

Regular Meeting 20 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
May 12, 2026

Ditch Petition Viewing, Sturbridge Meadows

Commissioner Davis and Commissioner Fix attended the viewing on May 12, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. The viewing was for a ditch petition made by Sherry Friedman. The meeting location for the viewing was 13752 Nantucket Ave., Pickerington. Also in attendance at the viewing were Eric McCrady, Kim Perry, Darwin Bruce, Ken Cleaver, Karen Sottosanti, Dan Turner, Rod Oberster, Karen Oberster, Joan Burns, and John Thompson. Commissioners Davis and Fix

Review Meeting

The Commissioners met at 9:08 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, Rochelle Menningen; Communications and Information Coordinator, Bennett Niceswanger; Auditor Carri Brown, Recorder Lisa McKenzie, Budget Director Bart Hampson, JFS Director Corey Clark, IT Director Dan Neeley, EMA & Facilities Director Jon Kochis; Economic & Workforce Development Director Rick Szabrak, Utilities Director Tony Vogel, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Austin Lines, FCFC Manager Tiffany Wilson, Soil & Water Manager Nikki Drake, Regional Planner Nicholas Eastham, Financial Analyst Taylor Forquer, Account Clerk Christina Spencer, and Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Brian Everitt and Ray Stemen.

Virtual attendees: Ash Sark, Jessica Murphy, Shelby Hunt, Joe Ebel, Britney Lee, Ashley Arter, Vince Carpico, Jen Lynch, Abby King, Deborah French, Andy Robberts, Jared Collins, Marcy Fields, Brian Wolfe, Stacy Hicks, Jason Grubb, David Uhl, Holly Lybrook, Baylie Blevins, and Tony Howard.

Welcome

Commissioner Davis opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance. He explained that the meeting was starting a few minutes late due to the Ditch Petition Viewing at 8:00 a.m. in Pickerington.

Public Comments

Ray Stemen of Lancaster offered a prayer.

Legal Update

None.

County Administration Update

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

Highlights of Resolutions

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

Resolution Review

There are 20 resolutions on the agenda for the Regular voting meeting.

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Resolutions of note:

- The first resolution on the agenda is for a proclamation to recognize Jim Krile. Jim was born in Sugar Grove, Ohio, and graduated from Sugar Grove High School in 1963. He went on to have a distinguished military career while being extremely committed to his family, agricultural excellence, and the Fairfield County community.
- The second resolution appoints Colleen Cook to the MOW board. Commissioners, you interviewed Colleen last week and the resolution to appoint her is on for today.
- The Engineer's Office has a resolution to purchase two pickup trucks and two resolutions for the contract and notice to commence for a bridge replacement in Hocking Township
- And Facilities has a resolution to approve a contract with Spires Paving for the Liberty parking lot at the Liberty Center.

Budget Review

Budget Director, Bart Hampson

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

Informational Items

- Housing and Community Planning Panel, May 13, 2026, 12:15 p.m., Palace Theatre, 34 W. Broad St., Columbus
- Lancaster Fairfield Community Action Agency Planning and Finance Committee Meeting, May 14, 2026, 11:30 a.m., Recycling Center, 1761 E. Main St., Lancaster
- MORPC Central Ohio Metropolitan Planning Organization Board Meeting, May 14, 2026, 1:30 p.m., MORPC, 111 Liberty St., Room 113, Columbus, or Virtual
- Family and Children First Full Council Meeting, May 15, 2026, 8:30 a.m., Fairfield County Agricultural Center, 831 College Ave., Lancaster
- Forest Rose School Class of 2026 Graduation, May 15, 2026, 1:00 p.m. Forest Rose, 739 College Ave., Lancaster
- Ohio Glass Museum 20th Anniversary Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, May 12, 2026, 4:00 p.m., Ohio Glass Museum, 124 W. Main St., Lancaster
- Open House & Ribbon Cutting, Fairfield Center of Hope and Supported Housing, May 19, 2026, 12:30 p.m., 230 & 231 Venture Place, Lancaster
- MOPRC, Mobility Exchange, June 17, 2026, 9:00 a.m., OSU Vitria on the Square, 14 E. 15th Ave., 2nd Floor, Columbus

Correspondence

- City of Lancaster, April 29, 2026, Notice of One-Way Traffic Change, W. Chestnut St. Between S. High St. and S. Columbus St.
- Thank You Letter, May 3, 2026, Fairfield County District Library for Use of Levacy Center
- Violet Township Zoning Office, Notice Dated May 6, 2026, Public Hearing May 21, 2026, 7:00 p.m., 10190 Blacklick Eastern Rd, Pickerington, Case VAR-26-6, Variance for Property Located at 8260 Refugee Rd., Pickerington

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Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Auditor Carri Brown reported that the Board of Revisions well-organized and efficiently run hearings have been appreciated. She stated the new lodging tax program remains on schedule for next quarter, the lot-split program is progressing well, payroll officers continue providing additional departmental training, and the audit is nearing completion. Auditor Brown also noted she will assist Hamilton County with a strategic planning meeting.

