COMMISSIONER'S JOURNAL

Wednesday **Regular** **November 18, 2026**

The Coshocton County Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, November 18, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. with Mr. Bob 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, Commissioner-Elect, and Mary Feragli, 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

Hire Seasonal Employees-Ice Rink

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to hire the following individuals as seasonal employees to work at the Ice Skate Rink effective November 14, 2026 at an hourly rate of $15.00 per hour. Haley Kempf, Zoey Lambert, Ayianna Alverson, Jodie Thompson, Cooper Wallace, Piper Scherer, Skyelynn Schlabach, Hallie Wallace and Addison Alverson.

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

MOU with EMS Association, IAFF Local 5078

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Coshocton County Commissioners referred as the "Employer" and the Coshocton County Professional EMS Association, IAFF Local 5078, referred as the "Union", regarding the establishment of a full-time Mobile Integrated Health Registered Nurse Position within the Coshocton County EMS. The agreement establishes the position as separated from the existing bargaining unit and outlines its qualifications, duties, responsibilities, and employment status, at the request of Joe Hunt, Chief of Coshocton County EMS.

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Employee Hire, Amanda Harris-EMS

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to switch Amanda Harris from part-time EMT-B to full-time Mobile Integrated health Registered Nurse effective November 30, 2026, at the request of Joe Hunt, Chief of Coshocton County EMS.

Bigrigg	yea
Shryock	yea
Fischer	yea

Dog Warden Report

Received the Dog Warden's Report for the week ending November 16, 2026 with 5 dogs picked up by the warden, 2 dog licenses sold, 2 dogs sold, 1 dog redeemed, 1 dog surrendered by owner, 2 charges filed and 40 calls handled for a total of $75.00 in fees collected.

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DJFS Monthly Update

At 9:30 a.m. Mr. Jed McCoy, DJFS Director, Mr. John Piper, Fiscal Administrator DJFS and Kathy Art, Supervisor DJFS attended the Commissioners meeting to provide them with an update on the monthly report regarding children in care. As of this morning, there are 105 children in care. Although the overall numbers remain high, the number of children placed in kinship care continues to increase, which is a positive trend. Currently, there are 18 children in congregate care, 55 in family foster care, 3 in special needs care, and 9 in exceptional needs care. There are also 29 children in kinship care, with 6 placed in non-relative homes and 23 placed with relatives. The Connect a Family worker has been working diligently to connect children with kinship placements. While the overall number of children in care remains elevated, the placement numbers are moving in the right direction.

Placement costs for October totaled $387,746, compared to a monthly average of $375,547. Overall placement costs have decreased since January of this year. Children in care represent a wide range of age groups. The most significant contributing factors to the increase in cases over the past month have been alcohol abuse and domestic violence. These trends are also being reported across the state. Other counties are experiencing increases in cocaine-related cases in addition to alcohol-related concerns. Historically, the agency tends to see similar trends approximately six months after they begin appearing in other counties. Jed also noted that alcohol-related cases increasingly involve situations in which parents are unable to care for their children, sometimes resulting in calls for assistance as late as 2:00 a.m. He added that calls typically increase around Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The Connect program continues to see movement and turnover in children's placements. Three new foster homes were licensed over the past month. There have also been reunifications, and some children are approaching the age at which they will age out of care. Kathy provided an update on school-related cases, noting that some parents are engaging in treatment, with positive results. Safety plans are being developed for both the children and parents involved, and the plans appear to be working well. She also shared that one child currently in placement is showing signs of stabilization. The placement provider has invested significant time and effort into the child's care, and the child is receiving the services needed to make progress.

The agency is also making progress with the Ohio START program and expects to become nationally certified soon. The program focuses on keeping children out of the court system whenever possible while helping families receive the support and services they need to remain together. Jed emphasized that this is a significant accomplishment, noting that many counties have struggled to get the program fully established.

The back-area playground project is finally coming together and looking great. Jed has put considerable effort into the project, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held once it is completed.

The intake unit is currently down to one worker, leaving the department two workers short. Despite staffing challenges, employees are doing their best to remain positive and continue processing cases as they come in. Rate cards have been pushed back until at least April 2027. Much of the delay is related to the transition to the new administration.

John provided a financial update and noted that the cost per day continues to increase. After reviewing the numbers, he found that the four most expensive cases accounted for approximately 30% of the agency's total placement costs. None of these four cases qualify for Title IV-E reimbursement. Some of the children have been in care for the entire past 10 months, while others have not been in care as long.

The agency may not need to request additional funding in December, which would be positive news. For the current month, the agency anticipates needing approximately $269,000. The total amount requested and received throughout the year is expected to be approximately $1.64 million. Although the agency initially requested $2.1 million, the budgeted amount was $1.7 million, so expenditures are expected to remain below the budgeted amount.

Only 87 children have generated foster care maintenance costs this year, largely due to the increased use of kinship placements. Children placed with relatives can also benefit from TANF funding, which helps support additional needs within kinship households. Approximately $275,000 in TANF funds has been used to support children in kinship care. Kathy also discussed a new state initiative that allows kinship

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DJFS Monthly Update-Continued

caregivers to become licensed foster parents, making them eligible to receive a daily reimbursement for caring for children placed in their homes. If the kinship caregiver later adopts the child, the state will assume the associated costs through the applicable adoption assistance program.

The agency's cumulative error rate is currently 2%, which is very positive compared to some counties that are reporting error rates of 10% or higher. The agency has also experienced record collections in custody-related costs.

Commissioner Bigrigg thanked the agency for its diligence throughout the year in managing funds and finding solutions to help address budget challenges. Jed also expressed appreciation for the continued help, communication, and support throughout the year. Bob shared that he appreciates receiving the monthly updates and finds it helpful and satisfying to hear about the work taking place within the agency and the progress being made.

Meetings Attended

Monday Evening, November 16th both Commissioner Bigrigg and Commissioner Fischer attended the Regional Planning Meeting. Tuesday afternoon, both Commissioner Shryock and Commissioner Bigrigg attended the OSU Comprehensive Land Use Plan meeting, additionally Commissioner Bigrigg had a Kno-Co-Ho meeting later that evening.

Adjourn

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

Robert W. Bigrigg

Dane R. Shryock

Gary L. Fischer

Clerk