

Regular Meeting #26 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
July 8, 2025

Review Meeting

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 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; Treasurer, Jim Bahnsen; JFS Director, Corey Clark; Clerk of Courts, Branden Meyer; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; Facilities & EMA Director, Jon Kochis; Assistant Utilities Director, Josh Anders; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Amy Brown-Thompson; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; IT Director, Dan Neeley; JFS Deputy Director, Heather O'Keefe; Program Administrator, Sarah Fortner; Social Services Supervisor, Elyssa Wanosik; Deputy HR Director, Abby Watson; HR Benefit & Systems Specialist, Colleen Cook; Transit Director, Aaron Kennedy; and Sergeant, Luke Williams. Also in attendance: Bryan Everitt, Jane Harf, Frank Martin, Beth Cottrell, Jim Cottrell, Cheryl Kohler, Pam Elder, Marilyn Keller, Jim Miller, David Morrow, Jevin Williams, Tori Miller, Debbie Lobel, Dennis Kull, Linda Waidelick, Cheryl Berner, Nick Bundren, Linda Werner, Jerry Starner, Sherry Pymer, Dale Solt, Nancy Ward, Dave Ward, Laura Steele, Scott Barr, Randy Evans, Greg Waidelick, Erin Trott, Ray Stemen, Brenda Metcalf, Chris Snider, Kendra Harrington, Courtney Whitworth, Samantha Meadows, Jo Baldwin, Travis Snyder, Benn Van Oudenallen, James Stevenson, Mary Ann Stevenson, and Lyne Kennedy-Starner.

Virtual Attendees: Staci Knisley, Lori Hawk, Tony Howard, Tony Vogel, Andy Robberts, Ashley Arter, Jessica Murphy, Alex Lape, Joshua Gordon, Larry, David Uhl, Vince Carpico, Greg Forquer, Lori Lovas, Jen Lynch, Jeff Barron, Amanda Rollins, Abby King, Deborah, Jennifer Morgan, Shelby Hunt, Aubrey Ward, Andy Boystel, Michael Kaper, Eliot, Holly Mattei, Britney Lee, Mesina Clark, Steven Darnell, Austin Lines, Jason Grubb, Anna Sanyal, Brian Wolfe, Lisa Rector, Jim Bahnsen, BGM, Alison Barrick, and Sarah Jaffa.

Welcome

Commissioner Fix opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance and speaking about the order of the day's meeting.

Introduction of New Employees

The Commissioners welcomed the following new employees:

- Laura Johnston – Emergency Management Agency
- Jim Paxton – Emergency Management Agency
- Brandie Hurd-Barringer – Transit
- Ryan Erikson – MORPC Intern

Ms. Johnston stated she is the new planner for EMA and is happy to be a part of the team.

Mr. Paxton stated that he was in the fire service and is pleased to be with Fairfield County EMA.

Commissioner Fix spoke about Mr. Paxton's 35 years of service with the Violet Township Fire Department and added that Violet Fire is one of the best departments in Central Ohio.

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Mr. Blevins stated that he is happy to have the new EMA staff, especially during the busy festival season.

Mr. Hurd-Barringer stated she was working in higher education and is excited to be working with the amazing staff at Transit.

Commissioner Davis stated that there had been concerns related to Transit funding and the state budget and asked Mr. Kennedy to summarize the current situation.

Mr. Kennedy replied that Transit has fared well with the state budget and added that the new grant cycle started July 1st.

Ms. Watson stated that Mr. Erickson is a summer intern through MORPC and added that his grandfather was once a County Commissioner.

Mr. Erickson stated that he is a student at Ohio State and would like to work in Human Resources in the public sector.

