COMMISSIONER'S JOURNAL

Wednesday **Regular** **October 14, 2026**

The Coshocton County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. with 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, Mr. Leonard Hayhurst, Tribune and Ms. Mary Feragli, WTNS.

Approve Minutes

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to approve the minutes from the last meeting as presented.

Vote:	Bigrigg	absent
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Retirement, Jana Bradford - DJFS

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to accept the retirement of Jana Bradford from her position at Coshocton County Job and Family Services effective December 1, 2026, as requested by Ms. Jaime Freeman, Assistant DJFS Director.

Vote:	Bigrigg	absent
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Employee Hire, Nichole Peters - DJFS

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to hire Nichole Peters as an Eligibility Referral Specialist 2 with Coshocton County Job and Family Services, effective October 26, 2026, as requested by Ms. Jaime Freeman, Assistant DJFS Director.

Vote:	Bigrigg	absent
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Board of Elections Staff Trainings/Meetings – 2027 Calendar yea.

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer granting permission for the Board of Elections Staff members to attend meetings directly related to the Board of Elections and the Ohio Association of Elections Officials (OAEO) during the 2027 calendar year.

Vote:	Bigrigg	absent
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Plat of Reagan Private Road Subdivision

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to approve the Plat of Reagan Private Road Subdivision, the creation of a 4-lot private road subdivision located on State Road 751 in Lafayette Township on property owned by ETT Properties, LLC, Auditor Parcel 018-0000047-00, as requested by Mrs. Kiana Ruby, Coshocton County Regional Planning.

Vote:	Bigrigg	absent
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Resolution 2026-048, Transit ODOT Funds

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to sign Resolution 2026-048, a resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the Ohio Department of Transportation by Coshocton County Board of Commissioners, doing business as (DBA) Coshocton Public Transit, for grants through the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the State of Ohio, as authorized under federal transit law, and authorizing the execution of a contract with the Ohio Department of Transportation upon project approval.

Vote:	Bigrigg	absent
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

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Dog Wardens Report

Received the Dog Wardens Report for the week ending October 12, 2026 with three dogs picked up, eight dog licenses sold, eight dogs sold, two charges filed and 37 calls handled for a total of $200 in fees collected.

Community Room Rental- Cortnie Jamison

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock granting permission to Cortnie Jamison, county employee, use of the Commissioners Community Room on November 22, 2026, all day for a birthday party.

Vote:	Bigrigg	absent
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Employee Termination, David Balo - DJFS

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to terminate David Balo from his position with Coshocton County Department of Job and Family Services effective October 1, 2026, as requested by Ms. Jaime Freeman, Assistant DJFS Director.

Vote:	Bigrigg	absent
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Resolution 2026-049 Repayment of VOCA Grant

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to sign Resolution 2026-049, authorizing repayment of an advance from 245 fund Victim Assistance VOCA grant.

Vote:	Bigrigg	absent
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Community Room Rental-Cub Scout Pack 403

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer granting permission to Cub Scout Pack 403 use of the Commissioners Community Room on February 20, 2027, all day for the Blue & Gold Banquet.

Vote:	Bigrigg	absent
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Resignation- Mr. Joshua D. Kempf, County Engineer

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to accept the resignation of Mr. Joshua D. Kempf from his position as Coshocton County Engineer, effective November 13, 2026.

Vote:	Bigrigg	absent
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Court Square Request- Veterans Office

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer granting permission to Coshocton County Veteran's Service Office use of the Court Square on November 11, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. for a Veterans Day ceremony.

Vote:	Bigrigg	absent
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

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Contract Addendum between DJFS and Kno-Ho-Co-Ashland

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to sign the Contract Addendum between Coshocton County Department of Job and Family Services and Kno-Ho-Co- Ashland in the amount of $809.92 for the Shelter Program.

Vote:	Bigrigg	absent
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Community Room Rental-Cub Scout Pack 403

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer granting permission to Cub Scout Pack 403 use of the Commissioners Community Room on March 20, 2027, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. for the Pinewood Derby.

Vote:	Bigrigg	absent
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Flex time Policy, Prosecutors Office

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to accept the Flex Time Policy for non-exempt employees who are administrative assistants and victim advocates for the Coshocton County Prosecutor's Office, as requested by Mr. Ben Hall, Coshocton County Prosecutor.

Vote:	Bigrigg	absent
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Earned Time Off Policy, Prosecutors Office

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to accept the Earned Time Off Policy for exempt employees who are attorneys and office managers for the Coshocton County Prosecutor's Office, as requested by Mr. Ben Hall, Coshocton County Prosecutor.

Vote:	Bigrigg	absent
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Community Room Rental-Polly Maple

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock granting permission to Polly Maple use of the Commissioners Community Room on December 27, 2026, all day for a family Christmas party, this rental also has an alcohol request as well.

