

Monday

Regular

January 5, 2026

The Coshocton County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, January 6, 2026 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 and Mrs. Brooke Alverson, Clerk.

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

Resolution 2026-001-Force Account

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bigrigg to sign Resolution 2026-001, for the 2026 Coshocton County Force Account for the Coshocton County Engineer.

Vote:	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea
	Bigrigg	yea

Resolution 2026-002, Jack L. Patterson

Mr. Bigrigg made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to sign Resolution 2026-002, setting Jack L. Patterson's salary schedule as a member of the Coshocton County Veterans Service Commission.

Vote:	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea
	Bigrigg	yea

Purchase of Service Agreement between DJFS and Forum

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bigrigg to sign the Purchase of Services Agreement between Coshocton County Department of Job and Family Services and Forum to furnish/deliver/provide full-scale psychological evaluations and clinical observation for youth and adults effective October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026, as requested by Mr. Jed McCoy, DJFS Director.

Vote:	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea
	Bigrigg	yea

2026 Blanket Meeting Request-Coshocton County Engineer's Office

Mr. Bigrigg made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to approve the 2026 Blanket Meeting Request for the Coshocton County Engineer's office to attend various meetings, conferences, and training seminars for the 2026 calendar year.

Vote:	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea
	Bigrigg	yea

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Resolution 2026-003, Food for Engineer’s Office

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bigrigg to sign Resolution 2026-003, a resolution to provide food for the staff of the Coshocton County Engineers Office for in house trainings and employee recognition luncheons for the 2026 calendar year.

Vote:	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea
	Bigrigg	yea

Resolution 2026-004, Food for Engineer’s Office during Overtime

Mr. Bigrigg made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to sign Resolution 2026-004, a resolution permitting the purchase of food for the Coshocton County Engineers Office during Overtime Call Out for the 2026 calendar year.

Vote:	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea
	Bigrigg	yea

Resolution 2026-005, Payment of Finance Charges for Engineers Office

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bigrigg to sign Resolution 2026-005, a resolution permitting payment of finance charges not to exceed \$100 for the Coshocton County Engineers Office for the 2026 calendar year.

Vote:	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea
	Bigrigg	yea

Engineer’s Attorney for Labor Relations

Mr. Bigrigg made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to authorize the Coshocton County Engineer to contract with Fishel Hass Kim Albrecht, Attorneys at Law for labor relations with AFSCME for calendar year 2026.

Vote:	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea
	Bigrigg	yea

Private Road Subdivision- Edward A. Miller

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bigrigg to sign the Edward A. Miller Private Road Subdivision, the creation of a 2-lot private road subdivision located on Township Road 105 in Oxford Township on property owned by Edward A. Miller, Auditor Parcel Number 029-00000171-01, as requested by Mr. Joshua D. Kempf, Coshocton County Regional Planning Commission.

Vote:	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea
	Bigrigg	yea

IRS Mileage Reimbursement for 2026

Mr. Bigrigg made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to set the mileage reimbursement for calendar year 2026 to the established rates (72.5 cents/per mile) as set by the Internal Revenue Service which can be located at www.irs.com.

Vote:	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea
	Bigrigg	yea

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Monthly Mortgage Summary Report-December 2025

Received the monthly Mortgage Summary Report for the month of December 2025 from Mrs. Ashley Thomas, Coshocton County Recorder.

Monthly Transport Report-December 2025

Received the monthly Transport Expense report for the month of December 2025 from Sheriff Christopher Walters.

2026 Blanket Meeting Request-Sheriff's Office

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bigrigg to approve the 2026 Blanket Meeting Request for the Sheriff's Office to attend meetings, seminars, trainings, and conferences during the year of 2026. This will include registration, meals, travels, and supplies at the request of Sheriff Christopher Walters.

Vote: Shryock yea
Fischer yea
Bigrigg yea

Resolution 2026-006, Finance Charges for Sheriff's Office

Mr. Bigrigg made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to sign Resolution 2026-006, a resolution permitting payment of finance charges not to exceed \$100 for the Coshocton County Sheriff's Office for the 2026 calendar year.

Vote: Shryock yea
Fischer yea
Bigrigg yea

Then and Now Certificates

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.

VENDOR	Then and Now Certificates		AMOUNT	DEPARTMENT
	ACCOUNT			
Kno-Ho-Co-Ashland Community Action Commission	030-0101-564000		\$2,617.00	DJFS
Kno-Ho-Co-Ashland Community Action Commission	030-0101-564000		\$2,318.94	DJFS
Fairfield Computer Service LLC	010-0200-526000		\$1,320.00	Auditor
Vote: Shryock			yea	
Fischer			yea	
Bigrigg			yea	

Mr. Jed McCoy, DJFS Financial/Foster Care Update

At 10:00 a.m. Mr. Jed McCoy, DJFS Director and Mr. John Piper, DJFS Fiscal Administrator provided the Commissioners with an update on foster care and custodial care services, with particular focus on financial impacts and projected costs. The worst-case projection for custodial care costs in 2026 is approximately \$2.1 million. It was clarified that this figure reflects custodial care, not traditional foster care.

