

Regular Meeting #44 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
October 14, 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; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; Budget Officer, Staci Knisley; Financial Analyst, Taylor Forquer; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Amy Brown-Thompson; Deputy Utilities Director, Josh Anders; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; EMA & Facilities Director, Jon Kochis; IT Director, Dan Neeley; JFS Director, Corey Clark; Deputy JFS Director, Heather O'Keefe; Interim RPC Director, Holly Matei; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Urban Technician, Chad Lucht; Sheriff's Deputies, Kevin Romine and Kelly Walker; and DD Superintendent, Dr. David Uhl. Also in attendance: Betty Bennett, Ray Stemen, Garrett Davis Beverly Sturm, and Chris Snider.

Virtual attendees: Deborah, Vince Carpico, Ed, Jessica Murphy, Shelby Hunt, Lori Lovas, Greg Forquer, Nikki Drake, Shannon Ward, Lynette Barnhart, Tony Vogel, Alisha Hoffman, Stacy Hicks, Ashley Arter, Lori Hawk, Andy Robberts, Andy Boystel, and Baylie Blevins.

Welcome

Commissioner Fix opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance and speaking about the Fairfield County Fair. He stated it was a great fair week, and the Commissioners won the reserve grand champion steer at the auction.

Introduction of New Employee, Taylor Forquer

Taylor Forquer stated she worked with the Treasurer of State's Office for two years and was at Huntington Bank for seven years prior to that. Her hobby is helping her mother run a volleyball club team.

Presentation of Hunger Games Trophy

Commissioner Fix read a press release provided by Jeanette Curtis of Fairfield County 211. The press release spoke about the community and the importance of events that assist residents.

Corey Clark stated 4400 items were collected for the food drive. JFS has held a food drive internally for several years and this year collected over 3000 additional items.

Dr. David Uhl spoke about discussions with other county agencies to broaden the challenge.

Public Comments

Ray Stemen spoke about the beautiful Fall weather and offered a prayer.

Legal Update

There was no legal update.

Commissioner Davis thanked the Prosecutor's Office for their assistance with some Major Crimes Unit (MCU) items.

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County Administration Update

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

Week in Review

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:

- There is a resolution to establish the date and time for a viewing and a hearing for a petition to vacate a segment of an alley in Greenfield Township.
- There is a resolution to establish a new debt service fund for the Stated Infrastructure Bank loan for the Basil Western Rd project.
- The Auditor's Office has a resolution to rescind a resolution from last week that duplicated a memo receipt/memo expense.
- Regional Planning has a resolution to certify consistency of the Fairfield Metropolitan Housing Authority's Annual Plan with Fairfield County's Community Housing Improvement Strategy.
- The Sheriff's Office has a resolution to authorize the donation of a vehicle from the City of Canal Winchester to Hocking Township.

Budget Review

Finance Director, Bart Hampson

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

- *The Review of the Calendar, Invitations Received, and Correspondence was provided by the Clerk to the Board of Fairfield County Commissioners, Rochelle Menningen.*
- MCU Governing Board Meeting, October 15, 2025, 11:00 a.m., Location TBD
- Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Agency Board of Directors Meeting, October 16, 2025, 11:30 a.m., Recycling Center, 1761 E. Main St., Lancaster
- Family and Children First Council Executive Committee Meeting, October 17, 2025, 8:30 a.m., Fairfield County Agricultural Center, 831 College Ave., Lancaster
- NextGen Training Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, November 4, 2025, 1:00 p.m., Fairfield Career Center, 3985 Coonpath Rd. N.W., Carroll
- 2025 Fairfield County Economic Update, December 12, 2025, 8:00 a.m., Fairfield County Workforce Center, 4465 Coonpath Rd. NW, Carroll

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Correspondence

- Letter from Constituent Thanking and Congratulating Commissioner Levacy
- MORPC Return on Investment Documents for 2025: Letter from William Murdock, Executive Director, Return on Investment Sheet, MORPC's 2025 Accomplishments
- Annexation Petition for .59 +/- Acres from Walnut Township to the Village of Thurston, Agent for the Petitioner – Brian Zets

Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Garrett Davis from United Way stated the campaign is on pace from last year and they are still awaiting pledge paperwork from many agencies.

Tiffany Wilson spoke about perinatal training and added that their annual meeting is coming up.

Chad Lucht spoke about agencies closed due to the federal government shut down.

Recorder McKenzie spoke about having meetings regarding the protection of records.