Health Insurance Update

Mr. Porter provided an update on the County's health insurance. He stated that the group has approximately 2200 folks on the health insurance plan. This includes most full time staff, their spouses, and their dependents. The group's emergency room usage has decreased 2% year over year, and urgent care usage has decreased 18.2%. The decreases are attributed to the clinic and the clinic's assistance with establishing primary care physicians. Our group has increased seeing primary care physicians by 3%. The Commissioners' actions related to our health care benefits have helped manage costs and promote healthier lifestyles. County employees pay \$1622.66 per year out-of-pocket for individual coverage, and \$3866.46 for family. Major costs are due to prescription drugs. Mr. Porter spoke about a prescription drug that is used to treat a variety of illnesses related to inflammation and skin diseases. He also spoke about the cost of a single dose of that medication and added that the County uses a program called ImpaxRX to aggregate all potential discounts for drugs. If our group members qualify, we can reduce the costs significantly. The County will be looking at pharmacy providers. Locally there is a new 340D pharmacy with federal pharmacy pricing.

Commissioner Levacy thanked Mr. Porter for his management of the County's health care programs.

Commissioner Fix stated his appreciation for the programs administered by the HR team.

Mr. Porter spoke about the HR team and stated his appreciation for them.

Presentation on the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (COAAA)

Mr. Clark spoke about the COAAA. He has served on a task force which plans to move COAAA from the Parks Department in the City of Columbus to a regional council of governments (CoG). COAAA has been under the Parks Department since the 1970's. Attorneys with Bricker and Graydon have been assisting with the process of moving all eight counties in the COAAA to a CoG. The recommendation is to join the CoG so that we can be involved and provide our local insight. This CoG will have a representative from each county. The CoG council would meet once a year and the board of directors would be more involved with the daily operations. The

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number of directors on the board will be based on the size of each county. The ask from COAAA is for the counties to pass a resolution to join the CoG and to then pass a resolution placing a member on the Council. There is no cost to the counties for the first two years and then the Board of Directors will make recommendations. The estimate is a cost of \$500-\$1000 per county per year. As far as potential risks for the County, the CoG will be fully insured. A draft of the bylaws has been provided for the Commissioners. The Prosecutor's office has reviewed the documents and has found that there is a six month required notice period to withdraw from the CoG.

Commissioner Davis asked if Fairfield County would make three appointments.

Mr. Clark stated that the COAA is currently funded under the Older Americans Act. He spoke with Ms. Tobin, and she is very supportive of the proposed CoG.

Ms. Cordle thanked Mr. Clark for attending a CCOAA meeting in her absence and added that resolution drafts have been prepared for the next meeting.

Public Comments

Ray Stemen of Lancaster spoke about the growing responsibilities of elected officials and offered a prayer for wisdom.

Legal Update

None.

County Administration Update

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

Week in Review

NACo Awards

Fairfield County received two NACo Achievement Awards for our work with Hicks Partners for grant writing for government entities and also one for the County Comprehensive Plan.

House Bill 96

On June 30th the Governor signed the state's operating budget for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 and vetoed 67 items from the bill. The two chambers would have to override the vetoes with a 3/5 vote before the December 2026 expiration of the General Assembly.

Of note, the special lodging tax for DACO now has an ability to be renewed by the Commissioners and the Workforce Center will receive 700,000.

Mr. Szabrak spoke about the budget covering high school programming for the next two years.

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H.R. 1 Passed by Congress

The final bill includes several provisions affecting the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which counties administer through local JFS agencies.

SNAP federal match reduction

- Reduces the federal match for SNAP administration from 50% to 25%.
- If no other administrative factors change, Ohio's portion of the costs will increase by \$65 million per fiscal year, beginning October 1, 2026.
- In Ohio, the state and counties share the cost of administration. This shift could increase administrative costs by up to \$40 million per fiscal year for counties, beginning October 1, 2026.

SNAP state benefit cost share

- For the first time in the history of the program, states will be required to contribute to the cost of SNAP benefits beginning on October 1, 2027 (Federal Fiscal Year 2028). This change occurs in the next state budget biennium.
- The required state share increases if a state has a higher error rate (see table below). The error rate is a measure of administrative error and includes both underpayments and overpayments.
- In Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2028, Ohio can use either its FFY 2025 or FFY 2026 error rate to determine the payment amount. In FFY 2029 and subsequent years, Ohio will be required to use the error rate from three fiscal years prior.
- Ohio's most recent error rate was 9.01%. Under this legislation, Ohio would need to contribute \$320 million per state fiscal year if the error rate does not decrease below 8%.

