

August 10, 2026

Approve Minutes

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

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	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

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IRS Mileage

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to set the mileage reimbursement for calendar year 2026 to the established rates (\$0.76 cents/per mile) as set by the Internal Revenue Service, effective July 1, 2026 which can be located at www.irs.gov.

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Accept Retirement- Dixie Harmon, EMS

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to accept the retirement of Captain Dixie Harmon, effective November 30, 2026, as requested by Mr. Joe Hunt, Chief of Coshocton County EMS.

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Resignation-Michael Daugherty, Airport

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to accept the resignation of Michael Daugherty from his position with the Richard Downing airport, effective August 3, 2026, as requested by Mr. Marty Dobson, Airport Manager.

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

SFY2027 Grant Program Year Subaward

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to sign the SFY2027 Grant Program Year Subaward agreement between The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and The Coshocton County Board of Commissioners in the amount of \$2,472,198.00 for construction of a new Coshocton Public Transit facility, as requested by Ms. Valerie Shaw, CPT Director.

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Then and Now Certificates

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to affirm the following Then and Now Certificate which has been approved by the County Administrator, Mary Beck and certified by the County Auditor.

Then and Now Certificates		AMOUNT	DEPARTMENT	APPROVED	AFFIRMED
VENDOR					
The Dover Tank and Plate Company	001-0110-521000 (Equipment)	\$3,200.00	CCC	8/5/2206	8/10/2026

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

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Transfers/Additional/Reductions

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock 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			
	353-0100-540001 (Debt Retirement EMS Building)	\$1.00	8/3/2026	8/10/2026
	Additional-Sheriff			
	161-0100-521000 (Equipment)	\$3,700.00	8/4/2026	8/10/2026
	Additional-DJFS			
	090-0100-530000 (TRAVEL)	\$3,000.00	8/4/2026	8/10/2026
	Additional-CCC			
	001-1510-501501 (ADVANCES - OUT)	\$64,000.00	8/5/2026	8/10/2026
	Additional-Sheriff			
	150-0500-510200 (Salaries)	\$20,224.00		
	150-0500-511500 (Medicare)	\$294.00		
	150-0500-511000 (OPERS)	\$3,661.00		
	150-0500-511300 (Health/Life/Dental)	\$6,320.00		
		\$30,499.00	8/7/2026	8/10/2026
	Additional-Auditor			
	040-0100-590000 (Advance Out)	\$50,000.00	8/7/2026	8/10/2026

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Rachel Selders- Humane Complaint Discussion

At 9:00 a.m., Mrs. Rachel Selders, a concerned citizen, addressed the Commissioners regarding concerns she has involving humane issues and the operation of the county dog pound. Mrs. Selders stated that, under the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), the Commissioners are responsible for the county dog shelter. She expressed concerns about the Sheriff's Department's handling of the shelter and stated that, according to her understanding, Mr. Rusty Dreher was expected to train Randy Walsh, but her understanding that training did not occur. She also noted that Steve Walsh continues to work at the facility a few days each week.

Mrs. Selders stated that she became aware of concerns involving several dogs, including mastiffs, and believes the dogs had been suffering for months without adequate assistance. She asked the Commissioners whether she could request records from HATA regarding the dogs and related cases. Mrs. Selders stated that Haley Sturtz would not work with her and expressed frustration over her inability to obtain records from HATA.

Commissioner Shryock explained his understanding that the Humane Society makes a recommendation to the Probate Judge, who then selects an individual or organization to handle humane-agent responsibilities. If that process does not occur, the matter may go to the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Shryock further stated that, by law, if the designated humane agent is not performing the required duties, those responsibilities may fall to the Sheriff's Office.

Mrs. Selders expressed concern that the Dog Warden's voicemail instructs individuals to contact HATA regarding animal abuse or neglect cases. She stated that, in her understanding, HATA is not licensed to handle those cases and that the public needs to be made aware of the situation. She also asked questions regarding the euthanasia of dogs, including what conditions must be met before a dog is euthanized, what medications are used, who is trained and authorized to administer those medications, and what happens to the remains of euthanized animals.

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Mrs. Selders also questioned why dogs are not being picked up during evenings and weekends. Commissioner Shryock stated that Coshocton County was once able to provide these services but is no longer able to do so and is operating similarly to other counties in Ohio. He noted that the Sheriff's Office becomes involved when a vicious dog is creating a public safety issue.

Mrs. Selders stated that dog tag fees paid by residents help fund services for these animals and expressed her belief that the public should have greater access to the county dog pound. She requested that the facility be open to the public. Mary Beck, County Administrator explained that the facility can be opened for members of the public by scheduled appointment.

Mrs. Selders stated that she is attempting to speak with Sheriff regarding the possibility of him taking over operation of the dog pound. She also expressed concern that volunteers are being denied opportunities to assist at the facility and stated that volunteers are only permitted if staff know who they are. She described a significant level of mistrust between her and those involved in the operation of the facility. Mrs. Selders emphasized that her goal is to improve conditions and services for the animals in Coshocton County. Dave Molloy was also referenced during the discussion.

