

Regular Meeting 17 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
April 14, 2026

Executive Session

Commissioner Davis called for an Executive Session to discuss the purchase or sale of property at 8:40 a.m. He asked the Commissioners, Aundrea Cordle, Jeff Porter, Rochelle Menningen, Jon Kochis, and Amy Brown-Thompson, to attend the Executive Session. Commissioner Fix seconded the motion.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

With no further business, On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of Jeff Fix, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 8:48 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

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; Records Clerk, Ash Sark; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; EMA & Facilities Director, Jon Kochis; IT Director, Dan Neeley; JFS Director, Corey Clark; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Amy Brown-Thompson; Planner, Nicholas Eastham; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Deputy JFS Director, Heather O'Keefe; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Economic Development Specialist, Vince Carpico; Payroll Clerk, Christina Spencer; Finance Analyst, Taylor Forquet; and a Sheriff's Deputy. Also in attendance: Dennis Mingyar, Ray Stemen Jeremy Primmer, and Garrett Davis.

Virtual attendees: Lori Lovas, Shelby Hunt, Andy Robberts, Shannon Ward, Gregory Forquer, Ashley Arter, Jeff Barron, Paul, Tony Howard, Deborah, Steven Darnell, and Michael Kaper

Welcome

Commissioner Davis opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

Recognition of Dennis Mingyar

Rick Szabrak introduced Dennis Mingyar and highlighted his distinguished career, including twenty-one years of service as Director of Economic Development with Ohio's Electric Cooperatives and twelve years with South Central Power. Mr. Mingyar also served as a long-time board member of the Fairfield 33 Development Alliance, contributing significantly to regional growth and collaboration.

Mr. Mingyar expressed his sincere appreciation for the recognition, noting that being honored by one's peers is among the highest distinctions one can receive. He reflected on the evolution of economic development, describing it as once being more of an art with some science, and now increasingly driven by data and analytics. He shared that his work has been a true calling and expressed gratitude for the support of his wife, Beth, whose dedication at home made his long hours and early mornings possible. Mr. Mingyar also noted that he plans to continue contributing to the field through consulting with colleagues, friends, and former clients.

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Listen & Learn

Garrett Blevins provided an overview of Severe Weather Awareness Week, highlighting available recovery options and programs. He noted that severe weather in Fairfield County takes many forms, including summer storms with high winds, tornadoes, hail, and flash flooding. Residents are encouraged to prioritize safety, report storm damage to the Fairfield County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), and document damage with photographs. A storm damage reporting tool is also available on the County's website. Mr. Blevins explained that the County's GIS system incorporates weather overlays in coordination with the National Weather Service, including the use of warning polygons that may trigger official alerts. He referenced the significant number of storm reports received during the July 26, 2025, flash flooding event.

Mr. Blevins also outlined the process for activating relief programs at the county and local government level, including coordination with the Ohio EMA and the joint damage assessment process conducted following major events. Post-disaster relief programs include both Individual Assistance and Public Assistance. Individual Assistance programs may include FEMA aid, SBA Home Disaster Loans, the Ohio Individual Assistance Program, and hazard mitigation assistance for homeowners. It was noted that, for state assistance programs to be activated, a request must first be made to FEMA and denied.

Discussion also addressed the prevalence of uninsured properties, particularly in flood-prone areas, and the importance of preparedness and mitigation. While Fairfield County sustained notable damage in past events, it was not always sufficient to meet statewide thresholds for certain federal assistance programs. Additional resources discussed included support from the American Red Cross and 2-1-1, as well as longer-term recovery efforts involving the Fairfield County Foundation. Officials emphasized the importance of establishing seed funding for local recovery programs, which can be supported by individuals, governments, businesses, and nonprofit organizations, often structured through a 501(c)(3).

The Commissioners discussed exploring ways to address funding gaps for medium-sized communities and the potential role of local governments in providing initial funding support. The importance of community-based recovery—"neighbors helping neighbors"—was emphasized.

