

COMMISSIONER’S JOURNAL

Wednesday

Regular

July 9, 2025

The Coshocton County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. with Mr. Dane Shryock, Mr. Bob Bigrigg and Mr. Gary Fischer. Also, in attendance was Mrs. Brooke Alverson, Clerk and Mrs. Mary Beck, County Administrator.

Approve Minutes

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bigrigg to approve the minutes from the last meeting as presented.

Vote: Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea
Bigrigg	yea

Monthly Transport Expense Report

Received the monthly Transport Expense Account for the months of April, May and June of 2025 from Sheriff Christopher Walters.

Monthly Prisoner Food Cost Report

Received the monthly Prisoner Food Cost report for June 2025, from Sheriff Christopher Walters.

Approve Bills

Mr. Bigrigg made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to approve the bills per computer printout dated July 9, 2025.

Vote: Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea
Bigrigg	yea

Litter Control Report

Received the 1st Quarter Litter Control Report with the following items collected: 42 bags of trash, 62 tires, 1 water cooler, 1 recliner, 2 couches, 1 truck load of carpet and 1 chair.

Resolution 2025-027, DJFS Renewal

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bigrigg to sign Resolution 2025-027, a resolution to proceed with election on the question of a renewal tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation, at a rate not exceeding 1.0 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$13 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor’s appraised value, for 5 years, commencing in 2025, first due in 2026 for the Children Services Levy.

Vote: Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea
Bigrigg	yea

Agreement-Brightly Software

Mr. Bigrigg made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to sign the Brightly Software Inc. agreement in the amount of \$4913.69 for a three-year term beginning August 1, 2025 and ending July 31, 2028 to provide Maintenance Edge Software, a program for work order tickets within the county.

Vote: Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea
Bigrigg	yea

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Retirement, Donna Carpenter, EMS

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bigrigg to approve the retirement of Donna Carpenter from her position with Coshocton County EMS, effective May 30, 2025, as requested by Mr. Todd Shroyer, EMS Director.

Vote: Shryock yea
Fischer yea
Bigrigg yea

Then and Now Certificate

Mr. Bigrigg made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer approve the following Then and Now Certificate which has been certified by the County Auditor.

VENDOR	ACCOUNT	AMOUNT	DEPARTMENT
CDC of Ohio Inc.	352-0100-526000	\$9,470.00	CCC

Vote: Shryock yea
Fischer yea
Bigrigg yea

Homestead Exemption Change Discussion

At 9:15 a.m. the Commissioners along with Mrs. Janette Donaker, Coshocton County Treasurer and Mr. Grant Daugherty, Coshocton County Auditor met to discuss regarding the Homestead Exemption program and proposed changes under House Bill 96. They explained that the Homestead Exemption is available to homeowners who are 65 years of age or older (or permanently disabled) and who have an annual income of less than \$40,000. To qualify, both the age/disability and income criteria must be met; Social Security income is not included when calculating income for this purpose. Homeowners may check their eligibility and income qualifications through the County website. The exemption applies only to the parcel that contains the owner’s primary residence and reduces the taxable value of the home by \$25,000, which typically saves homeowners between \$350 and \$450 annually. Currently in Coshocton County, 2,485 properties, including 242 manufactured homes, utilize this exemption. This represents approximately \$952,312 in foregone property tax revenue; however, this amount is fully reimbursed by the State and distributed among local taxing entities, meaning the County does not truly lose this revenue.

Mrs. Donaker and Mr. Daugherty noted that House Bill 96 proposes raising the exemption from \$25,000 to \$50,000, though the bill was vetoed. Legislative chambers are currently considering overriding the veto. During discussion, Mr. Shryock asked whether any additional exemption adopted by the Commissioners would apply county-wide; Mrs. Donaker and Mrs. Beck confirmed that it would. Mrs. Beck also noted that the County Commissioners Association of Ohio has not yet issued updated guidance, but they would promptly inform the Commissioners if any changes occurred.

The discussion then turned to the Owner Occupancy Credit, which differs from the Homestead Exemption in that it applies to any owner-occupied primary residence, regardless of income, and does not apply to rental properties. This credit provides a 2.5% reduction on property tax bills for eligible parcels. There are currently about 8,750 parcels in the County benefiting from this credit, representing \$353,263.46 in tax savings, which is also reimbursed by the State. Commissioners raised the concern that many homeowners may not be aware of the Owner Occupancy Credit. To receive it, a homeowner must file a conveyance form at the time of purchase, and homeowners can verify if they are receiving the credit by checking their tax bill. Mr. Shryock expressed that the County should take advantage of opportunities to provide additional tax relief to homeowners, especially when the cost is absorbed by the State. The Commissioners briefly discussed the process for implementing further exemptions or credits, and Mrs. Beck clarified that properties held in trust are not eligible for the Owner Occupancy Credit.

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Homestead Exemption Change Discussion-Continued

Mr. Daugherty provided additional context by explaining Ohio property tax history. He referenced House Bill 920, passed in the late 1970s, which capped levy collections at the dollar amount originally approved by voters, regardless of increases in property values, except for new construction. Schools are guaranteed a minimum of 20 mills of funding, with Joint Vocational Schools at 2 mills. However, many school levies are so old that they collect minimal revenue despite rising property values. Schools do have some ability to adjust inside millage for capital improvements. The Commissioners noted that these rules create a complex funding situation for schools and other taxing entities.

Executive Session, Employee Hire.

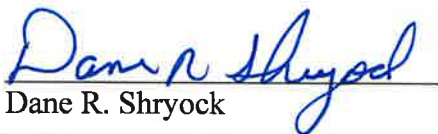
At 10:30 a.m. Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bigrigg to go into executive session with Mr. Lynn Powelson, EMA Director to discuss employee hiring. All vote aye. At 10:45 a.m. Mr. Shryock returned the meeting to regular session. No Action Taken.

Meetings Attended

All three Commissioners attended the Land Bank meeting on Monday afternoon, July 7th and Mr. Bigrigg attended the Friends of the Park meeting that day as well.

Adjourn

Mr. Shryock adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.


Dane R. Shryock


Robert W. Bigrigg


Gary L. Fischer


Clerk