

Regular Meeting 35 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
September 15, 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 Commissioners David Levacy and Jeff Fix were also in attendance. Also present: Deputy County Administrator Jeff Porter, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners Rochelle Menningen, Communications and Information Coordinator Bennett Niceswanger, Budget Director Bart Hampson, Utilities Director Tony Vogel, IT Director Dan Neeley, EMA and Facilities Director Jon Kochis, Economic and Workforce Development Director Rick Szabrak, JFS Director Corey Clark, FCFC Managers Shavonda Greene and Tiffany Wilson, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Steven Darnell, Recorder Lisa McKenzie, Auditor Dr. Carri Brown, JFS Deputy Director Heather O'Keefe, HR Specialist Ashley Fahner, Treasurer Jim Bahnsen, Engineer Jeremiah Upp, and Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Ray Stemen and Troyla Berry.

Virtual attendees: Jared Collins, Andy Robberts, Lori Hawk, Nikki Drake, Shannon Ward, Jessica Murphy, Shelby Hunt, Jennifer Effinger, Eric McCrady, Jeff Barron, Britney Lee, Bayley Fields, Leighann Adams, Tim, Jason Grubb, Joe Ebel, Alex Lape, and Andy Boystel.

Welcome

Commissioner Davis welcomed everyone in attendance.

Public Comment

Troyla Berry shared her family's history in Fairfield County. She noted that her grandfather served as both mayor and sheriff for 12 years each. Her father owned a sporting goods store, and Troyla operated a title company for 35 years. Ms. Berry also highlighted the work of Ed Kitchen, a local Fairfield County artist. She presented one of Kitchen's pieces to the Board of Commissioners and expressed her belief that his artwork would be well suited for display in the Recorder's Office.

Ray Stemen of Lancaster spoke about his recent Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. He encouraged other veterans to consider taking an Honor Flight. Stemen concluded his remarks with a prayer.

Heather O'Keefe introduced Macey Clark, the new JFS payroll specialist.

County Administration Update

- *The County Administration Update was provided by Deputy County Administrator Jeff Porter, unless otherwise indicated.*

The 2026 State of the County Address

The 2026 State of the County Event will be September 29th at the Levacy Center. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:00 a.m. As of September 21st, the event had less than 5 available seats.

Graduate Fellow from Noble Reach

Zykia McDaniel, a scholar in the Noble Reach program, will be working on an AI pilot program for the county. Daniel Neeley will be introducing Zykia at an upcoming meeting.

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Human Resources

Human Resources is hosting a training tomorrow, September 16th at 1:30 pm at the Levacy Center. The training will focus on the 2026 employee performance assessments.

Highlights of Resolutions

Administrative Approvals

The review packet contains a list of administrative approvals.

Resolution Review

There are 19 resolutions on the agenda for the Regular voting meeting.

Resolutions of note:

- Economic and Workforce Development has a resolution to approve the application to the State of Ohio for the merger of the South Central Ohio Workforce Partnership (Area 20 Workforce Development Board) and the Area 14 Workforce Development Area. The application will approve a transition to a full merger effective July 1, 2027. Fairfield County will serve as the administrative agent for both workforce areas until the full merger in 2027, while Fairfield and Perry counties will continue handling finances for their respective boards. The current Area 14 director will remain an Athens County employee and continue serving through 2027 under Fairfield County's oversight, with the counties agreeing that the newly merged workforce board will create a substantially similar staff position for the director after the merger, subject to Athens County continuing to provide the director's services.

Rick Szabrak reminded the Commission that a presentation on the matter was given at an earlier Commission meeting. He explained that Perry, Meigs, and Athens counties are joining the local Area 20 Workforce Development Board (WFB). Eight similar workforce board mergers are being approved across the state this month. Szabrak noted that this is the first time in more than ten years that the state has designated a merger involving an Area Workforce Board.

Commissioner Levacy spoke about the work involved in the merger and thanked Rick Szabrak and his team.