State SNAP Benefit Cost Share under HR 1		
State Payment Error Rate	SNAP Benefit Cost Share	Estimated Ohio Cost Per FFY
Under 6%	0%	\$0
6.00% to 7.99%	5%	\$160 million
8.00% to 9.99%	10%	\$320 million
10% or greater	15%	\$480 million

CCAO continues to have discussions with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services about the implementation of the above SNAP provisions and will provide updates to CCAO members as additional information becomes available.

Ms. Cordle thanked Representative LaRe, Senator Schaffer, and Commissioner Levacy for their work on the items in the budget.

Commissioner Davis asked if there would be an error rate that would affect the County's SNAP money and if there was a database that reveals the local number.

Ms. Cordle replied that the error rate would be at the caseworker level in each county and that the larger counties in the state drive the error rate.

Commissioner Davis stated he is interested in Fairfield County's error rate.

Mr. Clark replied that the County's error rate is well below the state average.

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Highlights of Resolutions

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

Resolution Review

There are 44 resolutions on the agenda for the Regular voting meeting.

Resolutions of note:

- The first resolution for your consideration is a resolution to oppose the proposed Carnation Solar project in Amanda, Ohio. The staff of the Ohio Power Siting Board has completed their investigation and subsequent staff report, and the County has been notified that resolutions for or against the project should be received by July 18, 2025.
- The Commissioners also have a resolution to accept the tax rates that have been determined by the County's Budget Commission. This resolution authorizes the Auditor to collect the Special Levy Funds that have been authorized by the voters.
- The Engineer's Office has a resolution to approve the contract bid award to Oglesby Construction, Inc. for the 2025 Pavement Markings Project.
- JFS has 19 resolutions which consist of 2 memo expense/memo receipt resolutions for Transportation, 16 resolutions related to network placements, and a resolution for a non-monetary MOU. The MOU is between the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office, the Lancaster Police Department, the Pickerington Police Department and Fairfield County's Probate Court, Prosecutor's Office, and Coroner's Office for elder safety, support, and independence services.
- Regional Planning has a resolution to establish a Drainage Maintenance District for the Heron Crossing South Subdivision.
- The Sheriff's Office has a resolution for a service agreement with the Lancaster Board of Education to continue policing services with the district.
- And Transit has two resolutions. One to approve an application for the 2025 Certification and Assurances from the ODOT Office of Transit. And the other approves the 2025-2026 application for a Meals on Wheels grant.

Budget Review

- None.

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

- *The calendar review, and review of the invitations and correspondence received, were provided by Ms. Menningen.*
- Soil & Water Conservation District's Annual Meeting, September 11, 2025, 5:30 p.m., Millersport Lions Clubhouse, 2905 Chautauqua Blvd., Millersport

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Correspondence

- AEP Ohio, June 17, 2025, Construction Notice, West Lancaster – South Baltimore 138 kV Transmission Line Adjustment Project, Case No. 25-0484-EL-BNR
- Correspondence Regarding Large Scale Solar Facilities

Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Clerk of Courts Meyer has been pleased with the new legal help center in the Hall of Justice.

Recorder McKenzie gave her thanks to Treasurer Bahnsen for allowing her to keep an employee on her staff while her office completes a high workload before that employee transitions to the Treasurer's Office.

Treasurer Bahnsen reported that they continue to receive payments for the 2nd half property tax collections. He also reported that the Lancaster Fireworks Committee, for which he is a member, held another successful Fourth of July event.

Auditor Brown stated that the Tax Incentive Review Committee meetings have concluded. She went on to explain that questions have been posed regarding the lodging tax and how the funds are used, adding that the funds must be used for a specific purpose.

Engineer Upp reported that his office received grant funding for road improvements.