Mr. Blevins also shared information on emergency alert systems, including a QR code for residents to sign up. It was noted that over 10,000 individuals are currently enrolled in local alert systems, with more than 20,000 receiving weather warnings. Alerts are typically issued based on National Weather Service polygons, meaning that if any portion of a warning area intersects with a siren zone, the entire area may receive notification.

The Commissioners expressed their appreciation for the proactive and responsive efforts of emergency management personnel before, during, and after severe weather events.

Public Comments

Ray Stemen of Lancaster spoke about the loss of his wife two years ago. He reflected on the blessings in his life, sharing that his grandson and his wife compiled a collection of 50 prayer poems that had belonged to her. He also offered a prayer of thanksgiving.

Legal Update

No update.

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County Administration Update

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

Week in Review

No Meeting on April 21st

The Fairfield County Board of Commissioners will not have a meeting on April 21st. The next Board of Commissioners meeting will be April 28th at 9:00 a.m.

Highlights of Resolutions

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

Resolution Review

There are 10 resolutions on the agenda for the Regular voting meeting.

Resolutions of note:

- The first resolution is to approve two proclamations. The first proclamation was presented earlier to Dennis Mingyar. The second proclamation is to recognize April 22nd as Earth Day. Commissioner Davis will present Community Action with the Earth Day Proclamation at the April 25th Seeds of Change Event held at Rising Park.
- We have two resolutions to reappoint members of the New Community Authority (NCA) in Violet Township. Doug Williams and Doug Houk are being reappointed until April 8th of 2027, and Felicia Hence until April 8th of 2028. The ORC states that NCA members are replaced, based on population, by successor members elected by the board of trustees. The Commissioner's Office has been informed that the population of the NCA is currently zero; and was asked to reappoint the citizen board members. The Director of Operations for Violet Township would like Mr. Williams, Mr. Houk, and Ms. Hence reappointed. Lori Sanders was appointed by the Commissioners in April of 2024 as the local government's representative, and that appointment remains in effect until the NCA has three-quarters of its projected population.
- And Economic and Workforce Development has a resolution to approve an MOU for the commitment of funds to Eastland-Fairfield Career and Technical Schools (EFCTS) from the Super Rapids funds awarded to Fairfield County through an MOU by the Ohio Department of Higher Education. The MOU between the County and EFCTS, reimburses EFCTS up to \$490,000 for their purchases for a CDL program.

Budget Review

No update.

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Calendar Review/Invitations Received

- *The Calendar Review and Invitations and Correspondence Received, were provided by the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, Rochelle Menningen.*
- Transportation Improvement District, April 14, 2026, 1:00 p.m., Fairfield County Records Center, 138 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster
- Millersport Business Group, April 15, 2026, 8:30 a.m., American Legion, 2557 Canal St., Millersport
- Harcum House Donor Appreciation Reception, April 15, 2026, 4:00 p.m., Harcum House, 216 Trace Dr., Lancaster
- Family and Children First Council Executive Committee Meeting, April 17, 2026, 8:30 a.m., Fairfield County Agricultural Center, 831 College Ave., Lancaster
- Reception Celebrating the Generosity of Dr. Joyce Herrold and the Herrold Family, April 23, 2026, 5:00 p.m., Ohio University-Lancaster, Brasee Hall, 1570 Granville Pike, Lancaster

Correspondence

- R. Kyle Witt, Fairfield County Prosecuting Attorney, April 3, 2026, Re: Calendar Year 2027 Appropriations and Compensation of Elected Officials
- Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living, April 2026 e-newsletter, "We would like to share the following success story that was made Possible by a grant provided by the Fairfield County Land Bank. SOCIL And consumers are grateful for their support in the community!"

Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Recorder McKenzie reported that her office is working with a vendor to address ADA compliance.

