

Regular Meeting 29 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
July 28, 2026

Review Meeting

The Commissioners met at 6:00 p.m. in the Event Center at Violet Woods, 10190 Blacklick-Eastern Rd., Pickerington, OH. Commissioner Dave Levacy called the meeting to order, and the following Commissioners were present: Jeff Fix. Commissioner Steve Davis was absent. Also present: County Administrator Aundrea Cordle, Deputy County Administrator Jeff Porter, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners Rochelle Menningen, Communications and Information Coordinator Bennett Niceswanger, Clerk of Courts Branden Meyer, Budget Director Bart Hampson, Communications & HR Coordinator Rachel Elsea, Economic and Workforce Development Director Rick Szabrak, EMA & Facilities Director Jon Kochis, Utilities Director Tony Vogel, IT Director Dan Neeley, JFS Director Corey Clark, Deputies Romine and Robberts. Also in attendance: Elizabeth Moe, Lance Meyer, and Shannon Ward, and Violet Township Trustees Darrin Monhollen and Mark Matthews.

Welcome

Commissioner Davis opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance.

Facilities Update

Facilities and EMA Director Jon Kochis reported that he Fairfield County Facilities Department made significant progress during the first half of 2026, completing several key projects while advancing additional capital improvements. Major accomplishments included completion of the Health Department Nursing Suite at the Levacy Center and completion of the airport hangars, which are now occupied. Ongoing projects include renovations to the Health Department lobby and Suites 302 and 304, installation of exterior signage and completion of the café at the Workforce Economic Development and Medical Labs facility, and improvements to the Agricultural Center siding and the Engineer's beet barn and storage building. The department also continued evaluating energy efficiency through the solar field near the Liberty Center, reporting approximately \$6,000 in annual savings and a \$65,000 tax credit at the One Stop facility, while expanding feasibility studies to other high-energy-use facilities. Planning is also continuing for 2027 capital improvement projects including the third phase of the HVAC system for the Levacy Center.

Commissioner Levacy inquired about the status of the current lease at the Levacy Center and about space allocated to Veterans Services.

Kochis replied that the current tenant is expected to vacate the space in February, at which time it will become available for future use. He added that the new location for Veterans Services provides more square footage than the county had previously leased for the agency.

Kochis provided additional facilities updates, reporting that exterior signage at the Workforce Center is being completed along with several remaining exterior improvements. He noted that the café space is designed with flexibility to accommodate varying levels of activity and use. He also reported that construction of the commercial hangars has been completed and that the helicopter sales company has already sold a helicopter. He explained that when aircraft are sold and delivered to purchasers in other states, Ohio does not collect the associated sales tax. He added that the Agricultural Center received new blue Hardie siding, improving the building's appearance while reducing future stucco maintenance needs. New exterior signage has also been installed at the facility.

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Quarterly Budget Update

Budget Director Bart Hampson provided an update for the close of the second quarter of 2026. He reported that Fairfield County's General Fund remained in a strong financial position, with revenues totaling \$42.8 million, an increase of \$5.2 million over the same period in 2025. Growth was driven primarily by property tax collections, increased sales tax receipts, greater fees for services, higher jail rental income, stronger conveyance fees, and improved investment earnings. General Fund expenditures totaled \$35.0 million, a decrease of \$1.4 million (3.8%) from the prior year, largely due to reduced transfers for capital projects, despite increases in personnel costs, capital outlay, fringe benefits, and contractual services. The presentation also noted that Fairfield County's 6.75% sales tax rate has remained unchanged since 2010, remaining lower than several neighboring counties, and highlighted key milestones for the 2027 budget process, including Level 3 General Fund budget submissions due by August 27, 2026, and Level 4 by December 1, 2026.

Commissioner Fix asked if the jail contracts are attributed to fees and services.

Hampson replied that the jail contracts do attribute to fees and services and that jail rentals receipts have decreased except for those from the Federal contract.

Aundrea Cordle added that those who have had jail rental contracts have either built their own facilities or are renting from other facilities. She reminded the Commissioners that the figures being supplied were just for the first half of the year.

Hampson added that capital outlay is affected by the timing of vehicle purchases.

