

COMMISSIONER'S JOURNAL

Monday

Regular

March 9, 2026

The Coshocton County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 9, 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 and Ms. Mary Fergali from WTNS.

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

Letter of Support-Kirk Drain

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to sign a letter of support addressed to The Honorable Troy Balderson for Fiscal Year 2026 Community Project Funding request with the regional stormwater and drainage improvement project involving the Kirk Drain, Ridgewood Wetlands, Ridgewood School pond, the Village of West Lafayette's stormwater infrastructure, and the surrounding watershed areas, including the potential Lafayette Mills component.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Acknowledgement Letter to Federal Aviation-Spongy Moth

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to sign the acknowledgement letter addressed to the Federal Aviation Administration regarding the planned aerial application of insect control material related to the suppression of the spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar*), being conducted through efforts between the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Employee Hire-Joseph Rice, DJFS

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to hire Joseph Rice as a Child Support Case Manager with the Coshocton County Department of Job and Family Services, effective March 16, 2026, as requested by Ms. Jaime Freeman, DJFS Assistant Director.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Dog Warden Report

Received the Dog Warden's Report for the week ending February 28, 2026, with 11 dogs picked up by the dog warden, 3 dogs brought in as strays, 4 dogs euthanized, 7 dog licenses sold, 5 dogs sold, 2 dogs redeemed, 3 dogs surrendered by owner, 1 charge filed and 14 calls handled for a total of \$290.00 in fees collected.

Monthly Pay-In Report, February 2026

Received the monthly pay-in report for the month of February 2026 from Ms. Camila Graham, Clerk of Courts.

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Resolution 2026-018, Advance from General Fund to Real Estate Assessment

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to sign Resolution 2026-018, a resolution for an advance from the general fund to the real estate assessment fund (040-0100-409900) in the amount of \$150,000.00, to be reimbursed to the general fund on or before May 15, 2026.

Vote: Bigrigg yea
 Shryock yea
 Fischer yea

Award CR 24 Bridge Replacement, McConnell Contracting Inc.

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to award the County Road 24 Bridge Replacement to McConnell Contracting Inc. of West Lafayette, Ohio in the amount of \$299,750.00, as they were determined to be the lowest and best bid, as requested by Mr. Joshua Kempf, Coshocton County Engineer.

Vote: Bigrigg yea
 Shryock yea
 Fischer yea

Community Room Rental-Coshocton County Youth Financial Support Committee

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer granting permission to Coshocton County Youth Financial Support Committee use of the Commissioners Community Room on March 6, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. for a fundraiser event.

Vote: Bigrigg yea
 Shryock yea
 Fischer yea

Monthly Food Expense Account- February 2026

Received the monthly prisoner food expense report for the month of February 2026 from Sheriff Christopher Walters.

Transfers/Additional/Reductions

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to affirm the following transfers/additionals/reductions that have been approved by Mary Beck, County Administrator and certified by the County Auditor.

FROM ACCOUNT	TO ACCOUNT	AMOUNT	APPROVED	AFFIRMED
	Additional-CCC			
	220-0549-526002 (CO CDBG Home Repair)	\$11,550.00		
	220-0557-526001 (Pickleball Courts)	\$163,170.00		
		\$174,720.00	3/4/2026	3/9/2026
	Transfer-Sheriff			
001-0610-526000 (CONTRACT - SERVICES)	001-0610-521000 (EQUIPMENT)	\$300.00	3/4/2026	3/9/2026
	Transfer-Sheriff			
150-0100-526000 (CONTRACT - SERVICES)	150-0100-521000 (EQUIPMENT)	\$300.00	3/4/2026	3/9/2026

Vote: Bigrigg yea
 Shryock yea
 Fischer yea

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Employee Hire- Kimberley Arden, EMS

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to hire Kimberly Arden as an Accounting Clerk with the Coshocton County Emergency Medical Services, effective March 9, 2026, as requested by Mrs. Kayla Wright, Assistant Chief of Administration.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Kelly Kupcak, Kno-Co-Ho Ashland, Senior Center Room Discussion

At 9:00 a.m., Kelly Kupcak of Kno-Ho-Co-Ashland attended the Coshocton County Commissioners meeting to discuss the availability of room or office space at the Senior Center for Blue Sky Voice and Opportunity. Ms. Kupcak explained that Blue Sky, led by Executive Director Eve Moon, provides recovery services within the community and is currently working toward certification. The organization is requesting the use of office space at no cost for up to three years and would utilize the Senior Center space only when it is not in use for senior activities. Ms. Moon shared that Blue Sky focuses primarily on addiction recovery, though approximately ten percent of the individuals they assist are experiencing homelessness, with additional services addressing domestic violence and support for individuals rebuilding their lives following incarceration. She noted that the organization provides peer recovery support and guidance for individuals seeking recovery. Blue Sky successfully launched several support groups and hosted seven community events last year. The organization also received a startup grant from Ohio Behavioral Health and hopes to expand its reach to serve more individuals in the community.