Josh Anders reported that the Utilities department has several projects underway.

Rick Szabrak announced that Governor DeWine vetoed the item in the state budget bill that would have impacted on the Millersport data center project and is pleased that the project will continue.

Jon Kochis encouraged everyone to sign up for severe weather warnings to stay informed and safe.

Dan Neeley reported that IT had updated employee contact information in the notification system so that they can ensure all employees are receiving important updates.

Corey Clark was pleased to share that the funding for Child Protective Services and the wellness center in Gallia County, which Fairfield County utilizes, were not cut in the state budget.

Old Business

Commissioner Davis announced that he would plan to request an executive session to discuss real estate property before the end of the meeting.

Commissioner Levacy attended the anniversary event for Anchor Hocking where he was able to provide remarks as a former employee.

New Business

None.

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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 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; Treasurer, Jim Bahnsen; JFS Director, Corey Clark; Clerk of Courts, Branden Meyer; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; Facilities & EMA Director, Jon Kochis; Assistant Utilities Director, Josh Anders; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Amy Brown-Thompson; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; IT Director, Dan Neeley; JFS Deputy Director, Heather O'Keefe; Program Administrator, Sarah Fortner; Social Services Supervisor, Elyssa Wanosik; Deputy HR Director, Abby Watson; HR Benefit & Systems Specialist, Colleen Cook; Transit Director, Aaron Kennedy; and Seargent, Luke Williams. Also in attendance: Bryan Everitt, Jane Harf, Frank Martin, Beth Cottrell, Jim Cottrell, Cheryl Kohler, Pam Elder, Marilyn Keller, Jim Miller, David Morrow, Jevin Williams, Tori Miller, Debbie Lobel, Dennis Kull, Linda Waidelick, Cheryl Berner, Nick Bundren, Linda Werner, Jerry Starner, Sherry Pymer, Dale Solt, Nancy Ward, Dave Ward, Laura Steele, Scott Barr, Randy Evans, Greg Waidelick, Erin Trott, Ray Stemen, Brenda Metcalf, Chris Snider, Kendra Harrington, Courtney Whitworth, Samantha Meadows, Jo Baldwin, Travis Snyder, Benn Van Oudenallen, James Stevenson, Mary Ann Stevenson, and Lyne Kennedy-Starner.

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Announcements

None

Approval of Minutes for June 24, 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 24, 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 Steve Davis and the second of Jeff Fix, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Commissioners:

2025-07.08.a	A Resolution to Oppose the Proposed Carnation Solar, LLC Solar Power Project in Amanda, Ohio
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Commissioners Fix stated that the Commission would first hear from individuals in favor of the proposed Carnation Solar project, then those opposed. There would then be a time for those neither in favor nor opposed to the project to speak. He asked for those who would like to speak in favor to approach the podium and state their name and address.

Brenda Metcalf of Lancaster spoke about non-renewable energy sources and the leased property in Amanda. She also spoke about the increase in pollinators and planting pollinator gardens.

Chris Snyder of Somerset stated he is the project developer for Geronimo Solar and has helped develop four projects. He added that he is the lead developer and point of contact for the project. Last September the Commissioners banned large solar facility projects, excluding those that had been grandfathered. He asked the Commissioners to not ban the project from the county and spoke about being a farmer and the economic hardships of many farmers.

Kendra Herrington did not provide an address but stated she is on the Geronimo project team. She stated the project is projected to generate \$1,000,000 in tax revenue per year.

Benn Van Oudenallen did not provide an address and stated he has been an educator for twenty-five years. He spoke about pollinators and the decrease in local hives. He believes the project is an opportunity for students.

An unknown gentleman from Pleasantville spoke in favor of the solar project and added that he believes property owners should have the right to increase their finances.

Travis Snyder of Greenfield stated he works with a non-profit which helps veterans learn the beekeeping trade. He spoke about suffering from PTSD and serving in the military for eighteen years and added his belief that the project provides opportunities for veterans and first responders.

