

Regular Meeting 25 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
June 23, 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 Steve Davis called the meeting to order, and the following Commissioners were also in attendance: David Levacy and Jeff Fix. Also present: County Administrator Aundrea Cordle, Deputy County Administrator Jeff Porter, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners Rochelle Menningen, Auditor Carri Brown, Clerk of Courts Branden Meyer, Engineer Jeremiah Upp, Recorder Lisa McKenzie, Treasurer James Bahnsen, Budget Officer Staci Knisley, JFS Deputy Director Heather O'Keefe, IT Director Dan Neeley; Facilities Director Jon Kochis, Economic Development Coordinator Anthony Iachini, Utilities Director Tony Vogel, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Steven Darnell, Transit Director Aaron Kennedy, Regional Planner, Nicholas Eastham, Soil and Water Manager Nikki Drake, FCFC Manager Tiffany Wilson, Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Jeff Schmelzer, Ray Stemen, Brandy Marshall, Stephanie Taylor, Liz Webb, and Hannah Ruskin.

Virtual attendees: Macey Clark, Michael Kaper, John, Shannon Ward, Shelby Hunt, Jessica Milena Murphy, Lori Hawk, Deborah French, Ashley Arter, BGM Deborah, Jeffrey Barron, Holly Lybrook, Leighann Adams, Andrew Robberts, Britney Lee, Jason Grubb,

Welcome

Commissioner Davis opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

Transportation Plan, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)

Liz Webb, a Planner with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, along with Hannah Ruskin, presented on the 2026–2030 Regional Mobility Plan (RMP), developed by MORPC. Webb stated that the RMP serves as the coordinated transportation plan for ODOT's Region 6, which includes Fairfield County and eight surrounding counties. The plan focuses on improving transportation access for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and low-income residents, while maintaining eligibility for federal transit funding programs. Regional priorities include maintaining and improving transit services, strengthening stakeholders and public support for transit, increasing awareness of transportation options, pursuing funding opportunities, and enhancing coordination among transportation providers.

For Fairfield County, the plan establishes four primary goals: increasing awareness of available transportation programs and services; improving coordination and expansion of transportation services; maximizing existing funding and securing new funding sources; and enhancing transportation options. Key strategies include supporting the Transportation Advisory Council (TAC), expanding outreach and marketing efforts, improving coordination with regional providers, pursuing sustainable funding for Fairfield County Transit ("The Link"), and exploring transportation solutions that connect residents to employment opportunities, medical services, and regional destinations.

The plan emphasizes regional collaboration, public engagement, technology coordination, and improved accessibility to ensure transportation services can better support economic development, workforce needs, healthcare access, and quality of life throughout Fairfield County and the broader Region 6 area. Webb stated that MORPC is seeking adoption of the mobility plan.

Commissioner Davis thanked the presenter for the update and asked if the resolution could be passed at an upcoming meeting

Webb replied that MORPC had resolution language that could be provided to Fairfield County.

Regular Meeting 25 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
June 23, 2026

Commissioner Fix asked if Fairfield County Transit was included as the plan was created.

Webb confirmed that Fairfield County Transit had been consulted.

Commissioner Levacy spoke about the importance of considering individuals with mobility issues and asked if the plan addressed handicap parking.

Webb stated that MORPC could collaborate with Fairfield County to educate communities on handicap parking and ensure policies are not abused.

Aundrea Cordle thanked the representatives from MORPC, Commissioner Fix, Rick Szabrak, Transit, and all others involved in the collaborative approach on transportation in Fairfield County.

Public Comments

Ray Stemen of Lancaster noted that he retired from Fairfield Union exactly 40 years ago to the day. He offered a prayer for guidance and support in our daily lives and actions.

Robert Slater II of Walnut Township spoke regarding the data center currently under construction in Millersport. He stated that he has observed water backing up on a neighboring farm and discussed a water issue located at the corner of his farm. He asked the Commissioners to consider whether maintenance of the affected county ditch could help address the problem.

