

**Regular Meeting 33 - 2026**  
**Fairfield County Commissioners' Office**  
**August 25, 2026**

**Review Meeting**

The Commissioners met at 10:30 a.m. at the Levacy Center, 1550 Sheridan Dr., 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, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners Rochelle Menningen, Communications and Information Coordinator Bennett Niceswanger, Auditor Dr. Carri Brown, Recorder Lisa McKenzie, Clerk of Courts Branden Meyer, Sheriff Alex Lape, Budget Director Bart Hampson, JFS Director Corey Clark, Deputy JFS Director Heather O'Keefe, IT Director Dan Neeley, EMA & Facilities Director Jon Kochis, Economic and Workforce Development Director Rick Szabrak, Deputy Director Economic Development Anthony Iachini, Utilities Director Tony Vogel, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Austin Lines, HR Deputy Director Abby Watson, Benefits Administrator Colleen Cook, Human Resources Assistant Lori Hawk, FCFC Manager Tiffany Wilson, FCFC Manager Shavonda Green, Regional Planner Joshua Hillberry, Soil & Water Urban Manager Chad Lucht, and Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Romaine. Also in attendance: Ray Stemen and Shannon Ward.

**Welcome**

Commissioner Davis opened the meeting by welcoming those in attendance and reflecting on the successful Public Service Recognition Event.

Heather O'Keefe introduced Shavonda Green as the new Fairfield County Family and Children First Council (FCFC) Manager.

Commissioner Davis expressed his disappointment with Tiffany's departure while welcoming Shavonda to the position, and Commissioners Levacy and Fix also extended their welcome.

**Update, Economic Development and Transit**

Rick Szabrak discussed the significant expansion underway at Westerman and the growth it will bring to Fairfield County. He introduced Marcus Carano with One Columbus, who worked on the project.

Marcus Carano expressed his support for Westerman and highlighted the company's workforce grant, which will support the creation of approximately 210 new jobs, more than doubling its current workforce.

Szabrak also noted plans for a welding training center at Westerman and then introduced Nolan Lamar, Multisite General Manager for Westerman.

Nolan Lamar discussed Westerman's growth and its role in supporting critical energy infrastructure. He emphasized the company's specialized engineering and welding capabilities, including its work for government and national security projects. Westerman is ISO certified and is the only fabricator in North America producing nuclear cylinders. The company has automated portions of its production line to address workforce challenges and anticipates another expansion in 2028. Lamar also highlighted Westerman's growing involvement in the data center industry, including orders for water-cooling boxes.

Commissioner Davis spoke about the significant number of jobs the Westerman expansion will create in Fairfield County.

Commissioner Fix highlighted the importance of workforce training, transportation, housing, and childcare in supporting continued economic growth.

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Commissioner Levacy discussed the ongoing need to address workforce challenges in various industries including the welding industry.

Szabrak described the Westerman expansion as the largest local manufacturing job announcement since Magna and said the County will dedicate significant time and resources to helping the company successfully grow its workforce.

Aundrea Cordle invited Westerman's to highlight its expansion and economic impact during the upcoming State of the County address on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Comment**

Ray Stemen of Lancaster spoke about welding students he taught early in his teaching career. He shared that he will be participating in the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. and then offered a prayer.

**County Administration Update**

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

*Proclamation from Senator Tim Schaffer*

The county would like to extend its sincere appreciation to Senator Schaffer and the Ohio Senate for recognizing Fairfield County with a proclamation for earning two National Association of Counties Achievement Awards for the Fairfield County Strategic Plan 2025–2028 and the Fairfield County Internal Stop Loss Pool Program. These awards reflect the dedication, innovation, and collaborative efforts of our county employees, elected officials, and community partners and we are especially grateful to Senator Schaffer for taking the time to recognize these accomplishments on the floor of the Ohio Senate and for his continued support of Fairfield County.

*Upcoming Meetings of the Board of Commissioners*

Next week the Board of Commissioners will meet at 6:00 p.m. at the Pleasantville Community Center in Pleasantville for one of their 2026 evening meetings. There will not be a meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup>, and Fairfield County Offices will be closed on September 7<sup>th</sup> in observance of Labor Day.

