

Regular Meeting 11 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
March 10, 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 and David Levacy. Also present: County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle; 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; JFS Director, Corey Clark; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Steven Darnell; Deputy Utilities Director, Josh Anders; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Treasurer, Jim Bahnsen; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Account Clerk, Christina Foster; Budget Officer, Staci Knisley; Regional Planner, Nicholas Eastham; Financial Analyst, Taylor Forquer; and Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Ray Stemen and Chris Snider.

Virtual attendees: Lori Hawk, Beth Cottrell, Baylie Blevins, Lori Lovas, Ashley Arter, Holly Lybrook, Tony Vogel, AJ, Andy Robberts, Deborah French, Greg Forquer, Ash Sark, Stacy Hicks, Michael Kaper, Shelby Hunt, Alex Lape, Andy Boystel, Tony Howard, Jason Grubb, Joe Ebel, Aubrey Ward, Bayley Fields, and Lisa.

Welcome

Commissioner Davis opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance and added that Commissioner Fix would not be in attendance due to illness.

Listen & Learn, Soil and Water – 2026 Fairfield County Plat Directory

Soil and Water District Manager/Engineering Technician, Nikki Drake, provided an update on the Fairfield County Plat Directory (Directory). The Directory is still used by farmers, hunters, developers, and many others for in-depth information on lot lines, easements, flood zones, planning improvements such as fences, and more. A Directory can be purchased at the Soil and Water office for \$20. Drake added that Future Farmers of America provided the Directory for several years before Soil and Water started distributing in 1992. In 2012, Soil and Water districts were experiencing problems with publishing companies and started partnering with their county's GIS departments. In 2021, Soil and Water awarded the Fairfield County Auditor's Office with their "Partner of the Year Award."

Commissioner Davis asked if the cost of production changed when the directory was brought in-house.

Drake replied that the cost remained about the same, but the directory has greater content. The intent is to stay on a three year rotation with publication, and the 2026 Directory was just released.

Public Comments

Ray Stemen of Lancaster spoke about the plat directories he still has in his possession and current events in the Middle East.

Legal Update

None.

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County Administration Update

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

Week in Review

\$9.2 million awarded to support workforce housing

Last week, Governor Mike DeWine announced the first funding under the Residential Economic Development District (REDD) program. The program was created in the state operating budget to assist the development of affordable housing near major economic development projects.

A total of \$9.2 million was awarded to five projects in Butler, Mahoning, Paulding, Trumbull, and Fairfield Counties.

The City of Lancaster was awarded \$1 million to support 361 housing units through extension of key infrastructure improvements. The units will support demand caused by Anduril.

The Department of Development reported that it received 48 eligible applications totaling \$99 million in requested funding.

The Next Evening Meeting

The next evening meeting of the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners will be held on March 31st at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the Amanda-Clearcreek School located at 328 E. Main St. in Amanda. The Commissioners' March 17th and March 24th meetings will be in the Commissioners' Hearing Room at 9:00 a.m., but the April 7th meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m., following the Leadership Conference at The Levacy Center.

Highlights of Resolutions

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

Resolution Review

There are 22 resolutions on the agenda for the Regular voting meeting.

Resolutions of note:

- The first resolution on the agenda is to amend the language in Resolution 2026-02.17.f regarding the authorization of an Ohio Department of Transportation State Infrastructure Loan. ODOT has asked for clarification in the contracts regarding Pledged Resources.

Aundre Cordle acknowledged the finance team for their work with ODOT and Rick Szabrak for his work with the bond counsel

- There is a resolution to authorize the establishment of a fund for bond retirements.

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- The Engineer's Office has a resolution to approve an agreement between the County and CTL Engineering, Inc. for construction inspection and testing services.

Engineer Upp stated the contract is standard and keeps the inspection and testing services on retainer.

- Transit has eleven resolutions on the agenda, two are financial resolutions, one resolution is to authorize a grant application, and the additional eight are to authorize service agreements.

Budget Review

Budget Director, Bart Hampson spoke about the February sales tax revenue and added that sales tax for auto is down, while non-auto is up.

