

Roundtable Meeting #50 - 2025
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
November 4, 2025

ROUNDTABLE

The Commissioners met at 2:00 p.m. at the Fairfield County Workforce Center located at 4465 Coonpath Rd. NW, Carroll, 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; Deputy Park District Director, Tommy Springer; Deputy Facilities Director, Jason Grubb; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; JFS Director, Corey Clark; EMA & Facilities Director, Jon Kochis; Treasurer, Jim Bahnsen; Jim Bahnsen, Branden Meyer; Communications & Human Resources Director, CJ Robberts; Health Commissioner, Joe Ebel; Interim RPC Director, Holly Mattei; Coroner's Administrator, Kelly Frank; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Dog Warden, Leighann Adams; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Austin Lines; Land Bank Director, Michael Kaper; Deputy Engineer, Mitch Noland; Communications Officer, Rachel Elsea; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Soil & Water Manager, Nikki Drake; MCU Commander, Scott Duff; Deputy HR Director, Abby Watson; Judge, Terre Vandervoort; DD Superintendent, Dr. David Uhl; Sheriff, Alex Lape; and FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson.

WELCOME

Commissioner Fix opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

Aundrea Cordle thanked everyone for attending. She then spoke about the 2026 Commission Meeting Dates, an opportunity to volunteer for Salvation Army, and Listen & Learn sign-ups for 2026.

Jeff Porter provided a centralized purchasing update and stated that the Request for Proposal (RFP) for print management had been released. He also spoke about open enrollment and gave information on new benefit offerings.

Bart Hampson stated that the county is finishing the process to have a county credit card. Each department will have their own reporting and payment capabilities for the credit card. Training in reporting and payments for the credit card will be forthcoming.

Aundrea Cordle stated the credit card will be through Park National and their Elan program.

Dan Neeley provided an AI update and spoke about an AI seminar provided by CCAO. He asked that county employees be instructed to take AI questions to leadership and added that Microsoft Copilot is an AI application that is an ecosystem that can be used in the county.

Auditor Carri Brown stated that a good use of AI is as a proofreader through a reverse outline.

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

Shannon Carter stated that the update for the OSU Extension is available in the Roundtable packet.

Dan Neeley spoke about cybersecurity awareness month, and the training required for county employees.

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Aundrea Cordle urged department heads to help their employees complete the cybersecurity training.

Dan Neeley added that IT has been working on technology at the Levacy Center and Workforce Center.

CJ Robberts challenged everyone in attendance to volunteer to ring the Red Kettle Bell for the Salvation Army.

Jon Kochis stated he would offer tours of the building after the meeting to show the new projects at the Workforce Center. He added that EMA would be working on the new command vehicle project and will assist with the Small Business Administration flood recovery process again once the federal government reopens.

Mitch Noland spoke about the Engineer's salt barn and brine storage. He added that the office had their largest construction year to date, including the replacement of 16 culverts, 3 emergency culverts, 2 emergency repairs and the replacement of many road signs.

Clerk of Courts Branden Meyer spoke about the legal help that is now available on the first floor of the Hall of Justice. He added that the Clerk of Courts new e-filing system is going well and spoke about the Fairfield County Veterans Hall of Fame banquet which will induct 29 veterans on November 14th at the Levacy Center.

Joe Ebel stated there are concerns regarding WIC program funding due to the federal government shutdown. The Health Department has 726 WIC participants in the Pickerington office, and 1,100 participants are served at the Lancaster Office. WIC is an important program which provides nutritional assistance to newborns.

Recorder Lisa McKenzie thanked the Commissioners and the budget team for their assistance with the budget process. She also thanked IT for their recent assistance in her office.

Judge Terre Vandervoort stated the county currently has no juveniles in detention. She added that her Court is working with a workgroup to relocate the Chestnut location to Connexion West and that her staff continues to educate and support community partners who serve truant youth.

Scott Duff stated that Major Crimes is fully staffed and provided statistics on guns and illegal drugs that were confiscated in October.

Treasurer James Bahnsen spoke about an RFP for financial transactions and added that the form that is a part of the RFP can tie into the Tyler system and allows property taxpayers to input their parcel numbers. Susan Dixon in his office will retire early 2026 and he hopes to rehire her position.

Rick Szabrak stated that Vantage Data Centers and the Village of Millersport are close to completing an agreement which will bring hundreds of jobs to that area. The data center will have its own power plant and will not use electricity from the grid. His office is continuing to work with the Engineer's Office to improve Basil Western Road in Violet Township. The 2026 Economic Update is scheduled for December 12th. The Workforce Board continues to cover five counties and works with various companies to find jobs and train displaced employees. Szabrak added that 114 students which encompass all 8 county school districts will attend the Workforce Center next year.

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Commissioner Levacy spoke about attending the ribbon cutting for the Fairfield Career Center earlier that day.