- Family and Children First Council has a resolution to authorize the repayment of an advance for an Early Intervention Grant.
- The Sheriff's Office has a resolution to approval a service agreement with Pickerington Local Schools for personnel and equipment to perform policing services.
- And Utilities has a resolution to assess 2026 water and sewer delinquencies and submit them to the County Auditor for the property tax duplicate.

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Budget Review

Bart Hampson stated his team will continue to prepare for the budget hearings in October with county agencies and departments.

Calendar Review/Invitations Received

- *The Review of the Calendar and of Invitations and Correspondence received was provided by the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, Rochelle Menningen, unless otherwise indicated.*

Informational Items and Invitations Received

- Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency Annual Luncheon, September 17, 2026, 12:00 p.m., The Levacy Center, 1550 Sheridan Dr., Lancaster
- FCFC Full Council Meeting, September 18, 2026, 8:30 a.m., Fairfield County Agricultural Center, 831 College Ave., Lancaster
- Decorative Arts Center of Ohio Members' Reception, Contemporary Quilts of Extraordinary Innovation and Excellence, October 2, 2026, 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., DACO, 145 E. Main St., Lancaster

Corey Clark stated that the staff at Lorain County have been on strike for several months and the Fairfield County JFS team has been helping with their case load.

Correspondence

- Thank You, Letter from Lorain County for Support of their Job and Family Services Agency
- Fairfield County Municipal Court, Criminal/Traffic Division Fee Report, August 2026
- Correspondence Regarding 765 kV Transmission Lines
- USDA Rural Development Summary of Programs
- Ohio Ag-Venture Guide, Presented by Nationwide

Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Recorder Lisa McKenzie reported that her office is working to hire a new staff member following the transfer of an employee to the Clerk of Courts Office. McKenzie also referenced a recent conversation with Troyla Berry and noted that Berry had stopped by her office that morning. McKenzie expressed extreme interest in accepting the artwork Berry presented for display in the Recorder's Office.

Commissioner Davis commented that the piece was beautiful, and McKenzie agreed, noting that it represents Fairfield County well.

Treasurer Bahnsen introduced Erin Jones as the new Treasurer's Legal Secretary. Bahnsen also stated that the final distribution of settlements will be sent this week.

Engineer Upp reported that his office has been working to clean ditches and clear culverts that were damaged or washed out during recent storms. He noted that the county has faced significant challenges due to the amount of rain over the past several years. Crews are also working on bridge

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decks and roads. Upp also reported that construction of the brine station is nearly complete and stated that the facility will make a significant difference for the county.

Commissioner Davis asked about the designation of individuals to conduct the viewings scheduled for that afternoon.

Engineer Upp stated that he would conduct the viewings of culverts and other proposed areas with another employee from his office. He noted that some counties are now using drones for this purpose.

Commissioner Davis discussed the benefits of the Board interacting with residents in areas of viewings where there may be concerns or questions.

Auditor Brown acknowledged the positive working relationship with the Hunters Run Conservancy District and stated that the Auditor's Office will also hold the annual Making Numbers County Seminar this week. Auditor Brown reported that the office completed a mid-year review of the lodging tax. The office also reached a significant milestone in the Board of Revision process, completing all formal hearings and submitting the final abstract to the state approximately three months ahead of the deadline. The Auditor's Office also recently held a strategic planning retreat and is beginning preparations for its 2027–2032 strategic plan.

Rick Szabrak reported that the Workforce Center has begun Discovery Days for high school seniors. The program allows students to visit the center and learn about available programs and opportunities that may be of interest to them.

Jon Kochis reported that his office will meet with FEMA this week regarding the most recent weather event. He also announced that the airport was awarded a \$400,000 grant.

Commissioner Levacy asked about conditions at the site of the upcoming Luke Bryan concert and whether recent rainfall had overly saturated the ground.

Kochis stated that the field is currently in good condition and that, if there is no additional rain, the event is expected to proceed as planned.

Dan Neeley reported that the annual cybersecurity training has begun. Nearly 50% of employees have completed the training, with a deadline of the end of October.

