

COMMISSIONER'S JOURNAL

Monday

Regular

December 22, 2025

The Coshocton County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, December 22, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. with Mr. Dane Shryock, Mr. Bob Bigrigg and Mr. Gary Fischer. Also, in attendance was Mrs. Mary Beck, County Administrator, Mrs. Brooke Alverson, Clerk, Mrs. Robin Schonauer, Budget Director, and Mr. Mark Hiner, State Representative District 98.

Approve Minutes

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

Vote: Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea
Bigrigg	yea

Dog Warden's Report

Received the Dog Warden's Report for the week ending December 15, 2025 with 4 dogs picked up by the warden, 1 dog euthanized, 8 dog licenses sold, 11 dogs sold, 8 dogs surrendered by owner, and 20 calls handled for a total of \$210.00 in fees collected.

Employee Retirement, Pamela Matz - DJFS

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bigrigg to accept the retirement of Pamela Matz from her position as Legal Case Manager at Coshocton County Job and Family Services effective January 31, 2026, as requested by Ms. Jaime Freeman, Assistant DJFS Director.

Vote: Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea
Bigrigg	yea

Employee Retirement, Edward Zinkon - DJFS

Mr. Bigrigg made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to accept the retirement of Edward E. Zinkon from his position at Coshocton County Job and Family Services effective February 1, 2026, as requested by Ms. Jaime Freeman, Assistant DJFS Director.

Vote: Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea
Bigrigg	yea

Blanket Meeting Request-Coshocton Public Transit

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bigrigg to approve the 2026 Blanket Meeting request for Coshocton Public Transit staff to attend meetings, seminars, trainings, and conferences outside Coshocton County during 2026.

Vote: Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea
Bigrigg	yea

Resolution 2025-059, Finance Charges, CPT

Mr. Bigrigg made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to sign Resolution 2025-059, a resolution permitting the payment of finance charges not to exceed \$100.00 for Coshocton Public Transit during the 2026 calendar year.

Vote: Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea
Bigrigg	yea

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Community Room Rental-WIC

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bigrigg granting permission to Coshocton County WIC for use of the Commissioners Community Room on April 3, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. for an event.

Vote: Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea
Bigrigg	yea

Blanket Meeting Request-Board of Elections

Mr. Bigrigg made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to approve the 2026 Blanket Meeting request for the Coshocton County Board of Elections to attend meetings directly related to the Board of Elections and the Ohio Association of Elections Officials (OAE) during the 2026 calendar year.

Vote: Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea
Bigrigg	yea

Ohio Emergency Management Agency NIMS Compliance Certification Statement.

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bigrigg to sign the State of Ohio, Ohio Emergency Management Agency NIMS Compliance Certification Statement.

Vote: Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea
Bigrigg	yea

Certificate of County Auditor

Received the Certificate of County Auditor that the Total Appropriations from Each Fund Do Not Exceed the Official Estimate of Resources.

Amended No. 17 Certificate of County Auditor

Received Amended Certificate No. 17 of the Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources dated December 17, 2025 from the Office of Budget Commission, Coshocton County, Ohio.

4th Quarter Litter Control Report

Received the Activity Report for the Coshocton County Litter Control for the 4th Quarter 2025 with the following collected: 12 bags of trash, 14 tires, 7 mattresses, 2 recliners, 2 couches, 1 load of carpet, 1 refrigerator and 1 chair.

Letter of Support for Columbus & Ohio River Rail Road

Mr. Bigrigg made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to sign the Letter of Support for the Columbus & Ohio River Rail Road (CUOH) to extend the long-term lease and operating agreement for the state-owned Panhandle Rail Line addressed to the Ohio Rail Development Commission.

