

Regular Meeting 13 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
March 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, Jeff Fix and David Levacy. Also present: County Administrator, Aundrea Cordle; Deputy County Administrator, Jeff Porter; Clerk to the Commissioners, 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; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Steven Darnell; RPC Director, Holly Mattei; Child Support Enforcement Deputy Director, Patrick Welsh; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Budget Officer, Staci Knisley; Deputy JFS Director, Heather O'Keefe; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; and Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Ray Stemen, Melanie Swonger, and Amy Eldridge.

Virtual attendees: Ash Sark, Lori Lovas, Andy Robberts, Jessica Murphy, Tony Vogel, Lori Hawk, Jerry Starner, Greg Forquer, Deborah, John, Shelby Hunt, Shannon Ward, Jeff Barron, Nikki Drake, Bayley Fields, Beth Cottrell, Stacy Hicks, Britney Lee, Joe Ebel, Chris Snider, Ashley Arter, Vince Carpico, and Rick Szabrak.

Welcome

Commissioner Davis opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

Public Comments

Ray Stemen of Lancaster spoke about being thankful for all we have as Americans and provided a prayer.

Legal Update

None.

County Administration Update

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

Week in Review

Commissioners' March 31st Meeting

The next 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 April 7th meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m., at the Levacy Center, following the Leadership Conference.

WIOA State Audit

The County experienced its first state WIOA audit which occurs every 10 years.

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Highlights of Resolutions

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

Resolution Review

There are 23 resolutions on the agenda for the Regular voting meeting.

Resolutions of note:

- A resolution to appropriate the amount necessary for the debt service payment for the Basil-Western Road Project. The resolution is specific to the project financing.
- A resolution from the Engineer to approve a plat within the City of Pickerington for The Retreat at Hickory Lakes, Section 1, Part A.
- A resolution from Facilities for the establishment of a new fund, as required, in connection with a federal grant through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The resolution is related to the summer storm of 2025 and requires a \$27K grant match from the general fund.
- A resolution from Soil and Water supporting farms on Pine Grove Road and Tent Church Road for participation in the Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program through the Ohio Department of Agriculture.
- Two resolutions from Community Action for a grant agreement for the 2025 Community Housing Impact and Preservation (CHIP) Program, and for the release of funds associated with the 2025 CHIP Program.

Budget Review

Budget Director, Bart Hampson, provided an update on February sales tax receipts.

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

- *The Calendar Review and Invitations and Correspondence Received, were provided by the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, Rochelle Menningen.*
- South Licking Water Conservancy District Board Meeting, March 24, 2026, 3:00 p.m., Licking County Agricultural Center, 771 E. Main St., Newark
- Board of Developmental Disabilities, Celebration of Possibilities Event, March 25, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Crossroads, 2095 W. Fair Ave., Lancaster
- State of the Schools Address, Lancaster City Schools, March 26, 2026, 11:00 a.m., The Levacy Center, 1550 Sheridan Dr., Lancaster
- FairHope Hospice Celebrates Life Event, March 26, 2026, 5:30 p.m., The Mill Event Center, 431 S. Columbus St., Lancaster
- Fairfield County Health District Advisory Council Meeting, March 26, 2026, 7:00 p.m., The Levacy Center, 1550 Sheridan Dr., Suite 100, Lancaster
- 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, 1806 Granville Pk., Lancaster

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Correspondence

- Ohio Department of Taxation, March 9, 2026, Journal Entry Number 26-02-0074, Ohio County's Reappraisals and Triennial Updates

Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Recorder McKenzie spoke on one of her vendors and training for her staff provided by that vendor.

Engineer Upp stated his office continues to patch roads from winter damage.

Auditor Brown expressed appreciation for the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio and noted it has inspired her involvement in America 250 activities. She shared her recognition of a need for greater public understanding of property tax allocations after attending the Pickerington City Schools' Town Hall. She reported that her office is hosting lot split webinars for entities across the state, is developing a new newsletter format, and that she will be attending several conferences in the coming weeks.

Tony Vogel reported he will have a design contract on the next agenda. He also noted ongoing collaboration with the Village of Millersport on the design of its new wastewater facility.

Commissioner Levacy stated that he had asked Tony Vogel and his staff to speak to the Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow group regarding the Vantage Data Center.

Commissioner Davis asked Jon Kochis and Tony Vogel to determine if it would be monetarily advisable to pursue additional solar arrays at county facilities.

Jon Kochis spoke about continuing discussions with the Lancaster Festival regarding emergency operations.

Dan Neeley stated he attended a tech summit where he was able to connect with other government IT leaders.

Rick Szabrak joined the meeting virtually and provided an update on the Career Expo held at the Workforce Center. The event had its largest attendance to date and included 67 businesses. Pickerington Local School district had over 200 students in attendance at the Career Expo. Szabrak was also happy to report that the waiver for the Engineering Tech program at the Workforce Center had been approved by the Ohio Department of Higher Education. He thanked everyone who helped to get the waiver approved.

Commissioner Davis asked Szabrak if the labor market had softened.

Szabrak replied that some labor markets such as manufacturing and healthcare had shown some decline but are still hiring. He added that some support jobs are now being automated.

Corey Clark shared that JFS staff, including Sarah Fortner, would be presenting at a conference for the Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services.

