

June 24, 2026

The Coshocton County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, June 24, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. with Mr. Robert Bigrigg, Mr. Dane Shryock and Mr. Gary Fischer. Also, in attendance was Mrs. Brooke Alverson, Clerk, Mrs. Mary Beck, Administrator/Project Manager, Mary Fergali, 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

Community Room Rental-Juvenile Court

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock granting permission to Coshocton Juvenile Court use of the Commissioners Community Room on August 25, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. for a Staff Retirement Party.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Dog Warden Report

Received the Dog Warden's Report for the week ending June 22, 2026 with 4 dogs picked up by the warden, 2 dogs euthanized, 4 dog license sold, 6 dogs sold, 1 dog redeemed, 2 dogs surrendered by owner, 3 charges filed and 30 calls handled for a total of \$190.00 in fees collected.

Resolution 2026-033, Auditor Certification

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to sign Resolution 2026-033, a resolution declaring it necessary to levy a renewal tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation and requesting auditor certification for the current tax valuation of the County, the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by the Renewal Tax, and the cost of the levy expressed in dollars per \$100,000 of the County Auditor's market value for the EMS Renewal Levy for a 3 mill Levy.

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Community Room Rental-RV Biddy

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock granting permission to River View Biddy Cheer use of the Commissioners Community Room on October 13, 2026, all day for a banquet.

Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

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Vote: Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to sign Amended Resolution 2026-031, an application of Brine to the Walhonding Hills Campground, to add in ORC 159.226 (B) (10), only brine that is produced from a well that is not a horizontal well shall be allowed to be spread on the road. Fluids from the drilling of a well, flowback from the stimulation of a well, and other fluids used to treat a well shall not be spread on a road.

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to approve the bills per computer printout dated June 24, 2026.

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to sign the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration, Grant #3-39-0028-036-2026 for the Richard Downing Airport: Reconstruct Runway 22 Visual Guidance System (REIL) Phase 2, Reconstruct Runway 22 Visual Guidance System (PAPI)Phase 2, Reseal South Apron Phase 2 and Reseal Terminal Apron Phase 2, as requested by Mr. Marty Dobson, Airport Manager.

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to sign the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration, Grant #3-39-0028-037-2026 for the Richard Downing Airport: Construct Taxilane Phase 2, as requested by Mr. Marty Dobson, Airport Manager.

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

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Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to sign Resolution 2026-034, a resolution assigning authority to Jed McCoy, Coshocton County Department of Job and Family Services Director, or his Designee, to act as the Coshocton Board of County Commissioners' Designee for approving inter-county adjustments of allocated funds.

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer granting permission to Blue Stars Mom OH59, use of the Commissioners Community Room on July 25, 2026, all day for an Honor Flight, Columbus Reunion.

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to hire Mr. David Balo as a Social Services Worker 2-Intake with the Coshocton County Department of Job and Family Services, effective June 29, 2026, as requested by Ms. Jaime Freeman, Assistant DJFS Director.

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

At 9:05 a.m., Mr. Shane Pyle attended the Commissioners' meeting to discuss the use of entheogenic plants within Coshocton County. Mr. Pyle provided informational materials and explained his personal and professional interest in the subject, including his involvement in medical research related to Alzheimer's disease and brain health. He shared his personal experience with self-diagnosed cluster headaches, stating that conventional treatments had provided limited relief. He referenced studies conducted by Johns Hopkins University and described the potential therapeutic benefits of entheogenic plants, noting that he has experienced relief from headaches and is encouraged by the possible medical applications of these substances.

Mr. Pyle stated that he would like to see therapeutic use of entheogenic plants offered locally in Coshocton County through supervised and low-profile personal use and therapy sessions. He emphasized that he is not advocating for recreational use, use by minors, sales near schools, impaired driving, or other illegal activities. He stated that the purpose would be to help alleviate human suffering and cited potential benefits for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injuries (TBI), depression, and other mental health conditions. He also referenced reports and studies regarding the potential benefits of these treatments, including research involving Alzheimer's disease patients.

Mr. Pyle presented the Commissioners with a draft resolution requesting that local law enforcement make enforcement of personal use of entheogenic plants a low priority. He indicated that he had previously discussed the matter with Prosecutor Ben Hall and the Sheriff's Office and acknowledged that the Sheriff would continue to enforce existing laws. He explained that the proposed resolution would serve as a statement of support and would communicate to local officials and the State of Ohio that the County recognizes the potential therapeutic value of these substances. He noted that adoption of such a resolution could make Coshocton County one of the first counties in Ohio to take this position and that other states have adopted similar approaches.