Commissioner Bigrigg questioned whether the Senior Center had the capacity to accommodate the request, to which April George, Senior Center Director confirmed that space could be available. Ms. Kupcak also mentioned that Blue Sky has future space planned at Grace Church once renovations are completed. Commissioner Shryock congratulated Ms. Moon on her success and personal recovery and asked whether the organization's services were primarily focused on addiction recovery, which she confirmed. Commissioner Shryock also mentioned a potential grant opportunity through Region 12 in the state, though Ms. Moon stated that Blue Sky has already applied for similar funding through the OneOhio grant program. Commissioner Bigrigg also congratulated Ms. Moon and thanked her for the work she and the organization are doing in the community. The Commissioners stated that they would take the request under advisement and provide a decision at a later time.

Jessie Tubbs, Mayor of West Lafayette – Kirk Drain Grant Discussion

At 10:00 a.m., Jessie Tubbs, Mayor of West Lafayette, attended the Coshocton County Commissioners meeting to discuss ongoing concerns regarding the Kirk Drain. Also present were Ryan Medley and Zach Wallace from the Coshocton Soil and Water Conservation District. Mayor Tubbs explained that the drain, originally installed in 1947, is no longer functioning as intended and has contributed to significant stormwater issues affecting the village. She noted that the village is surrounded by a moat-like drainage system on three sides and that recent stormwater studies have highlighted the extent of the problem. The village has invested approximately \$10,000 for a stormwater study covering the south and east areas outside the village, \$50,000 from a modeling for mayors partnership, and about \$100,000 for a stormwater study within the village to better understand current infrastructure, determine what systems are functioning, and identify the most effective solutions. Mayor Tubbs stated that much of the infrastructure contributing to the issue lies outside village limits and that a full solution could cost approximately \$6 million. While the village is willing to participate in the project, she requested that the Commissioners consider taking it on as a county project. Additional studies are also being conducted regarding the possibility of installing retention or detention ponds to help manage stormwater. The village has applied for funding through the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) and has allocated approximately \$280,000 toward stormwater improvements, though stormwater remains a major concern. Mayor Tubbs also noted that the village does not currently have a stormwater utility, as council has voted against establishing one in the past.

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Jessie Tubbs, Mayor of West Lafayette – Kirk Drain Grant Discussion- Continued

Commissioner Bigrigg discussed observations from visiting the area over the past several days, noting that standing water was present throughout the area. He referenced potential solutions such as detention or retention ponds near Hickory Flats Drive, where a 30-foot-wide ditch runs north toward U.S. Route 36, and a dry basin concept that could overflow toward State Route 93 near the Endsley Field area before continuing into additional drainage structures or culverts near low-lying areas. Mayor Tubbs confirmed that she has spoken with several farmers and property owners affected by the drainage issues. Commissioner Bigrigg asked Soil and Water representatives if the proposed ideas aligned with their understanding of the situation, and Zach Wallace confirmed that the concepts were consistent with the original drainage principles being considered. Additional discussion included the possibility of expanding an existing retention area near the school to create a larger basin. Ryan Medley explained that the current 30-inch line running down the west side of the village toward the intersection of State Routes 541 and 93 is a key component of the existing system, though additional improvements may still be necessary. He also noted that installing new drainage pipes under the railroad tracks would not be feasible.

Commissioners and officials discussed whether the overall system could function more effectively if divided into two sections rather than relying on a single drainage outlet, and engineers are currently modeling those options. It was noted that the entire watershed may be too large to direct into one ditch. Mayor Tubbs confirmed that a swale on the west side of State Route 93 could help retain water and reduce flooding, which has become an annual problem in the area. Commissioners also discussed whether a 30-inch line could serve only the current drainage issues or if it could also accommodate future tie-ins for new residential or commercial development. Ryan Medley indicated that improvements to detention throughout the watershed could help redirect water away from the most problematic areas, potentially reducing pressure on the Kirk Drain. Commissioner Shryock noted that distributing water flow across multiple outlets would likely improve drainage dynamics and could also support future development if additional secondary drainage lines were installed.

Commissioner Bigrigg also mentioned that a grant application submitted to the Watershed District had been rejected, noting that Mr. Josh Kempf, Coshocton County Engineer had contributed significant work to the application but that additional studies were requested. Mayor Tubbs suggested the possibility of splitting the project into smaller phases, emphasizing that a large portion of the project area lies outside village limits and reiterating her request that the County Commissioners consider leading the effort. Commissioner Shryock acknowledged that the project is greatly needed and noted that a previous mayor had considered filing for a petition ditch. Commissioner Shryock explained that the county does not directly manage stormwater systems but instead addresses such issues through the petition ditch process, noting that two such projects currently exist in the county, including areas near WODA and Genesis Drive that operate under maintenance agreements.

Commissioners explained that for a petition ditch to proceed, an affected property owner must file a petition with the Commissioners' office. The county engineer would then prepare a cost analysis, followed by public hearings where affected landowners could provide input. Assessments for the project would be applied to property owners within the watershed area benefiting from the improvements. It was estimated that the watershed from the school southward could involve approximately 120 parcels. Commissioner Shryock noted that engineers could help guide the petition process and that assessments are typically reviewed every six years to determine whether additional funds need to be collected. Commissioner Shryock added that the assessments would apply to affected property owners, though Ryan Medley noted that assessment methods vary by county, with some charging equal amounts and others using a staged assessment based on the level of benefit each property receives. The Commissioners would ultimately determine how assessments would be structured.

