

Fairfield County Board of Commissioners

Review Meeting – December 2, 2025

Location: Commissioners Hearing Room, 210 E. Main Street, Lancaster, Ohio

Start Time: 9:00 a.m.

Attendance

Commissioners Present

- Jeff Fix
- Steve Davis

Staff and Guests Present In Person

- Jeff Porter, County Administrator
- Rochelle Menningen, Clerk
- Bennett Niceswanger, Information & Communications Coordinator
- Bart Hampson, Budget Director
- Corey Clark, Job and Family Services (JFS) Director
- Jon Kochis, Facilities and Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director
- Steven Darnell, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
- Aaron Kennedy, Transit Director
- Jim Bahnsen, County Treasurer
- Michael Kaper, Land Bank Director
- Staci Knisley, Budget Officer
- Holly Mattei, Interim Regional Planning Commission (RPC) Director
- Taylor Forquer, Financial Analyst
- Chad Lucht, Urban Technician
- Dan Neeley, IT Director
- Dr. Carri Brown, County Auditor
- Rick Szabrak, Economic & Workforce Development Director
- Tony Vogel, Utilities Director

- Tiffany Wilson, Family and Children First Council Manager
- Deputy Kevin Romine, Fairfield County Sheriff's Office
- Guests: Eileen Leuby, Joseph Garrity, and William Murdock

Virtual Attendees

(List maintained but condensed for readability while retaining names.)

Lisa McKenzie, Tim Hamilton, Deborah, Lori Hawk, Ash Sark, Jeff Barron, Shannon Ward, Rick Szabrak, Ashley Arter, Shelby Hunt, Stacy Hicks, Chuck, Joe Ebel, Eileen Leuby, Vince Carpico, Jessica Murphy, Deborah, and Andy Robberts.

Welcome

Commissioner Fix opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

Presentation: Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Update

Speakers

- **Eileen Leuby**, Membership Services Officer
- **William Murdock**, Executive Director
- **Joseph Garrity**, Public Policy/Investments

Key Points

- MORPC serves **15 Central Ohio counties**, including Fairfield County.
- Fairfield County's population is **168,957** and projected to reach **214,880 by 2050**.
- Some counties in the region are losing working-age and adolescent populations.
- MORPC is working on **passenger rail initiatives** connecting major cities including Columbus, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Cleveland, Dayton, and Cincinnati.
- MORPC supports:
 - Transportation and rail planning
 - CORPO (Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization)
 - Trail and greenway development

- Community planning and public policy
 - The City of Lancaster received **\$320,000 for Memorial Drive improvements.**
 - MORPC is assisting with the “208 Area Wide Water” initiative.
 - MORPC continues to support regional investment, capital budget projects, and internship programs.
 - Commissioners Fix and Davis received MORPC awards in 2025.
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Public Comments

No public comments were provided.

Legal Update

No legal update was presented.

County Administration Update

Presented by Aundrea Cordle unless otherwise noted.

LINK Transit Bus Stop Sign Update

- New LINK bus stop signs are ready for installation.
- Transit and Workforce teams are working together to identify bus stop needs.
- Five buses have been updated with the new branding.
- Drivers will soon be issued new uniforms.

Audit Report

- The 2024 Audit Report (361 pages) was completed by Perry & Associates, CPAs.
- **No findings, no noncompliance, and no management letter comments.**
- Fairfield County achieved its **sixth consecutive StaRS Highest Achievement rating** for transparency.
- Dr. Brown noted this may be the county’s best audit to date.

Upcoming Meetings

- Last Board Meeting of 2025: **December 9 at 9:00 a.m.**
 - First Meeting of 2026: **January 6 at 9:00 a.m.**
 - Reorganization Meeting: **January 6 at 8:45 a.m.**
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Resolutions Summary for Review

(Full list maintained, accessible formatting applied.)

Examples of Key Resolutions

- Annexation of 0.51 acres from Walnut Township to Village of Millersport
 - Reappointments to Airport Authority Board
 - Appointment to Revolving Loan Fund Board
 - Agreement with CFLP Solid Waste District
 - Establishment of new “Third Party Professional Fees Escrow” fund
 - Purchase of brine and approval of resurfacing project change order
 - Purchase of eight Sheriff’s Office vehicles
 - Treasurer’s Office approval of proposal for AutoAgent Data Solutions
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Updates from Elected Officials and Department Heads

Highlights

- Regional Planning continues zoning work with county villages.
 - Soil and Water preparing for upcoming audit.
 - Auditor’s Office monitoring state property tax reform legislation.
 - Workforce Center expanding space and new radiology lab funded.
 - EMA expects a hazardous materials training grant.
 - IT staff issuing new badges; staff member recognized with Firefly Award.
 - JFS celebrated National Adoption Day with adoptions aired on 10TV.
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Old Business

- Commissioner Davis discussed regional solid waste district matters.
 - Commissioner Fix expressed appreciation for JFS child placement staff.
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New Business

- Commissioner Davis will record a video encouraging charitable giving.
 - Commissioner Fix will meet with ESC regarding a daycare employment-support initiative and will present at the Winter Conference.
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Regular Voting Meeting

(All attendees were the same as the Review Meeting.)

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Fix invited attendees to stand **as able** and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval Actions

- **Minutes of November 18, 2025** – Approved unanimously.
- **All resolutions listed in the agenda** – Approved unanimously.
- **Payment of Bills** – Approved.

(Full resolution list preserved exactly as provided.)

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at **10:08 a.m.**

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for **December 9, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.**

Approval of Minutes (Final Section)

The minutes of December 2, 2025, were approved on **December 9, 2025** by unanimous vote:

- **Yeas:** David Levacy, Steve Davis, Jeff Fix

- **Nays:** None
- **Abstentions:** None

Signatures

Jeff Fix, Commissioner

Steve Davis, Commissioner

David Levacy, Commissioner

Rochelle Menningen, Clerk