

COMMISSIONER'S JOURNAL

Monday

Regular

June 22, 2026

Transfers/Additional/Reductions

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

FROM ACCOUNT	TO ACCOUNT	AMOUNT	APPROVED	AFFIRMED
	Additional -CCC			
Unappropriated	225-0100-5260.01 USDA Grant	\$654,133.00	6/16/2026	6/22/2026
	Additional-CCC			
Unappropriated	352-0100-5260.00 Contract services	\$5,824.00	6/16/2026	6/22/2026
Unappropriated	352-0100-5260.01 Admin	\$507.00	6/16/2026	6/22/2026
Unappropriated	352-0100-52600.00 Contract services-Construction	\$172,015.00	6/16/2026	6/22/2026
		\$178,346.00		
	Transfer -CPA			
009-0100-540000 (Other Expense)	009-0100-540001 (TRAINING)	\$925.00	6/17/2026	6/22/2026

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

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
Jefferson county Educational Service Center	030-0100-540002 Misc. Tanf Contracts	\$13,239.97	JFS	6/15/2026	6/22/2026
Family Pact of Coshocton County Inc.	030-0100-540002 Misc. Tanf Contracts	\$10,734.67	JFS	6/17/2026	6/22/2026
Coshocton County Commissioners	120-0100-511100 Workers Comp	\$39,270.05	EMS	6/18/2026	6/22/2026
		Vote:	Bigrigg		yea
			Shryock		yea
			Fischer		yea

Marty Dobson-Airport Board appointment Drew Jolly

At 9:00 a.m. Mr. Drew Jolley was sworn in to the Richard Downing Airport Board by the Coshocton County Commissioners.

Cindi Herring-CEBCO-1st quarter report

At 10:02 a.m., Cindi Herring, CEBCO representative and the county's new representative Rachel Bishop, CEBCO representative met with the County Commissioners to present the first-quarter CEBCO report for Coshocton County covering the period from April 2025 through March 2026.

The first-quarter 2026 report indicated that claims costs continue to rise. Cindi explained that renewal information will be available by July 31 to assist counties in better understanding their financial position and making informed budget decisions.

Currently, Coshocton County has an overall loss ratio of 120.3 percent. There are five claimants whose medical expenses exceeded the \$125,000 pooling point. As a result, \$437,696 in claims costs will be removed from the county's experience rating, reducing the county's net loss ratio to 110 percent.

Medical claims totaled \$3,943,428, representing a 48 percent increase compared to the previous reporting period. Prescription drug claims totaled \$1,537,121, which reflects a 35 percent increase over the prior period. Overall, total claims costs increased by 33 percent.

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Cindi Herring-CEBCO-1st quarter report (Continued)

Utilization by service setting also showed significant increases. Inpatient services experienced a 70 percent cost increase compared to the previous period, outpatient services increased by 18 percent, and professional services increased by 21 percent.

Anthem prescription costs totaled \$1,537,121 during the reporting period. Of all prescriptions filled, 87.9 percent were generic medications, while 12.1 percent were brand-name prescriptions.

Andrew Franks- Meeting Discussion Regarding the Conesville Data Center Project

Those present included Rusty Dreher, Brent Endsley, Tiffany Swigert, Hannah Gallagher, Andrew Franks, Dave Kadri, Chuck Ellis, Mary Beck, Brooke Alverson, Commissioner Bigrigg, Commissioner Shryock and Commissioner Fischer.

Mr. Andrew Franks began by thanking the board for allowing him to speak. He stated that he loves Coshocton County and cares deeply about its future. As an Eagle Scout who spent five summers working at the reservation located behind the current data center site, he expressed a strong personal connection to the area. He recalled the impact of AEP and the jobs it once provided to the county.

Mr. Franks stated that hyperscale data centers are often described as the next major economic opportunity, but he remains unconvinced. He expressed concerns regarding the lack of transparency surrounding the project, noting that many responses provided to the public seem to be standard or “cookie-cutter” statements. He cited concerns regarding the electrical grid, rising PJM electricity prices, and reports indicating that large-scale data center development may contribute to increased energy costs. He stated that the public may ultimately bear these costs through higher utility rates.