Commissioner Davis discussed the onboarding requirements and expectations for new and returning attorneys.

Tony Vogel thanked Lori Hampshire for her assistance with the financial requirements related to a new bond.

Rick Szabrak reported attending the Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet and recognized employee Jenni Sturgeon for receiving an award. He also noted the Workforce & Business Development Center graduation ceremony was well attended, with more than 400 people in attendance.

Commissioner Davis stated he was honored to speak at the Workforce Center graduation.

Jon Kochis discussed continued cooperation among communities regarding siren coverage and noted additional sirens are planned for several townships. He thanked the City of Lancaster for repurposing and installing sirens for another township.

Dan Neeley reported he will continue visiting remaining county locations with Modern Office Methods to complete the printer audit and inventory update.

Corey Clark reported the APS team received a competitive nationwide grant related to opioid use treatment referrals. He noted only five grants were awarded nationwide and the funding will support screening APS clients.

Jeff Porter reported the Employee Wellness Clinic has reopened at its original location near Kroger on East Main Street.

Nikki Drake with Soil and Water reported the annual tree sale has concluded successfully, and DEA Take Back Day resulted in a significant amount of drugs collected and electronics recycled. She also noted staff assisted the Hunters Run Conservancy District with a litter cleanup day and thanked Greenfield Township for its support. Drake additionally recognized former board member Jim Krile.

Nicholas Eastham with Regional Planning reported the second CDBG hearing is scheduled for next week to discuss recommended projects for CDBG funding.

Old Business

Commissioner Levacy reiterated comments made by Rick Szabrak regarding Jenni Sturgeon's Chamber of Commerce award and thanked Rick and his staff for their efforts surrounding the Workforce Center's graduation ceremony. He also commented on recent movement by the State of Ohio regarding fraud connected to kiosks and expressed appreciation for the state acting to prevent that fraud.

Rick Szabrak discussed the Chamber of Commerce annual award winners and noted how many county-centered initiatives were connected to the recipients.

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Commissioner Davis reported he was honored to provide remarks at the Peace Officers Memorial Service.

New Business

Commissioner Davis stated he will meet with representatives regarding the Borealis Project and the transportation of natural gas from the Marcellus Shale deposits. He noted approximately 96% of the pipeline would be underground.

Presentation of footage from Ditch petition

Deputy Engineer Eric McCrady provided footage of the drainage area from the public viewing earlier in the morning.

Commissioner Fix stated that if proper procedures had been followed, the current situation may have been avoided.

Commissioner Levacy stated the matter reflects development occurring before proper drainage standards were assessed and asked whether the footage was recorded after significant rainfall.

Eric McCrady stated the footage was not recorded after rainfall and was filmed the day after the petition was filed. He added there is significant water flow through the area and explained the footage, including the direction and location of the drainage flow.

Commissioner Davis asked whether a water retention area was visible in the footage.

Eric McCrady explained that the area shown was farmland and included a three-foot drop energy dissipator designed to manage water flow.

Commissioner Levacy asked whether there was blockage in a particular section of the drainage area.

Eric McCrady stated tree roots could be contributing to the issue. He added that cable boxes, sanitary sewer infrastructure, and other utilities will need to be considered if the project proceeds. He identified structures encroaching on drainage easements and pointed out the outlet for the 12-inch pipe. McCrady also highlighted areas where significant debris had accumulated following storms, as well as a farmer's waterway and a parabolic waterway designed by Soil and Water Conservation District staff. He offered additional footage from another direction if requested.

Commissioner Davis explained there is currently a petition for the establishment of a drainage maintenance district and noted there are varying opinions among landowners regarding the proposal. He stated a hearing is scheduled for July and, once all information is gathered — including input from affected landowners — the Commissioners will determine whether to approve the petition.

Commissioner Fix remarked that he has heard several accounts regarding how the issue developed.

Commissioner Levacy commented that the development occurred before current standards were in place and noted that those benefiting from the project would be responsible for associated costs.

Commissioner Davis stated additional discussion will occur as more information becomes available.

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Commissioner Fix thanked Eric McCrady for his work on the matter.

