

Fairfield County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting #49 (ADA-Compliant Version)

November 4, 2025 – Review Meeting

Commissioners' Hearing Room – 210 E. Main St., Lancaster, OH

To Obtain the Minutes Packet, please contact the Commissioners' Office

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **9:00 a.m.** by **Commissioner Jeff Fix**.

Commissioners Present

- Jeff Fix
- Steve Davis
- David Levacy

County Staff Present

Aundrea Cordle, Jeff Porter, Rochelle Menningen, Bennett Niceswanger, Bart Hampson, Jim Bahnsen, Lisa McKenzie, Dr. Carri Brown, Steven Darnell, Tony Vogel, Dan Neeley, Jon Kochis, Corey Clark, Tiffany Wilson, Ash Sark, Dr. David Uhl, Holly Mattei, Chad Lucht, Kevin Romine, Austin Schoor, Taylor Forquer, Rick Szabrak, Staci Knisley, Vince Carpico, Sheriff Alex Lape

Public In-Person Attendees

Brooke Bihlman, Sherry Pymer, Garrett Davis, Chris Snider, Stephanie Taylor

Virtual Attendees

Tony Vogel, Deborah, Jessica Murphy, Lori Hawk, Barry, Josh Horacek, Lori Lovas, Shannon Ward, Greg Forquer, Lynette Barnhart, Stacy Hicks, Jared Collins, Jennifer Morgan, Andy Boystel, Andy Robberts, Bayley Fields, Ashley Arter, Toni Ashton

Welcome

Commissioner Fix welcomed all attendees.

Presentations

State Auditor Presentation

A representative from the State Auditor's Office presented **Commissioner Steve Davis** with a letter of commendation for receiving the **2025 Leadership in Mobility Award** from MORPC.

State Treasurer Presentation

Brooke Bihlman presented information about the **Buckeye Business Advantage** program, designed to help small businesses.

- Commissioner Fix asked if the program was time-limited.
 - Bihlman stated loans are for **up to two years**, with a **\$1,000,000 maximum**.
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Budget Update

Budget Director **Bart Hampson** provided a **3rd Quarter Financial Update**.

Key Points

- 2026 Budget presentation scheduled for **December 9, 2025**
 - YTD revenues **higher than anticipated**
 - YTD expenses **lower than budgeted**
 - Sales & Use Tax: **39% of revenue**
 - Personal Services: **34% of expenses**
 - Level 4 budget entry access closes **December 1**
 - Updated health insurance information forthcoming
 - PowerPoint posted with official minutes
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Public Comments

No public comments.

Legal Update

No legal update.

County Administration Update

Provided by County Administrator **Aundrea Cordle** unless otherwise noted.

Week in Review / Meeting Schedule

- **No meeting November 11** – Veterans Day (County offices closed)
 - **Next meeting:** November 18, 7:00 p.m. at Berne Union School Auditorium
 - No meeting week of November 24
 - Final 2025 meetings: **December 2 and 9**
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Resolution Review

29 resolutions on the agenda.

Highlighted Resolutions

- Adoption of a **comprehensive cybersecurity policy**
 - Approval of a **0.59-acre annexation** (Walnut Township → Village of Thurston)
 - Reappointment of **Kellie Smith, Jessica Roth, Becky Schaade** to DD Board
 - Establishment of **Enhanced 9-1-1 Fund**
 - Agreement with the Ohio Dept. of Development for **\$350,000/year for two years** for Workforce Center programming
 - Engineer's Office **2nd amendment to RUMA with Ohio Power**
 - Facilities **Change Order #3** for Gutknecht (Workforce Center)
 - MCU **fund-to-fund transfer** recognizing Lancaster PD matching funds
 - Prosecutor: acceptance of **VOCA / SVAA grants**
 - Regional Planning: **Conditional Acceptance of OUCU Credit Union Subdivision**
 - Transit: 5 resolutions related to ODOT grants, certifications, and service agreements
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Informational Items

- WLOH Interview – Commissioner Levacy (Nov 4, 4:45 PM)
 - Regional Planning Commission – Nov 4
 - Commissioner Levacy CPS Shadowing – Nov 5
 - Fairfield County Economic Update – Dec 12, Workforce Center
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Correspondence

- Expedited Type II Annexation: .51 acres (Walnut Township → Millersport)
 - JobsOhio thank-you email to Commissioner Fix (Oct 29)
 - Thank-you from Fairfield County Fair Board
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Updates from Elected Officials / Departments

Sheriff

Deputies are busy patrolling polling locations.