Corey Clark encouraged residents to participate in the annual Blue Ribbon Run in Pickerington for the Protective Services division.

Old Business

Commissioner Fix reported that he attended a joint hearing with Greenfield Township and the City of Lancaster regarding a proposed Community Economic Development Agreement (CEDA). The City of Lancaster approved the agreement by an 8-0 vote, and Greenfield Township is scheduled to vote on the agreement. The Commissioner noted that cities and townships have historically experienced disagreements over land use and development. He stated that the CEDA provides an example of how jurisdictions can work together to share revenue and encourage development. He thanked his fellow Commissioners, and everyone involved in the development of the agreement, which has been in progress for approximately two years. Commissioner Fix also reported attending a Millersport Village Council meeting regarding a housing initiative that has received significant public opposition. He stated that the meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the importance of the initiative to the Village of Millersport. He noted that approximately 93 new homes have been proposed, which could bring additional students to the school district. Fix expressed confidence

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that the proposed annexation will move forward in the coming weeks. Fix also provided an update on the county's Tax Increment District (TID) activities and noted that there are several ongoing development initiatives.

Commissioner Levacy reported attending a meeting with Fairfield Medical Center and Adena Health regarding the merger. Levacy also discussed the organization's CEO and expressed appreciation for the work of Jack Janoso.

Commissioner Davis thanked Commissioner Fix for his leadership in advancing the CEDA agreement between the City of Lancaster and Greenfield Township. Davis recognized Fix's efforts and the work of those involved in developing the agreement.

New Business

Commissioner Fix reported that he will be unable to attend the afternoon viewings for the Engineer's Office due to a scheduled MORPC meeting. He stated that he is looking forward to beginning another round of visits to the county's townships and villages to discuss their land-use plans and noted that meetings with Walnut Township and Pleasant Township are scheduled for this week.

Commissioner Levacy stated that he looks forward to participating in the upcoming viewings.

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: Deputy County Administrator Jeff Porter, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners Rochelle Menningen, Communications and Information Coordinator Bennett Niceswanger, Budget Director Bart Hampson, Utilities Director Tony Vogel, IT Director Dan Neeley, EMA and Facilities Director Jon Kochis, Economic and Workforce Development Director Rick Szabrak, JFS Director Corey Clark, FCFC Managers Shavonda Greene and Tiffany Wilson, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Steven Darnell, Recorder Lisa McKenzie, Auditor Dr. Carri Brown, JFS Deputy Director Heather O'Keefe, HR Specialist Ashley Fahner, Treasurer Jim Bahnsen, Engineer Jeremiah Upp, and Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Ray Stemen and Troyla Berry.

Virtual attendees: Jared Collins, Andy Robberts, Lori Hawk, Nikki Drake, Shannon Ward, Jessica Murphy, Shelby Hunt, Jennifer Effinger, Eric McCrady, Jeff Barron, Britney Lee, Bayley Fields, Leighann Adams, Tim, Jason Grubb, Joe Ebel, Alex Lape, and Andy Boystel.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

None.

Approval of Minutes for September 1, 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, September 1, 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 a Resolution from the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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 Board of Developmental Disabilities:

2026-09.15.a A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A MEMO EXP./ MEMO RECEIPT FOR THE COST OF TRANSPORTATION FOR INDIVIDUALS PAID TO FAIRFIELD COUNTY TRANSIT AS A MEMO EXPENDITURE FOR FUND# 2060 - FAIRFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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:

2026-09.15.b A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF OHIO FOR THE MERGER OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL OHIO WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP (AREA 20 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA) AND THE AREA 14 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA AND TO APPROVE A TRANSITION STRUCTURE LEADING TO FULL MERGER EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 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 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:

2026-09.15.c A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL UNANTICIPATED RECEIPTS OF MEMO RECEIPTS AND MEMO EXPENSES FOR FUND 3434 PLE-32/PLE-33 BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS PROJECT

2026-09.15.d A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM UNAPPROPRIATED IN A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY COUNTY ENGINEER 2024-MOTOR VEHICLE FOR CONTRACTUAL 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 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 Family and Children First Council:

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2026-09.15.e A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF REPAYMENT
OF AN ADVANCE TO THE GENERAL FUND FROM FUND# 7521
FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

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

2026-09.15.f A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF A SERVICE
AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN FAIRFIELD COUNTY JOB &
FAMILY SERVICES, CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES DIVISION
AND TRUSTED TO CARE GROUP HOME LLC.

