

January 12, 2026

Approve Minutes

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

2025 Dog Warden's Report

Vote: Bigrigg yea
 Shryock yea
 Fischer yea

Vote: Bigrigg yea
 Shryock yea
 Fischer yea

January 12, 2026

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.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

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.

COMMISSIONER'S JOURNAL

Monday

Regular

January 12, 2026

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.

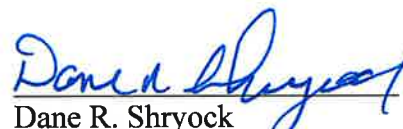
Meetings Attended

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