

COMMISSIONER'S JOURNAL

Wednesday

Regular

May 6, 2026

The Coshocton County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. with Mr. Robert Bigrigg, Mr. Dane Shryock and Mr. Gary Fischer. Also, in attendance was Mrs. Mary Beck, County Administrator/Project Manager, Mrs. Brooke Alverson, Clerk, Mr. Chuck Ellis and Mary Fergali, WTNS.

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

Dog Warden Report

Received the Dog Warden's Report for the week ending May 4, 2026, with 1 dog picked up by the warden, 1 dog euthanized, 5 dog licenses sold, 4 dogs sold, 3 dogs surrendered by the owner, and 29 calls handled, for a total of \$190.00 in fees collected.

First Class Subdivision Plat

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to sign the First Class Subdivision Plat, the creation of a 9-lot subdivision on State Route 541 in Bedford Township, Auditor Parcel Number 003-00000514-00, as requested by Ms. Kiana Bradford, Coshocton County Regional Planning.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Monthly Transport Expense Account

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

Employee Resignation, Chelsea Cox-EMS

Mr. Fischer made motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to accept the resignation of Chelsea Cox from her position at Coshocton County EMS, effective May 6, 2026, as requested by Mr. Todd Shroyer, EMS Director.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Employee Hire, Valarie Ball-EMS

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to hire Valarie Ball as a full-time Administrative Assistant with Coshocton County EMS, effective May 18, 2026, as requested by Mr. Todd Shroyer, EMS Director.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

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### Employee Promotion, Kinsey Nelson-EMS

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to approve the promotion of Kinsey Nelson to full-time status with Coshocton County EMS, effective May 30, 2026, as requested by Mr. Todd Shroyer, EMS Director.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

### Employee Hire, Logan Costello-EMS

Mr. Shryock made a motion, by Mr. Fischer to hire Logan Costello as a full-time Paramedic with Coshocton County EMS, contingent upon his successful completion of his pre-employment testing, as requested by Mr. Todd Shroyer, EMS Director.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

### Notice of Federal Interest

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to sign the Notice of Federal Interest United States Department of Agriculture in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the Skip's Landing Revitalization Project for Parcel Number 037-00000061-01, as requested by Mrs. Robin Schonauer, Budget Director.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

### DJFS Updates

At 10:00 a.m. Mr. Jed McCoy, DJFS Director, Mr. Jon Piper, Fiscal Administrator DJFS, Mrs. Kathy Art, Children Services Administrator, Robin Schonauer, Budget Director, and Cortnie Jamison, Assistant Budget Director attended the Commissioners meeting to discuss DJFS updates. Mr. McCoy reported that trends are moving in a positive direction. Over the last 2½ years, the agency has maintained the fourth-lowest average cost per child. While the number of children in care can fluctuate and sometimes create confusion, the overall cost per child continues to decline. Jed noted that the cost per child has decreased 31% since December, with April's average cost estimated at approximately \$3,600 per child/monthly. Costs were down roughly \$108,000 in April alone. He also emphasized that one high-needs placement can significantly impact overall expenses, reinforcing the importance of locating and utilizing kinship placements whenever possible.

Kathy Art reported that all children currently in placement are under \$800 per day, which is a substantial improvement from previous daily rates ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,500. As of May 1, there were 93 children in DJFS custody, down from 103 previously. She explained that these numbers change frequently but stressed that the department remains focused on doing what is best for children and avoiding stagnation in services and decision-making. Kathy credited the office's educational efforts, as well as the support and collaboration of the Commissioners and the courts, for helping drive these improvements. She expressed appreciation for the Coshocton County Commissioners' openness, involvement, and partnership with the agency.

Discussion also focused on foster and kinship placements. Kathy shared that the majority of children currently in care are placed with Amish and Mennonite families, and a new Amish foster family was licensed last week. Kinship care placements have increased to 24%, while congregate care placements have decreased by 17%. An internal candidate has been selected to oversee kinship care efforts, and training through the state's Connect Kinship Program will begin during the next open session.

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Commissioner Shryock asked whether April's final financial numbers were available. Jon stated that the final figures had not yet been completed, but projected April costs at approximately \$360,000, mirroring the previous month. He added that an additional \$125,000 to \$130,000 in funding will likely still be needed to cover April expenses. Jon reiterated that the agency's financial and placement trends are continuing to move in the right direction.

Commissioner Shryock also requested an update regarding the state's plan to establish five regional child placement facilities. Jed stated that none of the facilities will be located in northeastern Ohio, although local agencies will still be able to utilize them despite longer transportation times. He clarified that the facilities are intended only for short-term placements.

Jon further reported that the implementation of the state's rate card system, originally scheduled for October of this year, has been delayed until January of next year. Facilities are required to submit cost reports as part of the process, which has contributed to the delay. Kathy noted that smaller counties are concerned the new rate card system may result in increased costs. Commissioner Shryock asked whether a lobbying group exists for these facilities, and Jed responded that he was unsure.