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Mr. Shane Pyle, Use of Entheogenic Plants in the County-Continued

Commissioner Shryock questioned whether the Board had the authority to take a position that conflicts with state or federal law. Mr. Pyle responded that the proposed resolution would not be legally enforceable but would instead express the County's position on the issue. Commissioner Shryock stated that, based on his previous professional experience, he struggles with the fact that these substances remain classified as Schedule I drugs under federal law. He expressed concern regarding cultivation, distribution, and the potential for black-market activity, while acknowledging the potential medical benefits that have been reported. He stated that changes to state and federal laws and regulations would likely need to occur before local action could be considered.

Commissioner Bigrigg stated that he has an open mind on the issue based on personal experiences involving attention and learning difficulties and his observations regarding the use of medical marijuana. He indicated that before the Board could consider making a statement on the matter, it would be necessary to seek input from the Prosecutor's Office and the Sheriff's Office. He also expressed concerns regarding regulation, cultivation, and public safety, noting that some mushrooms can be harmful or poisonous and that education would be important.

Commissioner Bigrigg stated that any future consideration of the issue would require established rules, regulations, and additional research regarding both the benefits and risks associated with these substances. Mr. Pyle stated that his goal was to begin a community conversation on the topic and encourage discussion regarding potential therapeutic uses. He thanked the Commissioners for their time and consideration. It was noted that participation in research studies may require documentation; however, possession or use of currently prohibited substances remains subject to existing state and federal laws.

Viewing, Alley North of Willow Street in Tuscarawas Township

At 10:00 a.m. a viewing of the road petition from the Tuscarawas Township Trustees for the vacation of all the alley, North of Willow Street, in Tuscarawas Township, Board of Trade, 5th Addition, P.B. 2, Page 29-31 Tuscarawas Township, Coshocton County, Ohio being all of the alley, which runs adjacent to the east line of lots 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, and the west line of lot 44, in the Board of Trade, 5th Addition, P.B. 2, page 29-31, Tuscarawas Township. It is the intent of this action to vacate all of the platted alley in this area. However, the Tuscarawas Township Trustees shall retain the right to own, operate, maintain, and expand as necessary, the storm sewer system in the vacated alley took place with the following people present: Commissioner Bigrigg, Commissioner Shryock, Commissioner Fischer, Brooke Alverson, Clerk and Ray Young. Mr. Young pointed out this new alley vacation would go from Willow Street to an old alley that was vacated a long time ago. Mr. Young is the only land owner that will be affected by this vacation and he is in favor of it. A public hearing will be held next week for this vacation.

Mr. John Leutz and Mr. Bob Snavely- County Electric Aggregation

At 10:45 a.m., Mr. John Leutz and Mr. Bob Snavely, Palmer Energy attended the Commissioners' meeting to discuss the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) regional electric aggregation initiative. Mr. Leutz explained that the program is similar to the County facilities aggregation program already in place, but would combine participating counties and communities to increase purchasing power and obtain more competitive electric rates. He stated that the current approach focuses on regional aggregation rather than a statewide program, with the long-term goal of potentially expanding participation across Ohio.

Mr. Leutz reported that the Villages of West Lafayette and Warsaw are currently participating in aggregation programs and are being considered for inclusion in a regional aggregation model. Under this approach, participating villages would grant authority to the County Commissioners to act as the governmental aggregator, with CCAO handling the required filings and administrative processes. He stated that village residents would benefit from working together with the County and neighboring communities to increase overall purchasing volume and improve pricing opportunities.

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Mr. John Leutz and Mr. Bob Snavelly- County Electric Aggregation-Continued

Mr. Leutz noted that the larger the aggregated load, the more favorable the electric rates may become. He stated that additional suppliers may also be interested in bidding on larger regional contracts, including suppliers outside the traditional service territory. The proposal would allow the County to serve as the aggregator, with villages and other political subdivisions participating under the County's umbrella. Future expansion could include additional municipalities and townships interested in participating in the program.

Discussion followed regarding electric service territories within the County. Commissioner Shryock noted that many County residents are served by providers other than AEP. Mr. Snavelly explained that participation would depend upon the utility service area and that an analysis could be completed by township and municipality to determine potential participation opportunities. It was noted that the City of Coshocton currently has an electric aggregation program with a one-year contract term. Mr. Snavelly stated that the regional program would provide increased purchasing power for Coshocton County through a larger combined load.

Mr. Snavelly noted that Franklin Township and Tuscarawas Township currently participate in aggregation programs and described the regional effort as another opportunity for growth. He explained that the program would serve residential and small commercial customers by evaluating overall electric load profiles. Participants would retain the ability to opt out of the program at any time without penalty.

Mr. Leutz stated that CCAO views county aggregation programs as beneficial and noted that approximately 35 of Ohio's 88 counties currently operate county aggregation programs. He indicated that discussions are underway with numerous other counties and that there is strong interest from municipalities as well. He stated that CCAO would like to work with the City of Coshocton and other local political subdivisions to determine their interest in participating.

Mr. Leutz explained that government aggregation contracts may not exceed three years under state law. The proposed program would utilize a single contract with a fixed rate for a period of not less than one year and not more than three years. He stated that the process would be similar to the County facilities aggregation program, with CCAO administering the bidding process and making recommendations to the Commissioners, while the final contract decisions would remain with the Board.

