

Regular Meeting 31 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
August 11, 2026

Review Meeting

The Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in the Administrative Courthouse, 210 E. Main St. Lancaster, OH. Commissioner Steve Davis called the meeting to order, and Commissioners David Levacy and Jeff Fix were also in attendance. Also present: County Administrator Aundrea Cordle, Deputy County Administrator Jeff Porter, Communications and Information Coordinator Bennett Niceswanger, Records Center Clerk Ash Sark, Auditor Carri Brown, Engineer Jeremiah Upp, Budget Director Bart Hampson, JFS Director Corey Clark, IT Director Dan Neeley, Utilities Director Tony Vogel, Engineer's Administrator Jeff Camechis, Economic and Workforce Development Director Rick Szabrak, Deputy IT Director, Joe Neibert, Recorder Lisa McKenzie, Regional Planner Josh Hillberry, MCU Commander Scott Duff, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Austin Lines, Deputy EMA Director Garrett Blevins, Assistant JFS Director Heather O'Keefe, Deputy Director Krista Humphries, Deputy Director Sarah Fortner, Operations Manager Jodi Smith, Deputy Director Patrick Welsh, and Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Josh Bruce and Kendall Wild.

Virtual Attendees: Lori Hawk, Jared Collins, Shannon Ward, Jessica Murphy, Andy Robberts, Baylie Blevins, Shelby Hunt, Tony Vogel, Brian Wofle, Vince Carpico, Tony Howard, Anthony Iachini, Jason Grubb, Stacy Hicks, Joe Ebel, Greg Forquer, Lori Lovas, Jeremy, and Ashley Arter.

Welcome

Commissioner Davis opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance. He invited IT Director Neeley to introduce the new Deputy IT Director, Joe Neibert.

Listen and Learn – Job and Family Services

JFS Director Corey Clark opened with an overview of the Report to the Community, which reviews annual statistics for each program and compares trends over time.

Deputy Director Krista Humphries discussed upcoming SNAP changes, including reductions in the federal match beginning in October 2026 and future county responsibility based on payment error rates. She explained that errors can result from both client reporting and agency processing issues. Fairfield County's current error rate is 1.22%, which remains below the statewide rate. Humphries also noted that individuals who commit SNAP fraud are disqualified for five years and that common errors include unreported income, household changes, employment, budgeting, and expense deductions. Final error-rate determinations are expected approximately 30 days after the reporting deadline.

Deputy Director Sarah Fortner discussed the placement of children in JFS custody and the costs associated with different levels of care. In June 2026, there were 198 children in custody, with daily placement costs totaling \$26,239.90. She noted that costs tend to increase when school is in session and explained that family and kinship placements are preferred when appropriate. Fortner also reviewed state initiatives and local efforts to improve placement services and manage costs.

Commissioner Fix thanked the JFS team for their continued work.

Presentation of a Proclamation

Commissioner Fix presented a proclamation recognizing Kendall Wild, 2026 National Miss Amazing Teen Queen. He commended Ms. Wild for her achievements, service to her community, and dedication to being a disability advocate.

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Ms. Wild thanked the Commissioners and shared some of her recent achievements, as well as her wish to serve the community as a county employee in the future.

Commissioners Fix, Davis, and Levacy thanked her for her dedication.

Interview for Area 20 Workforce Board

Josh Bruce introduced himself and gave some background on his personal life. He served in the military in multiple capacities including logistics management. He joined Claypool Electric 3 years ago in business operations management, where he helps to understand employment growth logistics. During his career, Mr. Bruce indicated that he has witnessed instances where employers were not able to connect successfully with potential employees. He sees this board appointment as an opportunity to address this issue in Fairfield County.

Commissioner Fix commented that Josh was well qualified and thanked him for the willingness to use his time and talents.

Public Comments

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 16 resolutions on the agenda for the Regular voting meeting.

Resolutions of note:

- A resolution from the Commissioners approving a proclamation recognizing Kendall Wild, 2026 National Miss Amazing Teen Queen.
- A resolution from the Commissioners to approve the update of the CFLP Solid Waste District Management Plan
- A resolution from the Commissioners to approve a contract with the Licking County Board of Commissioners regarding the certification of unpaid sewer rates.
- A resolution from the Sheriff authorizing the approval of a service agreement between the Sheriff's Office and the Lancaster Board of Education for school resource officers.

Budget Review

Budget Director Bart Hampson stated that level three budget entry access will end in 16 days and urged departments to reach out to his team if they require assistance.

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Calendar Review/Invitations Received

Informational Items and Invitations Received

- Central Ohio MPO Board Meeting, Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. at 111 Liberty St., Room 113, Columbus, OH.
- 40th Annual Athena Awards, Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Mill Event Center, 431 S. Columbus St., Lancaster, OH.

Correspondence

- Notice from EQT Corporation regarding upcoming geological testing.
- Notice of Application to the OPSB and Upcoming Public and Evidentiary Hearings for the Proposed Fairfield Energy Project.

Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Engineer's Administrator Jeff Camechis reported that the salt barn is approximately three-quarters full in preparation for the upcoming winter season.

Auditor Brown provided an update on the Real Estate Assessment website, which continues to receive positive feedback, and reviewed improvements made by the Auditor's Office in recent years. An online application for the Homestead Exemption will soon be available.

Deputy EMA Director Garrett Blevins reported that the dive team was assisting Perry County following significant rainfall. He also advised that additional storms were expected within the next 24 hours, primarily bringing high winds.

Utilities Director Tony Vogel stated that a resolution regarding the Greenfield lift station will be presented the following week.

Economic and Workforce Development Director Rick Szabrak reported that the Area 20 Workforce Board serves five counties and noted that Anduril, the area's largest manufacturing project, is rapidly ramping up.