Mr. Shryock initiated discussion regarding recent federal actions related to freezing child care funding. At this time, no guidance has been issued to DJFS, and operations continue as normal. Statewide, Ohio is not currently experiencing disruptions in child care services or payment processes. Locally, DJFS has prevention strategies and safeguards in place to mitigate potential issues.

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Mr. Jed McCoy, DJFS Financial/Foster Care Update-Continued

Mr. Shryock questioned how the public understands the high level of spending on custodial care, particularly for high-cost claimants, and whether these costs are driven by supply and demand or federal reimbursement structures. Jed explained that DJFS is required to follow strict rules and regulations and remains committed to providing children with the best possible quality of life. Many children in care have severe and complex needs, which significantly increase costs.

Mr. McCoy and Mr. Piper explained that Title IV-E–eligible children are reimbursed with federal funds. However, reimbursement eligibility is based on federal income standards from 1996, which results in some children being ineligible despite current financial realities. Until these standards are updated at the federal level, this issue will persist. New regulations and requirements have also increased the cost per placement.

Mr. Bigrigg noted that the lack of nearby facilities further exacerbates costs. One placement en route to Arkansas was cited at \$1,405 per day and was OhioRISE eligible. Some children are not IV-E eligible due to parental income exceeding outdated thresholds. Mr. Bigrigg expressed difficulty comprehending the magnitude of these expenses.

Mrs. Beck asked whether parents are typically uninvolved with the children in care. Mr. McCoy clarified that this is not always the case; sometimes the child’s behavioral or medical needs necessitate placement rather than parental neglect.

As of the date of the meeting, there were 90–93 children in custodial care, with Mr. Piper confirming 93 based on the most recent Friday report.

For December, DJFS received 46 reports: 18 screened in and 28 were screened out.

Staffing levels were reviewed:

- 3 intake workers
- 5–6 ongoing caseworkers
- 1 worker dedicated to youth ages 14+ focusing on transition services
- 1 part-time adoption worker
- 1 placement worker
- 1 OhioSTART caseworker addressing substance-related cases (currently serving 9 children)

Mr. Shryock questioned why, given high reimbursement rates for congregate care, more facilities are not operating locally. Mr. McCoy explained that many facilities closed prior to the current crisis, and while efforts are underway to reopen facilities regionally, barriers remain. Some congregate care facilities choose not to become IV-E eligible. Mr. Piper added that facilities must operate for one full year before applying for IV-E certification, which creates financial risk and discourages new facilities from opening.

Mr. McCoy stated that the system is fundamentally broken and emphasized the need for systemic reform. Mr. Shryock suggested raising federal poverty thresholds to increase eligibility. Mrs. Beck offered assistance with identifying grants or grant-writing resources.

Mr. McCoy confirmed that DJFS has a full-time placement coordinator and is exploring the creation of a position focused on kinship placement “deep dives.” DJFS is also revisiting efforts to increase the number of locally licensed foster families through DJFS.

Mr. Shryock asked how the Commissioners can assist, noting that \$2.1 million in custodial care costs is not sustainable for the General Fund. Advocacy at the state and federal levels was identified as critical. Mr. McCoy emphasized the importance of educating elected officials on the realities of custodial care costs.

Kinship care expansion is currently a priority, and DJFS is consulting with other counties that have successful kinship programs. Discussion also included how other counties have passed levies to support custodial care funding.

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Mr. Jed McCoy, DJFS Financial/Foster Care Update-Continued

Mr. Shryock asked whether DJFS seeks lower-cost placements after initial residential placement. Mr. McCoy explained that this occurs when appropriate, but not if the child's needs are best met at the current facility. Mr. Shryock suggested that a dedicated role or grant-funded position could focus on identifying alternative placements. Mr. McCoy noted that facilities may still decline placements based on a child's needs, and extensive phone outreach is often required.

Mr. Shryock requested ongoing monthly financial reports from DJFS to assist with 2026 budgeting. Mr. McCoy reported that costs have decreased slightly:

- September: \$365,000
- October: \$435,000
- November: just under \$416,000

The average monthly cost through the end of November is approximately \$355,000. Some prior payment recoupments ("takebacks") were confirmed by John to be legitimate.

DJFS currently has 14–16 licensed foster homes locally. Traditional foster homes are reimbursed at approximately \$25 per day, while private foster homes receive approximately \$80 per day. Mr. McCoy is evaluating the financial and service impact of increasing the number of DJFS-licensed foster families.

Mrs. Beck stated she would follow up with Mr. McCoy regarding potential support options. Mr. McCoy concluded by emphasizing that this is not solely a Coshocton County issue but a statewide challenge. He further noted that facilities charging extremely high rates ultimately harm children by limiting placement options.

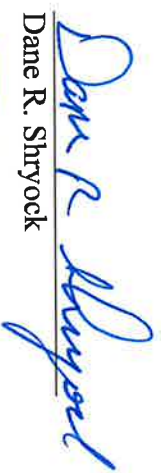
Meetings Attended

No Commissioners attended any meetings.

Adjourn

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

Dane R. Shryock



Robert W. Bierigg



Gary L. Fischer



Clerk