2026-09.15.g A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF A SERVICE
AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN FAIRFIELD COUNTY JOB &
FAMILY SERVICES, CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES DIVISION
AND ADRIEL SCHOOL, INC.

2026-09.01.h A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF A SERVICE
AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN FAIRFIELD COUNTY JOB &
FAMILY SERVICES, CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES DIVISION
AND LEGACY RESIDENTIAL HOMES INC.

2026-09.15.i A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF A SERVICE
AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN FAIRFIELD COUNTY JOB &
FAMILY SERVICES, CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES DIVISION
AND GENESIS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

2026-09.15.j A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF A SERVICE
AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN FAIRFIELD COUNTY JOB &
FAMILY SERVICES, CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES DIVISION
AND CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME OF OHIO.

2026-09.15.k A RESOLUTION REGARDING AN ADDENDUM TO A
PREVIOUSLY APPROVED NETWORK PLACEMENT AND
RELATED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN ADVANTAGE
FAMILY OUTREACH AND FOSTER CARE AND CHILD
PROTECTIVE SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

2026-09.15.l A RESOLUTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF A COOPERATIVE
AGREEMENT FOR TREATMENT HOME FOSTER CARE BETWEEN
FAIRFIELD COUNTY JOB & FAMILY SERVICES, PROTECTIVE
SERVICES DIVISION AND SOUTH CENTRAL OHIO JOB &
FAMILY SERVICES.

2026-09.15.m A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A MEMO RECEIPT AND
EXPENDITURE FOR FAIRFIELD COUNTY JOB & FAMILY
SERVICES, FUND 2072 REIMBURSING FUND

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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 Meals on Wheels/Senior Hub

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 Meals on Wheels/Senior Hub:

2026-09.15.n A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM UNAPPROPRIATED FUNDS IN A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORIES FOR MEALS ON WHEELS-OAAFC, INC. FUND# 2617

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 Sheriff

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 Sheriff:

2026-09.15.o A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF A SERVICE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN FAIRFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND THE PICKERINGTON LOCAL SCHOOLS

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:

2026-09.15.p A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN ACCOUNT TO ACCOUNT TRANSFER FOR MAJOR CRIMES UNIT FUND 7892 ARPA 2024 GRANT.

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 the Fairfield County Transit:

2026-09.15.q A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF A SERVICE AGREEMENT BY/BETWEEN FAIRFIELD COUNTY TRANSIT AND FAIRFIELD COUNTY FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL

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 a Resolution 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 resolution from the Fairfield County Utilities:

2026-09.15.r A RESOLUTION TO ASSESS 2026 WATER AND SEWER
DELINQUENCIES.

Commissioner Fix asked if the number of delinquencies had changed.

Tony Vogel confirmed that the number of delinquencies has remained constant.

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:

2026-09.15.s A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF PAYMENT
OF INVOICES FOR DEPARTMENTS THAT NEED BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Executive Session

On the motion of Steve Davis and the second of David Levacy the Board of Commissioners voted to enter executive session to discuss the sale or acquisition of property at 9:46 a.m. Commissioner Davis asked the Commissioners, the County Administrators, the Commissioners' Clerks, a representative from the Prosecutor's Office, and a representative from the Utilities Office to attend the Executive Session.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

On the motion of Jeff Fix and the second of David Levacy the Board of Commissioners voted to exit the Executive Session at 10:07 a.m.

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 10:07 a.m.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

The next Review and Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for September 22, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

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