*House Bill 984*

House Bill 984 was introduced by Representatives Justin Pizzulli and Darnell Brewer, to address rapidly increasing child welfare placement costs by requiring the Department of Children and Youth (DCY) to establish maximum payment rates for foster homes, residential facilities, and group homes, with input from counties and providers. The bill would allow rate adjustments every two years and provide exceptions for extraordinary or specialized placements. Supporters, including Scioto County Commissioner Scottie Powell, emphasized that placement costs have risen dramatically even as the number of children in county custody has declined, creating unsustainable financial pressures that could force counties to reduce other services. HB 984 would replace the rate-card process established in the current state operating budget, which DCY expects to implement January 1, 2027. CCAO supports efforts to establish greater consistency, transparency, and predictability in child welfare costs and is reviewing HB 984 as it moves through the legislature.

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Corey Clark spoke about the need for rate caps, noting that the proposed legislation addresses this need and that the County supports the legislation.

**Highlights of Resolutions**

*Administrative Approvals*

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

*Resolution Review*

There are 21 resolutions on the agenda for the Regular voting meeting.

Resolutions of note:

- The Commissioners' Office has four resolutions on the agenda. The first two are financial resolutions, the third resolution amends the term dates for the appointment of Mr. Josh Bruce to the Area 20 Workforce Development Board, and the fourth resolution commences title action for property along Hill Road for an upcoming road project.
- The Dog Shelter has a resolution to amend Dog License and Kennel License Fees. This resolution will amend fees last set by resolution in 2017, and will establish the fees for 2027, 2028, and 2029.

Jeff Porter added that the dog shelter is funded by dog license fees and kennel fees and is working to ensure a stable budget.

- The Engineer's Office has two resolutions related to plats. The first resolution is to approve the vacation of a final plat known as Sleepy Hollow Subdivision in the Village of Baltimore. The final plat was recorded in 1977 and does not fit the current developer's configuration of roads, lots, and easements. The next resolution approves a final plat for Liberty Ridge Section 1 that is being developed in the Village of Baltimore.
- The Health Department has a resolution on the agenda to approve the submission of the 2027 Litter Law Enforcement and Solid Waste Enforcement Grants to CFLP. These grant applications are submitted yearly by both the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office and the Department of Health.
- Human Resources has a resolution to approve updates to the 2026 Fairfield County Personnel Policy Manual. These updates were provided by Jeff Porter in the HR Update during the August 18<sup>th</sup> Commissioners' Meeting. The updates include proper use of AI, Workplace Safety, Travel Reimbursement, Remote Work, Tobacco-Free Work Environment, Animals in the Workplace, Court Leave, Service Time Calculations, Workers Comp, and Compensation Plan Policies.

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- Regional Planning has two resolutions, the first to approve the final plat for American Barbell and the second to approve a change order for the CDBG Village of Bremen WTP Softener Improvement Project.
- And, the Sheriff's Office has three resolutions related to service agreements with Bloom Carroll Schools, Canal Winchester Schools, and Fairfield Union Schools, to provide personnel and equipment for policing services.

**Budget Review**

Bart Hampson stated that level 3 budget entry will close on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Calendar Review/Invitations Received**

*Informational Items and Invitations Received*

- Bremen Chamber of Commerce Luncheon, August 27, 2026, 12:00 p.m., American Legion Post 20, 201 N. Broad St., Bremen
- ADAMH, 2026 Overdose Awareness Event, August 27, 2026, 6:30 p.m., Lancaster Downtown Gazebo, 104 N. High St., Lancaster
- Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District's 83rd Annual Meeting, September 10, 2026, 5:30 p.m., Bremen Area Historical Society, 161 Carter St., Bremen
- Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency Annual Luncheon, September 17, 2026, 12:00 p.m., The Levacy Center, 1550 Sheridan Dr., Lancaster
- United Way of Fairfield County, The Missing Middle: Hidden in Plain Sight Conference, October 23, 2026, 9:00 a.m., The Levacy Center, 1550 Sheridan Dr., Lancaster

**Correspondence**

- Proclamation from State Senator Tim Schaffer, August 12, 2026, Regarding Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties
- Fairfield County Municipal Court, Criminal/Traffic Division Fees Collected Report, July 2026

**Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads**

Recorder Lisa McKenzie thanked everyone for the Public Service Recognition Event, noting that it was a wonderful way of recognizing public service.

Treasurer James Bahnsen reported that his office is working on an in-house project.

