

COMMISSIONER'S JOURNAL

Monday

Regular

March 2, 2026

The Coshocton County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 2, 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, Mrs. Mary Beck, County Administrator, Mr. Chuck Ellis, Ms. Mary Fergali, WTNS and Mr. Leonard Hayhurst, Tribune.

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

MOU with Knox County Sheriff's Office

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to accept the Memorandum of Understanding between the Knox County Sheriff's Department and the Coshocton County Sheriff's office to temporarily house inmates from Knox County at a fee of \$65.00 per day.

Vote: Bigrigg yea
 Shryock yea
 Fischer yea

Community Room, RHDD

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer grant permission to RHDD, use of the Commissioners Community Room on September 30, 2026 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for an anniversary celebration.

Vote: Bigrigg yea
 Shryock yea
 Fischer yea

Support Letter for River View School

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to sign a letter of support for River View Local Schools for a 2026 Safe Routes to School Travel Plan application, at the request of Tammy Fox, Grants Coordinator RVLSD.

Vote: Bigrigg yea
 Shryock yea
 Fischer yea

Transfers/Additional/Reductions

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

FROM ACCOUNT	TO ACCOUNT	AMOUNT	APPROVED	AFFIRMED
	Additional- Common Pleas			
Unappropriated	009-0100-540000 (Other Expense)	\$5,000.00	2/25/2026	3/2/2026
	Additional-CCC			
Unappropriated	001-0110-540000 (OTHER EXPENSE)	\$4,395.00	2/25/2026	3/2/2026
	Additional-Sheriff			
Unappropriated	154-0100-510200 (SALARIES - LETF)	\$40,000.00	2/26/2025	3/2/2026
Unappropriated	154-0100-511000 (LETF-PERS)	\$8,000.00	2/26/2025	3/2/2026
Unappropriated	154-0100-511500 (LETF-MEDICARE)	\$1,000.00	2/26/2025	3/2/2026
		\$49,000.00		
	Transfer-Treasurer			
403-0100-510200 (SALARIES-EMPLOYEES)	403-0100-540000 (OTHER EXPENSE)	\$1,000.00	2/27/2025	3/2/2026

Vote: Bigrigg yea
 Shryock yea
 Fischer yea

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Then and Now Certificates

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock 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	APPROVED	AFFIRMED
Stanley Miller Construction Co	220-0544-5260.01	\$40,020.00	CCC	2/23/2026	3/2/2026
Diversified Companies LLC	001-0130-526000	\$4,358.72	Treasurer	2/25/2026	3/2/2026

Vote: Bigrigg yea
 Shryock yea
 Fischer yea

Resolution 2026-016, Engine Brake

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to sign Resolution 2026-016 Prohibition of an engine brake on northbound and southbound SR 16, Franklin Township, from mile marker 3.58 to mile marker 5.40, at the request of Joshua Kempf, County Engineer.

Vote: Bigrigg yea
 Shryock yea
 Fischer yea

Resolution 2026-017, Engine Brake

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to sign Resolution 2026-017 Prohibition of an engine brake on northbound and southbound SR 643, Keene Township, from mile marker 0.793 to mile marker 1.383, at the request of Joshua Kempf, County Engineer.

Vote: Bigrigg yea
 Shryock yea
 Fischer yea

Foster Care Rate Increase

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to approve a request to increase the daily Foster Care per diem from \$25.00 per day to \$35.00 per day and maintain the appropriate mileage reimbursements, at the request of Jed McCoy, DJFS Director.

Vote: Bigrigg yea
 Shryock yea
 Fischer yea

Updated Foster Parent Recruitment

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to approve the updated Foster Parent Recruitment policy, at the request of Jed McCoy, DJFS Director.

Vote: Bigrigg yea
 Shryock yea
 Fischer yea

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Community Room Rental-RHDD

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer granting permission to RHDD, use of the Commissioners Community Room on April 24, 2026, all day for an Autism training for first responders.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Community Room Rental-River View Local Schools

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock granting permission to River View Schools use of the Commissioners Community Room on August 1, 2026 from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. for Stronger Together: Alumni Impact Night.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Bid Opening-CR 24 Bridge Replacement

