

Regular Meeting #35 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
September 4, 2025

Review Meeting

The Commissioners met at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room located at 210 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH. Commissioner Fix called the meeting to order, and the following Commissioners were present: Jeff Fix and David Levacy. Also present: County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle; Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter; Commissioners' Clerk, Rochelle Menningen; Information and Communications Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Steven Darnell; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; Deputy JFS Director, Heather O'Keefe; Economic Development Specialist, Anthony Iachini; Interim RPC Director, Holly Mattei; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Magistrate, Josh Horacek; Soil & Water Urban Technician, Chad Lucht; and Sheriff Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Ray Stemen, Stephanie Taylor, Mike Lieber, Sherry Pymmer, Jeremy Primmer, Bryan Bonkowski, Betty Bennett, and Bob Slatter II.

Virtual Attendees: Staci Knisley, Jerry Starner, Beth Cottrell, Colleen Cook, Lori Hawk, Jessica Murphy, Brian Wolfe, Ashley Arter, Bayley Fields, Jeffrey Barron, Amberly Hannum, Stacy Hicks, Alex Lape, David Uhl, Andrew Robberts, Aubrey Ward, Rick Szabrak, Britney Lee, and Joe Ebel.

Welcome

Commissioner Fix opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

Listen & Learn, Regional Planning Commission (RPC)

Holly Mattei, Fairfield County RPC Interim Director, spoke about the RPC and stated it is a member board organization under the O.R.C. The RPC administers subdivision regulations and has developed a model zoning code to assist the county's 26 villages and townships with developing or updating their zoning codes. Thurston and Millersport have already adopted a new zoning code and there are several other communities working to adopt their zoning codes. Ms. Mattei thanked the Commissioners for funding the development of the model zoning code. The RPC administers the process for commercial building permits and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). There are two resolutions on the agenda for CDBG projects.

Aundrea Cordle thanked Ms. Mattei for her work with the CDBG program.

Ms. Mattei added that the RPC meets on the first Tuesday of each month.

Commissioner Levacy thanked Ms. Mattei for her work with the RPC.

Commissioner Fix stated the presentation shows how everyone in the county is working together on land use.

Rotary Playground

Lancaster Rotary Club (Rotary) Board Member, Mike Lieber, spoke about a proposed playground project. He stated Miller Park will be located behind the Lancaster water treatment plant. The park will have a ball field and a playground. The park will consist of 8000 sq ft. It will cost two million dollars for the ball field and the playground. Rotary received \$200,000 from the state toward the project. Rotary still needs to raise funds for the project.

Commissioner Levacy asked about the fundraising efforts and the leveling of the dirt on the property.

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Mr. Leiber stated this is the first public meeting where the park and fundraising for the park have been discussed. The dirt will be used to level off the area so that wheelchairs can access the park.

Commissioner Levacy and Commissioner Fix thanked Mr. Leiber for providing information on the project.

Public Comments

Ray Stemen of Lancaster spoke about the importance of community projects such as the park spoken about by Mr. Leiber and provided a prayer.

Bryan Bonkowski with North Valley Bank introduced himself and his colleague, Andrew (last name unknown) from AFLAC. Andrew stated he would like to speak again to the county's HR department regarding benefits.

Stephanie Taylor with Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio stated rotary has made big strides in bringing the park to fruition. They will be holding fundraisers including "The Battle of the Bands."

Legal Update

There was no legal update.

County Administration Update

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

Week in Review

The Hunger Games of Generosity

Throughout September, Fairfield DD and JFS will face off in "The Hunger Games of Generosity", a friendly food drive competition for 211's Hunger Action Month. There will be donation bins located at the Fairfield County Board of DD, the Government Services Building, and here, on the first floor of the Administrative Courthouse. Gather your non-perishables and give generously this month. Every donation makes a difference for families right here in Fairfield County. We will announce the current leaders at the September 16th and 23rd meetings!

Highlights of Resolutions

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

Resolution Review

There are 11 resolutions on the agenda for the voting meeting.

