

Regular Meeting 41 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
October 13, 2026

Review Meeting

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room located at 210 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH. Commissioner Steve Davis called the meeting to order, and Commissioners David Levacy and Jeff Fix were also in attendance. Also present: County Administrator Aundrea Cordle, Deputy County Administrator Jeff Porter, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners Rochelle Menningen, Communications and Information Coordinator Bennett Niceswanger, Budget Director Bart Hampson, Utilities Director Tony Vogel, EMA and Facilities Director Jon Kochis, JFS Director Corey Clark, Auditor Carri Brown, JFS Finance Director Elyssa Wanosik, Nobel Reach Fellow Zykia McDaniel, IT Director Dan Neeley, Engineer Jeremiah Upp, Recorder Lisa McKenzie, Treasurer Jim Bahnsen, Deputy JFS Director Heather O'Keefe, Payroll Specialist Christina Foster, Financial Analyst Taylor Forquer, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Amy Brown-Thompson, OSU Extension Area Manager Shannon Carter, Soil and Water Manager Nikki Drake, Regional Planer Josh Hillberry, Economic and Workforce Development Director Rick Szabrak, Clerk of Courts Branden Meyer, and Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Mallory Medina, Ray Stemen, Scott Barr, Lisa Barr, and David Ward.

Virtual attendees: Ash Sark, Shannon Ward, Jessica Murphy, Ashley Arter, Lori Hawk, Henry, Vince Carpico, Greg Forquer, Shelby Hunt, Jeff Barron, Bayley Fields, Andy Robberts, David Uhl, Baylie Blevins, Jason Grubb, and Tony Howard.

Welcome

Commissioner Davis welcomed everyone in attendance.

Public Comment

Ray Stemen of Lancaster spoke about his appreciation of life and offered a prayer.

Scott and Lisa Barr of Amanda spoke in opposition to the Grid Growth transmission line project. Scott Barr stated he is opposed due to the route of the project being proposed 200 feet from his property. He thanked the Commissioners for their support in the past regarding solar projects. He urged the Commissioners to adopt a resolution opposing the transmission line project in Amanda Township.

David Ward of Amanda spoke in opposition to the Grid Growth transmission line project. He stated that he is also in the path of the proposed route for the project. He appreciates the Amanda Township trustees for already adopting a resolution opposing the project and he asked the Commissioners to consider doing the same.

County Administration Update

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

Week in Review

Ohio EPA

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) sent a letter dated October 7, 2026, thanking Jennifer Kolometz for her participation in hosting the 2026 Scrap Tire Collection Day on September 26, 2026. The Ohio EPA expressed appreciation for providing the event location, staff, and traffic control, which contributed to the event's success. A total of 17.65

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tons of scrap tires, equivalent to 1,412 passenger tires, were collected at a cost of \$5,425.75. The Ohio EPA noted that if the program is authorized to continue in future years, it hopes Fairfield County will consider hosting additional events.

Double Edge Brewery

Double Edge Brewery which is located next to the Fairfield County Records Center expressed appreciation for allowing them to utilize the parking lot for their Oktoberfest event.

Highlights of Resolutions

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

Resolution Review

There are 12 resolutions on the agenda for the Regular voting meeting.

Resolutions of note:

- A resolution from Economic and Workforce Development as the fiscal agent for the Area 20/21 Workforce Development Board (WDB) and the Area 20 WDB, as the Board is entering into an agreement to partner with Aspyr on the second round of the U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Building America Grant.
- A resolution from the Engineer's Office to authorize the Engineer to apply to the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement Program for 3 bridge replacement projects.

Engineer Jeremiah Upp stated the program is a good funding vehicle and allows his office to help townships in the county.

- A resolution from the Engineer's Office to approve a change order for the Lithopolis-Winchester Road Resurfacing Project. The actual material quantities differ from those in the contract document, decreasing the contract price from \$450,802.57 to \$448,459.82.
- A resolution from the Prosecutor's Office to accept the Victims of Crime Act and State Victims Assistance Act grants for October 2026 through September 2027. These grants will be administered by the Prosecutor's Office and the Fairfield County Commissioners have pledged to provide additional funds for expenses not reimbursable through the grants.
- A resolution from the Sheriff's Office to approve a contract between the Sheriff's Office and OhioGuidestone for behavioral health and support services for vulnerable adults. These services will be paid for by the Opioid Remediation Grant awarded to the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office.