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

- *The Calendar Review and Invitations Received were provided by the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, Rochelle Menningen.*
 - Fairfield County Workforce Center Career Expo, March 19, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Fairfield County Workforce Center, 4465 Coonpath Rd. NW, Carroll
 - Pickerington's Elevate District Launch, March 19, 2026, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Local Cantina, 4 East Columbus St., Pickerington
 - Fairfield County Workforce Center Ribbon Cutting & Open House, April 1, 2026, 10:00 a.m., 4465 Coonpath Rd. NW, Carroll

Correspondence

- Fairfield County Press Release, March 2, 2026, *Moody's Ratings Upgrades Fairfield County Bond Rating to "Aa1"*
- Moody's Ratings Press Release, February 27, 2026, *Rating Action: Moody's Ratings Upgrades the County of Fairfield, OH to Aa1 from Aa2; Assigns Aa1 to New GOLT Bonds*

Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Treasurer Bahnsen stated the Treasurer's Office continues to establish accounts for the Basil-Western Road bonds and for investments.

Recorder McKenzie stated IT is working to switch out old computers and help the office migrate to their new computer system.

Engineer Upp stated his appreciation for the support of the Basil Western Rd project and his deep appreciation for the salt barn.

Auditor Brown reported that she presented to local Eagle Scouts on GIS practices and will present at a town hall for Pickerington Local Schools regarding property tax distribution. She will also be conducting training for the Auditor of State on the concept of village dissolution and how villages can meet criteria to avoid possible dissolution. Her office has sent copies of the lodging tax collections procedures to assist other entities and has scheduled a state-wide webinar on the lot

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split program. Settlement on DocLink collections has begun, and the dog licensing program has been quite effective.

Commissioner Davis asked who would absorb the services of villages if they are dissolved.

Auditor Brown replied that some village services could be absorbed by townships and some by the county in which they are located.

Josh Anders spoke about an upcoming meeting between Utilities and Walnut Township regarding drainage and the new data center.

Rick Szabrak met with the provost of OU who was very impressed with the Workforce Center. He added that he recently spoke at a Central Ohio educator conference and was able to hear about what other schools are doing around the state.

Jon Kochis stated Sunday's storm did not result in a tornado but there was some structural damage to a few properties.

Dan Neeley attended a tech summit in Cincinnati where he was able to learn a lot of great information about cybersecurity and new tools available to IT departments.

Corey Clark spoke about 635, the Child Protection Reform Act, which will clear up jurisdictional issues when multiple counties are involved and will increase the requirements to visit children in protective custody from monthly to weekly. This new requirement could have a significant financial impact on JFS. The other element to HB 635 would exclude sugary beverages from SNAP benefits. This piece has been approved and will soon be implemented.

Jeff Porter thanked the Prosecutor's Office for meeting with Dog Shelter personnel to provide information on Avery's Law.

Tiffany Wilson stated FCFC is working on the Community Baby Shower scheduled for April 25th. FCFC just received a large donation from Bottoms Up for the baby shower. She added that FCFC is accepting donations for the shower of new baby items.

Old Business

Commissioner Levacy spoke about the informative tour of Diamond Power he attended along with others.

Commissioner Davis stated he had a meeting regarding Diamond Power who was a supplier to Venezuela until 2012. He added that he was unable to attend the State of Pickerington event as he was at the annual United Way awards event.

New Business

Commissioner Levacy stated he will attend a tour of the Workforce Center with Congressman Balderson later in the week.

Commissioner Davis stated he would be meeting with OU-L on the Lancaster Festival and repairs needed to get the site ready for the 2026 Festival. He added that the Salvation Army has asked him to meet with their World Leader.

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Regular (Voting) Meeting

The Commissioners continued to the Regular/Voting portion of the meeting, and the following Commissioners were present: Steve Davis and David Levacy. Also present: County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle; 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; JFS Director, Corey Clark; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Steven Darnell; Deputy Utilities Director, Josh Anders; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Treasurer, Jim Bahnsen; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Account Clerk, Christina Foster; Budget Officer, Staci Knisley; Regional Planner, Nicholas Eastham; Financial Analyst, Taylor Forquer; and Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Ray Stemen and Chris Snider.

