

**Regular Meeting 36 - 2026
Fairfield County Commissioners' Office
September 22, 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 Manager Shavonda Greene, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Steven Darnell, Recorder Lisa McKenzie, Auditor Carri Brown, Assistant JFS Director Heather O'Keefe, Nobel Reach Fellow Zykia McDaniel, Regional Planner Nicholas Eastham, Urban Technician Chad Lucht, Soil and Water Manager Nikki Drake, DD Superintendent David Uhl, and Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Chris Snider, Ray Stemen, Eileen Leuby, William Murdock, Joseph Garrity and Scott Barr.

Virtual attendees: Andy Robberts, Lori Hawk, Shannon Ward, Shelby Hunt, Jeff, Eryn Jones, Jeff Barron, Abby King, Marcy Fields, Ashley Arter, Jennifer Effinger, Eric McCrady, Britney Lee, Stacy Hicks, and Leighann Adams.

Welcome

Commissioner Davis welcomed everyone in attendance.

Public Comment

Ray Stemen of Lancaster expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to attend the Commissioners' meeting and concluded with a prayer.

Scott Barr of Amanda Township offered his concerns for the Grid Growth transmission lines that are proposed in Fairfield County, citing the proximity to his property. He urged the Commissioners to pass a resolution opposing the project.

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

William Murdock, Executive Director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), provided an overview of MORPC's work and its partnership with Fairfield County.

Murdock noted that Fairfield County is highly engaged with MORPC and highlighted the continued growth throughout Central Ohio. In 2025, approximately 15,000 people moved into Central Ohio, with Fairfield County experiencing growth of approximately 2,000 residents.

Murdock discussed MORPC's transportation planning efforts across both rural and urban areas, including the GOOhio Commute program. He identified U.S. Route 33 as a priority and discussed the significant potential of the Rickenbacker area. MORPC examines regional commuting patterns transportation needs, and staffing needs associated with Anduril and other companies in the area. Murdock noted that MORPC is exploring opportunities for passenger rail, including potential federal and private investment. He also highlighted several competitive advantage projects located in Fairfield County. Murdock reported that MORPC produced a 15-county regional trail guide in August and continues to provide community-based planning assistance. He also highlighted MORPC's educational partnerships and commitment to public service. Murdock expressed pride in MORPC's internship program, noting that 42 interns were placed throughout the region last summer.

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During the discussion, Commissioner Fix asked about data centers and the amount of electricity they require, including whether MORPC is seeing similar trends statewide.

Murdock thanked Commissioner Fix for the question and said MORPC wants communities to be prepared to make informed decisions regarding data center development and its potential impacts.

Rick Szabrak expressed appreciation for MORPC and its partnership with the county through One Columbus. He also noted that a scholarship was provided through MORPC to help support the cost of interns.

County Administration Update

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

Week in Review

The 2026 State of the County Address

The 2026 State of the County Event will be September 29th at the Levacy Center. The event has sold out, and a wait list has been started by the Chamber of Commerce.

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:

- ORC 5705.34 requires the Board of Commissioners to pass a resolution accepting the amounts and rates set by the Budget Commission and County Auditor by the first day of October each year. The first resolution does this and authorizes the necessary tax levies and certifies them to the County Auditor. This is for Tax year 2026, collection year 2027.
- ORC 5543.06 also requires the County Engineer to hold a meeting for township and county authorities regarding the construction and repair of roads. The Engineer's Office has a resolution to establish that meeting on October 23rd at 9:00 a.m. at the Engineer's Office, 3026 W. Fair Ave.
- IT has a resolution to approve the renewal of a Microsoft Enterprise Enrollment agreement between the Commissioners and the Microsoft Corporation.

Budget Review

None.

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Calendar Review/Invitations Received

Informational Items and Invitations Received

- 911 Program Review Committee 2027 Budget Proposal Meeting, September 24, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Fairfield County Sheriff's Office, 345 Lancaster Ave., Lancaster
- Ohio University-Lancaster 70th Anniversary Event, September 26, 2026, 11:00 a.m. OU-L, 1570 Granville Pk., Lancaster

Correspondence

- Resolution 19-2026 from the Liberty Township Board of Trustees
- Berne Township Board of Zoning Appeals, Public Notice, Case #11BZA26, Variance Request by Dean and Cathie DeRolph due to Lack of Frontage, Old Logan Rd.
- Correspondence Regarding 765 kV Transmission Lines
- Letter from Property Owner Regarding Leonard Rd Safety Concerns

Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Recorder Lisa McKenzie stated that her office will be working to have data tested.

