

Regular Meeting #37 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
September 23, 2025

Review Meeting

The Commissioners met at 9:00 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, Steve Davis and David Levacy. Also present: County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle; Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter; Clerk, Rochelle Menningen; Information and Communications Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; IT Director, Dan Neeley; EMA and Facilities Director, Jon Kochis; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Austin Lines; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Budget Officer, Staci Knisley; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Sheriff's Deputies, Kevin Romine and Tarek Gasser; JFS Director, Corey Clark, Workforce Development Specialist, Baylie Fields; Planner, Josh Hillberry; Deputy Utilities Director, Josh Anders; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; Deputy Director of Child Support Enforcement, Patrick Welsh; Deputy Director of Community Services, Krista Humphries; Deputy Director of Protective Services, Sarah Fortner; JFS Finance Supervisor, Brandi Downhour; and Operations Manager of Ohio Means Jobs, Jodi Smith. Also in attendance: Don McDaniel, Matthew Saunders, Michael Michaels, Sherry Pymer, Ray Stemen, Jo Price, Angela Krile, Chris Snider, Jeremy Primmer, and Carrie Woody.

Virtual attendees: Beth Cottrell, Shelby Hunt, Lori Hawk, Alisha Hoffman, Michael Kaper, Jeff Barron, Stacy Hicks, David Uhl, Abby King, Josh Horacek, Shannon Ward, Justin M, Andy Robberts, Alex Lape, Sam, Amberly Hannum, Jennifer Morgan, Lisa Rector, Vince Carpico, Lori Lovas, Anthony Iachini, Lynette Barnhart, Greg Forquer, Jerry Starner, Tony Vogel, Deborah, Toni Ashton, Jessica Murphy, Ashley Arter, Britney Lee, and Mesina Clark.

Welcome

Commissioner Fix opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance. He spoke about the State of Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame and new 2025 inductees Lance Meyer and Don McDaniel. He added that he had the opportunity to fly on a C135 refueling mission and the opportunity was one of his greatest lifetime experiences.

Listen & Learn, Job and Family Services (JFS)

Corey Clark thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to present and spoke about the newly released JFS Annual Report to the Community. The report contains success stories and relevant statistics and will be sent out to the community. He also spoke about the Carr family, former Ohio foster parents of the year, who raise chickens with their foster children. The proceeds from the chickens go into savings accounts for the children.

Patrick Welsh spoke about the new texting initiative that he has started at JFS. There are only a few other child support agencies in the state using text outreach for customers. Text messaging with customers is less intrusive, more convenient, and seem to meets customer needs.

Commissioner Davis asked about retention of the texts.

Patrick Welsh replied that test messages live in the Avaya Cloud program and are saved. Case managers are now reaching out to their customers in their normal ways but also by text. Text messages are used for payment reminders and hearing date reminders. There is a marketing campaign around the text program and customers are responding very positively.

Commissioner Fix thanked Patrick for his presentation and thanked the JFS team for all they do for the community.

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Commissioner Levacy stated the new program is so simple, yet meaningful for JFS customers.

Diamond Power Update

Baylie Fields introduced Matt Saunders and Michael Michaels with Diamond Power. Matt shared that Diamond Power had been purchased by Andritz, but there are no plans to change the business and are looking forward to the opportunities the new partnership will bring.

Michael Michaels stated that Fairfield County is the world headquarter for Diamond Power, which was started in the 90's and currently has 155 employees in Fairfield County, 200 total in the U.S., and 450 worldwide.

Commissioner Davis stated his excitement over the news that Diamond Power is staying in the community.

Commissioner Fix stated that the county is working on workforce barriers such as housing, transportation, and childcare.

Commissioner Levacy asked if the company is affected by tariffs.

Michael Michaels stated that tariffs have not remained consistent for a long enough period to gauge their affect.

Small Business Administration Disaster Relief Update

Debbie Jacquela with the Small Business Association thanked the Emergency Management Agency for serving as a base of operations during their time in Fairfield County. Debbie provided a summary of the disaster relief loans that their organization is offering to property owners, businesses and organizations impacted by the flooding which occurred earlier in the summer.

The Commissioners thanked Debbie and her organization for supporting the community.

Public Comments

Ray Stemen of Lancaster stated he appreciated hearing about opportunities available in the community, especially for those with specific needs. He offered a prayer for leadership.

Jeremy Primmer stated he owns a business on Sugar Grove Road and spoke about an earlier incident involving his business.