At 9:00 a.m. the Bid Opening for the County Road 24 Bridge Replacement took place with the following people in attendance: Commissioner Bigrigg, Commissioners Shryock, Commissioner Fischer, Brooke Alverson, Clerk, Mary Beck, County Administrator, Mr. Chuck Ellis, Mr. Joshua Kempf, County Engineer, Mr. Travis McConnell, McConnell Contracting. Mr. Joshua Kempf stated the engineer estimate for this project to be \$300,000.00. Commissioner Bigrigg read the only bid aloud: McConnell Contracting, Inc-West Lafayette, Ohio with a bid of \$200,750.00. Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to turn over the bid to Mr. Joshua Kempf for his review and recommendation.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

JFS Monthly Update

Mr. Jed McCoy, DJFS Director, Mr. John Piper, DJFS Fiscal Administrator and Mrs. Kathy Art, Child Services Administrator provided updates to the Coshocton County Commissioners, beginning with several reports Jed distributed earlier in the morning as he transitions responsibilities to Kathy for this follow update. Kathy reported that the agency has taken emergency custody of seven children within the past week. Five children under the age of five tested positive for methamphetamine, and in one case involving a drug lab where three children were removed, the children tested positive for THC. It has been an emotional week at JFS. In one particularly difficult situation, the agency had previously worked closely with the court, the guardian ad litem, and service providers to reunite children with their family, only to have them removed again due to renewed safety concerns and placed back into foster care. Of the seven children recently removed, three were placed with kinship caregivers, three in local foster homes, and one in another local placement. Drug levels in the tested children were reported as high. The parents in these cases are not currently incarcerated but DJFS is cooperating with law enforcement and the prosecutor's office to ensure the case is handled properly and does not jeopardize prosecution.

In other updates, the agency finalized one adoption in the past two weeks. One child moved from congregate care to a private network foster home, and another child currently in detention has been ordered into a treatment foster home. Commissioner Bigrigg expressed hope that prosecution of the parents involved in the recent drug cases will move forward, while Mr. McCoy noted the delicate balance in determining when parents should be charged for the behavior and circumstances affecting their children. Commissioner Bigrigg emphasized that parents must ultimately be accountable for their children's situations.

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JFS Monthly Update-Continued

Currently, 91 children are in care, with 17 in congregate care placements. Kathy shared that she personally reviews congregate care placements and noted that while she previously had 13 in congregate care, numbers fluctuate as children's needs change. She stressed that children require appropriate services, and sometimes it takes time to locate the right resources. Commissioner Shryock referenced recent shared service agreements with mental health networks totaling \$40,000 for 90-day periods, noting that such agreements are valuable and increasingly necessary as juvenile court abuse and neglect cases continue to rise. While drug deaths and overdoses have decreased, Kathy reported the emergence of different drug trends, particularly fentanyl being mixed with methamphetamine.

Mr. Piper provided a financial update, reporting that January placement costs totaled \$433,000, which was a decrease, with \$20,000 reimbursed—less than expected, though prior owed funds have now been received. February placement costs are projected at \$363,000 due in part to the shorter month, with anticipated reimbursements of \$199,000, including \$50,000 from the previous month. Approximately \$165,000 remains unreimbursed. Depending on the timing of real estate tax collections, the agency may not need to request additional funds and may not require funding in April. Commissioner Bigrigg cautioned that it is difficult to make firm financial judgments at this time due to many unknown variables, while John noted that placement costs ultimately reflect the level of need.

Commissioner Shryock asked about the seven recently removed children. Kathy confirmed that six are local to Coshocton County and one is from Tuscarawas County. Of the six local children, three have previously been in foster care. She also clarified that Title IV-E is a separate funding source. Jed acknowledged the many moving parts involved in these cases. Kathy added that recent meetings with surrounding counties confirmed that rising numbers of children in care are a widespread issue.

Regarding foster care recruitment and retention, Commissioner Bigrigg referenced the related agenda item. Jed shared that he conducted outreach to surrounding counties to compare foster care reimbursement rates and determined that Coshocton County would increase the daily rate paid to foster homes, which has remained at \$25 per day for years. Rates vary widely among neighboring counties based on age and mileage considerations. There are currently 14 local foster homes in Coshocton County, and the goal is that today's action will help increase that number within six months. Jed also filed a Region 12 grant application for additional funding. With 45 applications submitted and \$1.2 million available, scoring is expected to take place in May.

Misty Cromwell from the mental health board may be able to assist with funding for a kinship coordinator position. Commissioner Shryock asked about the anticipated impact of the program if implemented. Feedback from Belmont County indicates that the investment in a dedicated kinship worker is worthwhile, helping reduce trauma for children and providing a strong return on investment. Commissioner Shryock questioned whether allocating more general fund dollars to the kinship program would be beneficial, noting that of five to six attempted cases, only one has been successful thus far. The "Connect a Family" initiative is expected to help guide the process and support the new worker. Commissioner Bigrigg concluded by thanking the department for continuing to educate the Commissioners on these important issues.