Vote: Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea
Bigrigg	yea

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Then and Now Certificate

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bigrigg to affirm the following Then and Now Certificates which have been approved by County Administrator Mary Beck and certified by the County Auditor

Then and Now Certificates

VENDOR	ACCOUNT	AMOUNT	DEPARTMENT
East Central Career Programs Inc.	030-0100-540002	\$4,153.59	EMS
Accurate Control Inc.	001-0611-526000	\$16,875.20	Sheriff
County Treasurers Association of Ohio	001-0130-540000	\$1,098.38	Treasurer

Vote: Shryock
Fischer
Bigrigg
yea
yea
yea

Transfers/Additionals/Reduction

Mr. Bigrigg made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to affirm the following Transfers/Additionals/Reductions which have been approved by County Administrator Mary Beck and certified by the County Auditor.

FROM ACCOUNT	TO ACCOUNT	AMOUNT	APPROVED	AFFIRMED
001-1210-521000 (EQUIPMENT)	Transfer-Engineer 001-1210-510200 (SALARIES - EMPLOYEES)	\$200.00	12/15/2025	12/22/2025
090-0100-540006 (Donated Funds-Special Purchases)	Transfer-DIFS 090-0100-582000 (GRANTS)	\$1,000.00	12/15/2025	12/22/2025
090-0100-520000 (TRAVEL)	Transfer-DIFS 090-0100-582000 (GRANTS)	\$358.73	12/15/2025	12/22/2025
001-0610-521001 (EQUIPMENT - NEW CRUISERS)	Transfer-Sheriff 001-0610-510200 (SALARIES - EMPLOYEES)	\$10,000.00	12/15/2025	12/22/2025
001-0611-520001 (SUPPLIES - PRISONER MAINTENANCE)	Transfer-Sheriff 001-0611-511500 (MEDICARE TAX - EMPLOY	\$2,000.00	12/16/2025	12/22/2025
150-0100-511300 (HEALTH/LF/DENTAL INS)	Transfer-Sheriff 150-0100-521000 (SALARIES)	\$17,786.00		
150-0100-521008 (Equipment - Vehicle)	150-0100-510200 (SALARIES)	\$16,200.00		
150-0100-521008 (Equipment - Vehicle)	150-0100-511000 (OPERS)	\$7,000.00		
150-0100-526000 (CONTRACT SERVICES)	150-0100-511000 (OPERS)	\$8,000.00		
150-0100-526000 (CONTRACT SERVICES)	150-0100-511500 (MEDICARE TAX-EMPLOY	\$500.00		
150-0100-540003 (OTHER EXPENSE-MAINTENANCE GAF)	150-0100-540002 (OTHER EXPENSE - GASOL	\$1,200.00		
		\$50,986.00		
050-0200-540004 (BLADES)	Transfer-Engineer 050-0200-540001 (VEHICLE MAINTENANCE)	\$6,000.00	12/16/2025	12/22/2025
120-0100-510200 (Salaries)	Transfer-EMS 120-0100-521000 (Equipment)	\$5,000.00		
120-0100-510200 (Salaries)	120-0100-526000 (CONTRACT SERVICES)	\$5,000.00		
		\$10,000.00	12/16/2025	12/22/2025
040-0100-510200 (SALARIES - EMPLOYEES)	Transfer-Auditor 040-0100-526000 (CONTRACTS - SERVICES)	\$25,750.00	12/16/2025	12/22/2025
003-0100-526001 (Contract Services Premiums)	Transfer-CCC 003-0100-526000 (Contract Services Admin)	\$404.00	12/16/2025	12/22/2025
	Additional-CCC			
001-0420-526009 (Contract Services - Skale I)		\$600.00	12/16/2025	12/22/2025
088-0100-540001 (Other - Vehicle Maint (S020 C/M))	Transfer-CPT 088-0100-540011 (Other - Medical Testing (\$700.00	12/16/2025	12/22/2025
001-0110-527000 (ADVERTISING)	Transfer-CCC 001-0110-540000 (OTHER EXPENSE)	\$500.00	12/17/2025	12/22/2025
088-0100-510200 (Ins Bonus - Admin (S015))	Transfer-CPT 088-0100-510201 (Salaries - Drivers (S013))	\$200.00		
088-0100-510201 (Ins Bonus - Contractors (S015))	088-0100-510201 (Salaries - Drivers (S013))	\$400.00		
088-0100-511300 (Salaries - MM)	088-0100-510201 (Salaries - Drivers (S013))	\$1,200.00		
088-0100-526005 (CS - Phone (S040))	088-0100-510201 (Salaries - Drivers (S013))	\$1,200.00		
088-0100-526005 (CS - Phone (S040))	088-0100-510204 (Salaries - Washer (S013 C	\$100.00		
088-0100-527000 (Advertising (S020))	088-0100-510201 (Salaries - Drivers (S013))	\$4,900.00		