Courtney Whitworth of Minnesota stated she is a project lead and has been with Carnation for seven years. She spoke about the application to the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB). The team has been studying the area for months. She asked the Commissioners to wait until the staff report is released before rendering a decision.

James Stevenson of Lancaster spoke in favor of the project and stated he is the trustee of a trust which includes 300 acres in Amanda Township. He added that the trust needs the money offered by Carnation and offered that he believes solar energy is better than coal fire.

David Morrow of Marysville stated he is a representative of Carpenters Union 200 and added that approximately two hundred of their members live in Fairfield County. He further added that the union workers bring skills and training to the project and believes that everyone deserves a decent living wage.

Joanie Miller of Amanda stated she represented her family and the farms they leased to the project. She added her concern for the use of electricity and the inability to support the demand.

Samantha Meadows of Chillicothe stated she works for Carnation and has encountered many people in support of the project.

Jo Baldwin of Columbus works for an environmental non-profit which supports the solar project. She offered letters of support for the project from residents.

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Nick Bundren of Columbus works for the Ohio Land and Liberty Coalition which advocates for neutrality on the issue.

Bryan Everitt of Lancaster stated the OPSB process is intentionally arduous to ensure projects are suitable and spoke briefly on OPSB timelines.

Ester Cox of Pickerington stated she is in favor of the project for the sake of her children and the nation's need to diversify energy sources due to the increase in consumption.

Commissioner Fix called for a five minute recess.

Commissioner Fix asked for those opposed to the project to come to the podium and state their name and address.

Sherry Pymer of Walnut Township spoke about the process over the last three years and added that there was not a single board member at the OPSB hearings. The board will decide without hearing any of the testimony. During the testimony, few witnesses stated they had been to the Eastern Cottontail project area and only did desktop analysis. She stated her belief that the process does not work. She asked the Commissioners to sign a letter for both the Eastern Cottontail and Carnation projects.

Cheryl Koler of Amanda Township stated her life as well as the lives of many others, would be forever changed if the project moved forward. In 2022, at Commissioners' meeting with a packed firehouse of individuals opposed to the project. She added that the Commissioners have been invited to the community to see what would be lost if the project continued. She thanked the Commissioners for the passage of an exclusionary zone resolution in 2024. She further added that the informational sessions on the project were well attended, and the Amanda Township Trustees passed a resolution opposing the project.

Scott Barr of Amanda Township stated he is an English teacher and spoke about his family living on a generational farm in the township for over 200 years. He spoke about the 1775 Battle of Concord Bridge and his great grandfather who was a Revolutionary War veteran. He had a historical atlas and spoke about a picture of his ancestors in the atlas, on the farm where he lives. He added his hope to protect the history and legacy of the area.

Erin Trot of Amanda Twp spoke about her and her husband renovating their home that was part of the Underground Railroad. She believes there is a lack of transparency from the solar company. She stated she is a proponent of property owner's rights but not when they infringe on the rights of others. She asked the Commissioners to consider the infringement of the rights of those that live around the proposed project.

Greg Waidelick of Amanda stated he is a third generation farmer and added that he has dealt with three pipeline projects and two electric company projects, since living on his farm. He stated he believes the project will cause sink holes, flooding, and busted tiles. The Hocking and Scioto River watersheds are both in Amanda Township. He added that he has installed 136.58 miles of tile and knows the compaction from the roads will be irreversible. He asked the Commissioners to protect the fragile area.

Randy Evans stated he is an owner of Clearcreek Country Vineyards and has additional family who live around the area of the proposed solar project. He stated that he had the opportunity to sign up for the money when Carnation approached him but chose not to do so. He stated that the

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effect on the vineyard is undetermined but that the argument for the project regarding pollinators does not make sense. He has not been approached about hives. He asked the Commissioners to protect the land and businesses in Amanda Township.