Rick Szabrak stated the Career Center just launched their next gen center and added that Utilities and the Engineer's Office both helped with that project.

Jeff Porter spoke about mammography exams that were offered through HR at no cost to the employee. He also spoke about the new TB2 weight loss program and a discounted rate for YMCA memberships; and free fitness classes which are also offered through the YMCA.

Michael Kaper spoke about the Land Bank's demolition projects and assistance received by Hicks Partners for grants.

Bart Hampson stated that departments should reach out to HR for reports related to budgeting for health insurance changes. He added that level 4 budget access ends on December 1st for non-general fund departments.

Sheriff Lape stated the jail inspection scheduled for the next day was moved to November 20th and the jail has had 10 inmates under the Marshalls contract. He spoke about staff training, including his appreciation for the NACo training. He added that his deputies have completed state mandatory training and some additional elective training. Next Gen 911 is ready to go live, and his office is getting ready to commence the 3rd corrections academy for 2025.

Jason Grubb stated that the Facilities department is trying to get the drive-thru payment center finished and is finishing up items at the Levacy Center and the Workforce Center.

Nikki Drake spoke about agencies that are still closed due to the Federal Government shut down and added that Fairfield County Soil and Water is continuing to work.

Corey Clark stated the SNAP program has been suspended due to the federal government shutdown and impacts 7500 households in Fairfield County. He added that the county issues 1.5 million dollars in SNAP benefits every month. The White House announced a partial issue of SNAP funds, but no additional information has been received. Clark also spoke about JFS's yearly holiday donation drive where 450 children and elderly received gifts in 2024.

Rachel Elsea thanked the Dog Shelter staff with their assistance with the new DocuPet system. She added that the "Map of the Month" entails past and present railroads and the November newsletter will allow you to vote for your favorite "Map of the year."

Auditor Carri Brown spoke about conferences she attended and presented at; and added that at the conclusion of several of the conferences multiple people commented that Fairfield County must be a great place to work. Auditor Brown thanked the Engineer's Office, Soil and Water, and RPC for their assistance with the new lot split application. She added that townships in the county will have the opportunity to attend the "Making Numbers Count" seminar. She also acknowledged the Real Estate Assessment team for meeting the October 15th deadline for the tax abstracts. Any tax reform that will pass will appear on the second half tax bills once guidance is received from the Department of Taxation. She also stated that the internal control manual will be updated.

Austin Lines stated that the Prosecutor's Office has been very busy and is working on incorporating a Public Records Request response training into the county's annual CRMS training.

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Holly Mattei conveyed that RPC continues to work on model zoning code implementation. The Village of Thurston was the first to adopt it and it is operational. Millersport has adopted it as well and is using it with the Vantage Data Center. RPC is working to spread the word about the neighborhood revitalization grant available to villages.

Leighann Adams stated the Dog Shelter has some upcoming capital improvement projects and the shelter will need some foster homes while those projects occur. The Dog Shelter is also working on social media campaigns and is excited about the new DocuPet licensing program. She asked everyone to remember that dogs are allergic to pecans throughout their holiday celebrations.

Dr. David Uhl stated that there is a new accreditation program through the State and DD received a three-year accreditation award due to the great work of his staff. He added his gratitude to the Commissioners for their appointment of five great board members.

Tiffany Wilson spoke about a grant for safety items for mothers of infants. She added that a parent support group is being formed and Family and Children First will hold their annual meeting on November 20th.

Tommy Springer thanked the county for the employee recognition event that was hosted at Smeck Park and allowed people to visit that venue. The Parks District is entering the final stages for a few different projects. There is a planned ribbon cutting for the Education Center at Mambourg Park and Rockmill continues to require updates.

Commissioner Levacy spoke about the Fairfield County Veterans Hall of Fame and its first group of inductees. The inductees include the very first congressional medal of honor recipient, Army Private Jacob Parrott. He stated it was an honor to be inducted to the State of Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame and added that it was a humbling honor to have the Levacy Center named after him. There are over 10,000 veterans in Fairfield County and these veterans should be cared for and acknowledged.

Aundrea Cordle spoke about the Levacy Center and the availability of that facility to the community for a nominal charge.

Commissioner Davis spoke about the leadership of the county who has made the county exceptional and added that he hopes people can enjoy the community they are building.

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 3:28 p.m.

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

The next Roundtable is scheduled for February 24, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Levacy Center.

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Motion by: David Levacy

Seconded by: Steve Davis

that the November 4, 2025, Roundtable minutes were approved by the following vote:

YEAS: David Levacy, Steve Davis, and Jeff Fix
ABSTENTIONS:

NAYS: None

*Approved on November 18, 2025


Jeff Fix
Commissioner


Steve Davis
Commissioner


David Levacy
Commissioner


Rochelle Menningen, Clerk

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