Commissioner Shryock stated that the Commissioners would accept the public records requests and have further conversations with the Sheriff's Office before determining the appropriate next steps. Mrs. Selders expressed concern that the Sheriff should not rely solely on information provided by HATA and stated that, if the current arrangement is too difficult to manage, another organization or individual should be considered to handle the responsibilities.

Mrs. Selders reiterated that humane issues need to be addressed in Coshocton County and requested greater transparency regarding the operation of the dog pound, animal care, records, euthanasia procedures, and the parties responsible for providing humane services.

Commissioner Bigrigg stated that the Commissioners would follow through with the public records request. Mary noted that multiple departments are involved in the matters raised and, therefore, the Commissioners may not possess all of the requested records. Mrs. Selders responded that, because the Commissioners are responsible for the dog pound, she believes they should have access to the applicable records. She further stated that HATA has refused to provide her with records, telling her that it is not required to do so.

Mrs. Selders again requested information regarding the medications used in the care and euthanasia of animals and asked who is properly trained to administer them. Commissioner Shryock asked whether she had directed these questions to the Humane Society or attended Humane Society Board meetings. Mrs. Selders stated that she had not, explaining that she was bringing the concerns to the Commissioners because she believes they are responsible for the dog pound and should address the issues.

Commissioner Bigrigg thanked Mrs. Selders for bringing her concerns before the Commissioners.

Updates, Mary Beck, Coshocton County Administrator/Project Manager

County Administrator Mary Beck updated the Commissioners on several matters. Mary reported that she had spoken with the new OSU Extension Educator, who is working on the county's land use plan. The educator is new to the position and is currently working to schedule a kickoff meeting for August 31. The meeting is expected to be held in the Community Room, with snacks provided. Mary stated that funding may be needed to support the planning process and possibly to hire a consultant. She noted that the educator may not be able to complete all aspects of the project without additional assistance, particularly with the GIS work. Mary stated that she would also reach out to Tiffany Swigert at the Port Authority, as she believes the land use plan will be particularly beneficial to the Port Authority.

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Updates, Mary Beck, Coshocton County Administrator/Project Manager-continued

Mary explained that the proposed kickoff meeting would include representatives from all townships, local businesses, and other community stakeholders. The purpose of the meeting would be to begin discussions regarding the land use plan and identify areas where economic development should occur. Mary stated that she does not yet have an exact dollar amount for the potential consultant because the scope of the consultant's work has not been determined. Commissioner Shryock asked whether the new OSU Extension Educator had participated in a project similar to this previously, and Mary stated that she had not. Mary also noted that the Scholar Foundation is currently funding the educator's salary for the land use program. Commissioner Shryock commented that it would be helpful to determine the amount of funding being requested before moving forward.

Mary also provided project updates. She reported that the second restroom at Skip's is being connected today. The paving project at the Don Wells facility has been delayed until the end of September. The catch basins are expected to be installed by the end of August, and the wildflower flats are expected to be installed by the end of September. Mary also reported that the water bottle filling station will be installed and completed as part of the project.

John Ianniello and Nathan Armstrong – The Fence Line

John Ianniello and Nathan Armstrong, two citizens attending the Commissioners meeting, discussed ideas for improving communication between the public and county government. John stated that he and Nathan believe the county should explore creative ways to engage residents and encourage constructive conversations about local issues. One idea discussed was creating a podcast or video series called “The Fence Line,” which could present different perspectives on issues affecting Coshocton County and the surrounding area. The goal would be to encourage people to consider both sides of an issue and have respectful conversations about local topics.

John stated that one of the primary goals would be to help residents understand how they can approach the Commissioners when they have questions or concerns. He said that communication does not always appear to occur in a civil or productive manner and referenced five questions he had previously emailed to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Bigrigg stated that, from his perspective, the questions could be addressed as long as the information and discussion were presented in a positive manner. John responded that his intention is to highlight Coshocton County and its residents in a positive way. Nathan explained that the purpose of the proposed project is primarily educational. He stated that the questions were designed to prompt discussion about various sectors and issues affecting the county and to help residents better understand how to approach the Commissioners and participate in local government.

Commissioner Bigrigg noted that there are often misunderstandings about the roles and responsibilities of county government. He referenced videos previously created by Leonard Hayhurst, Tribune that explained the duties of the Commissioners and other county offices. Bob suggested that short videos explaining topics such as “What is your job?” and “What does your office do?” could help residents better understand the functions of county government. Commissioner Bigrigg also stated that the Commissioners have participated in talk shows to discuss the work of their offices and noted that many people may not realize that Commissioner’s meetings are public and that residents are welcome to attend and participate.

Commissioner Bigrigg further commented that some residents are willing to complain about issues on Facebook but are not willing to come into the Commissioners' office to discuss those concerns directly. Commissioner Shryock noted that the county does have a Facebook presence and that residents regularly respond and engage through social media. He stated that the county has attempted to keep up with changing communication methods.

Leonard Hayhurst, Tribune noted that local newspapers are also adapting to changes in how people receive information and are using videos more frequently in addition to traditional written stories.