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; Auditor Carri Brown, Recorder Lisa McKenzie, Budget Director Bart Hampson, JFS Director Corey Clark, IT Director Dan Neeley, EMA & Facilities Director Jon Kochis; Economic & Workforce Development Director Rick Szabrak, Utilities Director Tony Vogel, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Austin Lines, FCFC Manager Tiffany Wilson, Soil & Water Manager Nikki Drake, Regional Planner Nicholas Eastham, Financial Analyst Taylor Forquer, Account Clerk Christina Spencer, and Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Brian Everitt and Ray Stemen.

Virtual attendees: Ash Sark, Jessica Murphy, Shelby Hunt, Joe Ebel, Britney Lee, Ashley Arter, Vince Carpico, Jen Lynch, Abby King, Deborah French, Andy Robberts, Jared Collins, Marcy Fields, Brian Wolfe, Stacy Hicks, Jason Grubb, David Uhl, Holly Lybrook, Baylie Blevins, and Tony Howard.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

None.

Approval of Minutes for May 5, 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, May 5, 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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| 2026-05.12.a | A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF A PROCLAMATION |
| 2026-05.12.b | A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF MS. COLLEEN COOK TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR MEALS ON WHEELS (CO-BRANDED THE SENIOR HUB) OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY |
| 2026-05.12.c | A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN APPLICATION TO THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) FY2026 AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PLAN GRANT |

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Director Jon Kochis stated that the Airport Authority will apply for the grant and the match is expected to be picked up by ODOT.

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 Clerk of Courts – Legal Division

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 Clerk of Courts – Legal Division:

- 2026-05.12.d A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN ACCOUNT-TO-ACCOUNT TRANSFER INTO A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY, FUND #1100
- 2026-05.12.e A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM UNAPPROPRIATED IN A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY, COMPUTER FUND, 11231800

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 Clerk of Courts – Title Division

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 Clerk of Courts – Title Division:

- 2026-05.12.f A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN ACCOUNT-TO-ACCOUNT TRANSFER INTO A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY, FUND #1123

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:

- 2026-05.12.g A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY REVOLVING LOAN FUND REVIEW COMMITTEE TO PERMIT THE ASSUMPTION OF AN EXISTING LOAN FOR BEER GEEKS, LLC TO NEW OWNERSHIP INTEREST (EVERITT)

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:

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- 2026-05.12.h A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF TWO PICK-UP TRUCKS FOR THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE
- 2026-05.12.i A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH AXIS CIVIL CONSTRUCTION, LLC, FOR THE FAI-CR55-3.319 HOC-21 HAMBURG ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT
- 2026-05.12.j A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE NOTICE TO COMMENCE FOR THE FAI-CR55-3.319 HOC-21 HAMBURG ROAD REPLACEMENT 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 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:

- 2026-05.12.k A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF A CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT AND BID AWARD WITH SPIRES PAVING COMPANY INC.

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:

- 2026-05.12.l A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF A SERVICE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN FAIRFIELD COUNTY JOB & FAMILY SERVICES, CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES DIVISION AND KIDS COUNT TOO, INC.
- 2026-05.12.m A RESOLUTION REGARDING AN AMENDMENT FOR A PREVIOUSLY APPROVED NETWORK PLACEMENT, AND RELATED SERVICES AGREEMENT, BETWEEN THE JULIA PAIGE FAMILY CENTER AND CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES
- 2026-05.12.n A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF A SERVICE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN FAIRFIELD COUNTY JOB & FAMILY SERVICES, CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES, AND SECOND CHANCE DAYTON GROUP HOME, LLC
- 2026-05.12.o A RESOLUTION REGARDING AN ADDENDUM FOR A PREVIOUSLY APPROVED NETWORK PLACEMENT AND RELATED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN ALTERNATIVE YOUTH SERVICES, INC DBA, STEPSTONE FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES, AND CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES
- 2026-05.12.p A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A MEMO EXPENSE/MEMO RECEIPT FOR THE COSTS OF BIRTH CERTIFICATES PAID TO

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FAIRFIELD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS AS A MEMO
EXPENDITURE, 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 Fairfield County Transit

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 Transit:

2026-05.12.q A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN APPLICATION FOR THE STANDARD 2026 CERTIFICATION AND ASSURANCES FOR THE OHO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, OFFICE OF TRANSIT, AND FAIRFIELD COUNTY TRANSIT AND THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Director Rick Szabrak stated that the resolution allows Transit to receive their grants through ODOT.

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 Utilities

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:

2026-05.12.r A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FUND-TO-FUND TRANSFERS FOR THE WATER FUND #5046 to FUND #5924, #5925 DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS FOR 2026

2026-05.12.s A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FUND-TO-FUND TRANSFERS FROM THE SEWER FUND #5044 to FUND #5923, #5925 DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS FOR 2026

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:

2026-05.12.t A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF INVOICES THAT REQUIRE 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 9:54 a.m.

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