Engineer Upp spoke about the Snowplow Rodeo and stated the Engineer's Office is finishing construction season. And added that the Coonpath Road closure has reopened.

Dr. Brown spoke about November ballot levies, the deadline for the tax abstract, and attending a DACO class.

Rick Szabrak spoke about the Walnut Township School Board passing a 45 day waiver for the Vantage project. He also spoke about the resources for the Vantage Data Center and added that there are more than sufficient utility resources.

Dan Neeley spoke about cybersecurity training and asked staff to complete the training by the end of the month. He added that Windows 10 will no longer be supported after the end of the month.

Corey Clark spoke about changes to SNAP eligibility rules. There are 10 groups of non-citizens that will no longer be eligible and there are 117 individuals in Fairfield County that will be impacted.

Jeff Porter spoke about the successful benefits fair and added that open enrollment will begin November 10th.

Old Business

Commissioner Davis spoke about the MCU and thanked Administrator Cordle for her work with the agency.

Commissioner Levacy spoke about the Fairfield County Veterans Hall of Fame Ceremony on November 13th. He added there will be over 20 inductees, 6 of which have Congressional Medals of Honors. The Commissioner provided details to register for the event.

Commissioner Fix spoke about speaking at the Rotary Club meeting and his appreciation for the Rotary Club and for the new space at the Levacy Center.

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New Business

Commissioner Levacy stated he is humbled by the name designation of the Levacy Center and thanked his fellow commissioners.

Commissioner Davis stated he has never worked with someone as deserving as Commissioner Levacy of the naming of the building. He also spoke about his excitement to be volunteering at the Lancaster Festival Office.

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; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; Budget Officer, Staci Knisley; Financial Analyst, Taylor Forquer; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Amy Brown-Thompson; Deputy Utilities Director, Josh Anders; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; EMA & Facilities Director, Jon Kochis; IT Director, Dan Neeley; JFS Director, Corey Clark; Deputy JFS Director, Heather O'Keefe; Interim RPC Director, Holly Matei; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Urban Technician, Chad Lucht; Sheriff's Deputies, Kevin Romine and Kelly Walker; and DD Superintendent, Dr. David Uhl. Also in attendance: Betty Bennett, Ray Stemen, Garrett Davis Beverly Sturm, and Chris Snider.

Virtual attendees: Deborah, Vince Carpico, Ed, Jessica Murphy, Shelby Hunt, Lori Lovas, Greg Forquer, Nikki Drake, Shannon Ward, Lynette Barnhart, Tony Vogel, Alisha Hoffman, Stacy Hicks, Ashley Arter, Lori Hawk, Andy Robberts, Andy Boystel, and Baylie Blevins.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

None.

Approval of Minutes for October 7, 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, October 7th, 2025, meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of the 8:00 a.m. Budget Hearing Minutes for October 7, 2025

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Juvenile and Probate Court Budget Hearing Minutes for the Tuesday, October 7, 2025, meeting.

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 Budget Hearing Minutes for October 7, 2025

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Budget Hearing Minutes for the Tuesday, October 7, 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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| 2025-10.14.a | A resolution to consider a petition to vacate a portion of an unimproved public road, Fisher Street, in Walnut Township and establish a viewing and hearing date |
| 2025-10.14.b | A resolution approving an account to account transfer in a major object expense category the Visitation Center Budget, General Fund# 1001. |
| 2025-10.14.c | A resolution to authorize the establishment of a new debt service fund for the State Infrastructure Bank loan related to the Basil Western 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 the Fairfield County ADAMH Board

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 ADAMH Board:

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| 2025-10.14.d | A Resolution to Approve Additional Appropriations by Appropriating from Unappropriated into a Major Expense Object Category – 2066 |
|--------------|--|

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 Auditor - Finance

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 Auditor - Finance:

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|--------------|--|
| 2025-10.14.e | A Resolution for approval to Rescind Resolution # 2025-10.07.s - Memo receipt memo expense duplication |
|--------------|--|

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 Developmental Disabilities

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 Board of Developmental Disabilities:

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- 2025-10.14.f A resolution to approve a reimbursement for share of costs for Ethernet Services paid to AT&T as a memo expenditure for fund# 2060 - Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- 2025-10.14.g 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 - Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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:

- 2025-10.14.h A Resolution Approving an Account-to-Account Transfer into a Major Expenditure Object Category –Fund 2761, Law Library Resources Board

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 Emergency Management Agency

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 Emergency Management Agency:

- 2025-10.14.i A resolution authorizing the approval of repayment of an advance to the General Fund from EMA 2890 (8349) FY22 Year 3 Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning Grant.