Stephanie Taylor of Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio and the local Rotary Club, spoke about Commissioner Levacy's recent presentation on the Veterans Hall of Fame to the Rotary Club. She reported that Habitat is currently working on its seventh home and plans to construct four additional homes over the next year.

County Administration Update

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

Week in Review

Meeting Dates

The Board of Commissioners will meet next week, June 30th, at their regular time, but will not meet on July 7th and July 14th. The Commissioners have a total of 53 Review and Regular, and Special Meetings, scheduled for 2026.

Retirement of Charlie Barker

Aundrea Cordle spoke about the retirement of Charlie Barker, noting that Charlie and his brother Rodney were two of her favorite hires during her career.

Jon Kochis stated that Charlie is currently working part-time and that Thursday will be his final day. He added that Charlie's brother was also a member of the Facilities team.

Resolution for Additional Authority

Aundrea Cordle spoke about a possible resolution to delegate additional authority to the Administrator, and the Deputy County Administrator as designee, when the Commissioners are not in session.

Regular Meeting 25 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
June 23, 2026

Commissioner Davis stated that he supports the resolution delegating additional authority to the County Administrator during times when the Board of Commissioners do not meet and noted that it is not difficult to convene a special meeting of the Commissioners when needed.

Housing of Prisoners for area Mayor's Courts

Aundrea Cordle discussed a proposed contract with the Village of Baltimore that would allow the village to house prisoners in the County Jail at the current established rate. She noted that the previous agreement expired in 1999.

Highlights of Resolutions

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

Resolution Review

There are 11 resolutions on the agenda for the Regular voting meeting.

Resolutions of note:

- The Engineer's Office has a resolution to approve a Lease Agreement with the City of Lancaster for their use of a chip spreader, centennial distributor (asphalt sprayer), and a rubber tire roller.
- Facilities has a resolution to approve a revised lease agreement with Fresenius for space at The Levacy Center.
- And the Sheriff's Office has a resolution to approve appropriations for additional grant funds received from the 2026 Recovery Ohio Grant for Major Crimes.

County Engineer Jeremiah Upp explained that the equipment being purchased is used for chip seal operations. The County already owns one set, and acquiring additional equipment will allow two crews to operate simultaneously, improving efficiency.

Commissioner Levacy asked whether fees are charged when equipment is loaned to other entities.

Jeremiah Upp confirmed that fees are charged based on an established scale.

Jon Kochis stated that he is pleased a solution has been found that will likely better serve the customers involved with the business currently located at the Levacy Center.

Commissioner Fix expressed appreciation for the efforts of Aundrea Cordle and Jon Kochis in helping resolve the lease matter.

Budget Review

Budget Officer Staci Knisley reported that the Finance Department, on the previous day, submitted the General Fund's 10-year budget projection to the Budget Commission.

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

Informational Items

Regular Meeting 25 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
June 23, 2026

- i. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Event, Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 8:00 a.m. at the Levacy Center, 1550 Sheridan Drive, Lancaster.
- ii. Central Ohio MPO Board Meeting, Thursday, June 11, 2026, 1:30 p.m. at MORPC, 111 Liberty St., Columbus.
- iii. Family and Children First Council, Friday, June 12, 2026, 8:30 a.m. at the Fairfield County Agricultural Center, 831 College Ave., Lancaster.
- iv. Picnic Point Ribbon Cutting, Saturday, June 13, 2026, 11:00 a.m. at North Shore Park, 2901 N. Bank Rd., Buckeye Lake.

Correspondence

- i. Memo from the Office of the Ohio Public Defender, dated June 17, 2026, RE: Indigent Defense Cost Project Report
- ii. Thank you from Legal Aid of Southeast and Central Ohio

Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Treasurer James Bahnsen reported that the tax file will be sent to the printer later in the week and that the due date for property taxes will be adjusted accordingly. He thanked staff in both the Treasurer's Office and the Real Estate Department for their hard work and noted that Fairfield County is not alone in experiencing these challenges.