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

Informational Items and Invitations Received

- Central Ohio Housing Coalition Meeting, October 13, 2026, 1:00 p.m.

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- Commissioner Fix and Team to Meet with Village of Carroll, October 13, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
- Commissioner Fix and Team to Meet with Bloom Township, October 14, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
- Fairfield County Offices Closed for Fair Day, October 16, 2026
- MORPC's Summit on Sustainability, October 28, 2026, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Hilton Columbus Downtown, 401 N. High St., Columbus
- Legal Aid of Southeast and Central Ohio, Journey Toward Justice Celebration, October 28, 2026, 5:30 p.m., Grange Insurance Audubon Center, 505 W. Whittier St., Columbus
- Freedom's Never Free, November 5-7, 2026, Event Starts at 12:00 p.m. on November 5th at Mott's Military Museum, 5075 S. Hamilton Rd., Groveport
- Ohio Council of County Officials Legislative Reception, November 10, 2026, 5:00 p.m., Statehouse Rotunda, 1 Capital Sq., Columbus
- ED 411, December 2, 2026, 8:00 a.m., Hyatt Regency Boardroom, 350 N. High St., Columbus
- Fairfield County Economic Update, December 15, 2026, 8:00 a.m., Fairfield County Workforce Center, 4465 Coonpath Rd. NW, Carroll

Correspondence

- Pickerington Food Pantry Donations and Holiday Meal Distribution
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Event Closeout and Follow-Up to 2026 Scrap Tire Collection Day
- Thank-You Notes from Dennis Mingyar
- Letters from Fairfield County 4-H Participants Regarding the Fairfield County Fair's Livestock Auctions
- Letters from Residents Regarding Transmission Lines
- Letters from Residents Regarding Development
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Email Regarding Fairfield Energy Center, LLC, Permit #P0140492
- Public Notice, Cirba Solutions US, Inc., Draft Class 3 RCRA Permit Modification
- AEP Transmission, Conesville – West Millersport 765-kV Transmission Line Project Open House Invitation, Case No. 26-0914-EL-BTX
- Grid Growth, Open House Informational Meeting Notice

Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Recorder Lisa McKenzie reported attending the Fairfield County Fair and expressed her appreciation for the Veterans Services booth, which provided free items to veterans.

Auditor Carri Brown reported delivering two presentations at local Rotary clubs. She also thanked the Auditor's Weights and Measures team for their work for the Fairfield County Fair and added that her office is pursuing several improvements to DocLink.

Rick Szabrak reported that the Workforce Center currently has 132 students enrolled in its pre-apprenticeship program.

Commissioner Levacy asked about the capacity of the pre-apprenticeship programs.

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Rick Szabrak stated that the programs are nearing capacity.

Dan Neeley reported that 77% of county employees have completed the annual cybersecurity training.

Corey Clark reported that Elyssa Wanosik has transitioned from her previous role in his office to the JFS Finance Director position.

Jeff Porter reported meeting with Adena Health to discuss the continued use of the wellness center. He also shared that Human Resources would host the health benefits fair at the Records Center on October 22. In preparation for the upcoming plan year, his office is establishing benefit plan rates. He spoke about an actuarially recommended 12% increase for the pharmacy and medical.

Shannon Carter introduced the new OSU Extension District Director, Mallory Medina.

Mallory Medina stated that she oversees several counties in the region but emphasized her commitment to Fairfield County, where she resides.

Nikki Drake shared information about the upcoming Drug Take Back Day scheduled for October 24, 2026.

Old Business

Commissioner Fix reported meetings with several townships and villages to discuss cooperative economic development agreements. He was pleased that all parties expressed interest in moving forward. He also reported meeting with Amanda Township the previous evening, where officials are preparing to update their zoning regulations.

Commissioner Levacy shared that he enjoyed attending the fair's opening ceremony.

Commissioner Davis reflected on how small the fair's opening ceremony was when he first became a commissioner. He expressed his appreciation for the growth in attendance, noting that more than 100 people attended this year's ceremony.

New Business

Commissioner Fix reported that he will meet with additional townships and villages this week to continue discussions.

Commissioner Levacy announced that the Fairfield County Veterans Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held on November 19, 2026, at the Levacy Center.

