

COMMISSIONER'S JOURNAL

Wednesday

Regular

March 11, 2026

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

Approve Minutes

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

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Letter of Support-Baltic Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to sign letters of support addressed to Senator Husted, Senator Moreno, and Representative Balderson for the Fiscal Year 2027 Congressionally Directed Spending Request – Baltic Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Community Room Rental-Grant Daugherty

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock granting permission to Grant Daugherty, County Auditor, use of the Commissioners Community Room on August 3, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. for a Budget Commission Meeting with the Townships, Villages, and Fire Districts.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Combined Subdivision Participation and Release Form

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to sign the Combined Subdivision Participation and Release Form for Six (6) Remnant Defendants: 1) Associated Pharmacies, Inc. (and American Associated Pharmacies), 2) J M Smith Corporation, 3) Morris and Dickerson Co. L.L.C., 4) Louisiana Wholesale Drug Company, Inc., 5) North Carolina Mutual Wholesale Drug Company, Inc., and 6) United Natural Foods, Inc. (and SuperValu) in respect to any Released Claims pending in National Prescription Opiate Litigation, MDL No. 2804.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Monthly Transport Report-February 2026

Received the Monthly Transport Expense Account for the month of February 2026 from Sheriff Christopher Walters.

COMMISSIONER'S JOURNAL

Wednesday

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March 11, 2026

Resolution 2026-019, Family Pact Increase Fees

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to sign Resolution 2026-019, to add rent and change fees for Family Pact for the FFY 2026, based on the percentage of TANF - eligible clients served each month, which will be paid monthly at an amount not to exceed \$21,000 for the remainder of the FFY 2026, backdated to January 1, 2026.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Community Room Rental-Erin Slaughter

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer granting permission to Erin Slaughter, use of the Commissioners Community Room on May 10, 2026, all day for a birthday party.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Program Year 2026 and 2027 Sub-Grant Agreement between CCC and GOWBI

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to sign the Program Year 2026 and 2027 Sub-Grant Agreement between Greater Ohio Workforce Board, Inc. and The Coshocton County Board of Commissioners, Contract # 2026/27-7216-1, to provide comprehensive, business-driven workforce development services in coordination with other partners providing such services throughout the Greater Ohio Workforce Board, effective July 1, 2026, and which shall be in effect for two (2) years, through June 30, 2028, at the request of Mr. Jed McCoy, DJFS Director.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Dog Warden's Report

Received the Dog Warden's Report for the week ending March 9, 2026, with 4 dogs picked up by the warden, 2 dogs euthanized, 7 dog licenses sold, 4 dogs sold, 4 dogs redeemed, 1 dog surrendered, 3 charges filed and 16 calls handled for a total of \$315.00 in fees collected.

USDA Rural Development Application

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to sign the USDA Rural Development Application, the Congressionally Directed Spending Request from Senator Bernie Moreno's Office in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 for the Skip's Landing Project, as requested by Mrs. Mary Beck, Coshocton County Administrator/Project Manager.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Contract for CR 24 Bridge 1 Replacement

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to sign the Contract between the Coshocton County Board of Commissioners and McConnell Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$299,750.00 for the County Road 24 Bridge 1 Replacement, as requested by Mr. Joshua Kempf, Coshocton County Engineer.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

COMMISSIONER'S JOURNAL

Wednesday

Regular

March 11, 2026

Engagement Letter with Montrose

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to sign the Engagement Letter between The Board of Coshocton County Commissioners and The Montrose Group, LLC in the amount of \$5,000 per month to provide quality consulting services in a responsive, efficient manner promoting Coshocton County and helping identify project financing opportunities including future Congressionally Directed Spending Requests, State of Ohio grant opportunities and future state capital budget funding, as requested by Mrs. Mary Beck, Coshocton County Administrator/Project Manager.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Letter of Support for the City of Coshocton-Melbourne/Fulton Waterline

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to sign the letter of support addressed to Representative Balderson for the Melbourne and Fulton Waterline Replacement Project in the City of Coshocton, Ohio. This project represents a vital investment in the safety, reliability, and long-term sustainability of the community's water infrastructure.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Dog Warden Program Discussion

Sheriff Walters attended the Commissioners meeting, also in attendance was Mrs. Robin Schonauer, Budget Director and Mr. Rusty Dreher to discuss the Dog Wardens Program and potential changes to the position structure.