Dr. Brown shared that she recently attended a conference where she learned about new resource opportunities. As a result, work groups will be formed to begin implementing improvements. She expressed enthusiasm, noting these efforts will support those managing and reporting grants. She also mentioned that the first Daughter of the American Revolution was from Fairfield County.

Dan Neeley thanked the Commissioners, noting that Hicks Partners has been helpful in recent efforts.

Corey Clark expressed appreciation to everyone who attended the Child Abuse Prevention Month breakfast.

Old Business

Commissioner Levacy commented on the Child Abuse Prevention Month Breakfast, stating that it was a great event.

Commissioner Davis noted that the breakfast was very nice and had a larger audience than in previous years.

Corey Clark added that attendance was up and the venue was perfect.

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New Business

Commissioner Levacy spoke about the new Lancaster High School campus.

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 to the Commissioners, Rochelle Menningen; Records Clerk, Ash Sark; Budget Director, Bart Hampson; Utilities Director, Tony Vogel; EMA & Facilities Director, Jon Kochis; IT Director, Dan Neeley; JFS Director, Corey Clark; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Amy Brown-Thompson; Planner, Nicholas Eastham; Economic & Workforce Development Director, Rick Szabrak; FCFC Manager, Tiffany Wilson; Recorder, Lisa McKenzie; Deputy JFS Director, Heather O'Keefe; Auditor, Dr. Carri Brown; Economic Development Specialist, Vince Carpico; Payroll Clerk, Christina Spencer; Finance Analyst, Taylor Forquet; and a Sheriff's Deputy. Also in attendance: Dennis Mingyar, Ray Stemen Jeremy Primmer, and Garrett Davis.

Virtual attendees: Lori Lovas, Shelby Hunt, Andy Robberts, Shannon Ward, Gregory Forquer, Ashley Arter, Jeff Barron, Paul, Tony Howard, Deborah, Steven Darnell, and Michael Kaper

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

None.

Approval of Leadership Conference Minutes for April 7, 2026

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of David Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Leadership Conference Minutes for the Tuesday, April 7, 2026, meeting.

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

Approval of Minutes for April 7, 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, April 7, 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:

- 2026-04.14.a A Resolution Authorizing the Approval of Proclamations
- 2026-04.14.b A Resolution to Approve the Reappointment of Doug Williams and Doug Houk to the Violet Township New Community Authority

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- 2026-04.14.c A Resolution to Approve the Reappointment of Felicia Hence to the Violet Township New Community Authority
- 2026-04.14.d A resolution authorizing the reduction appropriations into the major expenditure object category of capital outlay for Fund# 3922, Basil Western Project

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 Board of Developmental Disabilities

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 Board of Developmental Disabilities:

- 2026-04.14.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

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:

- 2026-04.14.f A resolution to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the commitment of funds to Eastland-Fairfield Career and Technical Schools from the Super Rapids funds previously awarded to Fairfield County through an MOU between Fairfield County and the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE)

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 Engineer

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 Engineer:

- 2026-04.14.g A resolution to appropriate from unappropriated in a major expenditure object category County Engineer 2024 Motor-Vehicle Funds for Summit Infrastructure Group inspection 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 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:

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2026-04.14.h 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 South Central Major Crimes Unit

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of David Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the following resolution from the South Central Major Crimes Unit:

2026-04.14.i A resolution authorizing an account to account transfer for Major Crimes Unit Fund 7844 (Sub fund 8361) AG DART Grant July 25- June 26

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:

2026-04.14.j 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

Commissioner Davis stated there are four strong candidates for the open position on the Port Authority Board and expressed appreciation for everyone's willingness to serve. Commissioner Davis then recommended the appointment of Matt Claypool to the position, and Commissioners Fix and Levacy concurred.

Dr. Brown added that she is currently reviewing the total dollar amount of property conveyed in Fairfield County, noting that it may have recently exceeded \$1 billion in a single year for the first time. She indicated she would confirm this milestone as it represents a significant benchmark.

With no further business, On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of David Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 9:54 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 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 210 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH.