Jeff Porter stated that the Dog Shelter population has remained at a lower level and is optimistic that trend will continue.

Holly Mattei stated that the CDBG application deadline is approaching.

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Old Business

Commissioner Fix recently attended several CCAO meetings, as well as the MORPC State of the Region where he was pleased to see such high attendance.

Commissioner Levacy stated he also attended the MORPC event. The event had over 1000 in attendance and sold out early.

New Business

Commissioner Levacy provided the meetings he would be attending in the coming week.

Commissioner Fix commended Health Commissioner Joe Ebel for his strong leadership of the Health Department over the past five years of his tenure.

Regular (Voting) Meeting

The Commissioners continued to the Regular/Voting portion of the meeting, and the following Commissioners were present: Steve Davis, Jeff Fix 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; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Steven Darnell; RPC Director, Holly Mattei; Child Support Enforcement Deputy Director, Patrick Welsh; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; Engineer, Jeremiah Upp; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Budget Officer, Staci Knisley; Deputy JFS Director, Heather O'Keefe; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; and Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Ray Stemen, Melanie Swonger, and Amy Eldridge.

Virtual attendees: Ash Sark, Lori Lovas, Andy Robberts, Jessica Murphy, Tony Vogel, Lori Hawk, Jerry Starner, Greg Forquer, Deborah, John, Shelby Hunt, Shannon Ward, Jeff Barron, Nikki Drake, Bayley Fields, Beth Cottrell, Stacy Hicks, Britney Lee, Joe Ebel, Chris Snider, Ashley Arter, Vince Carpico, and Rick Szabrak.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

None.

Approval of Minutes for March 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, March 17, 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:

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- 2026-03.24.a A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated into the major expenditure object category for transfers.
- 2026-03.24.b A resolution authorizing fund to fund transfers from the General Fund # 1001 to: #4809, #4851, #4714, #4819, #4895, #4878, #4917, # 4921 for Debt Service Payments for 2026.
- 2026-03.24.c A resolution to approve a memo transactions for interest allocation reimbursements for Fairfield Department of Health, Fairfield County Parks, & Fairfield County Port Authority – Fund #7012, #7321, & #7308.
- 2026-03.24.d A resolution of conversion of prior year 2025 encumbrance (X-mode) to current year appropriation and appropriate from unappropriated expenditure object category for Fund# 3910

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 ADAMH Board

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 ADAMH Board:

- 2026-03.24.e A resolution to approve a reimbursement for share of costs for Liability Insurance paid to CORSA as a memo expenditure for fund# 2066 – The Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Board of Fairfield County

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 Fairfield County Engineer:

- 2026-03.24.f A Resolution to Approve the Contract Bid Award for the Sale of Scrap Metal & Aluminum.
- 2026-03.24.g A resolution to approve the plat for the Retreat at Hickory Lakes Section 1 Part A.
- 2026-03.24.h A resolution to request for appropriations for additional unanticipated receipts of memo receipts and memo expenses for fund 3445 BLO-36 bridge replacement

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:

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2026-03.24.i A Resolution to Authorize the Establishment of a New Fund for The Board of Commissioners

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:

2026-03.24.j A resolution to approve a memo exp./ memo receipt for the costs of Transportation paid to Fairfield County Transit as a memo expenditure for fund# 2599 Workforce Fund

2026-03.24.k A resolution to approve a memo exp./ memo receipt for the costs of Transportation paid to Fairfield County Transit as a memo expenditure for fund# 2018 Public Assistance Fund

2026-03.24.l A resolution to approve a Title IV-D Contract between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Support Enforcement Agency and Fairfield County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division.

2026-03.24.m A resolution to approve a Title IV-D Contract between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Support Enforcement Agency and Fairfield County Sheriff's Office.

2026-03.24.n A resolution to approve a Title IV-D Contract between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Support Enforcement Agency and Fairfield County Sheriff's Office.

2026-03.24.o A resolution to approve a Title IV-D Contract between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Support Enforcement Agency and Mary Ann Boone.

2026-03.24.p A resolution to approve a Title IV-D Contract between Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Child Support Enforcement Agency and Jeffrey Feyko.

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 Sheriff

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 the Sheriff:

2026-03.24.q A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category for Sheriff; 2709 Edward Byrne

2026-03.24.r A Resolution to Appropriate from Unappropriated in a Major Expenditure Object Category for Sheriff; 2593 Concealed Handgun License

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2026-03.24.s A Resolution Approving an Account-to-Account Transfer into a Major Expenditure Object Category –23100101, General Fund

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 Soil and Water Conservation District

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 Soil and Water Conservation District:

2026-03.24.t A resolution of support of property for the Clean Ohio Local Agriculture Easement Purchase Program with the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Approval of Resolutions from Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of David Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolutions from Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency:

2026-03.24.u Resolution to sign and execute the Grant Agreements for Program Year 2025 Community Housing Impact and Preservation (CHIP) Program

2026-03.24.v A Resolution authorizing the Request for the Release of Funds for the Program Year 2025 Community Housing Impact and Preservation (CHIP) Program

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:

2026-03.24.w 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: Jeff Fix, David Levacy and Steve Davis

Adjournment

With no further business, On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of David Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 9:45 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at the Amanda-Clearcreek School located at 328 E. Main St., Amanda, OH.