Mayor Tubbs asked how long the petition ditch process typically takes. Ryan Medley indicated that, given the studies already completed, the village may be ahead in the process and estimated that it could take approximately 30 to 120 days after a petition is filed and the required bond is paid. The group also discussed whether dry holding facilities could be funded through a petition ditch project, with Medley indicating that such improvements would likely qualify. Commissioners explained that a public hearing would allow affected parcel owners to discuss their assessments before the Commissioners vote on whether the petition should proceed.

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Jessie Tubbs, Mayor of West Lafayette – Kirk Drain Grant Discussion- Continued

Mayor Tubbs then asked whether the Commissioners would be willing to apply for funding through Congressman Troy Balderson's office. Commissioner Bigrigg responded that the timing would make it difficult to pursue that option immediately and noted that the project has been under discussion for many years. Commissioner Shryock suggested first discussing the matter with Javan Johnson, Representative to Mr. Troy Balderson to determine feasibility. Commissioner Bigrigg agreed that meeting the current funding deadlines would be difficult but suggested inviting Mr. Johnson to attend a meeting on Wednesday to review the situation and determine possible next steps. Mayor Tubbs emphasized the importance of resolving the drainage issues so that development in the Ridgewood area can continue to grow. Commissioner Bigrigg concluded that the next step would be to speak with Mr. Johnson and have him attend Wednesday's meeting before moving forward with any additional decisions.

Executive Session, Sheriff Walters-Union Discussion

At 10:50 a.m. Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to go into executive session with Sheriff Walters to discuss employment. Also in attendance was Mrs. Mary Beck, County Administrator, Mrs. Brooke Alverson, Clerk and Commissioner Bigrigg. All vote aye. At 11:00 a.m. Mr. Bigrigg returned the meeting to regular session. No action taken.

Executive Session – Opioid Litigation Update

At 11:00 a.m. Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to go into executive session to discuss Opioid Litigation Updates. All Vote Aye. Also in attendance was Mrs. Mary Beck, County Administrator, Mrs. Brooke Alverson, Clerk and Commissioner Bigrigg. All vote aye. At 11:10 a.m. Mr. Bigrigg returned the meeting to regular session. No action taken.

Meetings Attended

On Wednesday afternoon, March 4th Commissioner Bigrigg, at the request of Susan McDonald of the Boy Scout Council, visited the Boy Scout Camp along with Tiffany Swigert, Port Authority Director and Hannah Gallagher, Economic Specialist to review the site and discuss potential options for housing workers. The visit included a discussion with Anthony Basil from the Frontier Group regarding the possibility of utilizing the camp for worker housing.

On Friday, March 6th Commissioner Bigrigg attended the Executive Committee meeting with Kno-Ho-Co. He also spoke with Mr. Brent Proteus regarding road conditions in the Conesville area.

Commissioner Shryock participated in a phone meeting with Hannah Gallagher from the Coshocton Port Authority to discuss grant funding related to the potential removal of the jail, the prosecutor's office, and the Wortman Home. In addition, Commissioner Shryock had multiple conversations with Tiffany Swigert regarding potential income opportunities associated with developments occurring in Conesville. He also discussed possible tax increases with Mike Jacoby in order to determine whether the projected revenues would be short-term or long-term gains, which will assist the county in planning accordingly.

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Mary Beck, County Administrator Updates

County Administrator Mary Beck reported that she has a meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 5th regarding upgrades at Skip's Landing, specifically related to electrical improvements connected to the well fields. She noted that some of the electrical lines will be moved and buried; however, not all lines can be buried because some will be eliminated entirely. Mary also stated that she recently met with Michael from the USDA regarding an additional \$1 million in funding and expects those funds to be received soon.

Mary further reported that the additional Skip's Landing sign for the roundabout has been completed and is ready to be installed. She noted that Wagner's will soon have the poles installed with lighting on the bridge. In addition, Eric Skelley met with her and indicated that they are ready to begin construction of four small pavilions. The shelter structures are currently being built, and the county will pour the concrete pads that the shelters will sit on. Regarding the lighting project at Court Square, Mary said they are still waiting for an update, as the lights planned for the area are direct-bury lights.

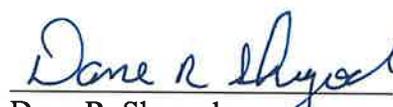
Mary also reported that the county will soon move forward with taking down the ice-skating rink and relocating the building. Finally, she noted that under Ohio Revised Code 5540.02, County Commissioners have the authority to assign or change road designations, allowing roads to be reclassified between county roads (CR) and township roads (TR) as needed.

Adjourn

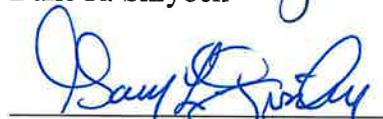
Mr. Bigrigg adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.



 Robert W. Bigrigg



 Dane R. Shryock



 Gary L. Fischer



 Clerk