

Regular Meeting #8 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
February 24, 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 Davis called the meeting to order, and the following Commissioners were present: Steve Davis, David Levacy and Jeff Fix. Also present: Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter; Clerk, Rochelle, Menningen; Communications and Information Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; EMA & Facilities Director, Jon Kochis; IT Director, Dan Neeley; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Treasurer, Jim Bahnsen; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Austin Lines; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; JFS Director, Corey Clark; DD Superintendent, Dr. David Uhl; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Regional Planner, Josh Hillberry; Budget Officer, Staci Knisley; and Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Jeremy Primmer, Ray Stemen, Chris Snider, and Garrett Davis.

Virtual attendees: Joe Ebel, Jason Grubb, Jared Collins, Shelby Hunt, Lori Hawk, Scott, Holly Lybrook, Ash Sark, Shannon Ward, Jessica Murphy, Tony Vogel, Stacy Hicks, Deborah French, Steven Darnell, Britney Lee, Andy Robberts, Loi Lovas, Ashley Arter, Jeff Barron, Tony Howard, Michael Orlando, Baylie Blevins, Greg Forquer, Bayley Fields, and Alex Lape.

Welcome

Commissioner Davis opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

1st Quarter Budget Update

Budget Director, Bart Hampson, provided a Budget Update for 2025 financials, including sales and other revenue, along with expenditures. The presentation provided by Hampson is available in the meeting minutes' packet. End-of-Year Financials and a Financial Trend Analysis showed that the county stayed on track with the 2025 Expenditure Budget and income has continued to be slightly above expected. The Finance team is compiling information for the 2027 budget process.

Commissioner Davis added that he had participated in a bond rating meeting with Moodys. He added that being rated is a part of the bond process and the county should soon hear if it will remain AA2 or move to an AA1 rating. He added he is proud of the entire team and the work they perform that has helped with the process.

Commissioners Fix and Levacy thanked Bart Hampson and his team for another great year financially.

Public Comments

Ray Stemen of Lancaster offered a prayer.

Garrett Davis of United Way reported that an anonymous donor donated the remainder of the difference of their donation goal. He added that United Way was eager to be able to provide to local programs and entities.

Commissioner Davis was very pleased with the success of the United Way campaign.

Legal Update

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Austin Lines, stated the Prosecutor's Office will be hosting a retirement party for Lynette Barnhart.

Regular Meeting #8 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
February 24, 2026

County Administration Update

- *The County Administration Update was provided by Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter, unless otherwise indicated.*

Week in Review

Roundtable

The Roundtable for Elected Officials and Department Heads will be this afternoon from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Levacy Center.

Highlights of Resolutions

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

Resolution Review

There are 21 resolutions on the agenda for the Regular voting meeting.

Resolutions of note:

- A resolution to authorize an agreement with Modern Office Methods for the lease and purchase of print management devices. This agreement will help the county manage State of Ohio cybersecurity requirements and will ease the process of selecting print devices. There will be more information provided at the Roundtable meeting on the process.

Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter, stated that the agreement with Modern Office Methods creates a centralized purchasing process for printers, copiers, and other print management services improving the way that the county manages equipment and cybersecurity.

IT Director, Dan Neeley, stated that the agreement improves the process for county staff as well.

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Austin Lines, stated the contract process went very smooth, and the Prosecutor's Office had no concerns.

Commissioner Fix stated that this is another example of government efficiency where the county can align its purchasing of printers under one contract.

Jeff Porter added that the agreement allows the county to manage the vendor in a more efficient way.

- A resolution from the Emergency Management Agency related to localized flooding that caused stream bank damage. The county was awarded a \$108,154.00 grant from the Emergency Watershed Protection Program for restoration of the damaged stream bank.

EMA & Facilities Director, Jon Kochis, stated that the project area is the location of the Lancaster Festival.

**Regular Meeting #8 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
February 24, 2026**

- A resolution from Facilities for a change order to the contract with Gutknecht Construction for the Workforce Center. The change order is for \$8,835.00 to encapsulate the building trades area.

Jon Kochis stated that this should be the last change order for the project.

Commissioner Fix recalled the day the county acquired the building and was very proud to see how far it has come.

- A resolution from Regional Planning to accept public improvements being proposed by the developer of the Violet Meadows subdivision in Pickerington.
- A resolution from Utilities authorizing an agreement with Burgess & Niple for professional engineering services related to the new Violet Regional lift station.

Utilities Director, Tony Vogel, stated that the resolution is for inspection and construction of the lift station.

Budget Review

None.