The group reviewed the current status of the dog warden position, including whether it should remain a union position or be converted to an exempt position. Because the program involves handling funds and requires scheduling flexibility, the Sheriff noted that an exempt position may function more effectively. An exempt position would serve at the discretion of the Sheriff and would not be subject to union layoff provisions.

Sheriff Walters explained that the proposed change would help improve operational efficiency and reduce inconvenience for the public. He believes the program would function better outside the union structure, particularly regarding financial handling and administrative oversight.

Due to the Sheriff's Office implementing a 4.5% budget reduction, available funds within the department are limited. As part of the proposal, the current union employee would be allowed to bid into an open third-shift county position that is currently available. This change would require temporary support from the County's General Fund to facilitate the transition.

Commissioner Bigrigg expressed appreciation to Sheriff Walters for considering the county's budget situation and working toward a practical solution. The discussion was then turned over to Budget Director Robin Schonauer.

Mrs. Schonauer thanked the Sheriff for the efforts made to reduce departmental spending. She confirmed that the Commissioners are willing to grant the request and would like the Sheriff to move forward with filling the open position. She also noted that the county will review funding again later in the year to determine whether additional adjustments can be made within the Sheriff's budget if revenues allow.

While the county anticipates sales tax revenue to continue coming in, overall revenue is currently trending lower. At this time, however, the Sheriff's Office has sufficient funds within its existing budget to accommodate the position.

Sheriff Walters acknowledged the decision and thanked the Commissioners and Budget Director for their support.

COMMISSIONER'S JOURNAL**Wednesday****Regular****March 11, 2026****Dog Warden Program Discussion- Continued**

Commissioner Bigrigg added that there are many financial variables affecting the county, particularly property tax revenues and other economic factors. Despite those uncertainties, the Commissioners want to assist the Sheriff's Office in implementing improvements that benefit the county as a whole.

Sheriff Walters also noted that he is actively working to reduce overtime costs within the department. He recently used AI tools to help develop staff schedules that should improve efficiency and reduce overtime expenses.

Rusty Dreher commented that consistency within the Dog Wardens Program is important for everyone involved. Sheriff Walters agreed, explaining that over the past year three deputies have bid out of the position, which has required retraining new personnel each time.

Commissioner Bigrigg emphasized that continuity is critical in a role like this. Rusty Dreher further noted that specialized knowledge related to dog enforcement and handling is not taught in the police academy, making experience in the position particularly valuable.

Commissioner Shryock added that the midnight shift is an especially critical assignment. Officers often work with limited backup and must cover a large geographic area, sometimes responding to calls from Tiverton to Plainfield.

Commissioner Bigrigg concluded the discussion by thanking Sheriff Walters for his time and input.

Coshocton County Commissioners – Discussion on Kirk Drain Project (West Lafayette Area)

Mr. Javan Johnson, Troy Balderson representative joined the meeting by phone to discuss the potential grant application related to the Kirk Drain project in the West Lafayette area. Also participating in the discussion were Mrs. Jessie Tubbs, Mayor of West Lafayette, Ryan Medley and Zach Wallace, both from Soil & Water, Mr. Josh Kempf, Coshocton County Engineer, and Jeremy Osborn, EDG Environmental Group, which previously conducted a drainage study in West Lafayette.

Mr. Johnson apologized for not being able to attend in person. Commissioner Bigrigg introduced those present and explained that the County is evaluating a potential grant application for improvements to the Kirk Drain. The project would address drainage concerns not only within the Village of West Lafayette but also in surrounding areas.

Mr. Johnson stated that the project is already known to their office. Their Legislative Director has visited the site to review the drainage issues, and both Congressman Troy Balderson and staff members are interested in the potential submission.

Commissioner Bigrigg noted that the total estimated cost of the project is approximately \$6.2 million, with the Village requesting over \$4 million in grant funding. He asked about the likelihood of receiving that amount.

Mr. Johnson explained that while requests of up to \$5 million have been submitted to the committee in the past, projects rarely receive the full requested amount. The highest award they have typically seen is around \$3 million. He added that there are multiple funding pools and committees reviewing projects, and the outcome often depends on how many members of Congress submit projects for consideration.

Commissioner Bigrigg asked for clarification that, to the best of Mr. Johnson's knowledge, the application appears to be a strong candidate for submission. Mr. Johnson confirmed that Congressman Balderson's office is committed to submitting the project but noted that all applications must first be reviewed to ensure they meet eligibility requirements. He added that the Housing and Urban Development Committee has indicated that flooding and drainage projects are eligible for consideration.

