

COMMISSIONER'S JOURNAL

Monday

Regular

January 12, 2026

The Coshocton County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, January 12, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. with Mr. Bob Bigrigg, Mr. Dane Shryock and Mr. Gary Fischer. Also, in attendance was Mrs. Mary Beck, County Administrator, Mrs. Brooke Alverson, Clerk.

Approve Minutes

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

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Employee Resignation-Warren Courtney, CPT

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to accept the resignation of Mr. Warren Courtney from his position with Coshocton Public Transit as a part-time, effective January 12, 2025, as requested by Ms. Valerie Shaw, CPT Director.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Dog Warden's Report

Received the Dog Warden's Report for the week ending January 5, 2026, with 2 dogs picked up by the warden, 1 dog euthanized, 3 dog licenses sold, 2 dogs sold, 2 charges filed and 17 calls handled for a total of \$115.00 in fees collected.

2025 Dog Warden's Report

Received the Dog Warden's Report for year-end of 2025 with 194 dogs picked up by the warden, 52 dogs brought in as strays, 109 dogs euthanized, 332 dog licenses sold, 255 dogs sold, 113 dogs redeemed, 221 dogs surrendered by owner, 91 dogs surrendered to the dog warden, 360 citations issued and 1,532 calls handled for a total of \$14,405.00 in fees collected.

Contract with Race Night, LLC and Commissioners

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to sign the contract between Race Night, LLC and the Board of Coshocton County Commissioners in the amount of \$1,900.00 for the Courthouse Downs event to be held on May 2, 2026, the amount will be paid 100% by the donated monies in Courthouse Illumination Fund.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Delinquent Debt Collection Agreement between the Ohio Attorney General and EMS

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to sign the Delinquent Debt Collection Agreement between the Ohio Attorney General and Coshocton County Board of Commissioners dba Coshocton County Emergency Management Service for the collection of delinquent debt owed to CCEMS.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

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Demolition and Site Revitalization Program Community Authorization

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to sign the Demolition and Site Revitalization Program Community Authorization for property located at 55668 Township Road 154, West Lafayette, Ohio 43844, as requested by Ms. Hannah Gallagher, Economic Development Specialist-Coshocton Port Authority.

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

MOU with JFS and Prosecutors Office

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the Coshocton County Department Job and Family Services and the Coshocton County Prosecutor's Office in the amount of \$124,000 annually to provide one (1) attorney to assist as needed in the efficient operation of the public children's services division of JFS during the year 2026.

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Weights and Measures Inspector Contract between the Board of Commissioners and City of Coshocton

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to sign the Weights and Measures Inspector Contract between the Board of Coshocton County Commissioners and City of Coshocton in the amount of \$10,000 annually for a term of three (3) years beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2028, to allow the City to utilize the services of the County Weights and Measures Inspector to test all state-required devices within the corporation limits of the City on an annual basis.

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Monthly Prisoner Food Cost-December 2025

Received the monthly Prisoner Food Cost Report for the month of December 2025 from Sheriff Christopher Walters.

Official Certificate of Estimated Resources

Received the Official Certificate of Estimated Resources for fiscal year January 1, 2026 from the Coshocton County Budget Commission.

Transfers/Additional/Reductions

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to affirm the following Temporary Additional that was approved by County Administrator Mary Beck and certified by the County Auditor.

FROM ACCOUNT TO ACCOUNT

AMOUNT APPROVED AFFIRMED

Temp. Additional-Litter			
200-0100-527000 (ADVERTISING)	\$350.00	1/6/2026	1/12/2026

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

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Then and Now Certificates

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

VENDOR	ACCOUNT	AMOUNT	DEPARTMENT
Hathaway Inc	220-0557-526001	\$163,170.56	CCC
Maple & Sons Construction Inc.	220-0549-526002	\$10,900.00	CCC
			Vote: Bigrigg yea
			Shryock yea
			Fischer yea

Change Order 001-for IT

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to sign the Coshocton County Ohio Exchange Online Change Order 001 in the amount of \$0.00 to migrate user mailboxes from Microsoft Exchange 2016 on-premise server 365 Exchange Online, as requested by Mr. Chad Lawrence, IT Director.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Budget Meeting - Community Room