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

Informational Items

- CFLP Solid Waste District Meeting, February 27, 2026, 9:00 a.m., Don Hill County Administration Bldg., Basement, 20 S. 2nd St., Newark
- CFLP Policy Committee Meeting, February 27, 2026, 10:00 a.m., Don Hill County Administration Bldg., Basement, 20 S. 2nd St., Newark
- Groundbreaking, New Kroger Store, March 6, 2026, 10:00 a.m., Diley Rd. and Green Gate Dr., Canal Winchester
- Retirement Party for Lynette Barnhart, March 6, 2026, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Government Services Building, JFS Room, 239 W. Main St., Lancaster
- State of the Schools Address, March 26, 11:00 a.m. Registration and Networking, 11:30 Lunch, Levacy Center, 1550 Sheridan Dr., Lancaster
- FairHope Hospice Memorial Fund Dinner, March 26, 2026, 5:30 p.m., The Mill Event Center, 431 S. Columbus St., Lancaster
- Child Abuse Prevention Month Breakfast, April 8, 2026, 8:00 a.m., Levacy Center, 1550 Sheridan Dr., Lancaster
- ADAMH Annual Awards and Fundraising Dinner, April 28, 2026, Grace Fellowship Church, 1449 Refugee Rd., Pickerington
- Lancaster Fairfield County Chamber Awards and Annual Trade Show, May 7, 2026, 4:30 p.m. Trade Show, 6:30 p.m. Dinner, Fisher Catholic High School, 1803 Granville Pk., Lancaster

Correspondence

Regular Meeting #8 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
February 24, 2026

- Bricker Graydon Wyatt, February 13, 2026, Notice of Filing, Application of Will-Power Pipeline OH, LLC for the Aristotle Booster Station in Liberty Township
- TC Energy, February 10, 2026, Pipeline Right-of-Way Maintenance, 2026 TCO K170-K205-K226-K260 Clearing
- Fairfield County Municipal Court, Criminal/Traffic Division, Fees Collected for January 2026
- Fairfield County Health Department, 2025 Annual Report
- City of Pickerington, Notice of Public Hearing Board of Zoning Appeals, February 26, 2026, 7:00 p.m., Pickerington City Hall, 100 Lockville Rd., Pickerington

Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Commissioner Davis expressed appreciation for Treasurer Bahnsen's participation in the bond rating meeting with Moody's.

Treasurer Bahnsen reported that first-half tax collections were completed last week and noted that Deputy Robberts' assistance with directing residents and deescalating situations was very helpful.

Commissioner Davis stated that he hoped Auditor Brown took pride in the county's positive bond rating.

Auditor Brown reviewed total county tax collections and percentages and summarized recent state property tax reform legislation. She also emphasized the importance of the CAUV program and the tax relief it can offer those who participate in it.

Commissioner Davis reflected on how much the Economic Development department has grown compared to previous years.

Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak, shared that he has met with state officials regarding the capital budget and is hopeful the Workforce Center will receive funding for a radiology lab. He added that he and Commissioner Levacy met with Senator Schaffer and Representatives LaRe and Miller.

IT Director, Dan Neeley, reported that the IT department is replacing infrastructure based on federal recommendations.

Commissioner Davis asked whether an AI platform within a closed system could generate financial reports using historical county data.

Dan Neeley responded that a closed system could generate reports using the data provided but would not be able to access outside sources.

Dr. David Uhl noted that March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and shared that a video project about the Fairfield County Infirmary will premiere at Double Edge Brewery. He also mentioned the upcoming Celebration of Possibilities event.

Regional Planner, Josh Hillberry, stated that the first hearing for the CDBG 2026 grant cycle will take place next week and noted that Bremen received grant funding last year.

Old Business

**Regular Meeting #8 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
February 24, 2026**

Commissioner Levacy stated that Vantage Data Center and Village of Millersport will be holding a meeting. The system will use less water than initially expected and what will look like factory exhaust will be water vapor.

Commissioner Davis shared that he was eager to hear what the county's new bond rating would be.

New Business

Commissioner Levacy congratulated United Way for their successful campaign.

Commissioner Davis stated that what Moody's is doing is assigning a risk rating. The county's strong financial position has contributed to its high rating.

Commissioner Fix will attend a steering committee meeting later in the week for the housing coalition. He looks forward to getting that initiative moving and getting more housing in central Ohio.

Commissioner Davis spoke on the article posted in the Lancaster Eagle Gazette on county employees and elected official salaries. He stated the county is a \$300 million dollar operation and he thinks that the work staff are doing completely justifies all the salaries. He emphasized that those listed in the article are doing the right thing and should not feel guilty about their salaries.