IT Director Dan Neeley reported that county staff had been notified of a cyber incident involving the City of Lancaster and that his team assisted with the city's dispatching efforts.

Deputy County Administrator Jeff Porter reported that the Dog Shelter population is currently low due to recent adoptions. He also noted that HR is working through the renewal process for the county's benefits plan, including a renewal for the employee wellness clinic.

Commissioner Davis reported that discussions are ongoing with Fairfield Medical Center regarding the potential transfer of ownership to Adena Health.

Old Business

Commissioner Fix reported attending a meeting with a Millersport resident regarding the data center and having a positive discussion with Congressman Troy Balderson.

Commissioner Levacy reported meeting with Congressman Balderson and attending a meeting of the Governor's Executive Workforce Board the previous week.

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New Business

Commissioner Fix reported that he will meet with the Farm Bureau to discuss their concerns and priorities and will attend a MORPC meeting regarding public concerns about data centers.

Commissioner Levacy discussed the upcoming Athena Awards and asked Jeff Porter for an update on the public service recognition.

Deputy County Administrator Jeff Porter stated that Lieutenant Governor Jim Tressel will serve as the event's guest speaker.

Regular (Voting) Meeting

The Commissioners continued to their 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, Communications and Information Coordinator Bennett Niceswanger, Records Center Clerk Ash Sark, Auditor Carri Brown, Engineer Jeremiah Upp, Budget Director Bart Hampson, JFS Director Corey Clark, IT Director Dan Neeley, Utilities Director Tony Vogel, Engineer's Administrator Jeff Camechis, Economic and Workforce Development Director Rick Szabrak, Deputy IT Director, Joe Neibert, Recorder Lisa McKenzie, Regional Planner Josh Hillberry, MCU Commander Scott Duff, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Austin Lines, Deputy EMA Director Garrett Blevins, Assistant JFS Director Heather O'Keefe, Deputy Director Krista Humphries, Deputy Director Sarah Fortner, Operations Manager Jodi Smith, Deputy Director Patrick Welsh, and Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Josh Bruce and Kendall Wild.

Virtual Attendees: Lori Hawk, Jared Collins, Shannon Ward, Jessica Murphy, Andy Robberts, Baylie Blevins, Shelby Hunt, Tony Vogel, Brian Wofle, Vince Carpico, Tony Howard, Anthony Iachini, Jason Grubb, Stacy Hicks, Joe Ebel, Greg Forquer, Lori Lovas, Jeremy, and Ashley Arter.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Davis asked everyone to rise as able and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked for a moment of silence for the recent passing of a Lancaster police officer.

Announcements

None.

Approval of Minutes for August 4, 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, August 4, 2026, meeting.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

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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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| 2026-08.11.a | A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF A PROCLAMATION |
| 2026-08.11.b | A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE UPDATE OF THE COSHOCTON FAIRFIELD LICKING PERRY (CFLP) SOLID WASTE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT PLAN |
| 2026-08.11.c | A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A MEMO TRANSACTIONS FOR INTEREST ALLOCATION REIMBURSEMENTS FOR FAIRFIELD DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAIRFIELD COUNTY PARKS – FUND #7012, #7321, & #7308. |
| 2026-08.11.d | A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND FAIRFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGARDING THE CERTIFICATION OF UNPAID SEWER RATES |
| 2026-08.11.e | A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN ACCOUNT-TO-ACCOUNT TRANSFER INTO A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY, FUND #2067, 5000 |

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 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 the Fairfield County Emergency Management Agency:

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|--------------|---|
| 2026-08.11.f | A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR RECEIPTS FOR EMA FUND 2090/8132 SOUTH CENTRAL POWER – ROUND UP GRANT FUND (EMASC) |
| 2026-08.11.g | A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM UNAPPROPRIATED IN A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY EMA FUND 2091 LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE |

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:

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2026-08.11.h A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM UNAPPROPRIATED IN
A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY COUNTY
ENGINEER 2024-MOTOR VEHICLE FOR FUEL

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 Job & 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 & Family Services:

2026-08.11.i A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF A SERVICE
AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN FAIRFIELD COUNTY JOB &
FAMILY SERVICES, CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES DIVISION
AND CORNELL ABRAXAS GROUP, LLC.

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 Juvenile and 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 the Fairfield County Juvenile and Probate Court:

2026-08.11.j A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM UNAPPROPRIATED IN
A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY FOR JUVENILE
COURT; FUND #2036, DYS RECLAIM

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 Prosecutor

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 Prosecutor:

2026-08.11.k A RESOLUTION APPROVING A FUND-TO-FUND TRANSFER
FROM THE PROSECUTOR'S LOCAL MATCH ALLOCATION TO
FUND #2784, SUB FUND 8366, GRANT YEAR 2026/2027

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 the Fairfield County Sheriff:

2026-08.11.l A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF A SERVICE
AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN FAIRFIELD COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND THE LANCASTER BOARD OF
EDUCATION

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- 2026-08.11.m A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM UNAPPROPRIATED IN
A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY FOR SHERIFF;
2442, COMMISSARY
- 2026-08.11.n A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM UNAPPROPRIATED IN
A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY FOR SHERIFF;
2503; POLICE REVOLVING
- 2026-08.11.o A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM UNAPPROPRIATED IN
A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY FOR SHERIFF;
2593 CONCEALED HANDGUN LICENSE

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:

- 2026-08.04.t A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF INVOICES
FOR DEPARTMENTS THAT REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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 10:10 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, August 18, 2026, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, Fairfield County Administrative Courthouse, 210 E. Main St., Third Floor, Lancaster, OH.