Additional concerns raised by Mr. Franks included the long-term economic impacts of the project, the effectiveness of the proposed closed-loop cooling systems, potential environmental issues such as forever chemicals, noise concerns, and the possibility that the project may not generate significant long-term employment opportunities. He emphasized the importance of open conversations and transparency with the public. While acknowledging that certain matters must remain confidential, he stated that confidentiality should not prevent meaningful public discussion. He noted that public notification is not the same as public participation.

Mr. Franks clarified that he is not opposed to development and wants to see the region succeed. However, he believes that if the project will truly benefit the county, there should be greater public discussion and engagement.

Commissioner Bigrigg asked if Mr. Franks had any additional concerns, to which Mr. Franks replied that he simply wanted to share his concerns with the board. Bob then referenced a social media post and asked whether Mr. Franks had filed a complaint against the Port Authority regarding a public records request. Mr. Franks confirmed that he had.

Discussion then shifted to school funding and public awareness of project agreements. Mr. Franks stated that school funding issues should receive additional attention and indicated that he had not seen some agreements covered extensively in local media. Bob responded that media representatives attend meetings and that meeting minutes are made publicly available. Mr. Franks noted that not everyone is able to attend meetings and that many large projects begin under non-disclosure agreements, limiting public awareness. He also referenced similar projects across the country, noting that some communities have pursued ballot initiatives related to data center developments.

Mr. Franks asked whether independent environmental or economic audits had been completed for the area. Bob noted that some of Mr. Franks’ comments were based on notes he had read from his phone and clarified that the proposed data center would primarily serve artificial intelligence applications rather than traditional computing services. He cautioned against making assumptions about the specific operations of Aligned Data Centers.

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Andrew Franks- Meeting Discussion Regarding the Conesville Data Center Project (Continued)

Bob further stated that the hum and noise once associated with the former power plant had been absent for approximately six years. He explained that the 2,500-acre site is a true brownfield property and that Frontier Group invested private funds to remediate the land following the closure of AEP, preparing it for industrial redevelopment. He also noted that only a portion of the property can be used for data centers under agreements with the State of Ohio.

When asked what alternative uses, he envisioned for the site, Mr. Franks suggested manufacturing, processing, or automotive industries. Based on his research, he believes that numerous other industrial opportunities could potentially utilize the property and questioned whether a data center represents the best possible use.

Bob stated that he had independently researched the project since taking office and, after reviewing the information and working with Frontier Group, believes the project represents a positive opportunity for the community. Mr. Franks acknowledged that he appreciates the fact that the development is located on a brownfield site rather than productive farmland.

Bob reiterated that the site had limited utility prior to remediation and noted that other industrial businesses may still locate there in the future. Mr. Franks remained unconvinced regarding the broader industrial benefits and cited examples from other states where data centers operate with on-site power generation or direct transmission connections to reduce costs. He stated that local residents should not bear any financial burden associated with the project.

Mr. Franks emphasized that he is approaching the issue with an open mind and does not doubt that officials have carefully reviewed the project. However, he stated that many community members share his concerns. He acknowledged that he may be joining the conversation later in the process, as discussions began several years ago, but remains concerned about the motivations behind the project and his ongoing public records litigation with the Port Authority.

Tiffany Swigert, Port Authority Director responded that transparency does not necessarily mean receiving answers one agrees with. She noted that the project has been discussed publicly since 2025 through multiple Facebook posts, newspaper articles in the Coshocton Tribune, stories by WTNS, coverage in the Columbus Dispatch, and publications from Aligned Data Centers and Frontier Power. She also mentioned that Kyle Dobbin has actively photographed and shared updates about the project within the community.

Tiffany stated that Mr. Franks met with Port Authority representatives on April 22 for approximately two hours, during which many of his questions were answered regarding the company, the project, and the company's intentions to be a good neighbor within the county. Following that meeting, the office received multiple calls from Mr. Franks as well as several public records requests.