Auditor Carri Brown discussed HB 186 and an identified issue regarding school district reimbursements. She also reported positive feedback from the Making Numbers Count seminar and provided an update regarding the new protocol for Buckeye Lake special assessments. She noted that her office completed its strategic update.

Tony Vogel reported that his office is planning a utility rate holiday for customers.

Rick Szabrak reported his participation in an annual workforce conference.

Dan Neeley reported that more than 50% of County users have completed the annual cybersecurity training. He also introduced Zikia McDaniel of Noble Reach, who is working with the IT Department on an artificial intelligence pilot program for the County.

Corey Clark reported that the Blue Ribbon Run was successfully held over the weekend.

Deputy County Administrator Jeff Porter reported that the County's employee benefits and contract renewals are under review.

David Uhl reported that Forest Rose School is undergoing capital improvements and that the school year is off to a positive start. He also noted an upcoming all-staff meeting and a partnership with the Fairfield County Fair to improve accessibility for attendees.

Nikki Drake reported an increase in drainage complaints following recent heavy rainfall. She noted that Ohio drainage laws limit governmental involvement in private drainage matters.

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Old Business

Commissioner Fix reported his continued work with the MORPC Public Policy Committee and the resumption of his county tour. He expressed appreciation to those participating and providing updates and noted that data centers remain a significant concern among residents.

Commissioner Levacy reported that the Luke Bryan concert was successful and that he attended a meeting with representatives from the City of Lancaster and Greenfield Township.

New Business

Commissioner Levacy expressed his anticipation of the Engineer's improvement viewings scheduled later in the day.

Commissioner Fix reported that he will be meeting with several townships and villages throughout the week.

Commissioner Davis expressed his anticipation of the upcoming State of the County address.

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 Manager Shavonda Greene, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Steven Darnell, Recorder Lisa McKenzie, Auditor Carri Brown, Assistant JFS Director Heather O'Keefe, Nobel Reach Fellow Zykia McDaniel, Regional Planner Nicholas Eastham, Urban Technician Chad Lucht, Soil and Water Manager Nikki Drake, DD Superintendent David Uhl, and Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Romine. Also in attendance: Chris Snider, Ray Stemen, Eileen Leuby, William Murdock, Joseph Garrity and Scott Barr.

Virtual attendees: Andy Robberts, Lori Hawk, Shannon Ward, Shelby Hunt, Jeff, Eryn Jones, Jeff Barron, Abby King, Marcy Fields, Ashley Arter, Jennifer Effinger, Eric McCrady, Britney Lee, Stacy Hicks, and Leighann Adams.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

None.

Approval of Minutes for September 15, 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 15, 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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| 2026-09.22.a | A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR |
| 2026-09.22.b | A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SPECIAL REVENUE FUND FOR THE SHINE A LIGHT PROJECT, APPROPRIATE FROM UNAPPROPRIATED IN MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORIES. |
| 2026-09.22.c | A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM UNAPPROPRIATED FUNDS IN A MAJOR EXPENSE OBJECT CATEGORY FOR THE SELF-FUNDED INSURANCE FUND# 5376. |
| 2026-09.22.d | A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM UNAPPROPRIATED INTO A MAJOR EXPENSE CATEGORY, FUND TO FUND TRANSFER FOR THE MATCH, AND CASH ADVANCE FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR FUND #3011, SUBFUND#8398 FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) GRANT FY2026 – FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS |

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 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:

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| 2026-09.22.e | A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN ACCOUNT TO ACCOUNT TRANSFER FOR EMA FUNDS 2890 (SUBFUND 8368) HMEP GRANT 2025 YEAR 1 |
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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 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:

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|--------------|--|
| 2026-09.22.f | A RESOLUTION TO SCHEDULE AN ANNUAL TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE MEETING |
| 2026-09.22.g | A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM UNAPPROPRIATED IN A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY COUNTY ENGINEER 2024-MOTOR VEHICLE FOR REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE. |