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:

- 2025-10.14.j A resolution to certify consistency of the Fairfield Metropolitan Housing Authority 2026 Annual Plan with the Fairfield County's Community Housing Improvement Strategy (CHIS)

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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- 2025-10.14.k A Resolution Approving an Account-to-Account Transfer into a Major Expenditure Object Category --2909, Marine Patrol Grant
- 2025-10.14.l A resolution authorizing the donation of a vehicle purchased by Canal Winchester for use by the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office to Hocking Twp

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:

- 2025-10.14.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

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 210 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH.

Commissioner Fix called a recess at 9:33 a.m. He stated they would convene at 10:00 a.m.

Budget Hearings

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, Emergency Management Agency (EMA), 10:00 a.m.

Jon Kochis and Garrett Blevins were also in attendance for the EMA Budget Hearing.

Jon Kochis stated that grant management was within parameters and added there are new grant applications ready to process. He spoke about the need for a new mobile command unit and added that EMA has a second-hand vehicle. The parts for the 2005 vehicle are difficult to replace, and the vehicle's layout is not conducive to use at many events. The EMA budget does not have the funds for a new vehicle which would cost around \$450,000.

Commissioner Fix asked about the types and number of events for which the mobile command unit is used.

Kochis stated the unit is used at about twenty various types of events each year.

Aundrea Cordle stated she asked Kochis to speak about the mobile command unit so the Commissioners could consider in 2025.

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Commissioner Fix stated the Commission should finish the Budget Hearing process before considering the unit.

Aundrea Cordle thanked Garrett Blevins for his assistance with the MCU.

Budget Hearing, Facilities

Jon Kochis and Jason Grubb were also in attendance for the Facilities Budget Hearing.

Bart Hampson stated the overall parameters of the budget reflect staff changes, facility costs, supplies, postage, and increased fuel costs.

Commissioner Fix asked for clarification on postage.

Staci Knisley stated that the Facilities budget funds postage costs for the county.

Commissioner Levacy thanked Jon Kochis for doing a terrific job.

Commissioner Davis asked if there are any major impediments to Ohio University's flooding recovery.

Kochis stated there are a total of thirteen projects being addressed.

Commissioner Fix stated that Kochis and his team did an exceptional job with the Levacy Center.

Kochis continued by speaking about capital projects such as the HVAC projects, elevators, and some basic deferred maintenance items. He added that there would be an opportunity to remodel the Fresenius area, once it is vacated. The County is only leasing one space.

Aundrea Cordle stated that Judge Vandervoort appreciates the leased space at Connexion West.

Commissioner Levacy asked which elevators would need to be replaced first.

Kochis replied 239 E. Main Street would be replaced first. He then spoke about ODOT grants and other grant opportunities for the airport and airport tenants and the tenant wait list.

Commissioner Davis asked about the rental pricing.

Kochis stated that all new hangar rents increased, and existing tenants receive increases based on their rental agreements.

Commissioner Levacy asked if the hangar was in the million dollar range.

Kochis stated it would be based on the design,

Budget Hearing, Safety and Security

Jon Kochis and Dan Neeley were also in attendance for the Safety and Security Budget Hearing.

Bart Hampson stated that the budget is driven by a desire to increase security measures.

Jon Kochis stated the addition of Andy Robberts to the Courthouse security has worked out nicely and that addition has caused an increase in the budget for safety and security.

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Adjournment

With no further business, on the motion of David Levacy, and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 10:37 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Motion by: David Levacy

Seconded by: Steve Davis

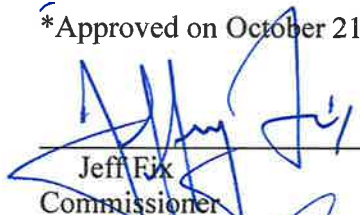
To approve the October 14, 2025, minutes by the following vote:

YEAS: David Levacy, Steve Davis, and Jeff Fix

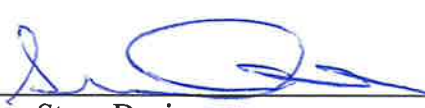
NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

*Approved on October 21, 2025



Jeff Fix
Commissioner



Steve Davis
Commissioner



David Levacy
Commissioner



BN Rochelle Menningen, Clerk

Bennett Niceswange

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