Branden Meyer thanked everyone for the Public Service Recognition Event efforts, noting that the standard of excellence continues to rise.

Auditor Dr. Carri Brown thanked everyone and described the event as very positive. She reported that one of the County's strategic goals was to electronically submit data to the state, which has been accomplished. She also discussed a new Budget Commission fact sheet designed to help the public better understand new levies, property tax rates, and the roles and responsibilities of the Budget Commission. She provided an update on HB 335 and noted that she is meeting with school

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district treasurers to help them understand the process. She also announced that the "Making Numbers Count" seminar will be held on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

Sheriff Alex Lape spoke about recent water rescue efforts and assisting neighboring counties. He also reported that his office is preparing for the Millersport Sweet Corn Festival and the Luke Bryan concert in September.

Austin Lines stated that the Public Service Recognition Event was fantastic.

Toney Vogel provided an update on the implementation of new utility software and noted that Jennifer Dickerson's assistance with an ongoing issue has been invaluable.

Corey Clark thanked the Clerk of Courts and his team for their assistance with a drop box in the northwest portion of the county, noting that Fairfield County benefits from strong partnerships among departments and agencies.

Jon Kochis reported that the water rescue team responded to calls for more than 30 hours over the past week, including several incidents within Fairfield County. He stated that several homes were affected by significant damage, all in the Buckeye Lake area, and encouraged residents to submit information regarding storm damage.

Commissioner Davis asked about the percentage of homes on the North Bank that are located in Fairfield County.

Kochis stated that approximately half of North Bank is in Fairfield County.

Josh Hillberry reported that staff are wrapping up the 2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects.

Rick Szabrak stated that the recent rain has presented challenges and reported that Transit buses have been prepared and available.

Kochis emphasized the crucial role that all County departments play in emergency response efforts.

Aundrea Cordle noted that Fairfield County Transit is offering shuttle services for the Millersport Sweet Corn Festival.

Bayley Fields reported that the phlebotomy program at the Workforce Center filled its available spots quickly.

Chad Lucht spoke about the upcoming Soil & Water Conservation District's annual banquet scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business**

Commissioner Fix spoke about legislation being reviewed and monitored by the CCAO. He also noted that he will attend the Bremen Chamber meeting on Thursday and has an upcoming CORPO meeting with MORPC.

Commissioner Levacy stated that he will be visiting the Anduril plant during the Governor and Lt. Governor's Heart of Opportunity Tour.

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**Old Business**

Commissioner Levacy reported on a recent Ohio Attorney General's Elder Abuse Commission meeting and discussed HB 648 and HB 560. He also spoke about concerns involving banking and fraud, including the use of cryptocurrency kiosks. He noted that approximately 400 homes are in the North Bank and West Bank area of Buckeye Lake, with about 300 in Fairfield County. He also reported that the State Park Manager indicated the area received approximately 18 inches of rain over a nine-day period.

Commissioner Fix reported that he continues to work with the Central Ohio Housing Coalition. He also attended a meeting with Senator Moreno, where the Senator answered questions for more than an hour. Commissioner Fix reported that MORPC continues to move public policy initiatives forward.

**Regular (Voting) Meeting**

The Commissioners continued to their Voting portion of the meeting and the following Commissioners remained 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, Communications and Information Coordinator Bennett Niceswanger, Auditor Dr. Carri Brown, Recorder Lisa McKenzie, Clerk of Courts Branden Meyer, Sheriff Alex Lape, Budget Director Bart Hampson, JFS Director Corey Clark, Deputy JFS Director Heather O'Keefe, IT Director Dan Neeley, EMA & Facilities Director Jon Kochis, Economic and Workforce Development Director Rick Szabrak, Deputy Director Economic Development Anthony Iachini, Utilities Director Tony Vogel, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Austin Lines, HR Deputy Director Abby Watson, Benefits Administrator Colleen Cook, Human Resources Assistant Lori Hawk, FCFC Manager Tiffany Wilson, FCFC Manager Shavonda Green, Regional Planner Joshua Hillberry, Soil & Water Urban Manager Chad Lucht, and Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Romaine. Also in attendance: Ray Stemen and Shannon Ward.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Announcements**

None.