Recorder Lisa McKenzie stated that documents dating back to 1980 will be released online the following Friday. She added that vendor training on the new system will also be available online beginning that same day at 10:00 a.m.

Engineer Jeremiah Upp discussed the numerous construction projects currently underway and noted that five to six township projects have received funding. The funding will assist townships in meeting their required local match obligations.

Commissioner Levacy asked whether this type of funding assistance is unique to Fairfield County.

Engineer Upp responded that practices vary across the state. Some counties aid their townships, while others do not.

Commissioner Levacy expressed his appreciation for the support being provided.

Auditor Brown reported that a new Real Estate Assessment website has been launched. She also mentioned a new fact sheet regarding House Bill 86, additional information related to Homestead Reform, and the commencement of the federal portion of the County's financial audit, which will involve departments that administer grant funding.

Joe Ebel discussed efforts to encourage childhood vaccinations. The Health Department is working with Facilities regarding space at the Levacy Center for a vaccination clinic and has already scheduled numerous off-site outreach events for flu vaccinations in the fall.

Tony Vogel stated that he had spoken with Robert Slater II regarding concerns about water backup issues. He indicated that he would investigate the situation further to determine the cause.

Commissioner Davis thanked Vogel for following up on the matter.

Regular Meeting 25 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
June 23, 2026

Vogel shared that Ann Levacy provided cookies for his son's wedding. He explained the tradition dates to the Great Depression, when families often could not afford wedding cakes and friends and relatives would contribute homemade cookies instead.

Anthony Iachini reported strong attendance at the Workforce Center's summer camps. He noted that local companies are frequently invited to speak with participants to highlight employment opportunities available within Fairfield County.

Jon Kochis stated that work is finishing at the Liberty Center and in the rear section of the Levacy Center. He also reported that there are still 22 individuals on the waiting list for airport hangars despite the recent construction of 14 new hangars.

Commissioner Levacy commented that relocating the parking lot islands has helped improve parking at the Liberty Center.

Kochis added that the changes will also make snow plowing operations easier.

Heather O'Keefe thanked Aaron Kennedy for assisting with transportation during a recent staff training event. She also noted that several Job and Family Services employees will be participating in the Fourth of July Parade.

Jeff Porter reported that a productive meeting was held with NFP the previous week regarding county employee benefits.

Kennedy stated that Fairfield County supports the transportation plan presented by MORPC and noted that County staff have enjoyed working with MORPC and its community partners.

Aunie Cordle reported that only a few outstanding buses remain that need to be wrapped.

Kennedy stated that transit operations are currently in a holding pattern as several buses are being replaced and additional new buses are expected to be added to the fleet.

Nikki Drake reminded everyone to save the date for Soil & Water's annual meeting, which will be held in Bremen on September 10.

Old/New Business

Commissioner Fix reported that he is coordinating another housing tour with townships and villages to continue discussions regarding development agreements. He recently met with Greenfield Township prior to its meeting with the City of Lancaster regarding a cooperative agreement. He also attended a Central Ohio Housing Coalition meeting with Columbus Mayor Ginther and Jason Hall. Although Hall has resigned, Commissioner Fix noted that the coalition's work will continue while a replacement is identified.

Commissioner Levacy thanked Commissioner Fix for his efforts related to housing initiatives. He also spoke about a recent presentation on veterans at Rotary and noted that the nation is approaching the 250th anniversary of its founding. Commissioner Levacy stated that the country owes much to the sacrifices and service of its veterans and expressed his appreciation for their contributions throughout the nation's history.

Commissioner Davis thanked Commissioner Fix for his work on housing issues and Commissioner Levacy for his efforts to recognize veterans through the Veterans Hall of Fame.