Regular (Voting) Meeting

The Commissioners continued to the Regular/Voting portion of the meeting, and the following Commissioners were present: Steve Davis, David Levacy and Jeff Fix. Also present: Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter; Clerk, Rochelle Menningen; Communications and Information Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; EMA & Facilities Director, Jon Kochis; IT Director, Dan Neeley; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Treasurer, Jim Bahnsen; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Austin Lines; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; JFS Director, Corey Clark; DD Superintendent, Dr. David Uhl; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Regional Planner, Josh Hillberry; Budget Officer, Staci Knisley; and Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Jeremy Primmer, Ray Stemen, Chris Snider, and Garrett Davis.

Virtual attendees: Joe Ebel, Jason Grubb, Jared Collins, Shelby Hunt, Lori Hawk, Scott, Holly Lybrook, Ash Sark, Shannon Ward, Jessica Murphy, Tony Vogel, Stacy Hicks, Deborah French, Steven Darnell, Britney Lee, Andy Robberts, Loi Lovas, Ashley Arter, Jeff Barron, Tony Howard, Michael Orlando, Baylie Blevins, Greg Forquer, Bayley Fields, and Alex Lape.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

None.

Approval of Minutes for February 17, 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, February 17, 2026, meeting.

Regular Meeting #8 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
February 24, 2026

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 Commissioners

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

- 2026-02.24.a A Resolution Authorizing Approval and Execution of Agreements for Print Management Services and for Leases and Purchases of Print Management Devices Between the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners and Modern Office Methods, Inc.

- 2026-02.24.b A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in major expenditure object categories for 911 Wireless Fund# 2683

Commissioner Fix reiterated that the agreement with Modern Office Methods is a step in the right direction.

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:

- 2026-02.24.c A resolution for the approval of a Partial Assignment and Assumption Agreement between RES CANAL WINCHESTER I LLC, an Ohio Limited Liability Company (the "Company"), ASCENDAS REIT COLUMBUS 1 LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company (the "Successor"), and Fairfield County through its Board of County Commissioners

Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak, stated that the DHL property is changing ownership.

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 Emergency Management Agency

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 Emergency Management Agency:

- 2026-02.24.d A resolution to request for an advance for EMA Central Ohio Trauma System Grant Award Fund 2090 (8221)

- 2026-02.24.e A resolution to request for an advance for EMA Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant (2890/8368)

**Regular Meeting #8 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
February 24, 2026**

- 2026-02.24.f A Resolution to Approve the Singing of Assurances Relating to Real Property for the Purpose of the NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Grant Project

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:

- 2026-02.24.g A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle to engineering consulting services.
- 2026-02.24.h A resolution to approve a reimbursement for share of costs for 2024 Liability Insurance paid to CORSA as a memo expenditure for fund 2024 – Motor Vehicle

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 Facilities

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 Facilities:

- 2026-02.24.i A Resolution for a Change Order #4 to the Contract with Gutknecht Construction and the Fairfield County Commissioners for the Workforce Center

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 Family & Children First Council

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 Family & Children First Council:

- 2026-02.24.j A resolution to request for appropriations for Fairfield County Family Children First Council; # 8160.

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

Approval of Resolutions from Fairfield County Job and Family Services

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

- 2026-02.24.k A resolution to approve a reimbursement for share of costs for Liability Insurance paid to CORSA as a memo expenditure for fund# 2072 Fairfield County Job and Family Services - PCSA

**Regular Meeting #8 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
February 24, 2026**

- 2026-02.24.l A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2072 reimbursing Fund 2018
- 2026-02.24.m A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2758 reimbursing Fund 2018
- 2026-02.24.n 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
- 2026-02.24.o A resolution to approve a memo receipt and expenditure for Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Fund 2015 reimbursing Fund 2018
- 2026-02.24.p A resolution authorizing the approval of a service agreement by and between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Protective Services Division and Caring Hearts of Ohio LLC.
- 2026-02.24.q A Resolution regarding an amendment for a previously approved Network Placement and Related Services Agreement between Sojourners Care Network and Child Protective Services Department.

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 Regional Planning Commission

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

- 2026-02.24.r A resolution to approve Conditional Acceptance of Violet Meadows, Sections 5-2, 6-1, and 6-2 Subdivision

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 Sheriff

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

- 2026-02.24.s A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category for Sheriff; 2394 Litter

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 Utilities

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 Utilities:

- 2026-02.24.t A resolution authorizing the agreement between Fairfield County Utilities and Burgess & Niple Inc.

**THIS PAGE
INTENTIONALLY
LEFT BLANK**