Vote:	Bigrigg	absent
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Approve Bills

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to approve the bills per computer printout dated October 14, 2026.

Vote:	Bigrigg	absent
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Employee Hire, Kaitlyn Hanslik- Custodian

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to hire Kaitlynn Hanslik as a custodian with the Coshocton County Commissioners, effective October 19, 2026, as requested by Mr. Ike Reger, Coshocton County Maintenance Supervisor.

Vote:	Bigrigg	absent
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

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Community Room Rental- FCFC

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer granting permission to Family and Children First Council use of the Commissioners Community Room on January 19, April 20, July 20 and October 19 all in 2027 for Full Board Council meetings.

Vote: Bigrigg absent
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
Ounty Risk Sharing Authority Inc.	001-0611-526000 (Contract Services)	$1,780.00	Sheriff/Jail	10/5/2026	10/14/2026
Interagency Agreement monitored visitations	090-0100-526000 (CONTRACT - SERVICES)	$3,099.03	JFS	10/6/2026	10/14/2026
Tusc Supply, LLC	050-0300-520200 (Materials)	$3,047.95	Engineer	10/7/2026	10/14/2026
Community & Neighborhood Strategies, Inc.	001-0110-540004 (Ohio Dept. Agric.-Land Use Planning)	$4,450.00	CCC	10/8/2026	10/14/2026

Vote: Bigrigg absent
Shryock yea
Fischer yea

Transfers/Additionals/Reductions

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to affirm the following Transfers/Additionals/Reductions which have been approved by County Administrator Mary Beck and certified by the County Auditor.

FROM ACCOUNT	TO ACCOUNT	AMOUNT	APPROVED	AFFIRMED
	Transfer-JFS			
090-0100-540002 (Other Expense- START Program)	090-0100-526000 (CONTRACT - SERVICES)	**$20,000.00**	10/6/2026	10/14/2026
	Additional-FCFC			
Unappropriated	084-0700-540000 (Other Expense)	$2,750.00	10/6/2026	10/14/2026
	Additional- Sheriff			
Unappropriated	001-0610-521008 (Equipment- Coshocton Foundation)	$20,357.64	10/6/2026	10/14/2026
	Transfer-CPT			
088-0100-540004 (Other - Non-Admin)	088-0100-526002 (CS- Purchased Transp (5101))	$7,000.00	10/7/2026	10/14/2026
	Transfer-EMS			
120-0100-511100 (Worker's Comp)	120-0100-527000 (Advertising)	$143.00	10/9/2026	10/14/2026
	Additional-CCC			
unappropriated	001-0110-521000 (Equipment)	$700.00	10/9/2026	10/14/2026
	Additional-BOE			
	231-0200-530000 (Training- Pollworkers)	$2,721.04	10/9/2026	10/14/2026
	Additional-BOE			
	312-0312-540000 (OTHER EXPENSE)	$30.00	10/9/2026	10/14/2026
	Transfer-Common Pleas			
001-0220-550000 (ATTORNEY FEES)	001-0220-540000 (OTHER EXPENSE)	$5,000.00	10/9/2026	10/14/2026
	Transfer-Common Pleas			
001-0220-550000 (ATTORNEY FEES)	001-0220-550300 (TRANSCRIPTS)	$3,000.00	10/9/2026	10/14/2026
	Additional-CCC			
	001-1410-511100 (Workers Comp)	$81,608.96	10/13/2026	10/14/2026
	Transfer-CCC			
001-0410-521200 (Construction)	001-0420-526000 (CONTRACT SERVICES)	$25,000.00	10/13/2026	10/14/2026
	Transfer-Auditor			
001-0120-510200 (SALARIES - EMPLOYEES)	001-0120-526000 (CONTRACT SERVICE)	$10,000.00	10/13/2026	10/14/2026

Vote: Bigrigg absent
Shryock yea
Fischer yea

Mary Beck, County Administrator/Project Manager Updates

Mary contacted Bob Pell with the Coshocton Foundation regarding the lighting project and the possibility that all of the work may not be completed this year. Bob Pell was understanding of the situation and the potential delays.

Mary received an email inviting the Commissioners to attend a legislative reception scheduled to take place at Tundra in November.

Regarding the Land Use Steering Committee, Jesse Tubbs has Village Council meetings on Mondays, which may prevent her from attending the Steering Committee meetings. The committee discussed whether to change the meeting date or maintain the current schedule. Of the 22 committee members, only one member is unable to attend. Mary will send a letter to all Steering Committee members emphasizing the importance of their participation and involvement.

The Title Office has requested carpeting for the area behind the counter. An estimate will need to be obtained for the proposed carpeting.