Sheriff Walters, Captain Charles Udischas-Jail fees

At 11:00 a.m. Sheriff Walters and Captain Charles Udischas, Jail Administrator met with the Coshocton County Commissioners to discuss the current jail fee schedule. Captain Udischas provided documentation outlining the existing fees, many of which have been in place for a significant period of time and may need to be updated. The Commissioners are responsible for setting and approving these fees.

Captain Udischas reviewed the various fees currently charged. He explained that some collected fees are allocated to the commissary fund, while others support salaries and raises. The commissary provides inmates with access to a wide variety of items. While the jail is not permitted to profit from phone services, inmates may use a tablet system to send texts and access other services if they have funds available. The tablets offer a broad range of services, all subject to established fees.

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Sheriff Walters, Captain Charles Udischas-Jail fees continued

Captain Udischas requested that the Commissioners approve an updated fee schedule before housing additional out-of-county inmates. He also proposed adding a booking fee to be assessed upon an inmate's release, with those funds directed to the county's general fund. He emphasized the importance of maintaining a strict balance in the jail's financial records to ensure transparency and accuracy.

State statute does not specify a set amount for certain fees, instead allowing for a "reasonable fee." Commissioner Bigrigg stated that if Captain Udischas believes the proposed amounts are appropriate, he is supportive of the recommendation. The updated fee schedule will be placed on the agenda for approval at Wednesday's meeting.

Executive Session-Employee Insurance

At 11:40 a.m. Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to go into executive session to talk about employee insurance. Also in attendance was Commissioner Bigrigg, Mrs. Brooke Alverson, Clerk and Mrs. Mary Beck, County Administrator. All vote aye. At 11: 50 a.m. Mr. Bigrigg returned the meeting to regular session. No action taken.

Meetings Attended

Commissioner Bigrigg attended a Kno-Ho-Co meeting on Thursday, February 26. On Friday morning, February 27, he attended the CFLP meeting and later that morning also participated in the EODA meeting.

On Thursday, February 26, Commissioner Shryock attended the Opioid Region 12 Board meeting via Zoom, where he was informed that 45 project proposals had been submitted, totaling \$1.2 million in requested grant funding.

On Friday, February 27, Commissioners Shryock and Fischer attended the retirement celebration for Mr. Steve Walsh. That same morning, Commissioner Fischer participated in the Eastern Ohio Development Association (EODA) meeting.

Mary Beck, County Administrator Updates

Grant application materials for Community Project Funding through Congressman Balderson and Senator Husted are due in March. These capital dollars could support a number of critical infrastructure needs throughout the county. Mrs. Beck has been in discussions with Mr. Kempf, County Engineer regarding potential projects that may qualify, including the pedestrian walkway across the roadway, which is estimated at \$6-7 million. Mr. Kempf also suggested that portions of State Route 271 to 275, which are deteriorating due to heavy commercial traffic, could be strong candidates for funding, particularly projects involving key commercial routes. Commissioner Shryock mentioned that improvements to the four-lane roadway may also be worth considering.

Mrs. Beck plans to coordinate with Mr. Tim Biggam, Montrose to further develop these proposals, including possible bridge rehabilitation projects. Re-waterproofing bridges was identified as another priority area, as it would extend the lifespan of the structures and maximize long-term infrastructure investment.

Regarding Skips Landing, Mr. Matt Bauer and Mr. Don Wells are currently working through logistics to relocate a water line in coordination with the city engineer. The line will no longer run beneath the playground area. The estimated cost to relocate that section of pipe is \$150,000. AEP has begun its portion of the project, and all trenches for the bridge lighting have been dug. The light poles have been delivered and are ready for installation.

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Mary Beck, County Administrator Updates Continued

Mrs. Beck also met with USDA representatives, who requested environmental and mussel study information for the Skips Landing area. Once that documentation is approved, USDA grant funds will be released. The target completion date for Skips Landing remains July 3.

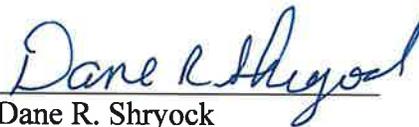
Additionally, Mrs. Beck has been assisting Tammi Rogers at Lake Park in applying for grant funding in partnership with Tim Biggam.

Adjourn

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



Robert W. Bigrigg



Dane R. Shryock



Gary L. Fischer


Clerk