Legal Update

There was no legal update.

County Administration Update

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

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Week in Review

Fairfield County's 2025 State of the County Address

Fairfield County and the Lancaster Fairfield Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the 2025 State of the County Address next Tuesday, September 30th. This year's theme will be Our County, Our Future, Building Today, Inspiring Tomorrow and we will be holding the event at our newly renovated Sheridan Center. The event is sold out but is a public meeting for anyone who is planning to attend.

The Hunger Games of Generosity

Fairfield DD and JFS have been facing off in a food drive competition for 211's Hunger Action Month. As of September 16th, JFS was in the lead with 231 to DD's 186 donated items. "The Hunger Games of Generosity" will run through the remainder of September. You can donate items at JFS, DD, or even here in the Administrative Courthouse on the first floor. Every donation makes a difference for families right here in Fairfield County!

Highlights of Resolutions

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

Resolution Review

There are 13 resolutions on the agenda for the Regular voting meeting.

Resolutions of note:

- The first resolution on the agenda is to add a Commission meeting on October 7th at 8:00 a.m. to hold a Budget Hearing.
- There is a resolution for the approval of a Type II Expedited Annexation of 4.478 acres from Rushcreek Township to the Village of Bremen. The agent for the petitioner is Tom Hart of Painter & Associates, LLC.
- There is a resolution to approve the transfer of \$2M from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund.
- And there is a resolution to approve the application for a funding allocation to acquire 2026 Agricultural Easements through the Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program. This program supports the protection of prime agricultural soils and other natural resources in accordance with the 2024 Comprehensive Plan and the 2022 Fairfield Growing Agricultural Economic Development Plan.

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

Informational Items

- Fairfield County Unified Dispatch Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, September 23, 2025, 1:00 p.m., Fairfield Center, 12941 Stonecreek Dr., Pickerington
- South Licking Watershed Conservation District Meeting, September 23, 2025, 3:00 p.m., Licking County Ag Center, 771 E. Main St., Newark
- Job and Family Services' 25th Anniversary Celebration, September 25, 2025, 3:30 p.m., Government Services Building, 239 W. Main St., Lancaster

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- City of Lancaster's North Water Treatment Plant Dedication, October 1, 2025, 1:00 p.m., Miller Park, 420 W. Sixth Ave., Lancaster
- Making Numbers Count Presentation, October 29, 2025, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities Pickerington Regional Office, 7140 Reynoldsburg-Baltimore Rd., Pickerington
- Senior Hub Halloween Party, October 31, 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Meals on Wheels, 1515 Cedar Hill Rd., Lancaster

Correspondence

- Newsletter, Geronimo Power, September 2025

Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Recorder McKenzie thanked county IT for their quick response in resolving technology issues in her office.

Engineer Upp spoke on two remaining culverts that will be replaced due to being washed out by the floods.

Auditor Brown stated that she had reviewed the Governors Review Committee draft recommendations. She also reported that the Auditor's Weights and Measures inspectors have concluded the inspections of all the weights at the Fairfield County Fair.

Baylie Fields reported that the results of the housing study had been received and noted that most homes in the county were built prior to 1990, furthering the need for new housing.

Commissioner Fix stated that he had the opportunity to review some of the results from the housing study and was particularly surprised by the number of homeowners that were over 60 years of age and were considered lower income.

Jon Kochis stated that facilities will soon close two bids.

Dan Neeley spoke about the annual cybersecurity training sessions which were emailed to employees and stressed the importance of employees receiving a refresher on good cybersecurity practices.

Corey Clark reported that the visit with ODJFS Director Damschroder was a success, and he was grateful for the opportunity to show how his staff perform their jobs.

Jeff Porter stated that HR will soon announce the rates for employee insurance and will host a benefits fair at the Records Center on October 9th so that employees can visit with each of the providers. He also stated that there will be a new wellness benefit available to employees starting in 2026.

Old Business

Commissioner Davis addressed the increased security measures at the courthouse and encouraged everyone to practice political discourse in a peaceful manner.