Commissioner Fix thanked Mr. Hampson for his work on the budget and for the presentation.

Commissioner Levacy thanked the Violet Township Trustees for their hospitality and for their use of the facility.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

County Administration Update

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

First Hearing Continuation for Ditch Petition, Sturbridge Meadows

The continuation of the first hearing for the Sturbridge Meadows Ditch Petition has been scheduled for August 4, 2026, 9:00 a.m., in the Commissioners' Hearing Room. As permitted in Section 6131 of the Ohio Revised Code, letters for or against the proposed project continue to be submitted, and may be submitted, up to 9:00 a.m. on August 4th. Those letters should be submitted to the Commissioners' Office. Per Section 6131 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Commissioners must vote to either proceed with, or dismiss, the petition, within 90 days of the viewing.

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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.

Resolutions of note:

- There is a resolution to close Fund #3910. This is the fund for the Sheridan Center's HB2 State Grant. Activity for this grant has been completed, and the final closeout has been sent to the state.
- Economic and Workforce Development has three resolutions. The first is to approve a local governance agreement for the WIOA Area 20, as required by ODJFS to detail the administrative and fiscal agents for the Workforce Development Board. The second resolution is to approve an agreement with Tecca, LLC for the use of space at the Workforce Center. And the third resolution is to approve the WorkOhio and South Central Ohio Workforce Partnership Agreement with the Area 20 WDB.

Rick Szabrak stated that the county serves as the administrative and fiscal agent for the WIOA Area 20 board.

- Facilities has a resolution to approve awarding the bid for the rehabilitation of the Feters Run stream bank to Buena Environmental. Buena Environmental submitted the lowest bid (\$67,300) and is considered a responsive and responsible bidder.
- JFS has a resolution for the approval of a grant agreement between the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and Fairfield County Job & Family Services, Protective Services Department. This grant will assist public and private adoption agencies in hiring professionals to secure placements with adoptive families.
- Regional Planning has a resolution to approve a development agreement for the Magnolia Reserve subdivision in Violet Township.
- And, also located in Violet Township, Utilities has a resolution to approve a sanitary easement between Diane Tiefenthaler and the Board of Commissioners, for a sanitary line project.

Budget Review

No further update provided.

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

Informational Items and Invitations Received

- Juvenile Court, Wheel of Fortune, Connexion West, 625 Garfield Ave., Lancaster

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- Star Behavioral Health Center's Ribbon Cutting Event, August 11, 2026, 4:00 p.m., 201 S. Columbus St., Lancaster
- Overdose Awareness Event 2026, August 27, 2026, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Gazebo Downtown Lancaster, 104 N. Broad St., Lancaster

Correspondence

- The Recovery Center, July 16, 2026, Re: Historic Recognition for The Recovery Center – Star Program
- Connexion West, July 14, 2026, Thank You to Fairfield County Job & Family Service
- Palmer Energy, July 22, 2026, Mid-Year 2027 Estimated Electric Budget
- YMCA 2025 Annual Report

Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Violet Township Trustee Darrin Monhollen reported that The Ohio State University plans to construct a new ambulatory care facility as the first phase of its project, followed by a hospital in the second phase, on the property next to the Violet Township Administrative Offices. He thanked Tony Vogel for his assistance throughout the process. Monhollen noted that Ohio State has been an excellent partner, confirming that the project will not impact on the lodge or theater facilities.

Commissioner Fix asked about the project's timeline.

Monhollen responded that negotiations took considerable time and that several moving parts remain, so a final construction timeline has not yet been established.

Tony Vogel added that Ohio State intends to coordinate its construction schedule with the Ohio Department of Transportation's interchange improvements.

Commissioner Fix commented that the proposed facility is a fantastic project for the community.

Monhollen noted that the township worked closely with state officials during the capital budget process and expressed pride in the partnership and in representing Fairfield County.

Commissioner Levacy remarked that the county staff consistently makes the elected officials look good through their professionalism and dedication.

Clerk of Courts Branden Meyer reported that the Fairfield County Legal Help Center has been presented to all 88 Ohio counties, and many have expressed interest in implementing similar programs.