She explained that the Port Authority has worked with legal counsel to respond to these requests and emphasized that meetings remain open to the public. According to Tiffany, Mr. Franks received numerous public records and was provided links to construction bid documents. The only request that was not fulfilled involved a broad request for all emails and text messages from October 2024 through May 2025. She explained that reviewing approximately 9,000 emails would be extremely time-consuming, and the Port Authority's attorney requested that the scope of the request be narrowed.

Mr. Franks acknowledged that Tiffany's statements were accurate and stated that the attorney had cited relevant legal cases regarding the records requests. He emphasized that his actions are motivated by concern for the community and his desire to ensure the process is properly completed before moving forward. He acknowledged the staffing limitations of the organization and stated that his appearance at the meeting reflected his civic responsibility.

Commissioner Bigrigg asked if there were any additional comments, and Mr. Franks stated that he had said enough.

Dave Kadri then addressed the board, stating that the City of Coshocton has been involved in the project from the beginning. He explained that city officials wanted to understand Aligned Data Centers' needs and ensure the project would be beneficial to the community.

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Mr. Kadri stated that the city's water treatment plant currently operates at approximately 20 percent capacity and that additional water sales would benefit the city. He believes the data centers would be a positive development and described Frontier as cooperative and accommodating in working with the city.

He stated that officials have evaluated the project with the goal of minimizing impacts on residents and taking a forward-looking approach to development. Mr. Kadri noted that the long-term economic benefits for the county may come from additional businesses locating at the site due to the availability of infrastructure, particularly water service. He characterized the economic development model as beneficial for the city and noted that attracting development opportunities can be challenging.

Regarding environmental concerns, Mr. Kadri acknowledged that data centers have environmental impacts but noted that the former power plant also had environmental impacts. He stated that nearly all forms of development have environmental consequences and remarked that modern technology use, including smartphones and digital services, contributes to the demand for data centers.

Sheriff Walters & Haley Sturtz

At 11:09 a.m., Haley Sturtz, Sheriff Walters, and Rusty Dreher met with the Commissioners to discuss concerns regarding the Dog Warden program and its operations. Haley outlined several issues that have arisen over the past few months involving the Dog Warden's Office and the impact those issues have had on shelter operations.

Haley referenced a recent welfare check involving a high-license breeder that ultimately became a humane investigation. She noted ongoing concerns regarding the Dog Warden fund balance and the flow of revenue and expenses. She also expressed uncertainty regarding staffing levels within the Dog Warden's Office and who is actively serving in those roles at any given time. Haley stated that she has experienced difficulties with dog wardens being unwilling to transport owner-surrendered animals, which has created additional challenges for the shelter.

She explained that responsibilities associated with the Dog Warden's Office have varied depending on the individual serving in the position and expressed hope that Randy would remain in the role. Haley emphasized that conversations involving owner-surrendered dogs have traditionally been handled by the Dog Warden's Office and that these responsibilities have increasingly become the shelter's responsibility. She also noted that weekend dog calls are now often directed to her, adding to her workload. Haley requested clarification regarding the specific duties of the Dog Warden and the responsibilities associated with the \$23,000 allocated to her organization.

Rusty explained that, under the Ohio Revised Code, the Dog Warden is required to pick up stray dogs within a reasonable amount of time, while owner-surrendered dogs are not required to be accepted. He also noted that dog bite investigations are among the statutory responsibilities of the Dog Warden's Office.

Haley stated that previous Dog Wardens established a high level of service that the public continues to expect and appreciate. However, she emphasized that she cannot continue to provide those same services on her own. She expressed concern about potentially reducing services, including the acceptance of owner-surrendered animals, and stated that she would like to develop a stronger working relationship with the Dog Warden's Office to better meet community needs and facilitate the movement of dogs through the shelter system. She noted that fees are collected for owner-surrendered animals, whereas stray dogs do not generate revenue for the shelter. Haley added that having only one Dog Warden places additional responsibilities on shelter staff and that members of the public frequently contact her regarding stray dogs. She stressed the importance of developing a clear plan moving forward so that expectations for the Dog Warden position are well defined and consistently carried out, noting that she feels overwhelmed by the current situation.