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New Business

Commissioner Levacy spoke about the Fairfield County Veterans Hall of Fame ceremony and congratulated Lance Meyer and Don McDaniel on their upcoming induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

Regular (Voting) Meeting

The Commissioners met at 9:00 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, Steve Davis and David Levacy. Also present: County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle; Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter; Clerk, Rochelle Menningen; Information and Communications Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; IT Director, Dan Neeley; EMA and Facilities Director, Jon Kochis; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Austin Lines; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Budget Officer, Staci Knisley; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Sheriff's Deputies, Kevin Romine and Tarek Gasser; JFS Director, Corey Clark, Workforce Development Specialist, Baylie Fields; Planner, Josh Hillberry; Deputy Utilities Director, Josh Anders; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; Deputy Director of Child Support Enforcement, Patrick Welsh; Deputy Director of Community Services, Krista Humphries; Deputy Director of Protective Services, Sarah Fortner; JFS Finance Supervisor, Brandi Downhour; and Operations Manager of Ohio Means Jobs, Jodi Smith. Also in attendance: Don McDaniel, Matthew Saunders, Michael Michaels, Sherry Pymmer, Ray Stemen, Jo Price, Angela Krile, Chris Snider, Jeremy Primmer, and Carrie Woody.

Virtual attendees: Beth Cottrell, Shelby Hunt, Lori Hawk, Alisha Hoffman, Michael Kaper, Jeff Barron, Stacy Hicks, David Uhl, Abby King, Josh Horacek, Shannon Ward, Justin M, Andy Robberts, Alex Lape, Sam, Amberly Hannum, Jennifer Morgan, Lisa Rector, Vince Carpico, Lori Lovas, Anthony Iachini, Lynette Barnhart, Greg Forquer, Jerry Starner, Tony Vogel, Deborah, Toni Ashton, Jessica Murphy, Ashley Arter, Britney Lee, and Mesina Clark.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

None.

Approval of Minutes for September 16, 2025

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Minutes for the Tuesday, September 16, 2025, meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Resolutions from the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions:

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- 2025-09.23.a A Resolution Amending Resolutions 2024-12.03.a, 2025-04.22.a, 2025-06.24.a, 2025-07.29.a, and 2025-08.05.a, 2025-08.19.a, Establishing the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners' 2025 Review Session and Regular Meeting Dates, and Special Meeting Dates
- 2025-09.23.b A Resolution to Approve the Expedited Type II Annexation of 4.478 +/- Acres from Rushcreek Township to the Village of Bremen, Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) 709.023, Agent for petitioner Tom Hart
- 2025-09.23.c A resolution authorizing to Appropriate from Unappropriated into a major expenditure category to the General Fund# 1001 and a fund to fund transfer from General Fund# 1001 to the Capital Improvement Fund# 3435.

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 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:

- 2025-09.23.d A resolution to request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of memo receipts and memo expenses for fund 2050 for annual inspections, repairs, and maintenance in various subdivisions as of 09/10/2025.

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 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:

- 2025-09.23.e 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
- 2025-09.23.f 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
- 2025-09.23.g A resolution authorizing the approval of a Purchase of Service Agreement between Fairfield County Transit and Fairfield County Job and Family Services.

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

Approval of Resolutions from the 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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- 2025-09.23.h A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category for Sheriff; 2883, Law Enforcement Cyber
- 2025-09.23.i A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category for Sheriff; 2711 Continuous Prof Training
- 2025-09.23.j A Resolution Approving an Account-to-Account Transfer into a Major Expenditure Object Category –23100101, General Fund
- 2025-09.23.k A Resolution Approving an Account-to-Account Transfer into a Major Expenditure Object Category –23250300 Police Revolving

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 Soil and Water Conservation District

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 Soil and Water Conservation District:

- 2025-09.23.l A resolution to apply for a funding allocation to acquire Agricultural Easements through the Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program for Fairfield County, Ohio.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the Payment of Bills

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

- 2025-09.23.m 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

Adjournment

Commissioner Fix stated he is looking forward to the State of the County. He added that it is his seventh year as a commissioner and that the event is always interesting and exciting.

Commissioner Davis stated that he is also very excited for the State of the County.

With no further business, on the motion of David Levacy, and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 9:57 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

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The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 30th, 2025, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 210 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH. The Fairfield County 2025 State of the County Address will follow at 1:00 p.m., Sheridan Center, 1550 Sheridan Dr., Lancaster, OH.

Motion by: David Levacy Seconded by: Steve Davis
To approve September 23, 2025, minutes by the following vote:

YEAS: David Levacy, Steve Davis, and Jeff Fix
ABSTENTIONS: None

NAYS: None

*Approved September 30, 2025

Jeff Fix
Commissioner

Steve Davis
Commissioner


David Levacy
Commissioner

Rochelle Menningen
Rochelle Menningen, Clerk