Jed briefly referenced a new federal initiative called "Every Child Has a Home," although he stated that he did not yet have additional information to provide. The group also discussed a family that recently accepted placement of a sibling group of seven children, with creative support measures being explored to help maintain the placement successfully.

Commissioner Bigrigg agreed with Kathy's earlier comments regarding the importance of increasing public awareness and understanding of Child Services operations, stating that greater transparency has been beneficial. Kathy added that agencies are becoming more creative in their work with DJFS and praised the strong working relationship with Judge Given and the court system. Jed concluded by noting that all involved entities are beginning to better understand how each piece of the system works together, emphasizing that every organization plays an important role in the overall process.

**Heather Stoffer, Leadership Coshocton**

At 11:15 a.m., Heather Stoffer and Shantelle Coffman both of Leadership Coshocton attended the Commissioners meeting to discuss a proposed sign project recognizing Coshocton in Bloom for its ongoing dedication and contributions throughout the county. The project is part of a Leadership Coshocton class initiative in partnership with Coshocton in Bloom. Heather explained that the group would like to install a metal recognition sign at Skip's Landing near the large flower pots located on the corner of the property. The proposed sign would acknowledge the extensive volunteer work and beautification efforts completed by Coshocton in Bloom, which has already accumulated approximately 80 volunteer hours through this project.

Commissioner Bigrigg asked Mary Beck, County Administrator/Project Manager if she was in agreement with the proposed sign placement, and Mary confirmed her support. Commissioner Bigrigg stated that the work Coshocton in Bloom has done throughout the county is extraordinary and has truly helped put Coshocton on the map. He added that the organization's efforts deserve recognition and publicity. Heather noted that many people do not realize the amount of work, planning, and volunteer hours required to maintain the beautification projects and keep them ongoing each year.

Commissioner Bigrigg expressed his support for the proposal and congratulated Leadership Coshocton for taking on the project. Commissioner Shryock commented on the beauty of the flower displays, particularly at Skip's Landing. Judge France was also recognized for developing the project into what was described as a "well-oiled machine" through effective organization and coordination. Shantelle added that the work Judge France has accomplished with the program is truly remarkable. Commissioner Bigrigg further commented that the flower displays at Skip's Landing alone attract visitors to the area. Heather thanked the Commissioners for allowing them the opportunity to present the project and discuss the proposed sign placement.

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## Mary Beck, County Administrator/ Project Manager

County Administrator Mary Beck reported that she is scheduled to meet with Valerie Shaw, CPT Director today regarding the tentative August timeline to begin paperwork for the ODOT building project.

Mary also provided an update on the recent derby event, sharing figures provided by Robin. The event generated gross revenue totaling \$28,740, including approximately \$11,000 in sponsorships alone. An additional \$8,512 was raised the night of the event. With estimated expenses of roughly \$9,000, the event is expected to net more than \$19,000 overall.

An update was also given on the Court Square lighting project. Mary noted that work is progressing quickly, with the front side of the courthouse already completed and crews continuing work around the sides of the building. Mary met with Ike at the courthouse regarding cleanup efforts around the clock tower area and also spoke with the IT department to assist in removing stored items from the area.

Mary announced that the courthouse clock tower will be open to the public on July 18 as part of the America250 celebration activities. Following the concert series that evening, a light show is planned at the courthouse. Discussion also included the possibility of painting portions of the area; however, concerns were raised about whether the project could be completed during the busy mowing season timeframe.

Additional discussion focused on the old Juvenile Probate witness room, which the judge has requested be cleaned and organized. Mary also updated the Commissioners on planning efforts for the America250 celebration weekend, including the creation of RAC cards for the event. CPT will provide transportation services during the festivities.

The meeting concluded with discussion regarding potential locations for the Eagle Scouts' pavilion project at Skip's Landing.

### Meetings Attended

All three Commissioners attended the Land Bank meeting on Monday. Commissioner Bigrigg also reported that he met with Mr. Mark Mills, Coshocton City Mayor, Mr. Max Crown, Safety Service-City of Coshocton, Mrs. Sherry Kirkpatrick, Auditor City of Coshocton, Mr. Bob Beaumont, Assistant Safety Services, Mrs. Denelle Skelton, Treasurer City of Coshocton and Jaime Beach of the Beach Company for a tour of the Beach Company building to discuss ongoing opportunities and development related to the property.

Commissioner Shryock shared that he recently visited the airport to welcome his nephew, who flew a Chinook helicopter in from Fort Campbell on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Bigrigg also provided an update on the WL project, noting that Congressman Balderson has narrowed the submissions down to 20 projects for consideration, and WL is one of the 20 projects. Commissioner Bigrigg stated that Mayor Tubbs contacted him personally to thank the Commissioners' office for taking the lead role in spearheading the project efforts.

### Adjourn

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



Robert W. Bigrigg



Dane R. Shryock



Gary L. Fischer



Clerk