**Regular Meeting 25 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
June 23, 2026**

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, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners Rochelle Menningen, Auditor Carri Brown, Clerk of Courts Branden Meyer, Engineer Jeremiah Upp, Recorder Lisa McKenzie, Treasurer James Bahnsen, Budget Officer Staci Knisley, JFS Deputy Director Heather O'Keefe, IT Director Dan Neeley; Facilities Director Jon Kochis, Economic Development Coordinator Anthony Iachini, Utilities Director Tony Vogel, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Steven Darnell, Transit Director Aaron Kennedy, Regional Planner, Nicholas Eastham, Soil and Water Manager Nikki Drake, FCFC Manager Tiffany Wilson, Sheriff's Deputy, Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Jeff Schmelzer, Ray Stemen, Brandy Marshall, Stephanie Taylor, Liz Webb, and Hannah Ruskin.

Virtual attendees: Macey Clark, Michael Kaper, John, Shannon Ward, Shelby Hunt, Jessica Milena Murphy, Lori Hawk, Deborah French, Ashley Arter, BGM Deborah, Jeffrey Barron, Holly Lybrook, Leighann Adams, Andrew Robberts, Britney Lee, Jason Grubb,

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

None.

Approval of Minutes for June 16, 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, June 16, 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:

2026-06.23.a 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.

2026-06.23.b A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM UNAPPROPRIATED IN A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Regular Meeting 25 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
June 23, 2026

Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Emergency Management Agency

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 Emergency Management Agency:

2026-06.23.c A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST APPROPRIATIONS FOR RECEIPTS
FOR EMA FUND #2092 (8382), STATE DISASTER RELIEF
PROGRAM (SDRP)

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 the Fairfield County Engineer:

2026-06.23.d A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN EQUIPMENT LEASE
AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF LANCASTER, OHIO

2026-06.23.e A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST APPROPRIATIONS FOR
ADDITIONAL UNANTICIPATED RECEIPTS OF MEMO RECIPITS
AND MEMO EXPENSES FOR FUND #2050, ANNUAL
INSPECTIONS, REPAIRS, AND MAINTENANCE IN VARIOUS
SUBDIVISIONS, AS OF 6/18/2026

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:

2026-06.23.f A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT OF THE LEASE
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISISONERS AND FRESENIUS MEDICAL CARE
LANCASTER NEPHROLOGY INVESTMENTS, LLC D/B/A
FRESENIUS KIDNEY CARE HOCKING HILLS

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 Family and 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 Facilities:

2026-06.23.g A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST APPROPRIATIONS FOR FUND
#7521

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

**Regular Meeting 25 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
June 23, 2026**

Approval of Resolutions 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 resolutions from Fairfield County Job and Family Services:

- 2026-06.23.h A RESOLUTION FOR THE PURCHASE OF SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN JOB & FAMILY SERVICES, CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE RECOVERY CENTER
- 2026-06.23.i A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A MEMO EXPENSE/MEMO RECEIPT FOR THE COST 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 Fairfield County Juvenile/Probate Court

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 Juvenile/Probate Court:

- 2026-06.23.j A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT #2 TO THE FY26 GRANT AGREEMENT WIHT THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH 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:

- 2026-06.23.k A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST APPROPRIATIONS FOR RECEIPTS FOR THE 2026 RECOVERY OHIO GRANT #7864 (8383)

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Adjournment

Commissioner Davis thanked everyone for attending the meeting and commented on the wealth of information presented. He expressed his appreciation for the elected officials and department heads, noting that the Board of Commissioners highly values their participation, collaboration, and ongoing partnership.

With no further business, On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of David Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to adjourn at 9:57 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. on Tuesday, June 30, 2026, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room located at 210 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH.

*Approved on June 30, 2026

Jeff Fix
Commissioner


Steve Davis
Commissioner


David Levacy
Commissioner


Rochelle Menningen, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

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