088-0100-527000 (Advertising (S020))	088-0100-510202 (Salaries - MM)	\$825.00		
088-0100-530000 (Travel & Meetings (S080))	088-0100-510202 (Salaries - MM)	\$325.00		
		\$9,300.00	12/17/2025	12/22/2025
	Additional-FFCF			
084-0100-510200 (SALARIES)		\$1,188.73	12/11/2025	12/22/2025
	Additional-FFCF			
084-0700-510200 (Salaries - Employees)		\$824.40	12/11/2025	12/22/2025
	Additional-FFCF			
084-0400-510200 (SALARIES)		\$1,926.96	12/17/2025	12/22/2025
	Reduction-CCC			
220-0544-526000 (Administration)		\$16,000.00		
220-0545-526001 (Street Improv., Curb, Sewer Facility)		\$31,050.00		
220-0545-526001 (Street Improv., Curb, Sewer Facility)		\$21,000.00		
220-0545-526001 (Street Improv., Curb, Sewer Facility Improvements)		\$4,000.00		
220-0545-526002 (CO CDBG Home Repair)		\$11,500.00		
220-0549-526000 (CO CDBG Fair Housing)		\$2,000.00		
220-0550-526000 (CO Home Admin)		\$3,125.00		
220-0551-526000 (CO Home Admin)		\$1,160.00		
220-0551-526002 (CO CDBG Priv Rehab)		\$39,554.00		
220-0551-526002 (CO CDBG Priv Rehab)		\$240,000.00		
220-0557-526003 (Pickleball Courts)		\$3,305,565.00	12/17/2025	12/22/2025
	Transfer-DIFS			
030-0100-526000 (CONTRACT SERVICES)	030-0100-540001 (OTHER EXPENSE P.R.C.)	\$3,000.00		
030-0100-526000 (CONTRACT SERVICES)	030-0100-540002 (MISC TANF CONTRACTS)	\$5,000.00		
		\$8,000.00	12/17/2025	12/22/2025
001-0130-510200 (SALARIES - EMPLOYEES)	Transfer-Treasurer 001-0130-510100 (SALARIES - OFFICIAL)	\$1,000.00	12/17/2025	12/22/2025
	Transfer-Common-Pesa			
001-0220-510200 (SALARIES - EMPLOYEES)	001-0220-511000 (OPERS)	\$1,711.00		
001-0220-510200 (SALARIES - EMPLOYEES)	001-0220-511500 (MEDICARE TAX-EMPLOYE	\$1,221.82		
		\$1,722.82	12/19/2025	12/22/2025
	Transfer-DIFS			
380-0100-511100 (WORKER'S COMPENSATION)	380-0100-510200 (SALARIES)	\$981.50		
380-0100-511100 (WORKER'S COMPENSATION)	380-0100-510200 (OPERS)	\$985.52		
380-0100-511100 (WORKER'S COMPENSATION)	380-0100-511500 (MEDICARE TAX)	\$488.30		
380-0100-511100 (MEDICAL INSURANCE)	380-0100-510200 (SALARIES)	\$11,508.12		
380-0100-526200 (PURCHASE OF SERVICE)	380-0100-510200 (SALARIES)	\$1,294.00		
380-0100-540000 (OTHER EXPENSE)	380-0100-510200 (SALARIES)	\$1,200.00		
380-0100-540000 (OTHER EXPENSE)	380-0100-510200 (SALARIES)	\$1,100.00		
		\$1,225.44	12/19/2025	12/22/2025
	Additional-DIFS			
380-0100-510200 (SALARIES)		\$1,885.36	12/19/2025	12/22/2025
	Transfer-DIFS			
030-0100-511000 (OPERS)	030-0100-510200 (SALARIES)	\$10,372.61		
030-0100-511000 (OPERS)	030-0100-510200 (SALARIES)	\$8,795.21		
030-0100-511300 (MEDICAL INSURANCE)	030-0100-510200 (SALARIES)	\$22,667.06		
030-0101-510200 (SALARIES)	030-0100-510200 (SALARIES)	\$6,387.09		
030-0101-511000 (OPERS)	030-0100-510200 (SALARIES)	\$1,141.56		
030-0101-511100 (WORKER'S COMPENSATION)	030-0100-510200 (SALARIES)	\$1,612.60		
		\$61,375.08	12/19/2025	12/22/2025
	Transfer-Sheriff			
001-0610-521001 (EQUIPMENT)	001-0610-521000 (EQUIPMENT)	\$5,000.00	12/19/2025	12/22/2025
	Reduction-CCC			
003-0100-511300 (Health/LF/Dental Ins)		\$523.40		
003-0100-511300 (Health/LF/Dental Ins)		\$433.00		
003-0100-526001 (Contract Services Premiums)		\$248,507.00		
003-0100-540000 (Other Expense)		\$3,936.41		
		\$252,980.15	12/19/2025	12/22/2025
	Transfer-Sheriff			
001-0610-510201 (SALARIES - COURT GUARD)	001-0610-521000 (EQUIPMENT)	\$4,400.00	12/19/2025	12/22/2025
	Transfer-Engineer			
050-0200-510200 (SALARIES)	050-0200-511500 (ISSUE II)	\$10,000.00	12/19/2025	12/22/2025
	Vote: Shryock Fischer Bigrigg yea yea yea			