Dave Ward of Amanda spoke about being a firefighter for 33 years and stated he spoke to a volunteer firefighter from Amanda. There will be inverters in the field and no water supply for fires. The solar field could burn, and the cleanup would be difficult. He added that 78% of the invertors come from China. Amanda has a small volunteer fire department without a single certified safety inspector. He asked the Commissioners to help the volunteer firefighters in Amanda by opposing the proposed project.

Caitlyn Fisher of Amanda Township stated she is a social worker who serves older adults in Fairfield County and is speaking on behalf of her family and neighbors. She spoke about the nature she witnesses in her community that would be greatly changed by the project and urged the Commissioners to consider the negative impact the panels would have on the community and nature.

Beth Cottrell of Amanda spoke about the damage that would be caused by the estimated 6000-8000 construction vehicles. The vehicles will be on the area's narrow and hilly roads. There will be twenty-eight buses a day on the proposed route and many of the intersections are tricky. She asked the Commissioners to not only protect the land in the community, but also the children riding the buses to and from school.

Pam Elder of Amanda stated she lives 300 feet from the proposed project. She has lived on the land for 61 years and has been a Teays Valley school bus driver since 1996. She added that she is also a safety instructor. She spoke about one lane roads in the project area, the hours the buses are on the roads, and the number of students on her route. She added that in 2021, 55% of national accidents happened in a construction zone and 80% of fatalities in construction zones did not involve the people in the construction vehicles. She asked the Commissioners to oppose the Carnation project.

Jerry Starner of Amanda stated he opposes the project that will surround his house. The Carnation application shows he is the site center of the project. He visited the Yellow Bud Solar project and felt it was a disaster. He added that his home was built in 1889 and is his oasis. He spoke about the immense noise from driving the pylons and the effect it would have on his animals. He further added that the project would negatively impact his retirement and his mental health.

Laura Steele of Amanda spoke about farming and bee keeping . She said the projects have changed their lives and have caused people to give up retirement money, time, and vacations. She added that her grandkids are digging on the farm that her great, great grandfather started. She spoke about pictures contained in the report and stated that the area will be greatly impacted. She added that being neutral is showing support for the project.

Austin Reed of Amanda stated he is an Amanda Township Trustee and attended the meeting to represent the hundreds of Amanda Township residents who will be negatively impacted by the proposed project. He asked the Commissioners for their support against the Carnation Solar project.

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Linda Werner of Amanda stated she is against the construction of the panels and stated her entire property will face the solar project. She stated that wildflowers and bees do not need solar panels, they can be on farmland. She spoke about living the rest of her life amid a solar site and asked the Commissioners to oppose the Carnation project.

Francis Martin of Walnut Twp stated he will be happy for the Amanda area if the project is denied but sad over the Commissioners choosing one project but not both. He asked the Commissioners to send a letter opposing the Eastern Cottontail project.

Commissioner Fix asked if there was anyone who would like to speak that was neither in favor nor opposed to the proposed Carnation project.

Commissioner Davis spoke about contemplating the decision to oppose the projects and stated that he is retired but was a lawyer in the oil and gas industry. He stated he worked with property owners in Amanda Township to help minimize the burden imposed on landowners. There is not a national policy related to renewable energy. He added that power, and policy that we can operate under, is needed. The federal government kicked solar decisions to the State and the State didn't want the decision, so Senate Bill 52 was created. He stated that he was naive enough to believe it would work as written. If the policy is to kick the decisions down to the Counties, then the Commissioners will be deciding the energy policy. He added that he attended every minute of the evidentiary hearings and the public hearings for the Eastern Cottontail projects. The people who were voting were not in attendance at the hearings and when he asked why they had not attended he was told they did not have the time and that they would read the transcripts. He felt the odds of were low that the transcripts would be read. He stated he is in favor of solar energy, lived in a solar home, and drove an electric car. He also encouraged the solar field project currently at the Liberty Center. He added that he is in favor of solar energy but not of the process. He stated that he would be supporting the resolution that Commissioner Fix had placed on the agenda, but that it was hard to take that position. There are many reasons why he arrived at the conclusion and knows it has been a stressful process for many.