Developmental Disabilities (Dr. Uhl)

- Thanked Commissioners for commitment to strong boards.
- DD Board facing **75% loss of property tax funding**; reappointments essential.

Treasurer (Jim Bahnsen)

- RFP for credit card processing closed Friday; new recommendation forthcoming.

United Way (Garrett Davis)

- Announced upcoming **5K fundraiser**.

Recorder (Lisa McKenzie)

- Preparing to attend State Records' Conference.

Auditor (Dr. Carri Brown)

- “Making Numbers Count” seminar
- Hosting township training course in November

- November Map of the Month: **Fairfield County Railroads**
- Discussed state tax reform legislation tied to inflation

Commissioner Levacy

- Addressed misconceptions about property taxes.

Regional Planning (Holly Mattei)

- Working with Hicks Partners on Neighborhood Revitalization Grant outreach.

Soil & Water (Chad Lucht)

- DEA Takeback Day: **33 lbs** collected at one site, **55 lbs** at another
- Working on cybersecurity plan

Utilities (Tony Vogel)

- Assisting Millersport with proposal for **new wastewater treatment facility**

Economic Development (Rick Szabrak)

- Praised Utilities for Millersport collaboration
- Noted upcoming **economic update in December**

Facilities (Jon Kochis)

- Levacy Center nearing completion
- Veterans Services moved to new location
- Airport hangar incident may delay project

IT (Dan Neeley)

- Recognized Brian Plummer for election support

JFS (Corey Clark)

- SNAP benefits **suspended due to federal shutdown**

Deputy County Administrator (Jeff Porter)

- Open enrollment underway
 - Dog Shelter currently caring for **52 dogs**
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Old Business

- Commissioner Davis: Meeting with Rep. Thomas; CCAO tax language review
 - Commissioner Levacy: Attended recent AI workshop
 - Commissioner Fix: Spoke on rapid changes in AI and appreciation for workshop organizers
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New Business

- Commissioner Levacy: Veterans Hall of Fame ceremonies November 13
 - Commissioner Davis: CFLP Solid Waste District meeting; consultation with Licking County Treasurer's Office on ROI inaccuracies
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Regular (Voting) Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Commissioner Fix.

Announcements

None.

Approval of Minutes

October 28, 2025 – Regular Meeting

Approved unanimously.

October 28, 2025 – Budget Hearing

Approved unanimously.

Resolutions

(All resolutions passed unanimously unless otherwise noted.)

The Commissioners approved resolutions **2025-11.04.a through 2025-11.04.cc**, covering:

- Cybersecurity policy adoption

- Annexations
 - DD Board reappointments
 - 9-1-1 fund creation
 - FAA grant advance repayment
 - County Engineer appropriations and agreements
 - Facilities Change Order #3
 - JFS memo expenditures and service agreements
 - Prosecutor VOCA/SVAA grant acceptance
 - OUCU Credit Union Subdivision (Conditional Acceptance)
 - Transit applications, certifications, and service agreements
 - Payment of invoices requiring Board approval
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Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at **9:49 a.m.**

Next Regular Meeting:

November 18, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Berne Union School District, 506 N. Main St., Sugar Grove, OH

Approval

Motion by **David Levacy**, seconded by **Steve Davis**, to approve the November 4, 2025 minutes.

Vote:

- YEAS: Levacy, Davis, Fix
- NAYS: None
- ABSTENTIONS: None

Approved on November 18, 2025

Jeff Fix, Commissioner

Steve Davis, Commissioner

David Levacy, Commissioner

Rochelle Menningen, Clerk