

Budget Hearings #45 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
October 14, 2025

Commissioner Fix called the Budget Hearing Session to order with the following Commissioners present: Jeff Fix, Steve Davis and David Levacy. Also in attendance were Aundrea Cordle, Jeff Porter, Rochelle Menningen, Bennett Niceswanger, Bart Hampson, and Staci Knisley. Attendees of specific hearings are listed in their respective section of the minutes.

Each hearing has a corresponding Budget Summary and Excel spreadsheet that are included with the minutes.

Budget Hearing, Engineer, 11:00 a.m.

Engineer Jeremiah Upp was also in attendance for the Engineer's Budget Hearing.

Bart Hampson stated that the total general fund budget increase for the Engineer's proposed budget was 3.5% higher than the 2025 budget. The Transportation Improvement District (TID) budget increased 6.9%, which includes salary and fringe benefits for engineering costs.

Engineer Upp added things are progressing well with the TID.

Budget Hearing, Board of Elections (BOE), 11:15 a.m.

Brett Riffle and Jane Hanley were also in attendance for the BOE Budget Hearing.

Bart Hampson stated that the total proposed budget for the BOE is 0.6% higher than 2025.

Brett Riffle stated the salary increase for poll workers was based on policy.

Commissioner Davis asked if the board members' salary increase would be in-term or at the beginning of new terms.

Jane Hanley stated the Board Members' increase was due to HB 96, which passed in June. The Board is getting a raise in-term.

Bart spoke about capital outlay due to the replacement of a copier and software.

Brett Riffle stated that they purchased a new printer which allows them to do printing in-house.

Aundrea Cordle provided information on the county's copier procurement.

Commissioner Fix asked how many elections would occur in 2026.

Brett Riffle stated they budgeted for two and a half.

Budget Hearing, OSU Extension, 11:30 a.m.

Shannon Carter and Carrie Brown were also in attendance for the OSU Extension Budget Hearing.

Bart Hampson stated that the budget 1.7% budget increase would be offset by the carryover.

Shannon Carter added that they were using some carryover dollars for staffing.

The Commissioners thanked the OSU Extension staff for their services and programming and spoke about the great kids and programming in 4-H.

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Commissioner Fix asked if the Federal Government cut to OSU Extension funding was permanent.

Shannon Carter replied there is speculation that there may be a program. OSU is changing its administrative model, and we will still be here but with a new supervisor.

Budget Hearing, Regional Planning Commission (RPC), 11:45 a.m.

Holly Mattei and Jennifer Morgan were also in attendance for the RPC Budget Hearing.

Bart Hampson stated that RPC has asked to retain the money budget in 2025 for the Model Zoning Code. The proposed budget is flat at \$200,000.

Mattei stated RPC will go to the communities with the model zoning code and that is why they would like to retain the funding. Salary for an intern and money for Hicks partners have been included.

Commissioner Fix spoke about zoning codes and added that the model zoning code provides a smart way for communities to grow and develop. The villages and townships do not have the personnel to develop these codes. He added that he believes the \$75,000 is a wise investment.

Commissioner Levacy asked about the data center meetings.

Mattei stated RPC entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Millersport to provide services.

Commissioner Fix called a recess at 11:48 a.m. The Commission would reconvene at 1:00 p.m.

Budget Hearing, Recorder, 1:00 p.m.

Recorder Lisa McKenzie was also in attendance for the Recorder's Budget Hearing.

Bart Hampson stated that the Recorder's budget is below parameters.

Recorder McKenzie stated that she had a turnover of employees due to other county agencies hiring. She wishes to review her salaries in relation to the compensation plan. The other item included in her budget proposal is the preservation surcharge which she plans to implement in 2026.

Aundrea Cordle stated a review of the compensation plan should take place and stated the Recorder should meet with Jeff Porter to review.

Budget Hearing, Clerk of Courts, 1:15 p.m.

Branden Myer was also in attendance for the Clerk of Court's Budget Hearing.

Bart Hampson stated the proposed budget reflects a 10.4% increase. Budget items of note include vehicles, legal aide, health insurance and contractual services.

Clerk of Courts Branden Meyer thanked Bart Hampson and Staci Knisley for their budget assistance and spoke about changes in the Clerk of Courts. He provided information on Driver's License Testing. The office is down to one driver's license examiner and is hoping to get an additional. He continues to work with the State Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the restrictions they impose on his testing abilities.

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