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Sheriff Walters stated that Bob Walsh had recently been assigned to work approximately 20 hours per week. He referenced a recent humane investigation that highlighted some of the challenges surrounding these cases. Haley explained that humane cases often require immediate assistance and that, in the past, the Dog Warden's Office assisted with transporting animals during joint responses. She stated that the Dog Warden's Office had traditionally handled transportation responsibilities during these investigations and that this level of cooperation had always existed previously.

Haley stated that she believes transporting animals during humane cases falls within the responsibilities of the Dog Warden's Office. She acknowledged that humane investigations themselves are not operated by the county. She further explained that during humane investigations she requires the assistance of a deputy in order to utilize body camera footage for documentation purposes. If Dog Warden personnel are uncomfortable transporting animals, she suggested that access to a Dog Warden vehicle could be helpful, although a deputy would still need to accompany her during these investigations.

Haley suggested that the Dog Warden vehicle might be donated to the shelter. Rusty indicated that he would explore whether additional dog cages might be available for use in Haley's personal vehicle. Haley reiterated that she would welcome the donation of the truck to the animal shelter, explaining that because she is not a county employee, she is not permitted to operate a county-owned vehicle. She stated that her preference would simply be for the Dog Warden's Office to continue assisting with these situations.

Commissioner Shryock commented that circumstances have changed over time. He noted that previous staffing arrangements, which included deputies serving in Dog Warden roles, established a high standard of service. Under the current structure, with only one Dog Warden, it may not be possible to provide the same level of service. He stated that Haley and the Dog Warden would need to work together to establish a practical agreement regarding responsibilities moving forward.

Sheriff Walters agreed with this assessment. Commissioner Bigrigg concluded the discussion by stating that the Commissioners understand the concerns that have been raised and will take the matter under advisement. Additional discussions will take place regarding the use of the Dog Warden vehicle and the handling of owner-surrendered animals. It was noted that the truck is currently not being utilized by the Sheriff's Office.

Mary Beck, County Administrator/Project Manager-Updates

Mary Beck reported that she will contact Jared Allison, ODNR regarding the Skip's Landing parking lot. An update was provided on pavilion reservations at Skip's Landing, including discussions about establishing rental procedures, fees, and availability for all pavilions in the area. There was also a lengthy discussion regarding the locking and unlocking of the restroom facilities, as well as the cleaning and maintenance of the restrooms. It was noted that additional signage will be needed at Skip's Landing, including signs displaying park hours and other park regulations.

Mary also shared that she met with representatives of the Farmers Market on Saturday to discuss the relocation of the market to Skip's Landing in the near future. Under the America 250 Heritage Tree initiative, the county has the opportunity to receive a donated White Oak tree from the Ohio Heritage program. Mary will reach out to obtain the tree and arrange for it to be planted at Skip's Landing. Additionally, invitations for the Skip's Landing ribbon-cutting ceremony were mailed last week.

Mary received an email from Tom Edwards expressing concerns regarding smoking during Saturday's concert on the Court Square, noting that attendees were smoking cigarettes and extinguishing them in the straw on the courthouse lawn. He requested law enforcement presence at future events to better monitor smoking and related activities. All three commissioners agreed with Tom's concerns regarding event enforcement. Commissioner Shryock commented that, in previous years, this type of enforcement would not have required a specific request, as it would have been automatically assigned.

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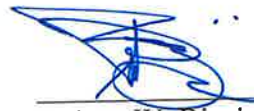
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Meetings Attended

All three Commissioners attended the DD luncheon on Wednesday and then met with Mr. Simpson at Skip's Landing to review how his donation funds were used at Skip's Landing. Commissioner Bigrigg also attended the DD Board meeting on Wednesday afternoon.

Adjourn

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



Robert W. Bigrigg



Dane R. Shryock



Gary L. Fischer


Clerk