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Resolution 2025-060, Move Monies from 350 Fund to 001 Fund

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bigrigg to sign Resolution 2025-060, a resolution to move \$400,000 from the 350 Fund (Capital Improvement) to Fund 001 (County General Fund).

Vote:	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea
	Bigrigg	yea

Mr. Joshua Kempf, County Engineer - CR 365 Bridge Replacement Discussion

At 9:26 a.m., Mr. Joshua Kempf, Coshocton County Engineer, attended the Commissioners' meeting to discuss the County Road 365 Bridge Replacement project. Mr. Kempf explained that the cost of the project has continued to increase and is now estimated at approximately \$1.5 million. Additionally, the Scenic Rivers program has requested that the bridge pier be removed, which would bring the total estimated cost to approximately \$2 million.

It was noted that the bridge serves 100 vehicles per day or fewer. Discussion included whether a full replacement is justified, or if alternative options should be considered, such as allowing the bridge to remain until the short section of road is vacated, or rehabilitating the bridge, which could potentially extend its life by approximately 12 years.

Commissioner Shryock asked how many of the bridge users are Knox County residents. It was noted that detouring traffic would add approximately 10 minutes of travel time to routes through Danville or Millwood. There are an estimated six occupied residences on that road, and either detour would result in the same additional travel time.

Commissioners expressed concern that the bridge serves a limited number of residents and questioned whether a \$2 million investment is justified. Any action to vacate the road would need to come through the Commissioners' Office for approval.

Mr. Kempf requested guidance from the Commissioners on how to proceed. He noted that approximately \$500,000 would be required to replace the stringers in order to temporarily keep the bridge in service. The bridge is currently under a weight restriction, which will likely be reduced further. It is anticipated that the bridge may need to be completely closed within one to two years.

The possibility of terminating the current contract was discussed, with only a small penalty to do so. Mr. Kempf stated that McConnell is aware of this potential course of action.

