

Regular Meeting #10 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
March 3, 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: County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle; Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter; Communications and Information Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; Records Center Clerk, Ash Sark; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; EMA & Facilities Director, Jon Kochis; IT Director, Dan Neeley; Community Services Program Administrator, Krista Humphries; Budget Officer, Staci Knisley; Deputy JFS Director, Heather O'Keefe; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Treasurer, Jim Bahnsen; Regional Planners, Nicholas Eastham and Josh Hillberry; RPC Director, Holly Mattei; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Urban Specialist, Chad Lucht; Operations Administrator, Jeff Camechis; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Steven Darnell; Financial Analyst, Taylor Forquer; Clerk of Courts, Branden Meyer; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; and Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Anna Tobin, Ray Stemen, Garrett Davis, and Kelsey Miller

Welcome

Commissioner Davis opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance. He asked for a moment of silence for the service members that had lost their lives in the recent conflict with Iran.

CDBG Public Hearing – 9:00 a.m.

Regional Planning Director Holly Mattei presented an overview of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, noting that Fairfield County participates in the Allocation Program and can apply for additional competitive grants.

Kelsey Miller reviewed which grants the county is most likely to receive and summarized the CDBG National Objectives, including benefiting low- to moderate-income residents and meeting community needs.

Commissioner Fix asked whether a specific project was planned for the Village of Thurston.

Regional Planner Josh Hillberry stated that a public hearing was held with Thurston residents to gather input on potential projects.

Commissioner Davis asked whether Madison Township meets the income eligibility requirements.

Holly Mattei explained that updated census data is now used and Madison Township no longer meets the income requirements.

Regional Planner Josh Hillberry presented the application process for eligible government and nonprofit organizations, noting applications are due April 10, 2026.

Regional Planner Nicholas Eastham presented on the Fair Housing Program which addresses landlord-tenant issues and housing discrimination.

Commissioner Fix asked whether the office tracks the number of fair housing complaints.

Holly Mattei reported that 25 complaints were received in 2025.

Commissioner Levacy commented on the importance of the program.

Commissioner Fix noted the program's impact on local communities.

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Senior Hub – Meals on Wheels Update

Executive Director of the Senior Hub-Meals on Wheels of Fairfield County Anna Tobin shared updates on the Senior Hub-Meals on Wheels programs, noting that 3,160 clients were served and 314,049 meals were delivered over the past year. She stated the transportation program is growing and highlighted new programs introduced in 2025 that have helped retain volunteers and increase the number of seniors served. The average client age is 78. She reported that 58% of clients live in Lancaster, Ohio, 17% in Pickerington, Ohio, and 6% in Baltimore, Ohio. Tobin also noted the organization is in a strong financial position due in part to voter-approved levies and is expanding into the second floor of its building.

Commissioner Fix asked whether the Pickerington location is used as a meal production site.

Anna Tobin explained that the Pickerington site operates like a restaurant where clients come in daily and a chef prepares meals.

Commissioner Levacy stated he serves on the Elder Abuse Commission and asked whether there are programs between the Senior Hub and Job and Family Services to address elder abuse.

Anna Tobin stated that staff regularly call clients and delivery drivers are trained to recognize signs of abuse in clients' homes and report concerns.

Public Comments

Ray Stemen of Lancaster spoke about the assisted living facility in which he lives, stating that he was appreciative of everything Meals on Wheel does for seniors. He then offered a prayer.

Legal Update

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Steven Darnell stated that the Prosecutor's Office successfully prosecuted an important case the previous week.

County Administration Update

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

Week in Review

Moody's Bond Rating

County Administrator Aundrea Cordle stated that Moody's increased the county's bond rating from AA2 to AA1. She thanked staff involved in the process and recommended aligning the county's fiscal policy with Moody's recommendations.

Commissioner Davis thanked staff for their work in helping the county achieve the improved rating and noted that the county is in a strong financial position.

Commissioner Levacy stated that the presentation prepared for Moody's highlighted the county's accomplishments and was impressive to review.

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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:

- A resolution from Economic & Workforce Development consenting to and approving the execution of an assignment and assumption agreement between the Commissioners, Vantage Data Centers Management Company, LLC, and Vantage Data Centers OH21, LLC in connections with an Enterprise Zone Agreement.

Economic and Workforce Development Director Rick Szabrak stated that the county can expect to see more of these agreements.

- A resolution from the Regional Planning Commission to approve a change order for the CDBG PY2024 Village of Bremen Broad Street sidewalk improvements and the Village of Amanda ADA compliant sidewalk ramps project.
- Two resolutions from Transit to approve the purchase of service contracts with the Center for disAbilities and Cerebral Palsy, Inc, and with Carelot Transport.

Budget Review

Budget Director, Bart Hampson, had nothing to report.

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

Informational Items

- Regional Planning Commission meeting, Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 6:00 p.m. at the Records Center, 138 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster, OH
- Fairfield 33 Development Alliance, Thursday, March 5, 2026, 8:30 a.m. at Diamond Power International, 2600 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH
- State of Pickerington, Thursday, March 5, 2026, 11:00 a.m. at Grace Fellowship, 1449 Refugee Rd., Pickerington, OH
- United Way of Fairfield County Awards & Appreciation Luncheon, Thursday, March 5, 2026, 11:30 a.m. at the Levacy Center, 1550 Sheridan Drive, Lancaster, OH
- MORPC Pre-Commission Lunch with Steve Stivers, Thursday, March 12, 2026, 12:00 p.m. at MORPC, 111 Liberty St., suite 100, Columbus, OH
- Groundbreaking for New Canal Winchester Kroger, Thursday, March 19, 2026, 10:00 a.m., 8200 Diley Road, Canal Winchester, OH

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- Canal Winchester Chamber of Commerce State of the Community, Wednesday, April 22, 2026, 11:30 a.m. at the CW Community Center, 45 E. Waterloo St., Canal Winchester, OH
- The Senior Hub – Meals on Wheels Community Champions Week, March 16-20

Correspondence

- Liquor Permit Application for business located at 10501 Blacklick Eastern Rd., Suite 500 & 600, Pickerington, OH, received 2/26/2026

Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Treasurer Jim Bahnsen reported that his office is processing late payments and that the Land Bank continues to receive funds for Brownfield Remediation.

