

COMMISSIONER'S JOURNAL

Monday

Regular

April 6, 2026

The Coshocton County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, April 6, 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, Mrs. Robin Schonauer, Budget Director, Mary Feragli, WTNS and 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	absent
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Photo Booth Contract with Anniedale + Co for the Kentucky Derby

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to sign the Photo Booth Service Contract between Coshocton County Commissioners and Anniedate + Co. in the amount of \$400.00 for the Kentucky Derby Fundraiser Event, this amount will be fully paid for from a sponsor.

Vote: Bigrigg	absent
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Monthly Pay-In Report, March 2026

Received the monthly Pay-In report for the month of March 2026 from Ms. Camila Graham, Coshocton County Clerk of Courts.

Monthly Mortgagee Report, March 2026

Received the monthly Mortgagee Summary report for the month of March 2026 from Mrs. Ashley Thomas, Coshocton County Recorder.

Transfers/Additional/Reductions

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

FROM ACCOUNT	TO ACCOUNT	AMOUNT	APPROVED	AFFIRMED
Additional-EMS				
120-0100-526003 (Medical Director Contract)		\$6,250.00	3/31/2026	4/6/2026
Additional-CCC				
350-0100-526004 (Contract Services- Justice Center)		\$37,358.00	3/31/2026	4/6/2026

Vote: Bigrigg	absent
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Letter of Support for DJFS

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to sign the letter of support for the Department of Job and Family Services for grant funding to establish a Kinnect to Family Specialist position from the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, as requested by Mr. Jed McCoy, DJFS Director.

Vote: Bigrigg	absent
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

COMMISSIONER'S JOURNAL

Monday

Regular

April 6, 2026

Interagency Agreement

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to sign the Interagency Agreement between Coshocton County Family and Children First Council and the Coshocton County Commissioners for the purpose of funding the Council in accord with revised Code Section 121.37, for the In-Kind (Office Space) of \$0.00 for calendar year 2026, as requested by Ali Bates, FCFC Council Director.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Department of Job and Family Services Update

At 10:00 a.m. Mr. Jed McCoy, DJFS Director; Mr. John Piper, Fiscal Administrator DJFS and Mrs. Kathy Art, Children Services Administrator provided updates on March and first-quarter reports. Congregate care numbers have decreased, while kinship placements have increased. There were 97 children in care in March, with one point during the month exceeding 100. Additionally, 4–6 families have expressed interest in becoming licensed caregivers. When asked how these families became interested, Kathy suggested it may be due to recent radio outreach efforts, which appear to be generating positive momentum.

There continues to be progress in moving children into appropriate placements, though challenges remain. John reported anticipating approximately \$450,000 in expenses for March—higher than typical monthly costs but still within an expected range. Efforts are being made to leverage TANF funds wherever eligible.

Kathy noted a concerning rise in methamphetamine exposure identified through hair follicle testing, particularly among children age two and under. Two additional cases were identified last month. In one instance, a parent left their children with a caseworker following a court appearance.

As of the April 1 report, there are 101 children in care: 12 in congregate care, 2 in detention, and 29 in kinship placements. There have been 2 adoptions finalized, and several reunifications are currently in progress. A group home has expressed interest in a child for possible adoption; notably, the child has shown significant behavioral improvement over the past six months—described by Kathy as the best progress she has seen.

The agency continues to implement creative and individualized approaches to support children and families. A grant application has been submitted for the OneOhio initiative to fund a kinship support position, as well as an additional request through the Mental Health Board. Jed is working to offset costs associated with this role. The OneOhio grant would provide funding for two years, and there is optimism it will support placing more children with relatives. The state has also expressed support for the Kinnect program, which would bring a dedicated caseworker to the county.

Kinship placements continue to rise, now accounting for 29 of the 101 children in care. Mrs. Robin Schonauer, Budget Director reported that \$870,000 has already been transferred, including \$350,000 from the previous year paid in 2026. John indicated that it may not be necessary to request additional funds in April due to incoming tax revenue, though additional funding may be needed in May. Current trends suggest funding requests will align with prior amounts. Kathy questioned the March expenditure estimate of \$450,000, noting that the two most recent cases involved detention, which is not funded through their budget.

On a positive note, Kathy highlighted the success of the Family Fun Fest, which had strong attendance and was well received by the community. The event, fully sponsored by local partners, provided an opportunity for families to engage with staff in a relaxed setting. There is interest among staff in making this an annual event. Commissioner Bigrigg Bob emphasized the importance of maintaining positive community engagement and expressed strong support for the initiative.

Staff also participated in Ridgewood Family Night and plan to attend an upcoming event in Coshocton to further connect with families. A staff member recently attended a three-day training focused on kinship care.

Commissioner Bigrigg raised questions regarding foster family recruitment, including the use of yard signs through private networks. Efforts are ongoing to strengthen internal recruitment strategies, particularly as many current foster families are from Amish and Mennonite communities.

Work is also underway on the agency's annual report.

COMMISSIONER'S JOURNAL

Monday

Regular

April 6, 2026

Updates - Mary Beck, County Administrator

Mary reported that she is scheduled to meet with playground representatives today to discuss plans and improvements for the designated area.

Additionally, Heather Stoffer and Leadership Coshocton will be assisting with planting flowers this year at Skip's Landing. There was discussion regarding the installation of signage at the site to recognize Coshocton in Bloom and highlight their contributions to the community. The proposed signage may be placed near the flower pots and could include a QR code linking to additional information about Coshocton in Bloom and their initiatives.

Commissioner Shryock requested that a formal proposal be developed outlining the details of the signage and overall plan. Bob expressed full support for this initiative.

Meeting attended

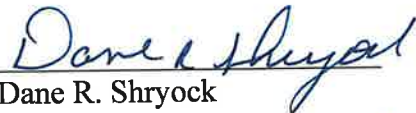
All three commissioners attended the Homestead ribbon cutting on Thursday, April 2nd. They also attended an event with Bernie Moreno at Skip's Landing that same day, followed by the Republican Lincoln Day Dinner in the evening.

Adjourn

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



Robert W. Bigrigg



Dane R. Shryock



Gary L. Fischer



Clerk