2026 Budget Meeting at the Community Room

On December 12, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., the Coshocton County Commissioners held a budget meeting with elected officials and department heads in the Community Room, with the following people present: Mr. Jed McCoy, DJFS Director; Mr. John Piper, DJFS Fiscal Administrator; Mrs. Cortnie Jamison, Assistant Budget Director; Mrs. Brooke Alverson, Clerk; Mrs. Robin Schonauer, Budget Director; Mrs. Mary Beck, County Administrator; Mr. Josh Kempf, County Engineer; Mrs. Cathy Williamson, Airport Fiscal Officer; Mrs. Lori Patterson, Deputy Treasurer; Mr. Dean Hettinger; Sergeant Josh Walsh; Lieutenant John Glasure; Mrs. Shelby Morris, Administrative Services Coordinator; Lieutenant Troy Bricker; Sheriff Christopher Walters; Captain Eric DeMattio; Deputy Robert Hill; Mr. Doug Schonauer, Court Administrator; Mr. Mark Hiner, State Representative, District 98; Mrs. Jinni Bowman, Probate Court; Mrs. Janette Donaker, County Treasurer; Mrs. Ashley Thomas, County Recorder; Mr. Chad Lawrence, IT Director; Mr. Todd Shroyer, EMS Director; Mr. Marty Dobson, Airport Director; Mr. Daniel Rohrer, Deputy Auditor; Mr. Ike Reger, Maintenance Supervisor; Ms. Valerie Shaw, CPT Director; Mrs. Nicole Shroyer, Fiscal Officer, Coshocton Public Health District; Mrs. Kelsey Saylor, Administrative Assistant, CSWD; Mr. Ryan Medley, District Administrator, CSWD; Mr. Ben Hall,

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2026 Budget Meeting at the Community Room-Continued

County Prosecutor; Mrs. Diane Jackson, Office Manager, Prosecutor's Office; Mr. Jeff Mullen, Public Defender; Lieutenant Seth Andrews; Lieutenant Charles Udischas; Ms. Camila Graham, Clerk of Courts; Ms. Arica Mills, Deputy Clerk; Mr. Doug Schaeffer, Director, CVSO; Ms. Christina Corbett, Administrative Assistant, CVSO; Mr. Marcus Welling, Board of Elections Director; Mrs. Kirsten Ross, Board of Elections Director; and Ms. Diane Koch, WTNS.

At 10:00 a.m., Commissioner Dane opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He stated that Coshocton County is currently facing the most difficult financial situation it has experienced in the past 21 years. The Commissioners are working to minimize the impact on county employees and anticipate holding additional meetings later this year, including meetings with the Budget Commission, to explore temporary solutions.

Commissioner Shryock identified foster care costs as the primary financial challenge facing the county. Meetings are being scheduled with Job and Family Services (DJFS), the Courts, and the Prosecutor's Office to address the issue. He explained that although the county has approximately \$38 million invested, those funds are not all available for General Fund use. Portions are restricted for specific purposes, including jail debt service, which still has seven years remaining and totals approximately \$6 million, as well as DD funds and property tax settlement obligations. Investments cannot be withdrawn without penalty.

Commissioner Shryock further noted that the county will face additional financial strain in 2026 due to the 27 payrolls in 2026, and a 13.4% increase in insurance costs. By law, the county must maintain unappropriated funds and is prohibited from borrowing money for operating expenses.

In November, DJFS notified the Commissioners that an additional \$2.1 million would be needed to cover foster care costs. Previous levy efforts included an additional levy and a replacement levy, both of which failed. A renewal levy passed but generates approximately \$400,000 annually based on 1995 property valuations and cannot generate additional revenue. Foster care placements have increased from 37 children to 94 children. DJFS has been borrowing from other funds to cover expenses. The county has already provided \$450,000 in additional funding and plans to provide another \$450,000 at the beginning of the new year.

Of the approximately 94 children currently in care, 20 are in residential facilities, with those placements costing as much as the remaining children combined. Three children alone account for approximately \$1.3 million annually. DJFS has indicated a need for an additional \$2.1 million in 2026, while the county is projected to be short approximately \$2 million in revenue for that year. Commissioners expressed concern that the county cannot sustain this level of expense without risking insolvency.

For December, foster care costs totaled approximately \$512,000, with only \$86,000 reimbursed. The annual cost averages approximately \$57,000 per child. Commissioners noted that \$2.1 million is equivalent to funding approximately 20 additional law enforcement officers. Property taxes generate approximately \$2.4 million annually for the General Fund.