COMMISSIONER'S JOURNAL

Wednesday

Regular

March 11, 2026

Coshocton County Commissioners – Discussion on Kirk Drain Project (West Lafayette Area)-Continued

Commissioner Bigrigg then asked which entity should submit the project, since portions of the project are located both inside and outside the Village limits. Mr. Johnson explained that the submitting entity must simply be a public body, and either the Village or the County could submit the application. The determination would be up to the local officials involved.

Mayor Tubbs asked whether a petition ditch project, even if not yet formally established, could potentially serve as the required local match for the grant. Mr. Johnson explained that most grant applications require a 20% local match, but many applicants do not currently have the funds in place at the time of submission. Instead, they provide a plan outlining how the local match will be secured. Therefore, the fact that the funds are not yet collected would not necessarily disqualify the project.

The group discussed whether a petition ditch could qualify as part of the local funding match, as it would involve local assessments and establish a long-term maintenance plan. Mayor Tubbs also asked whether the engineering work already completed could count toward the match. Mr. Johnson stated he would need to confirm those details with staff, as he had not previously encountered that exact scenario.

Commissioner Shryock noted that this drainage issue has existed for many years and that the Soil and Water Conservation District has also identified the project as necessary. However, he acknowledged that petition ditch projects are sometimes unpopular with property owners.

Commissioner Shryock also observed that the project appears to consist of two separate components: stormwater infrastructure improvements within the Village and water retention improvements outside the Village. Jeremy Osborn stated that while the plans are not currently broken out separately, they could be if needed.

The discussion then turned to petition ditch procedures. Commissioner Shryock asked whether county engineers would be responsible for the design work. Mr. Josh Kempf explained that his authority as County Engineer does not extend inside Village limits. A petition ditch could be administered either through the County Engineer's Office or through the Soil and Water Conservation District, depending on how the project is structured. Because the drainage path runs both inside and outside the Village, properties benefiting from the project could potentially be assessed.

Ryan Medley noted that under petition ditch law, the County Engineer is responsible for determining the watershed and establishing the assessment schedule.

Commissioner Shryock reiterated that he believes the project has merit and has needed to be addressed for many years. He stated that a petition ditch may be an appropriate path forward, but questions remain regarding how to address the infrastructure located inside the Village.

Mayor Tubbs explained that several infrastructure issues inside the Village have already been addressed over time. The remaining work inside the Village is primarily related to stormwater infrastructure that ties into the broader drainage project.

Jeremy Osborn added that the current proposal is likely the most cost-effective approach, as it would provide an outlet for stormwater through a pipe system rather than an open ditch. While the engineering work is still preliminary, he believes it provides a strong starting point for moving forward.

Commissioner Shryock asked what would happen if the grant is awarded but the project costs ultimately exceed estimates. Mr. Johnson explained that if funding cannot be fully utilized, the remaining funds would typically revert back to the program. He noted that this situation is not uncommon when projects involve multiple funding sources.

Mayor Tubbs added that if a more effective or cost-efficient plan emerges during the process, the project plan can sometimes be modified. Mr. Johnson confirmed that modifications are possible as long as the changes remain consistent with the original project application.

COMMISSIONER'S JOURNAL**Wednesday****Regular****March 11, 2026****Coshocton County Commissioners – Discussion on Kirk Drain Project (West Lafayette Area)-Continued**

He also noted that applicants may pursue additional funding sources, such as EPA grants or other programs, to help fully fund the project.

Commissioner Shryock asked whether the grant application could later be transferred to another entity if needed. Mr. Johnson said he would need to verify whether that would be permitted and agreed to follow up.

The Commissioners also discussed whether the presence of low-income housing, specifically a 48-unit apartment complex affected by the flooding, would strengthen the application. Mr. Johnson advised that any economic challenges or vulnerable populations impacted by the project should absolutely be highlighted in the application, as those factors can strengthen its competitiveness.

Commissioner Bigrigg also noted that a school and a new housing development are located near the affected area, which could further demonstrate the project's importance.

The group then discussed next steps. Commissioner Bigrigg stated that he believes the County should proceed with submitting the grant application while also exploring the petition ditch process. Mr. Johnson noted that he has not previously seen a community project combined with a petition ditch, but as long as a viable plan exists for the 20% local match, it should meet the program requirements.