Commissioner Shryock inquired about the number of counties participating in the program. Mr. Leutz stated that discussions have been held with numerous counties and that CCAO is currently working through the request for proposals process and determining regional groupings. Commissioner Bigrigg stated that he did not see any disadvantage to exploring the program, noting that the effort is intended to reduce electric costs for residents.

Commissioner Shryock asked whether school districts could participate. Mr. Snavelly responded that school districts already have separate purchasing programs available to them. Discussion also included the possibility of future participation by additional villages within the County. Mr. Snavelly stated that the goal is to include any political subdivision interested in participating.

Mr. Snavelly explained that the process for the County would involve approval by the Commissioners, while participating villages would pass resolutions granting aggregation authority to the County. He indicated that he would provide the necessary resolutions and documentation for consideration. Once the authority is granted, future aggregation contracts for participating communities would be administered through the County program.

Mr. Leutz stated that CCAO would welcome the opportunity to meet with local officials to discuss the program in greater detail. Mr. Snavelly indicated that an analysis could be completed to identify which townships or areas may be good candidates for aggregation and whether future ballot issues may be necessary. Commissioner Shryock indicated support for discussing the matter with municipalities that have already approved aggregation programs.

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Mr. Leutz explained that several pricing methodologies are available and that CCAO generally utilizes a fixed-price contract structure with an opt-out program as authorized by state law. He noted that opt-in programs typically experience lower participation rates, which can negatively affect pricing. The process generally includes informational meetings for both communities that currently participate in aggregation programs and those considering participation for the first time.

Commissioner Bigrigg stated that, from his perspective, the program would simplify decision-making for residents by providing another option for obtaining competitive electric rates. Mr. Snavely noted that customers who currently have individual supply agreements would not be affected unless they choose to leave their existing contracts and participate in the aggregation program, often without penalty. He added that specialized staff members administer these programs and assist with customer questions and enrollment. Commissioner Bigrigg concluded by stating that he did not see any concerns with continuing discussions and encouraged bringing interested parties together for further consideration.

Mary Beck, County Administrator/Project Manager-Updates

Mrs. Mary Beck, County Administrator/Project Manager provided an update on several County projects and events. She reported that Clow Lodge would be a suitable location for a senior project and stated that she is supportive of the proposal and is working with Mr. Jared Allison on this project. Mrs. Beck indicated that Mr. Allison will speak with Ms. Hemming regarding the project and arrange for personnel to clean up the area in preparation.

She reported receiving a response from Abby King regarding concerns related to the recent car show, that had cars parked on the court square in the area of the new grass being planted-indicating that the individuals involved were members of the public and not associated with the event, and that they were relocated as soon as possible. Ms. King did apologize for this happening.

Mrs. Beck advised the Board that she will be speaking about the America 250 event with Kiwanis, which is scheduled for July 8. She also reported meeting with Judge Batchelor regarding the event, noting that he requested that two maintenance employees be present to assist during the activities and Court House tours.

Mrs. Beck stated that she met with Chrissy Anderson, Granger Construction to select bollards to be installed around the Farmers Market area to improve safety and prevent vehicles from backing into the side of the market area. She indicated that the County will work with Hathaway to complete the installation in conjunction with the concert activities.

Regarding the wildflower flats area, Mrs. Beck reported that the right side of the site contains a significant amount of sand and will require several inches of topsoil to be added and mixed with the existing material to support the wildflower plantings. She also discussed additional lighting needs, noting that two extra lights are proposed, one at each end of the walkway on the opposite side of the road. Matt Mauer, Granger Construction conducted a nighttime review of the area and recommended an additional light near the playground for improved visibility and safety.

Mrs. Beck reported that flower pots will begin to be placed at Skip's Landing the following day and that the boat ramp will be washed and cleaned. She stated that the trailer and fencing currently located at the site are expected to be removed by the end of the following week. In addition, work is ongoing to sand and refinish the pillars.

Mrs. Beck advised the Board that she was able to secure the Heritage Tree for the project and requested direction regarding its placement. She further reported that the locations for the flagpoles have been marked and that installation is expected to occur sometime during the week. Frontier is scheduled to drill the holes and set the flagpoles at Skip's Landing.

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Mary Beck, County Administrator/Project Manager-Updates Continued

Finally, Mrs. Beck stated that once painting work on the bridge is completed, the decorative lighting and hanging baskets will be installed. She also announced that a soft opening of the Farmers Market at its new location at Skip's Landing is planned for July 4.

Meetings Attended

All three (3) Commissioners attended the New Albany Data Center tour on Tuesday, June 23rd. Mr. Bigrigg had a CVB meeting on Tuesday morning, June 23rd.

Adjourn

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


Robert W. Bigrigg


Dane R. Shryock


Gary L. Fischer


Clerk