Rick Szabrak announced that the Basil Western Logistics Center transaction officially closed that afternoon. He stated that the first three payments associated with the project will be received soon, providing operational support. Szabrak also reported that, through the Port Authority, a deal has closed with OrthoOne to construct a new 40,000-square-foot medical office building across the street from OhioHealth.

Rachael Elsea provided an update regarding Ohio sales and property tax.

Corey Clark shared an update regarding the department's bicycle rodeo.

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Dan Neeley reported on recent software patching and cybersecurity updates.

Jon Kochis provided an update on the upcoming Baltimore Festival and noted continued efforts to work with existing airport tenants.

Commissioner Fix commented on activity at the Fairfield County Airport.

Jeff Porter reported that the county continues to address rising medical claims costs. He also announced that the Board will receive updates on August 18 regarding from the Fairfield County Dog Shelter and from Human Resources regarding update to the Fairfield County Personnel Policy Manual.

Old Business

Commissioner Fix reported that he recently met with Trustee Rob Alt of Liberty Township.

Commissioner Levacy reminded the public that nominations for the Fairfield County Veterans Hall of Fame are due by September 1. He noted that the induction ceremony will be held on November 19 and that the Veterans Monument, which will be located on the first floor of the Administrative Courthouse, will serve as a meaningful tribute. He also reflected positively on last year's ceremony and encouraged continued participation.

New Business

Commissioner Fix shared that a resident recently approached him with concerns regarding data centers. He stated that he intends to meet with the individual to address misinformation and emphasized that the Board is always willing to meet with residents to explain the county's perspective and to answer questions.

Commissioner Levacy agreed there is considerable misinformation surrounding data centers.

Regular (Voting) Meeting

The Commissioners continued to their Voting portion of the meeting and the following Commissioners were present: David Levacy and Jeff Fix. Also present: County Administrator Aundrea Cordle, Deputy County Administrator Jeff Porter, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners Rochelle Menningen, Communications and Information Coordinator Bennett Niceswanger, Clerk of Courts Branden Meyer, Budget Director Bart Hampson, Communications & HR Coordinator Rachel Elsea, Economic and Workforce Development Director Rick Szabrak, EMA & Facilities Director Jon Kochis, Utilities Director Tony Vogel, IT Director Dan Neeley, JFS Director Corey Clark, Deputies Romine and Robberts. Also in attendance: Elizabeth Moe, Lance Meyer, and Shannon Ward, and Violet Township Trustees Darrin Monhollen and Mark Matthews.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

None.

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Approval of Minutes for July 21, 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, July 21, 2026, meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix and David Levacy

Absent: Steve Davis

Approval of Roundtable Minutes for July 21, 2026

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of David Levacy, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the Roundtable Minutes for Tuesday, July 21, 2026, Roundtable Meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix and David Levacy

Absent: Steve Davis

Approval of a Resolution 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 resolution:

2026-07.28.a A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE OUT FUND #3910, SHERIDAN
BUILDING/HB2 GRANT

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix and David Levacy

Absent: Steve Davis

Approval of Resolutions 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 resolutions from Fairfield County Economic & Workforce Development:

2026-07.28.b A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE AREA 20/21 LOCAL
GOVERNANCE AGREEMENT

2026-07.28.c A RESOLUTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF A SPACE USE
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS AND TECCA LLC FOR USE OF THE
WORKFORCE CENTER

2026-07.28.d A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE WORKOHIO AND SOUTH
CENTRAL OHIO WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix and David Levacy

Absent: Steve Davis

Approval of Resolutions 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 resolutions from Fairfield County Emergency Management Agency:

2026-07.28.e A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN ACCOUNT-TO-ACCOUNT
TRANSFER FOR EMA FUND # 2890, SUB FUND #8368, HMEP
GRANT 2025, YEAR 1

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2026-07.28.f A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST APPROPRIATIONS FOR RECEIPTS
FOR EMA FOR THE 2025 HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM
GRANT

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix and David Levacy

Absent: 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:

2026-07.28.g A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT AND AWARD A BID, AND
AUTHORIZE AN AGREEMENT, BETWEEN BUENA
ENVIRONMENTAL AND THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS FOR CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix and David Levacy

Absent: Steve Davis

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:

2026-07.28.h A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FCJFS' SHARE OF POSTAGE AS A
MEMO EXPENDITURE FOR FUND #2018

2026-07.28.i A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A MEMO EXPENSE/MEMO RECEIPT
FOR THE COSTS OF BIRTH CERTIFICATES PAID TO FAIRFIELD
COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS AS A MEMO EXPENDITURE
FOR FUND #2072, PUBLIC CHILDREN SERVICES

2026-07.28.j A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A MEMO EXPENSE/MEMO RECEIPT
FOR THE COSTS OF BUS PASSES PAID TO FAIRFIELD TRANSIT
AS A MEMO EXPENSE/MEMO RECEIPT FOR THE COST OF BUS
PASSES PAID TO LANCASTER-FAIRFIELD PUBLIC TRANSIT AS A
MEMO EXPENDITURE FOR FUND #2072

2026-07.28.k A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE DAVE THOMAS FOUNDATION FOR ADOPTION AND
FAIRFIELD COUNTY JOB & FAMILY SERVICES (FCJFS),
PROTECTIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix and David Levacy

Absent: Steve Davis

Approval of a Resolution from Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission

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 Regional Planning Commission:

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2026-07.28.l A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT
FOR THE MAGNOLIA RESERVE SUBDIVISION

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix and David Levacy

Absent: 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 the Fairfield County Sheriff:

2026-07.28.m A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN ACCOUNT-TO-ACCOUNT
TRANSFER INTO A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY,
FUND #1001, GENERAL FUND SHERIFF

2026-07.28.n A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM UNAPPROPRIATED IN
A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY FOR FUND #2442,
COMMISSARY

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix and David Levacy

Absent: 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 Utilities:

2026-07.28.o A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A REIMBURSEMENT FOR SHARE
OF COSTS FOR LIABILITY INSURANCE PAID TO CORSA AS A
MEMO EXPENDITURE FOR FUNDS 5044 & 5046

2026-07.28.p A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM UNAPPPROPRIATED IN
A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY FOR UTILITIES,
FUND #5842, FRINGE BENEFITS

2026-07.28.q A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM UNAPPROPRIATED IN A
MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY FOR UTILITIES,
FUND #5044, TECHNICAL

2026-07.28.r A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM UNAPPROPRIATED IN A
MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY, FUND #5046

2026-07.28.s A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN ADDITIONAL SANITARY
EASEMENT BETWEEN DIANE TIEFENTHALER AND THE
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix and David Levacy

Absent: 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:

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2026-07.28.t A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE APPROVAL OF PAYMENT
OF INVOICES FOR DEPARTMENTS THAT REQUIRE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL

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

Commissioner Fix thanked his colleagues for the opportunity to have the meetings in the evening and throughout different areas of the county.

Rachel Elsea thanked Jeff Porter for his update of the Personnel Policy Manual provided during the July 21st, 2026, Roundtable.

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 7:08 p.m.

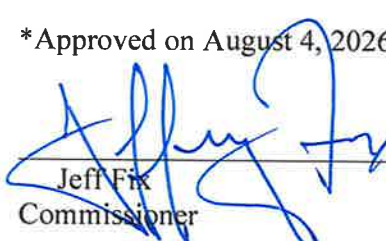
Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:
Voting aye thereon: Jeff Fix and David Levacy Absent: Steve Davis

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, Fairfield County Administrative Courthouse, 210 E. Main St., Third Floor, Lancaster, OH.

Motion by: Jeff Fix Seconded by: David Levacy
To approve the July 28, 2026, minutes by the following vote:

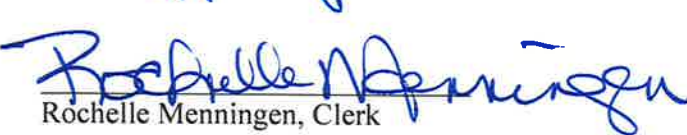
YEAS: Jeff Fix, David Levacy, and Steve Davis NAYS: None
ABSTENTIONS: None

*Approved on August 4, 2026

 Jeff Fix
Commissioner

 Steve Davis
Commissioner

 David Levacy
Commissioner

 Rochelle Menningen, Clerk

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