Resolutions of note:

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- The by-laws of the South Central Major Crimes Governing Board require that a commissioner, or a designee, be appointed to the Board. The first resolution on the agenda appoints Commissioner Steve Davis to the governing board.
- There is a resolution to grant the County Administrator authority approve agreements and applications regarding a State Infrastructure Bank loan for improvements to Basil-Western Rd.
- EMA has a resolution to appoint the County Administrator as designee for the Ohio State Disaster Relief Program for assistance available due to the flooding on July 26th and 27th of this year. This resolution also authorizes the County Administrator to be the point of contact for the 2025 Flooding State Disaster Relief Program.
- Family and Children First Council has a resolution to approve the repayment of an advance to the General Fund of \$250,000.
- RPC has two resolutions to approve bid awards. The first is for the CDBG Sidewalk Project in Amanda. That award will go to Cooper Concrete Services, LLC, for their bid of just over \$228 thousand. The CDBG Village of Bremen Marietta Street Paving and Drainage Improvements and the Howell Park Walking Path Project award will go to Saorsa Construction Ohio, Inc., for their bid of \$330,325.

Budget Review

Finance Director, Bart Hampson, thanked departments for meeting budget deadlines.

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

- *A review of the Commissioners' Calendar, Invitations Received, and Correspondence received was provided by the Clerk to the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners, Rochelle Menningen*
- The Event Center at Violet Woods Community Open House, September 7, 2025, 1:00 p.m.– 6:00 p.m., 10190 Blacklick Eastern Rd. NW, Pickerington
- Sturbridge Meadows Meeting, September 8, 2025, 5:30 p.m., Violet Township Offices, 10190 Blacklick Eastern Rd. NW, Pickerington
- Decorative Arts Center of Ohio, Members' Reception, "Food for Thought, A Taste of the Canton Museum of Art, and Essential Ingredients, Cookbooks as History", September 26, 5:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m., 145 E. Main St., Lancaster

Correspondence

- Letter from the Office of the Governor, Mike DeWine, August 28, 2025, Re: The One Big Beautiful Bill Act and Pell Grant Eligibility
- Petition for the Vacation of an Unimproved Road, August 25, 2025, Petitioner Amy Smith, Greenfield Township, Segment of an Alley in the Unincorporated Village of Havensport
- Expedited Type II Annexation, 4.478+/- Acres, Rushcreek Township to the Village of Bremen, Agent for the Petitioner, Tom Hart

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Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Anthony Iachini spoke about the resolution for Basil-Western Rd. improvements. The resolution would provide for some construction costs and would give Ms. Cordle related signing authority.

Commissioner Levacy spoke about a letter from the Governor which stated that the Big Beautiful Bill would provide additional Pell grant funding.

Rick Sazbrak spoke virtually about the potential ability to use Pell grant funds to pursue workforce training.

Chad Lucht spoke about Soil & Water's upcoming annual banquet and the elections of their board members.

Tiffany Wilson spoke about resource guides available for families from the Family and Children First Council.

Magistrate Horacek introduced new staff attorney, Greyson Teague.

Lisa McKenzie stated that her office is alerting residents about potential property fraud.

Auditor Brown reported the budget does not need adjusted for revenues. Information is being gathered regarding training needed for villages and townships. She met with Representative Miller and Secretary of State Frank LaRose regarding concepts for property tax relief. Dr. Brown stated her appreciation for the work done by payroll officers and thanked Commissioner Fix for his idea for the "Map of the Month" which contains football fields in Fairfield County.

Heather O'Keefe encouraged everyone to participate in the 211 food drive which is collecting food throughout the month of September.

Old Business

Commissioner Levacy spoke about attending the Kingsbury Senior Living Open House and added that it is a great addition to the community.

Commissioner Fix spoke about a housing coalition that has been started with Columbus Mayor Ginther's Office. He stated that housing is needed to sustain economic growth in the central Ohio region.

New Business

Commissioner Fix stated he was asked to join the MORPC Executive Board.

Commissioner Levacy talked about the Fairfield County Veterans Hall of Fame celebration in November.