A Budget Meeting of the Coshocton County Commissioners was held on January 12, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Community Room. Commissioners Robert Bigrigg, Dane Shryock, and Gary Fischer were present. Also in attendance were Mr. Jeff Mullen, Public Defender; Mrs. Cortnie Jamison, Assistant Budget Director; Mrs. Brooke Alverson, Clerk; Mr. Daniel Rohrer, Deputy Auditor; Mrs. Janette Donaker, Treasurer; Mrs. Ashley Thomas, Recorder; Mr. Marty Dobson, Airport Administrator; Mr. Chad Lawrence, IT Director; Mr. Doug Schaeffer, Director, Coshocton County Veterans Service Office; Mrs. Christina Corbett, Administrative Assistant, CVSO; Mrs. Kayla Wright, Assistant Chief of Administration, EMS; Mr. Joe Hunt, Assistant Chief of Operations, EMS; Mr. Todd Shroyer, EMS Director; Mrs. Arica Mills, Deputy Clerk; Mrs. Jennie Warden, Assignment Commissioner, Common Pleas Court; Mrs. Jinni Bowman, Probate and Juvenile Court; Deputy Caden Brown; Sergeant Josh Walsh; Deputy Joe Corpman; Mrs. Kelsey Saylor, Administrative Assistant, Coshocton Soil and Water District; Mr. Ryan Medley, District Administrator, Coshocton Soil and Water District; Mr. Ben Hall, County Prosecutor; Mrs. Diane Jackson, Office Manager, Prosecutor's Office; Mr. Leonard Hayhurst, Tribune; Sheriff Christopher Walters; Captain Eric DeMattio; Detective Seth Andrews; Mrs. Kirsten Bell, Health Commissioner; Mrs. Beth Walsh, Administrative Services Director; Mr. Steve Oster, Hopewell School Superintendent; and Ms. Camila Graham, Clerk of Courts.

Commissioner Bigrigg called the meeting to order and began discussion regarding the 2026 budget deficiency, with particular concern for Children Services expenditures, which are averaging approximately \$175,000 per month. Commissioner Bigrigg stated that meetings were held with Treasurer Janette Donaker and Auditor Grant Daugherty, resulting in an increase of \$773,000 in anticipated revenues. He reported that \$1.7 million will need to be set aside for DJFS, with \$300,000 still owed for 2025. Anticipated sales tax revenues were increased due to higher-than-expected collections in 2025. Additionally, \$400,000 will be transferred from the Capital Improvement Fund to the General Fund from the sale of the property located at 646 Chestnut Street.

Commissioner Bigrigg advised that even with these measures, funding may still be insufficient and that the County will need to closely monitor revenues throughout 2026. Looking ahead to 2027, he stated that the County currently has limited financial flexibility. A three-point plan for the 2026 budget was presented, which includes a 4.5% reduction from each department's 2025 budget, a hiring freeze for 2026, allowing elected officials to provide raises only within their existing budgets, and placing a 1.00 mill Children Services levy on the ballot. Commissioner Bigrigg also noted that the Commissioners have already cut a 10% from their budget, though it was not included as a formal point of the plan.

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Budget Meeting - Community Room-Continued

The Commissioners expressed hope that these measures would minimize employee layoffs, though each elected official will need to determine staffing decisions within their respective offices. Mr. Bigrigg stated that his office has already taken a 10% reduction, will not replace a maintenance position, and has reduced capital expenditures. Departments were reminded that the 4.5% reduction must be based on actual 2025 budget figures.

Discussion continued regarding potential impacts if the Children Services levy does not pass. Commissioner Bigrigg stated that passing a levy will be difficult, which is why DJFS spending is being monitored closely. He reported that the number of children in custody has increased approximately 20% since 2025, with about 20 children currently in congregate care, some costing more than \$1,000 per day. The County is exploring alternative placement options and the potential hiring of staff to locate more cost-effective and appropriate facilities while maintaining quality care.

Commissioner Shryock stated that if a position becomes vacant, departments must come before the Commissioners for approval prior to hiring. He noted that approximately 66% of unemployment costs are paid from the General Fund. It was clarified that unemployment costs are paid from the General Fund depending on the applicable quarters. The Commissioners reported that they are working with DJFS to explore grant funding and other options to offset costs and emphasized the importance of monitoring expenses on a rolling basis to remain reactive rather than proactive.

Commissioner Bigrigg stated that the 2026 budget would be released at noon that day. He and Commissioner Shryock encouraged departments to continue reviewing their budgets and noted that if revenues increase during the year, some departments' reductions may change. Commissioner Bigrigg emphasized that the overall goal is to protect the 2027 budget and maintain the financial stability of the County.

Additional discussion addressed Children Services levies in other counties, noting that Coshocton County's current levy dates back to 1995 and that prior attempts at additional, replacement, and renewal levies have failed. Commissioner Bigrigg stated that these challenges are not unique to Coshocton County and were discussed at recent conferences. He also noted positive trends in sales tax revenue and anticipated future growth from construction activity at Conesville.

Further questions were raised regarding the average length of stay for children in custody, kinship placement efforts, and residency requirements. It was explained that children must be residents of Coshocton County for at least 30 days before falling under County responsibility and that adopted children whose adoptions have failed are considered the responsibility of Coshocton County. With no further questions or discussion, the meeting concluded.

Meetings Attended

Mr. Bigrigg had a Board of DD meeting on Wednesday evening, January 7th.

Adjourn

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



Robert W. Bigrigg



Dane R. Shryock



Gary L. Fischer



Clerk