Virtual attendees: Lori Hawk, Beth Cottrell, Baylie Blevins, Lori Lovas, Ashley Arter, Holly Lybrook, Tony Vogel, AJ, Andy Robberts, Deborah French, Greg Forquer, Ash Sark, Stacy Hicks, Michael Kaper, Shelby Hunt, Alex Lape, Andy Boystel, Tony Howard, Jason Grubb, Joe Ebel, Aubrey Ward, Bayley Fields, and Lisa.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

None.

Approval of Minutes for March 3, 2026

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steve Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Minutes for the Tuesday, March 3, 2026, meeting.

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

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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| 2026-03.10.a | A resolution amending a resolution authorizing the Board of County Commissioners of Fairfield County, Ohio to finance the realignment and reconfiguration of the Kings Crossing/Hill Road and Hill Road/Basil-Western Road intersections as well as the addition of a traffic lane and widening of existing lanes along the Basil-Western Road Corridor in Violet Township, with the proceeds of a loan not to exceed \$4,008,000 in principal amount from the Ohio Department of Transportation State Infrastructure Bank; authorizing the execution of a loan agreement, a pledge and security agreement, a purchase agreement, an intergovernmental agreement, and related loan documents; and matters related thereto. |
| 2026-03.10.b | A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category for Fund# 2736, Subfund# 8364, FY2025 CFLP Grant. |

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2026-03.10.c A resolution to authorize the establishment of new bond retirement funds for the 2026 Series [Commissioners] 2026-03.10.d A resolution to approve a memo transaction for interest allocation reimbursements for Fairfield Department of Health, Fairfield County Parks, & Fairfield County Port Authority – Fund #7012, #7321, & #7308.

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

Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steven Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities:

2026-03.10.e 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 and Steve Davis

Approval of Resolutions from the Fairfield County Engineer

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

2026-03.10.f A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for signs

2026-03.10.g A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024-Motor Vehicle for contractual services

2026-03.10.h A resolution to approve an Agreement between Fairfield County and CTL Engineering, Inc.

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

Approval of a Resolution from Fairfield County Family & Children First Council

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steven Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from Fairfield County Family & Children First Council:

2026-03.10.i A resolution to request for appropriations for Fund #7521 Family and Children First Council (FCFC).

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

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Approval of Resolutions from Fairfield County Transit

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steven Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from Fairfield County Transit:

- 2026-03.10.j A resolution to approve a memo exp./ memo receipt of the costs of 2026 Maximus Shared Cost allocation plan from Fairfield County Transit to Fairfield County General Fund
- 2026-03.10.k A Resolution Authorizing the approval of repayment of an advance to the General Fund from the Fairfield County Transit # 2908
- 2026-03.10.l A Resolution to Approve an authorization to apply for 2026-2027 Meals on Wheels grant application, Fairfield County Transit
- 2026-03.10.m A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Service Agreement by/between Fairfield County Transit and Job & Family Services (Protective Services)
- 2026-03.10.n A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Service Agreement by/between Fairfield County Transit and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD)
- 2026-03.10.o A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Service Agreement by/between Fairfield County Transit and Lancaster City Schools
- 2026-03.10.p A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Service Agreement by/between Fairfield County Transit and Eastland Fairfield Career Center
- 2026-03.10.q A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Service Agreement by/between Fairfield County Transit and Teenworks
- 2026-03.10.r A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Service Agreement by/between Fairfield County Transit and Project Search
- 2026-03.10.s A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of a Service Agreement by/between Fairfield County Transit and Meals on Wheels (Senior Hub)
- 2026-03.10.t A resolution authorizing the approval of a Purchase of Service Contract by and between Fairfield County Transit and Creative Coach

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

Approval of a Resolution from Fairfield County Utilities

On the motion of David Levacy and the second of Steven Davis, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from Fairfield County Utilities:

- 2026-03.10.u A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category for Utilities; 5044, Technical.

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