Regular (Voting) Meeting

The Commissioners continued to their Voting portion of the meeting and the following Commissioners remained present: Steve Davis, David Levacy and Jeff Fix. Also present:

County Administrator Aundrea Cordle, Deputy County Administrator Jeff Porter, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners Rochelle Menningen, Communications and Information Coordinator Bennett Niceswanger, Budget Director Bart Hampson, Utilities Director Tony Vogel, EMA and Facilities Director Jon Kochis, JFS Director Corey Clark, Auditor Carri Brown, JFS Finance Director Elyssa Wanosik, Nobel Reach Fellow Zykia McDaniel, IT Director Dan Neeley, Engineer Jeremiah Upp, Recorder Lisa McKenzie, Treasurer Jim Bahnsen, Deputy JFS Director Heather O'Keefe, Payroll Specialist Christina Foster, Financial Analyst Taylor Forquer, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Amy Brown-Thompson, OSU Extension Area Manager Shannon Carter, Soil and Water Manager Nikki Drake, Regional Planer Josh Hillberry, Economic and Workforce

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Development Director Rick Szabrak, Clerk of Courts Branden Meyer, and Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Mallory Medina, Ray Stemen, Scott Barr, Lisa Barr, and David Ward.

Virtual attendees: Ash Sark, Shannon Ward, Jessica Murphy, Ashley Arter, Lori Hawk, Henry, Vince Carpico, Greg Forquer, Shelby Hunt, Jeff Barron, Bayley Fields, Andy Robberts, David Uhl, Baylie Blevins, Jason Grubb, and Tony Howard.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

None.

Approval of Minutes for October 6, 2026

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of David Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Minutes for the Tuesday, October 6, 2026, meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Budget Hearing Minutes for October 6, 2026

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of David Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Budget Hearing Minutes for the Tuesday, October 6, 2026, meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners

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

2026-10.13.a A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A MEMO TRANSACTIONS FOR
INTEREST ALLOCATION REIMBURSEMENTS FOR FAIRFIELD
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAIRFIELD COUNTY PARKS –
FUND #7012, #7321, & #7308.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Resolutions from the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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

2026-10.13.b A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A MEMO EXP./ MEMO RECEIPT
FOR THE COST OF TRANSPORTATION FOR INDIVIDUALS PAID
TO FAIRFIELD COUNTY TRANSIT AS A MEMO EXPENDITURE
FOR FUND# 2060

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2026-10.13.c A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A MEMO EXP./ MEMO RECEIPT FOR THE MOBILITY PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP TO INCREASE RIDERSHIP INCLUDING PEOPLE SUPPORTED BY FCBDD PAID TO FAIRFIELD COUNTY TRANSIT AS A MEMO EXPENDITURE FOR FUND# 2060

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of a Resolution from Fairfield County Economic & Workforce Development

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

2026-10.13.d A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ASPYR AND SOUTH CENTRAL OHIO WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Resolutions from the Fairfield County Engineer

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

2026-10.13.e A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING JEREMIAH D. UPP, FAIRFIELD COUNTY ENGINEER, TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED.

2026-10.13.f A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A CHANGE ORDER FOR THE LITHOPOLISWINCHESTER ROAD RESURFACING PROJECT.

2026-10.13.g A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM UNAPPROPRIATED IN A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY, FUND #2024, MOTOR VEHICLE FOR EQUIPMENT

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Prosecutor

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

2026-10.13.h A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) AND STATE VICTIMS ASSISTANCE ACT (SVAA) GRANTS FOR OCTOBER 1, 2026 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, GRANTS TO BE ADMINSTRATED BY THE COUNTY PROSECUTOR, FUND #2120, PROSECUTOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

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Approval of Resolutions from the Fairfield County Sheriff

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

- 2026-10.13.i A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN ACCOUNT-TO-ACCOUNT
TRANSFER INTO A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY –
23100101
- 2026-10.13.j A RESOLUTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND
OHIO GUIDESTONE.
- 2026-10.13.k A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM UNAPPROPRIATED IN
A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY FOR SHERIFF;
2442, COMMISSARY

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the Payment of Bills

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

- 2026-10.13.l 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: Jeff Fix, David Levacy, and Steve Davis

Adjournment

Commissioner Davis acknowledged that news and social media outlets often contribute to division but encouraged those present to focus on finding things to appreciate.

With no further business, On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Jeff Fix, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 9:37 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

The next Review and Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for October 20, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

