025-06.24.j A Resolution to Approve a Memo Receipt and Expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund #2599, Reimbursing Fund #2018

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 Meals on Wheels/Older Adult 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 Meals on Wheels/Older Adult Agency

2025-06.24.k A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated Funds in Major Expenditure Object Categories for Meals on Wheels-OAAFC, Inc., Fund #2617

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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 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:

2025-06.24.1 A Resolution to Approve an Amendment of Paragraph 1.12 of the Development Agreement for the Fairfield Career Center, New Lab Building subdivision

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:

2025-06.24.m A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Contract Extension between the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners (Fairfield BCC), the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office (Fairfield Sheriff), and the Athens County Board of Commissioners (Athens BCC) and Athens County Sheriff (Athens Sheriff), for Housing Prisoners in the Fairfield County Jail

2025-06.24.n A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Contract Extension with the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners (Fairfield BCC), the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office (Fairfield Sheriff) and the Perry County Board of Commissioners (Perry BCC) and the Perry County Sheriff (Perry Sheriff) for Housing Prisoners in the Fairfield County Jail

2025-06.24.o A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Service Agreement by and between Fairfield County Sheriff's Office and the Fairfield Union School District

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 Treasurer

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 Treasurer:

2025-06.24.p A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category for the Treasurer, Fund #1080, Trust Unclaimed

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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 Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action 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 Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency:.

- 2025-06.24.q A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of the Mortgage on a Program Year 2023, Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program (CHIP), Rehab Construction for Natasha Watkins
- 2025-06.24.r A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of the Mortgage on a Program Year 2023, Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program (CHIP), Rehab Construction for Stacy Souders

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 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:

- 2025-06.24.t A resolution authorizing acceptance of the Community Corrections Grant Agreement with ODRC for State Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026

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:

- 2025-06.24.s 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 and Steve Davis

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 9:53 a.m.

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

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, Commissioners' Hearing Room, 210 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH.

Motion by: David Levacy

Seconded by: Steve Davis

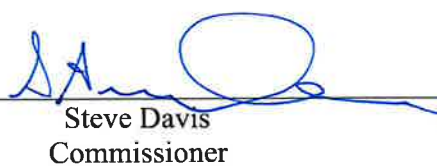
that the June 24, 2025, minutes were approved by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None

*Approved on July 8, 2025


Jeff Fix
Commissioner


Steve Davis
Commissioner


David Levacy
Commissioner


Rochelle Menningen, Clerk