Commissioner Bigrigg stated that it is very unfortunate the county is in this situation and emphasized that the Commissioners are doing their best to determine solutions. He further stated that it is beneficial to have State Representative Mark Hiner present to field questions and assist in exploring potential solutions.

Mr. Jed McCoy stated that he is taking the situation personally, as he understands the impact it is having on county employees and departments. He explained that many of the factors driving foster care placements are beyond the department's control and encouraged anyone interested to visit the DJFS office to better understand the challenges they are facing.

Commissioners stated that final decisions cannot be made until year-end carryover figures are available after all payroll and bills are paid. While some children are IV-E eligible for reimbursement, placement challenges remain significant, with DJFS contacting more than 260 facilities nationwide. Coshocton County's placement numbers are higher than counties of similar size. It was noted that in July 2025 alone, there were 19 sexual abuse cases.

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2026 Budget Meeting at the Community Room-Continued

Potential cost-saving measures discussed included 15–18% reductions across departments, a wage freeze for non-union employees, elimination of planned automobile purchases for 2026, and reductions or delays in capital expenditures. These measures are intended to preserve jobs where possible.

Mr. Chad Lawrence asked whether layoffs were anticipated. Commissioner Shryock stated that no specific number has been determined; however, if sufficient reductions cannot be achieved, layoffs would be necessary. Lieutenant Charles Udischas asked what the worst-case scenario would be, to which Commissioner Shryock responded that up to 21 employees could be affected.

Budget Director Robin Schonauer encouraged all departments to be creative with their budgets and identify additional reductions. She suggested considering reduced hours as a means to preserve jobs, emphasizing that she does not want working families to be adversely affected. Mrs. Schonauer reported that approximately \$586,000 in reductions have already been identified without impacting employees and noted that everyone must participate in cost-saving efforts. While December sales tax revenue exceeded projections, it remains insufficient to close the budget gap.

Sheriff Christopher Walters reported that the jail currently averages 30 inmates in a 126-bed facility. ICE is not utilizing the jail at this time; however, Coshocton County has agreed to house inmates from Trumbull County at a rate of \$65 per day due to a boiler issue at their facility, which may help offset costs.

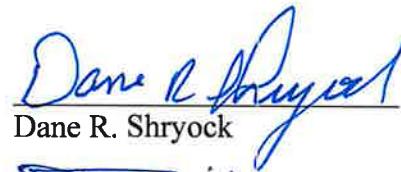
Further discussion acknowledged the unpredictability of foster care placement numbers. Projections are based on worst-case scenarios, and efforts are ongoing to reduce placements where possible. Commissioners discussed the broader societal factors contributing to the increase in children entering care, including neglect, abuse, and substance dependency. Commissioner Shryock stated that the current situation is not sustainable and emphasized the need for continued collaboration moving forward.

Meetings Attended

Mr. Fischer attended the Airport meeting on Thursday, December 18th and then later that day he attended the funeral for Ex-Commissioner Kathy Thompson. Mr. Bigrigg attended the Kiwanis social on Wednesday evening, December 17th, and on Thursday, December 18th Mr. Bigrigg attended the Kno-Ho-Co-Ashland Christmas dinner and presented J. Michael Stephens with the Commissioners Commendation. Lastly, on Friday, December 19th Mr. Shryock and Mr. Bigrigg both had a meeting with Mr. Ben Hall, County Prosecutor in regards to foster care cost at the Department of Job and Family Services.

Adjourn

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



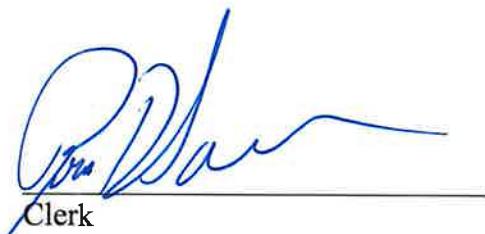
Dane R. Shryock



Robert W. Bigrigg



Gary L. Fischer



Clerk