Recorder Lisa McKenzie stated that credit card payments are now being accepted. She noted minor issues with the payment link, which are being resolved with the vendor, and that Fidlar's system is nearly fully ADA compliant. She also reported a customer visit involving a letter she suspects is a scam and will follow up with the appropriate entities.

Operations Administrator Jeff Camechis stated that construction activity has begun and the Engineer's Office is busy.

Auditor Brown provided a summary of property tax collections in Fairfield County. She mentioned the Board of Revision deadline is March 31st, that there will be a Madison Township fiscal emergency meeting, and that she attended the Lighthouse fundraiser. She also highlighted the March "Map of the Month".

Commissioner Davis thanked Auditor Brown for her leadership and the county's strong financial position.

Utilities Director Tony Vogel spoke about a resolution to update the Tyler Technologies Contract, which will offer upgraded features for customers.

Commissioner Davis asked whether the new system will reduce incoming mail.

Director Vogel responded that mail costs will decrease and staff will have more time for other tasks.

Commissioner Davis asked about transaction fees for online payments.

Director Vogel stated that EFT payments have no fee, while e-checks incur a \$1 fee.

Economic and Workforce Development Director Rick Szabrak reported on a transition resource fair at the Workforce Center. He also announced a ribbon-cutting for the Workforce Center's new lab space on April 1st.

IT Director Dan Neeley stated he will attend a technology conference later in the week.

Urban Specialist Chad Lucht announced that Friday is the last day to accept in-person tree sapling orders.

Commissioner Davis asked whether people can still sign up for the United Way event.

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Garrett David with United Way confirmed that sign-ups are still open.

Old Business

Commissioner Fix reported that he met with the Central Ohio Housing Coalition last week and also met with State Auditor Faber, who complimented the Fairfield County Auditor.

Commissioner Levacy stated he wants to do more with America 250-Ohio and is exploring potential initiatives.

Commissioner Davis reported meeting with the CEO of South-Central Power to discuss ways to reduce excess electricity spending.

New Business

Commissioner Fix stated he has a meeting scheduled with the Farm Bureau to hear their concerns.

Commissioner Davis reported he will attend a teleconference with Senator Husted and Diamond Power to discuss a potential investment.

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: County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle; Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter; Communications and Information Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; Records Center Clerk, Ash Sark; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; EMA & Facilities Director, Jon Kochis; IT Director, Dan Neeley; Community Services Program Administrator, Krista Humphries; Budget Officer, Staci Knisley; Deputy JFS Director, Heather O'Keefe; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Treasurer, Jim Bahnsen; Regional Planners, Nicholas Eastham and Josh Hillberry; RPC Director, Holly Mattei; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Urban Specialist, Chad Lucht; Operations Administrator, Jeff Camechis; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Steven Darnell; Financial Analyst, Taylor Forquer; Clerk of Courts, Branden Meyer; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; and Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Anna Tobin, Ray Stemen, Garrett Davis, and Kelsey Miller

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

None.

Approval of Minutes for February 24, 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 24, 2026, meeting.

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 Roundtable Minutes for February 24, 2026

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of David Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Roundtable Minutes for the Tuesday, February 24, 2026, meeting.

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:

- 2026-03.03.a A resolution authorizing a fund to fund transfer for the 1st Quarter 2026 Allocation for the Multi County Juvenile Detention Center (MCJDC).
- 2026-03.03.b A resolution authorizing a fund to fund transfer for the 2nd half 2026 Allocation for Soil & Water.
- 2026-03.03.c A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated & memo transactions Fund# 3011, FY2024 FAA Grant, subfund# 8355.
- 2026-03.03.d A resolution to approve to appropriate from unappropriated into a major expenditure object category & memo receipt and expense for Stop Loss Pool Subfund & the Self-Funded Healthcare Fund
- 2026-03.03.e A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in major expenditure object category contractual services.

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 Economic & Workforce Development

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 Economic & Workforce Development:

- 2026-03.03.f A resolution consenting to and approving the execution of an Assignment and Assumption Agreement by and among the Board of County Commissioners of Fairfield County, Ohio, Vantage Data Centers Management Company, LLC, and Vantage Data Centers OH21, LLC in connections with an Enterprise Zone Agreement approved for the benefit of a development located in the Village of Millersport
- 2026-03.03.g A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category for Economic and Workforce Development; Fund # 2902/Project # T0001; Redevelopment Tax Equivalent Project

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 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:

- 2026-03.03.h A resolution authorizing the approval of partial repayment of an advance to the General Fund from Fund# 7521 Family and Children First Council

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 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 resolution from Fairfield County Job and Family Services:

- 2026-03.03.i 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

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:

- 2026-03.03.j A Resolution to Approve Change Order #2 for the CDBG PY2024 – Village of Bremen – Broad Street Sidewalk Improvements & Village of Amanda – ADA Compliant Sidewalk Ramps Project.

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 Transit

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 Transit:

- 2026-03.03.k A resolution authorizing the approval of a Purchase of Service Contract by and between Fairfield County Transit and Center for disAbilities and Cerebral Palsy, Inc.
- 2026-03.03.l A resolution authorizing the approval of a Purchase of Service Contract by and between Fairfield County Transit and Carealot Transport

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:

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