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Regular (Voting) Meeting

The Commissioners continued to the Regular/Voting portion of the meeting, and the following Commissioners were present: Jeff Fix and David Levacy. Also present: County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle; Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter; Commissioners' Clerk, Rochelle Menningen; Information and Communications Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Steven Darnell; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; Deputy JFS Director, Heather O'Keefe; Economic Development Specialist, Anthony Iachini; Interim RPC Director, Holly Mattei; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Magistrate, Josh Horacek; Soil & Water Urban Technician, Chad Lucht; and Sheriff Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Ray Stemen, Stephanie Taylor, Mike Lieber, Sherry Pymmer, Jeremy Primmer, Bryan Bonkowski, Betty Bennett, and Bob Slatter II.

Virtual Attendees: Staci Knisley, Jerry Starnier, Beth Cottrell, Colleen Cook, Lori Hawk, Jessica Murphy, Brian Wolfe, Ashley Arter, Bayley Fields, Jeffrey Barron, Amberly Hannum, Stacy Hicks, Alex Lape, David Uhl, Andrew Robberts, Aubrey Ward, Rick Szabrak, Britney Lee, and Joe Ebel.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Fix asked everyone to rise as able and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements

Clerk Menningen stated the next Regular Meeting for the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners will be September 16th, 2025, at the Rushcreek Township Fire Department in Bremen.

Approval of Minutes for August 26, 2025

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Jeff Fix, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Minutes for the Tuesday, August 26, 2025, meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Jeff Fix

Approval of Resolutions from the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners

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

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| 2025-09.04.a | A Resolution Approving the Appointment of Fairfield County Commissioner Steven Davis to the South Central Major Crimes Unit Governing Board |
| 2025-09.04.b | A resolution granting the County Administrator the authority to approve any agreements or applications regarding a State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) Loan application for improvements to Basil-Western Road |

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: David Levacy and Jeff Fix

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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 Jeff Fix, the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Court of Common Pleas:

2025-09.04.c A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category for Common Pleas Court; Fund # 2422, Common Pleas Special Projects Fund

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

Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield Emergency Management Agency

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Jeff Fix, the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Emergency Management Agency:

2025-09.04.d A resolution to appoint the County Administrator as the Designee for the Ohio State Disaster Relief Program for Public Assistance available due to Flooding on July 26-27, 2025

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

Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Engineer

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

2025-09.04.e A resolution to request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of memo receipts and memo expenses for fund 3445 BLO-36 bridge replacement

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

Approval of Resolutions from the Fairfield County Family and Children First Council

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

2025-09.04.f A resolution authorizing the approval of repayment of an advance to the General Fund from Fund # 7521

2025-09.04.g A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of an Advance from the General Fund to The Family and Children First Council Fund #7521, Sub-fund #8160 Help Me Grow – Early Intervention SFY26

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

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Approval of a Resolution from Fairfield County Juvenile Probate Court

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Jeff Fix, the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from Fairfield County Juvenile Probate Court:

2025-09.04.h A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in Fund #2076 Indigent Guardianship and a Fund-to-Fund Transfer from Probate Court to GSB

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

Approval of Resolutions from the Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission

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

2025-09.04.i A resolution to approve an award of bid to Cooper Concrete Services LLC for the CDBG - PY2024 - Village of Bremen – Broad Street Sidewalk Improvements and Village of Amanda – ADA Compliant Sidewalk Ramps

2025-09.04.j A resolution to approve an award of bid to Saorsa Construction Ohio, Inc. for the CDBG - PY2024 - Village of Bremen – Marietta Street Paving & Drainage Improvements and Village of Bremen – Howell Park Improvements – Walking Path

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

Approval of the Payment of Bills

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Jeff Fix, the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution for the Payment of Bills:

2025-09.04.k 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 Jeff Fix

Adjournment

With no further business, on the motion of David Levacy, and the second of Jeff Fix, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 9:56 a.m.

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

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 16th, 2025, at the Rushcreek Township Fire Department, 201 Marietta St., Bremen, OH.