An email was received from Montrose requesting the Commissioners to complete a Community Project Questionnaire. The questionnaire seeks information on potential projects the County may wish to pursue for future capital improvements, including water and sewer infrastructure, parks and recreation, economic development, and roads.

Executive Session, Employee Compensation

At 9:00 a.m. Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to go into executive session with Mr. Cameron Tidrick, Assistant IT Director, Mary Beck, County Administrator, Brooke Alverson, Clerk, Mrs. Robin Schonauer, Budget Director, and Mr. Chuck Ellis to discuss employee compensation/hiring. All vote aye. At 9:40 Mr. Shryock returned the meeting to regular session. No action taken.

Coshocton County Reentry Coalition Introduction

At 9:46 a.m., Rick Bonice, Rachelle Courtright, and Daniel Kovacs provided an overview of the local reentry program and the services it provides to individuals returning to the community from jail or prison. The initiative began in 2023 with grant funding, including approximately $40,000 in local and state support, along with contributions from individuals and local businesses. A board and membership were established to help identify and coordinate the services needed to support individuals reentering the community. Daniel Kovacs shared that, while incarcerated, he recognized the need for additional support for individuals upon their release and encouraged Rachelle Courtright to expand her efforts to address those needs. Although the initial funding helped establish the program, much of that support eventually ended, creating ongoing challenges in maintaining services.

Rachelle explained that she began working in the jail in 2022 to address the mental health needs of incarcerated individuals. She currently spends a significant amount of time providing mental health support, which has limited the time she can dedicate to reentry services. The Sheriff's Office has also received opioid grant funding to assist with related needs. To provide a centralized location for individuals returning to the community, the reentry center was established to connect participants with necessary services, help them prepare for employment, and support their efforts to become successful, productive members of the community. Rick Bonice also discussed his ministry work in prisons, while Rachelle works with individuals both within the local community and at the prison level. They frequently hear from individuals that resources are unavailable and that they have nowhere to turn for assistance. Rachelle emphasized that crises occur daily within the jail, demonstrating the continued need for these services.

Commissioner Shryock asked whether additional funding was needed to sustain the program. Rachelle explained that numerous grant applications have been submitted and that she is working with Sheriff Walters to explore additional opioid grant funding. The program needs financial support to keep the

Coshocton County Reentry Coalition Introduction, Continued

building open and maintain services. She noted that she and the other individuals involved have been contributing their own personal funds to keep the program operating because of the significant need within the community. Commissioner Shryock acknowledged the importance of the services and noted that society's perspective on individuals returning from prison has changed, further highlighting the need for programs that support successful reentry. Rachelle stated that community support is needed more than anything. She also explained that the organization is the only Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC)-affiliated reentry program in the community. The building is currently sparsely furnished, and donations of furniture are needed to create a welcoming, organized environment for participants. Commissioner Shryock requested that a list of needed items be provided.

Rachelle explained that the program requires approximately $50,000 annually to sustain operations, with rent costing approximately $14,000 per year. Additional expenses include transportation, supplies, utilities, participant assistance, and clothing. Rick Bonice noted that the program is currently operated by volunteers who contribute their time and resources. He expressed his belief that the need for these services will continue to grow and that the program may eventually become a legal requirement. The organization has worked with the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and has received support for its efforts in the community.

Commissioner Shryock asked how many individuals the program serves locally and about its success rate. Rachelle reported that the program serves approximately 100 to 150 individuals annually who return to Coshocton County, which is their county of commitment. Of those served, approximately 75 individuals have not reoffended within a three-year period. She also noted that individuals from other counties have approached her for assistance in establishing similar reentry coalitions. Judge Batchelor was credited with spearheading the initial development of the local initiative. Commissioner Shryock expressed appreciation for the work being done and acknowledged the importance of the program to the community. Dane also requested a copy of the organization's proposed budget.

Daniel Kovacs explained that additional assistance is needed when applying for grants, as some funding opportunities are available only to local governments and require letters of support or recommendations from community partners. He also discussed the need to establish transitional housing for individuals returning from incarceration. ODRC may provide funding for transitional housing, with payments ranging from approximately $900 to $1,200 per bed per month for up to six months. Participants are expected to obtain employment and contribute a portion of their income toward rent to help them establish stability and become self-sufficient. Daniel emphasized that many individuals want to work, contribute to society, and become productive members of the community but face significant challenges and anxiety when transitioning back into the community.

Commissioner Shryock asked whether the proposed housing program would serve individuals from Coshocton County exclusively. Daniel explained that participants would be local individuals who have been vetted for the program. Rachelle confirmed that drug testing is part of the program. She further explained that the organization works to address the full range of participants' needs, beginning with basic necessities and continuing through employment and other services needed to support successful reintegration. The group discussed how stable housing remains one of the greatest obstacles for individuals leaving jail or prison. Dane noted that reoffending carries significant costs for taxpayers, regardless of how those costs are ultimately incurred. Daniel added that providing individuals with the support needed to secure employment and become productive citizens benefits both the individuals and the community. The Mental Health Board was also identified as a potential resource for additional grant funding to support individuals with mental health needs.