**Approval of Minutes for August 18, 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 18, 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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|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2026-08.25.a | A RESOLUTION APPROVING ACCOUNT-TO-ACCOUNT TRANSFERS IN MAJOR OBJECT CATEGORIES FOR HUMAN RESOURCES, GENERAL FUND #1001 |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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- 2026-08.25.b      A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A MEMO TRANSACTION FOR INTEREST ALLOCATION REIMBURSEMENTS FOR THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAIRFIELD COUNTY PARKS, FUNDS #7012, #7321, & #7308
- 2026-08.25.c      A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE AREA 20 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (WDB) TERM DATES FOR MR. JOSH BRUCE
- 2026-08.25.d      A RESOLUTION TO COMMENCE A QUIET TITLE ACTION FOR HIGHWAY PURPOSES REGARDING A 0.664+ ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED ALONG FAIRFIELD COUNTY HILL ROAD

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 Court of Common Pleas**

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 Court of Common Pleas:

- 2026-08.25.e      A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN ACCOUNT-TO-ACCOUNT TRANSFER INTO A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY – FUND #2689, FY25 ADULT BASED CORRECTIONS

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 Dog Shelter**

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 Dog Shelter:

- 2026-08.25.f      A RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION 2017-07.25.o AND DECLARE 2027, 2028, and 2029 DOG LICENSE FEES FOR ONE YEAR, THREE YEARS AND PERMANENT LICENSES, AND KENNEL LICENSES

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:

- 2026-08.25.g      A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VACATION OF A FINAL PLAT KNOWN AS SLEEPY HOLLOW SUBDIVISION LOCATED IN THE VILLAGE OF BALTIMORE

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- 2026-08.25.h      A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A FINAL PLAT FOR LIBERTY RIDGE SECTION 1 THAT IS BEING DEVELOPED IN THE VILLAGE OF BALTIMORE WHERE THE COUNTY ROAD IS BEING DEDICATED TO THE COUNTY DUE TO THE CORPORATION LIMITS
- 2026-08.25.i      A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST APPROPRIATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL UNANTICIPATED RECEIPTS OF MEMO RECEIPTS AND MEMO EXPENSES, FUND #2050, ANNUAL INSPECTIONS, REPAIRS, AND MAINTENANCE IN VARIOUS SUBDIVISIONS AS OF 08/19/2026

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

**Approval of a Resolution from the Fairfield County Health Department**

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 Health Department:

- 2026-08.25.j      A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE SUBMISSION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 CFLP LITTER LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SOLID WASTE ENFORCEMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS TO CFLP

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 Human Resources**

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 Human Resources:

- 2026-08.25.k      A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND UPDATES TO THE 2026 PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL FOR FAIRFIELD COUNTY, OH, EMPLOYEES

Commissioner Fix thanked Jeff Porter and the HR team for their work on the Personnel Policy Manual updates.

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:

- 2026-08.25.l      A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A MEMO EXPENSE/MEMO RECEIPT FOR THE COST OF TRANSPORTAION PAID TO FAIRFIELD COUNTY TRANSIT AS A MEMO EXPENDITURE FOR FUND #2018, PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

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 Regional Planning Commission**

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 Regional Planning Commission:

- |              |                                                                                                                  |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2026-08.25.m | A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE FINAL PLAT FOR THE AMERICAN BARBELL SUBDIVISION                                      |
| 2026-08.25.n | A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CHANGE ORDER #2 FOR THE CDBG PY2024, VILLAGE OF BREMEN, WTP SOFTENER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT |

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:

- |              |                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2026-08.25.o | A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM UNAPPROPRIATED IN A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY, FUND #2442, COMMISSARY                            |
| 2026-08.25.p | A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SERVICE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND BLOOM CARROLL SCHOOLS               |
| 2026-08.25.q | A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SERVICE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND CANAL WINCHESTER SCHOOLS            |
| 2026-08.25.r | A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SERVICE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND THE FAIRFIELD UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT |

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:

- |              |                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2026-08.25.s | A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN ACCOUNT-TO-ACCOUNT TRANSFER FOR MAJOR CRIMES UNIT, FUND #7864, SUB FUND #8359, RECOVERY OHIO 2024 GRANT                    |
| 2026-08.25.t | A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A FUND-TO-FUND TRANSFER FOR MAJOR CRIMES UNIT FUND #7829, SUB FUND #8362, JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT, JAG 2024, FROM FUND #7594 |

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

