

## COMMISSIONER'S JOURNAL

**Wednesday**

**Regular**

**February 11, 2026**

The Coshocton County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. with Mr. Bob Bigrigg, Mr. Dane Shryock and Mr. Gary Fischer. Also, in attendance was Mrs. Brooke Alverson; Clerk, Mr. Dean Hettinger and Mr. Chuck Ellis.

### 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

### Community Room Rental-Mary Beck

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock granting permission to Mary Beck, a county employee, use of the Commissioners Community Room on April 12, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. for an Alzheimer's Fundraiser.

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

### Community Room Rental-Maddison Pence

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer granting permission to Maddison Pence, a county employee, use of the Commissioners Community Room on April 18, 2026, all day for a baby shower.

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

### Employee Resignation-Drayvin Senter

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to accept the resignation of Mr. Drayvin Senter, from his position with the IT Department, effective February 24, 2026, as requested by Mr. Chad Lawrence, IT Director.

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

### Monthly Prisoner Food Cost-February 2026

Received the Prisoner Food Cost for the month of January 2026 from Sheriff Christopher Walters.

### Dog Warden Report

Received the Dog Wardens Report for the week ending February 9, 2026, with 1 dog picked up by the warden, 1 dog euthanized, 1 dog license sold, 1 dog sold, 1 dog surrendered by owner, 4 charges filed and 23 calls handled for a total of \$80.00 in fees collected.

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## Engagement Letter

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded Mr. Fischer to sign the Engagement Letter between the Coshocton County Commissioners/ Coshocton County Prosecutor's Office and Fishel Downey Albrecht & Riepenhoff, LLP to retain their office for public records related request.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

## Mrs. Ashley Thomas, County Recorder - Public Records Request

At 9:07 a.m., Mrs. Ashley Thomas, Coshocton County Recorder, attended the Commissioners' meeting to discuss public records request recently received by her office. She noted that approximately 50 county recorders across Ohio have received the same or a similar request, although she is unsure if additional counties have also been contacted.

Mrs. Thomas provided a copy of the original request. The requester is seeking all digitized records maintained by her office, including indexes, dating back to 1970. The records are currently available digitally, with books posted online. The requester has asked that the records be provided on a hard drive and has indicated he is willing to supply the hard drive. He stated he does not expect to pay any costs beyond the expense of the hard drive.

Mrs. Thomas explained that fulfilling the request would involve approximately 50 years of documents, representing a substantial volume of records. She forwarded the request to Assistant Prosecutor Jim Skelton to confirm its validity and to seek legal guidance. She noted that her office's vendor maintains certain records in cloud storage.

Mr. Skelton reviewed the request and advised that while the vendor may be able to copy the records without significant cost, the records are stored in their original format and may require redaction, particularly for sensitive information such as military records. He cautioned that redacting information would effectively create a new record, and the County could be held liable if all confidential information is not properly redacted.

Mrs. Thomas stated that she has acknowledged receipt of the request and informed the requester that she is consulting with the vendor to determine how the request can be fulfilled. She described the request as potentially overly broad. In addition to the records, the requester also asked for a copy of the contract with the vendor.

Mrs. Thomas reported that some counties are considering denying the request, while others are still weighing their options. In certain counties, prosecutors have responded on behalf of the recorder; in others, no response has yet been issued.

Mr. Skelton has requested a cost estimate from the vendor to complete the copying and necessary redactions; however, no quote has been received to date. Mrs. Thomas noted that replacing or retrieving a single book can take a full day, and this request involves millions of documents. Based on the Prosecutor's advice, one option may be to have the vendor copy the records onto the external hard drive provided by the requester.

Commissioner Shryock inquired about how redactions would be handled. Mrs. Thomas explained that the vendor could perform the redactions, or her office could manually review and redact the records; however, she does not have sufficient staff to complete such an extensive review. She also questioned why the requester could not access the records online, as they are publicly available. The requester indicated that online access is not sufficient for his purposes.

Commissioner Shryock asked how sensitive information, such as addresses related to law enforcement or EMS personnel, would be protected. Mrs. Thomas stated that her office uses a form for certain records that are redacted before being made public.

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Mrs. Ashley Thomas, County Recorder - Public Records Request-Continued

Mrs. Thomas added that she is aware of at least five counties that have not received this request. Commissioner Fischer suggested that recorders across the state consider issuing a unified denial on the basis that the request is overly broad; however, it was noted that if counties act collectively, they could still be subject to individual lawsuits.

Mrs. Thomas referenced communication from Brian from Licking County, who serves as a legislative chair, and indicated that his county prosecutor assisted in preparing a denial response. She also stated that her office does not have sufficient funds in its budget to retain outside counsel or obtain additional assistance to fulfill the request.

Commissioner Bigrigg stated that the matter appears to exceed the capacity of the Recorder's Office and recommended seeking additional legal guidance. Commissioner Fischer suggested contacting Mark Fishel for legal advice to assist in drafting a response, whether to fulfill, narrow, or deny the request. Commissioner Bigrigg agreed that reaching out to Mr. Fishel would be an appropriate next step and thanked Mrs. Thomas for bringing the matter to the Board's attention.

Commissioner Shryock expressed surprise that the statewide association has not issued a coordinated response to the request. It was also noted that there remains some uncertainty regarding how certain records are stored.

## Meetings Attended

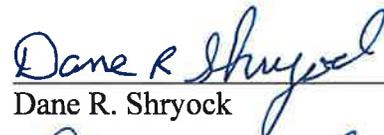
On Tuesday, February 10, 2026 Mr. Robert Bigrigg, Mr. Dane Shryock and Mrs. Mary Beck all were on the WTNS talk show to speak about County Government.

## Adjourn

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



Robert W. Bigrigg



Dane R. Shryock



Gary L. Fischer



Clerk