Commissioner Shryock discussed the County's potential role in assisting with grant applications, noting that its ability to apply for and administer funding depends on the County's organizational structure and administrative capacity. He expressed concern that the County may not currently have the resources or structure necessary to administer certain large or ongoing grants. The County will continue discussions to determine how it may be able to assist with grant funding and support the program's efforts. The possibility of working with the Land Bank was also discussed as a potential avenue for addressing housing needs. It was noted that the proposed housing would not be Section 8 housing and was not expected to negatively affect surrounding property values.

Coshocton County Reentry Coalition Introduction, Continued

When asked about the number of beds needed, Daniel indicated that approximately 15 beds would be ideal. He stated that the necessary arrangements are in place to move forward with the transitional housing initiative, provided funding can be secured. Rick Bonice reported that approximately 68 individuals are expected to return from prison to the community within the next year, further emphasizing the need for adequate housing and reentry services. The discussion concluded with recognition that securing funding to establish and fill the transitional housing facility would be an important step toward expanding support for individuals returning to Coshocton County.

DJFS Monthly Update

Jed McCoy, DJFS Director and and John Piper, DJFS Fiscal Administrator provided a monthly update regarding the Coshocton County Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS). Jed reported that there are currently 98 children in custody, which was lower than anticipated, as he expected the number to exceed 100. During the previous week, five children required emergency removals, with many of the children being placed with kinship caregivers. Jed also reported a significant increase in domestic violence-related concerns. Denise Nelson, the Intake Supervisor, indicated that the department is currently receiving approximately 100 domestic violence-related calls. Domestic violence has become a recurring concern among staff, and DJFS is working with First Step to help connect women experiencing domestic violence with appropriate services and support. Jed also reported that two adoptions were completed during the previous week.

John provided an update on the department's financial status. He noted that DJFS did not request additional funding during the previous month's meeting, whereas at this time last year, the department had requested approximately $2.55 million. He explained that the department is performing better financially than originally anticipated. Although there have been some repeat placements and the number of children in custody is higher than it was at the same time last year, staff have been able to use creative placement options to help control costs. John requested an additional $230,000, which would bring the department's total funding requests for the year to approximately $1.4 million. Current expenditures are averaging approximately $137,000 per month, and the department is on track to finish the year at approximately $1.7 million, which would be an improvement over the previous year. He also noted that the department is receiving more Title IV-E reimbursements this year than last year.

John discussed the implementation of rate cards for placement services. Under this system, rates are established when a placement provider is licensed, allowing the department to obtain reimbursement more promptly. The department may also be able to seek reimbursement for qualifying placements dating back up to two years. The rate card system is intended to help communities manage placement costs and reduce competitive bidding situations that can drive up prices. The initiative was implemented at the state level through the Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY).

The department is also looking forward to implementing the Kinnect to Family program and evaluating its impact on placement outcomes. John noted that placements for children ages 16 and 17 account for a significant portion of the department's placement costs. Through a two-year OneOhio grant totaling $170,000, funding has been secured for a Kinnect to Family position within DJFS. This position will focus on identifying and strengthening family connections for children in custody by reaching out to relatives and other family members who may be able to provide support or placement options.

Dane asked whether the children currently in custody are primarily from Coshocton County or from families outside the county. Jed indicated that the majority are believed to be local children and families but agreed to obtain additional information to confirm this. Chuck Ellis asked how Coshocton County's numbers compare with those of surrounding counties. Jed explained that the comparison can be challenging because some counties have significantly different circumstances, while others are considerably larger than Coshocton County. Commissioner Shryock thanked the presenters for the update and expressed appreciation for the information provided.

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Executive Session, Mr. Jed McCoy-Employee Compensation

At 11:09 a.m. Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to go into executive session with Mr. Jed McCoy, DJFS Director, Robin Schonauer, Budget Director, Brooke Alverson, Clerk, Jon Piper, DJFS Fiscal Administrator, and Chuck Ellis to discuss employee compensation. All vote aye. At 11:40 Mr. Shryock returned the meeting to regular session. No action taken.

Meetings Attended

Mr. Shryock attended the executive meeting of Regional Planning on Tuesday, October 13th. Additionally, Mr. Shryock had a meeting with Mr. Joshua D. Kempf, Coshocton County Engineer and Mrs. Kiana Ruby, Regional Planning on Wednesday morning, October 14th.

Adjourn

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

Absent
Robert W. Bigrigg

Dane R. Shryock

Gary L. Fischer

Clerk