Commissioner Fix stated that Commissioners are not normally placed in a position to choose winners and losers, but that when the State kicked the decision to the counties, the Commissioners were given no choice but to decide which side would win. There have been many who have invested time and money and have signed for their financial future. He stated his support for green energy and added that he is cautiously optimistic there will be other energy sources that will not put the Commissioners in the position to choose. He added that there are possibilities of tapping into natural gas in the county to provide energy. He stated that he knows the rights he has on his property are limited by zoning, which protects both him and his neighbors, but that zoning does not apply due to this being a utility. The biggest reason he is opposed is because he sees a different future for Fairfield County and feels growth is coming to the area. There are not enough homes for those that will be working for Anduril and there should be the opportunity for homes in Amanda Township. He added that he is opposing the Carnation project.

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Commissioner Levacy spoke about Senate Bill 52 placing the responsibility of the solar decisions on county commissioners. He added his respect for everyone's opinion and stated that he is still conflicted due to the subject of property rights and the opinions of those near the proposed projects. He added that it is a difficult decision and that his friend, Dave Thomas, told him that if you cannot figure out what to do, you should just do what is right. The Commissioner stated that figuring out what is right is not easy in this case. He further added that if the resolution passes, the opposition will go forward, and that due to being conflicted, he would abstain.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Steve Davis and Jeff Fix

Abstaining: David Levacy

Commissioner Fix called for a three minute recess.

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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| 2025-07.08.b | A Resolution Authorizing Fund-to-Fund Transfers for Intergovernmental Agencies for the 2nd Half 2025 Allocations |
| 2025-07.08.c | A Resolution Authorizing a Fund-to-Fund Transfer to the Fairfield County Family Children First Council for Multi-Youth Committee, 3rd Payment for the 2025 Allocation |
| 2025-07.08.d | A Resolution Authorizing a Fund-to-Fund Transfer for the 3rd Quarter 2025 Allocation for the Multi County Juvenile Detention Center (MCJDC) |
| 2025-07.08.e | A resolution authorizing a fund to fund transfer for Fairfield County Job and Family Services (JFS) for the 3rd Quarter 2025 Allocation. |
| 2025-07.08.f | A resolution to approve to appropriate from unappropriated into a major expenditure object category & memo receipt and expense for Stop Loss Pool Sub fund & the Self-Funded Healthcare Fund |
| 2025-07.08.g | A resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Fairfield County Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor |

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 Auditor – Real Estate

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 Auditor – Real Estate:

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| 2025-07.08.h | A resolution authorizing a memo expense memo receipt for reimbursement of agency share of ArcGIS Online License fees for fund 2022 – REA Department |
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2025-07.08.i A resolution authorizing a memo expense memo receipt for the 2025 Reimbursement of agency share of Fairfield County Base Mapping Program 2020-2025 for fund 2022 – REA Department

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 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:

2025-07.08.j A Resolution Approving an Account-to-Account Transfer into a Major Expenditure Object Category –Fund 2852, Target Community Alternative to Prison

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 Economic and 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 and Workforce Development:

2025-07.08.k A resolution to approve the close out of Fund # 2881 – Fairfield County EV Charging Station fund

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Resolutions from the Fairfield County 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:

2025-07.08.l A Resolution Authorizing the Reduction in Major Expenditure Object Category Appropriations for Fund # 2707/8260, Emergency Management Performance Grant

2025-07.08.m A resolution authorizing the approval of repayment of an advance to the General Fund from EMA 2090/8221 COTS Grant Fund.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Resolution from 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 Fairfield County Engineer:

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- 2025-07.08.n A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for repairs and maintenance
- 2025-07.08.o A resolution to approve a reimbursement for share of costs for Monthly Postage paid to Fairfield County Commissioners as a memo expenditure for fund County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle
- 2025-07.08.p A Resolution to Approve the Contract Bid Award for the 2025 Pavement Markings 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 Family and Children First Council

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 Family and Children First Council:

- 2025-07.08.q A Resolution to Request Appropriations for Fund #7521, Family Adult Children First Council
- 2025-07.08.r A Resolution Approving an Account-to-Account Transfer into a Major Expenditure Object Category – Fund # 7521

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:

- 2025-07.08.s A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Service Agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and Hope Haven for Girls
- 2025-07.08.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
- 2025-07.08.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
- 2025-07.08.v A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and Carrington Behavioral Health, LLC
- 2025-07.08.w A resolution regarding a service agreement between Functional Training Services, Inc. and Job & Family Services

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| 2025-07.08.x | A resolution regarding a service agreement between Fairfield County Opportunity Works and Job & Family Services |
| 2025-07.08.y | A Resolution regarding an amendment for a previously approved Network Placement and Related Services Agreement between Willow Branches of Healing and Child Protective Services Department |
| 2025-07.08.z | A Resolution regarding an amendment for a previously approved Network Placement and Related Services Agreement between A New Leaf, Inc. and Child Protective Services Department. |
| 2025-07.08.aa | A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and The Mid-Western Children's Home |
| 2025-07.08.bb | A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and Cadence Care Network |
| 2025-07.08.cc | A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and Life Start, Inc. |
| 2025-07.08.dd | A resolution authorizing the approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by and between Fairfield County Department of Job & Family Services and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services |
| 2025-07.08.ee | A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and New Beginnings Group Home |
| 2025-07.08.ff | A Resolution regarding an amendment for a previously approved Network Placement and Related Services Agreement between Kids Count Too, Inc. and Child Protective Services Department |
| 2025-07.08.gg | A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and Caring for Kids, Inc. |
| 2025-07.08.hh | A Resolution regarding an amendment for a previously approved Network Placement and Related Services Agreement between Caring for Kids, Inc. and Child Protective Services Department |
| 2025-07.08.ii | A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and Enterlock Corp dba Heaven Sent Homes |
| 2025-07.08.jj | A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and Compassion Care, LP |

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2025-07.08.kk A resolution authorizing the approval of a Memorandum of Understanding by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Protective Services Division, The Fairfield County Sheriff's Office, The Lancaster Police Department, The Pickerington Police Department, The Fairfield County Probate Court, The Fairfield County Prosecutor's Office, and The Fairfield County Coroner's Office.

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 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:

2025-07.08.ll A Resolution to Establish a Drainage Maintenance District for the Heron Crossing South Subdivision

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 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:

2025-07.08.mm A Resolution Approving an Account-to-Account Transfer into a Major Expenditure Object Category –2503, Police Revolving

2025-07.08.nn A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Sheriff's Office and the Lancaster Board of Education

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 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 resolution from the South Central Major Crimes Unit:

2025-07.08.oo A resolution to request for appropriations for receipts for MCU Drug and Law Enforcement Fund Grant 2024 (7830/8370)

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 Fairfield County Transit

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

2025-07.08.pp A Resolution to Approve an Application for the Standard 2025 Certifications and Assurances for the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Office of Transit and Fairfield County Transit and the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners

2025-07.08.qq A Resolution to Approve an authorization to apply for 2025-2026 Meals on Wheels grant application, Fairfield County Transit

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: David Levacy, Jeff Fix, 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:

2025-07.08.rr A resolution authorizing the approval of payment of invoices for departments that need Board of Commissioners' approval

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Commissioner Fix called for a three minute recess.

Additional Comments from the Commissioners

Commissioner Fix spoke about the complexity of industrial solar projects in the county and stated that the situation had been the most challenging he has dealt with as an elected official. He added that the Commissioners learned a lot through the process and invested a great deal of time and energy. He is proud of the members of the Commission who have remained professional throughout the process.

Executive Session

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Dave Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to go into executive session to discuss the sale of real property. Commissioner Davis asked the following to be present in the Executive Session: The Commissioners, County Administrators, Commissioners' Clerks, the Economic and Development Director, and a representative from the Prosecutor's Office.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to leave the Executive Session at 12:26 p.m.