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- 2026-09.22.h A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FROM UNAPPROPRIATED IN A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY COUNTY ENGINEER 2024-MOTOR VEHICLE FOR CONTRACTUAL SERVICES
- 2026-09.22.i A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL UNANTICIPATED RECEIPTS OF MEMO RECEIPTS AND MEMO EXPENSES FOR FUND 3445 COONPATH ELECTION HOUSE INTERSECTION SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

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:

- 2026-09.22.j A RESOLUTION TO REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR FUND #7521 FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL (FCFC)

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 Information Technology

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 Information Technology:

- 2026-09.22.k A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF A MICROSOFT ENTERPRISE ENROLLMENT UNDER OHIO CONTRACT MCSA0092 BETWEEN THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND MICROSOFT CORPORATION

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:

- 2026-09.22.l A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A MEMO RECEIPT AND EXPENDITURE FOR FAIRFIELD COUNTY JOB & FAMILY SERVICES, FUND 2015 REIMBURSING FUND 2018
- 2026-09.22.m A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A MEMO RECEIPT AND EXPENDITURE FOR FAIRFIELD COUNTY JOB & FAMILY SERVICES, FUND 2599 REIMBURSING FUND 2018
- 2026-09.22.n A RESOLUTION APPROVING FAIRFIELD COUNTY PLAN FOR INCOME MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURES JOB & FAMILY SERVICES

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2026-09.22.o A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A MEMO EXP./ MEMO RECEIPT FOR THE COSTS OF TRANSPORTATION PAID TO FAIRFIELD COUNTY TRANSIT AS A MEMO EXPENDITURE FOR FUND# 2018 PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FUND [JFS]

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:

2026-09.22.p A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN ACCOUNT-TO-ACCOUNT TRANSFER INTO A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY – 20100100, PROBATE GENERAL FUND

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:

2026-09.22.q A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN ACCOUNT-TO-ACCOUNT TRANSFER INTO A MAJOR EXPENDITURE OBJECT CATEGORY – SHERIFF 1001, GENERAL FUND

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:

2026-09.22.r 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 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:

2026-09.22.s A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF INVOICES FOR DEPARTMENTS THAT NEED BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL.

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Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Recess

Commissioner Davis made a motion to recess the meeting at 9:51 a.m. and stated the Board of Commissioners would reconvene at 2:15 p.m. for the Hearing of Engineer's 2026 Viewings of Public Roads, Bridges, and Culverts to Determine a Necessity to Establish, Alter or Widen. Commissioner Fix seconded the motion.

Roll call vote of the motion resulted as follows:

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

Hearing

Commissioner Davis reconvened the meeting and opened the hearing at 2:15 p.m. with the following Commissioners 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, Deputy Engineer Bill Maravy, Operations Administrator Jeff Camechis, and Engineer Tech II Alex Alonzo. Also in attendance: Joe Alvis (1285 Quarry Ct.), Sandra Alvis (1285 Quarry Ct.), Darrin Campbell (1210 Quarry Ct.), Jennifer Cambell (1210 Quarry Ct.), Adrew Goldhardt (4600 Sitterly Rd.), and Valerie Goldhardt (4600 Sitterly Rd.).

Commissioner Davis summarized the purpose of the viewings and hearing regarding the Engineer's proposed improvements and requested an overview of the projects.

Deputy Engineer Bill Maravy provided a summary of the proposed culvert, bridge, and road projects.

Krista Fox of Sitterly Road expressed opposition to the proposed Sitterly Road culvert replacement project and raised concerns regarding the information provided by the Engineer's Office and notice of the hearing. She requested that the hearing be continued until a final report is available for affected property owners.

Mr. Maravy stated that the project remains in the design process and that specific construction details have not yet been determined.

Joseph Alvis of Quarry Road inquired about potential wall construction and tree removal associated with the proposed improvements.

Mr. Maravy stated that the project remains under review and includes proposed road widening. He noted that any necessary right-of-way acquisitions would be discussed with affected property owners and that a wall would not be feasible due to the presence of sandstone.

Mr. Maravy further stated that the Sitterly Road project remains in the design process and that construction details have not yet been finalized. He acknowledged delays in the design process but stated that the project remains on schedule to meet the established deadline.

Commissioner Fix clarified that the current process is intended to identify roads, culverts, and bridges requiring improvements and that the Board was not making a final decision on the proposed projects at the hearing. He noted that additional information is needed before the Board can make a fully informed decision and asked how affected residents would be notified when a decision is scheduled.

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