Additional discussion included upstream dry dams and drainage outlets, which Ryan Medley explained fall within separate watersheds.

Because the grant application deadline is the following day at 6:00 p.m., the group emphasized the importance of determining whether the application could later be transferred if necessary. Mayor Tubbs stated that if the County does not submit the project, the Village of West Lafayette is prepared to submit it.

Mr. Josh Kempf stated that, in his opinion, the project fits well within the framework of a petition ditch project. Mayor Tubbs also suggested that forming a stormwater district with the Village could be another potential option.

Commissioner Shryock commented that a petition ditch may provide the County with greater capacity to manage the project, although he acknowledged that property owners may be concerned about potential assessments. However, securing outside funding would help reduce the local financial burden.

Commissioner Bigrigg noted that if a petition ditch is pursued, a public hearing would be required to allow residents to voice concerns and provide input.

The Commissioners also discussed the possibility of support from the watershed district if the County proceeds with the project. Mr. Josh Kempf indicated that the watershed district would likely be willing to contribute toward the local match.

Commissioner Bigrigg emphasized that their participation could be critical in helping provide local funding.

Commissioner Shryock concluded by noting that the application should highlight all relevant factors, including the low-income housing complex, nearby schools, and new residential development in the area.

Mr. Josh Kempf suggested that the County may be the most appropriate entity to submit the application, with the Village still able to contribute toward the required match.

Commissioner Bigrigg stated that he believes this is a very worthwhile project and expressed his support for moving forward with the application. Commissioner Shryock and Fischer both agreed.

COMMISSIONER'S JOURNAL

Wednesday

Regular

March 11, 2026

Records Commission

At 10:44 a.m. Mr. Bigrigg opened the Records Commission meeting with the following people in attendance: Mrs. Brooke Alverson, Clerk, Mrs. Mary Beck, County Administrator, Ms. Camila Graham, Clerk of Courts, Mrs. Arica Mills, Clerk of Court, Mr. Grant Daugherty, County Auditor, Mrs. Ashley Thomas, County Recorder, Captain Eric DeMattio, Mr. Shryock, Mr. Fischer and Mr. Dean Hettinger. Mr. Bigrigg asked for the minutes of the previous meeting to be read. Mr. Shryock made a motion to approve the minutes as read, Mr. Daugherty seconded the minutes. All vote aye. Motion carried. Mr. Bigrigg asked if there are any records to be submitted. Captain DeMattio from the Coshocton County Sheriff's Office submitted a RC-2. Mr. Daugherty made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Thomas to accept and submit the RC-2. The next Records Commission will be September 9, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

Meetings Attended

Mr. Bigrigg reported that he attended a Kno-Ho-Co Executive Committee meeting on Monday afternoon, March 9, at the Senior Center. He also attended another Kno-Ho-Co meeting on Tuesday evening, March 10.

Mr. Shryock reported that on March 10 he met with Zach Wallace from the Soil and Water Conservation District. Following that meeting, he met with Josh Kempf, Coshocton County Engineer to discuss drainage concerns in the Village of West Lafayette. Later that day, he traveled to Conesville to review road conditions and then went to West Lafayette to inspect the Kirk Drain.

Mr. Fischer also traveled to West Lafayette on March 10 to review the drainage issues related to the Kirk Drain.

Mary Beck, County Administrator Updates

County Administrator Mary Beck reported that a Notice of Federal Interest will need to be placed on one of the parcels at Skip's Landing as part of the requirements tied to USDA funding. This notice functions similarly to a trust designation and must be recorded with the Coshocton County Recorder's Office. One of the parcels in the area will need to be selected for this designation, potentially in the vicinity of the roundabout.

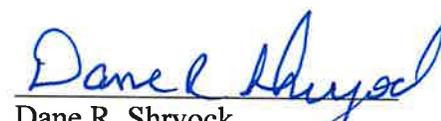
Ms. Beck also reported that she will be working on plans to install a flagpole in the roundabout area. She noted the possibility of partnering with the Eagles organization on this project.

Adjourn

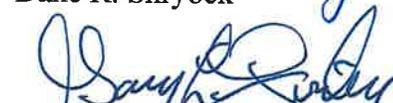
Mr. Bigrigg adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.



Robert W. Bigrigg



Dane R. Shryock



Gary L. Fischer



Clerk