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John Ianniello and Nathan Armstrong – The Fence Line, continued

Commissioner Shryock addressed the five questions submitted by John and Nathan and stated that many of them involved data centers. He noted that two individuals who have been among the most vocal critics of data centers on Facebook have spoken with Tiffany Swigert at the Port Authority numerous times but remained dissatisfied with the information they received. Commissioner Shryock stated that providing information does not necessarily resolve an issue if someone does not want to accept or believe the information being provided.

Nathan acknowledged that there are some individuals who may not be satisfied regardless of the information provided. He stated that he and John are attempting to explore appropriate and constructive ways for residents to communicate with the Commissioners and county government. He questioned what the proper path is for members of the community to express their opinions publicly and asked who residents should contact when they have questions regarding technology and other developing issues. Nathan also asked how the Commissioners would prefer the public to communicate with the Commissioners and their offices.

Commissioner Bigrigg responded that residents have the opportunity to attend Commissioner's meetings, which are open to the public, and interact directly with the Commissioners. John asked whether the Commissioners would prefer residents to come into the office and speak with them individually. Commissioner Bigrigg stated that his preference is to remain open to hearing from residents through different methods of communication.

Commissioner Shryock stated that he considers himself somewhat "old school" and believes that many issues eventually work themselves out. He compared this to previous generations' concerns about new technology, such as his grandparents' reaction to the automobile, and suggested that data centers may similarly become an accepted part of the community over time. Commissioner Shryock expressed some hesitation regarding social media, noting that while there are many positive aspects, social media can also be used negatively and can contribute to significant conflict. He questioned whether "keyboard warriors" and online commentary can sometimes cause more harm than good.

Commissioner Shryock stated that he struggles with determining the best approach to communication through both traditional and social media. He noted that in-person discussions allow people in the room to have a conversation, ask questions, respond to one another, and work through differences of opinion. He also expressed concern that if a blog, podcast, or video were to gain widespread attention outside of Coshocton County, it could create additional challenges for the county's public service sector. Commissioner Shryock stated, however, that events and developments within the county will continue regardless of whether he participates in a blog or podcast.

Commissioner Shryock noted that New Albany has experienced positive aspects related to data centers. Commissioner Bigrigg stated that conversations such as the one taking place at the meeting are valuable because they allow residents to better understand the thought processes involved in local government decisions. He also noted that many people may not understand zoning regulations or the potential risks associated with areas where zoning does not exist.

Commissioner Bigrigg commented that a significant portion of society has a negative perception of government regardless of the issue. Nathan agreed that social media can create considerable confusion regarding the role and responsibilities of government. He stated that the questions they developed are intended to help explain what members of the public can do when an issue comes before the county and how they can effectively communicate their concerns.

Commissioner Shryock clarified that he was not saying that John and Nathan's proposed project was a bad idea, but that he was concerned about the potential consequences of the information being distributed and how it could be interpreted outside of the county. He stated that, in today's environment, significant financial interests can influence public discussions and questioned what the actual benefits of certain developments, including data centers, would be for the local community. He noted potential benefits such as infrastructure improvements, economic development, and increased tax revenue for local school districts, and questioned whether those benefits could be effectively communicated to the public.

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John Ianniello and Nathan Armstrong – The Fence Line, continued

Chuck Ellis commented that there are many venues and opportunities available for residents to receive information and communicate with local government that they may not be aware of. He noted that there are numerous ways for residents to communicate with county officials and stated that very few people regularly attend Commissioners or township meetings simply to listen and learn.

Commissioner Shryock expressed concern about where videos or podcasts could go once, they are published and noted that individuals outside of Coshocton County may not have a direct stake in local issues.

Commissioner Shryock also referenced the injection-well issue as an example of the limits of county authority. He explained that injection wells are regulated by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and that the Commissioners did not have authority over the matter or the ability to make the decisions involved. He stated that residents seeking changes to the regulations would need to contact their state legislators and request that new rules be established and subsequently enforced by the companies involved.

Nathan asked whether zoning could be part of the issue in Coshocton County, particularly concerning businesses or developments that some members of the public may not want located in certain areas. Nathan and John explained that their proposed "Fence Line" project would be shared through social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. They discussed the possibility of presenting information in a well-produced and engaging manner while also using humor when appropriate to help communicate information and address local issues.

Commissioner Bigrigg thanked Nathan and John for their questions, discussion, and feedback.

Executive Session-Employee Discipline

At 10:30 a.m. Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to go into executive session with Mrs. Mary Beck, County Administrator and Mrs. Brooke Alverson, Clerk to discuss employee discipline. All vote aye. At 11:00 a.m. Mr. Bigrigg returned the meeting to regular session. No action taken.

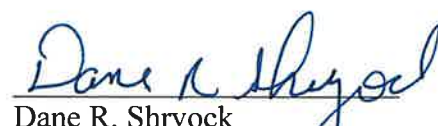
Meetings Attended

No meetings were attended by any Commissioner.

Adjourn

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


Robert W. Bigrigg


Dane R. Shryock


Gary L. Fischer


Clerk