

January 22, 2026

Commissioners present: Jeffrey Hunker, Timothy Bechtol and William Bateson present.

Also Present: Christine Carrigan, Cindy Land, Phil Johnson, Auditor Charity Rauschenberg, Adam Witteman, Steve Wilson and Saige Thornley.

Commissioner Hunker opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' first floor conference room. Minutes from January 20, 2026, meetings were read with William Bateson making the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

William Bateson made the motion to approve the Warrant Journal, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0. William Bateson made the motion for the chair's signature on the Hancock County Landfill Quarterly & Semi-Annual Deviation rpt. 317172, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0. The Commissioners approved two travel requests for the Sheriff, payroll for their staff and JFS. In addition, the Commissioners approved the Maumee Watershed Conservancy District expenses for December 2025 in the amount of \$4,981.26.

The Assistant Clerk presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #52-26 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation - General Fund #1001 (Sheriff). William Bateson making the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #53-26 – Transfer between funds from General Fund #1001 to Ditch Maintenance Fund #2004 \$150,000. William Bateson making the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #54-26 – Transfer of funds within the appropriation - General Fund #1001 – Veterans. William Bateson making the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #55-26 – Additional appropriation - within the Auditor's certification - Commissioners to appropriate to Law Enforcement Assistance Fund #2187. William Bateson making the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Cindy Land presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #56-26 – Authorizing Change Order No. 1 to the Board of Hancock County Commissioners' agreement with NWO Property Services LLC. of Lima, Ohio for a Hancock County Ditch Maintenance Project for 2025 in Hancock County, Ohio. Cindy explained that this resolution and the next four were contracts that were entered into in mid-2025 that could not be completed by the end of the year. The change order will extend the completion date to June 30, 2026. This agreement is for the A.O. Minks and Charles Good Ditch maintenance project. William Bateson making the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #57-26 – Authorizing Change Order No. 1 to the Board of Hancock County Commissioners' agreement with Boes Brothers, Inc. of Fostoria, Ohio for a Hancock County

Ditch Maintenance Project for 2025 in Hancock County, Ohio. Cindy stated this agreement is for the H.J. Greer Ditch maintenance project. William Bateson making the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #58-26 – Authorizing Change Order No. 1 to the Board of Hancock County Commissioners' agreement with Lake and Land Excavating LLC. of Alvada, Ohio for a Hancock County Ditch Maintenance Project for 2025 in Hancock County, Ohio. Cindy stated this agreement is for the Ropp Ditch maintenance project. William Bateson making the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #59-26 – Authorizing Change Order No. 1 to the Board of Hancock County Commissioners' agreement with Austin Vanden Bosch, LLC of Arlington, Ohio for a Ditch Maintenance Project for 2025 in Hancock County, Ohio. Cindy stated this agreement is for the A.L. Pickett Ditch maintenance project. William Bateson making the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #60-26 – Authorizing Change Order No. 1 to the Board of Hancock County Commissioners' agreement with Boes Quality Drainage, Inc. of Fostoria, Ohio for a Ditch Maintenance Project for 2025 in Hancock County, Ohio. Cindy stated this agreement is for the Nimrod-Bright Ditch maintenance project. William Bateson making the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #61-26 – Authorizing the Hancock County Commissioners to enter an amended subgrant agreement between the Hancock County Job and Family Services County and Area Agency on Aging 3. Cindy explained that this is to clarify that the funding for this agreement is broken down into \$172,600.00 for administering the services laid out in the Subgrant Agreement and \$10,000.00 from the Hancock County Commissioners Local Fund that can only be used for direct client services. The total amount is not to exceed \$182,600.00. William Bateson making the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Phil Johnson presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution authorizing the entry into and execution of a Change Order #1 to a contract with Buckeye Elm Contracting, LLC., for the completion of the construction phase of a State of Ohio Brownfield Environmental Remediation project with regard to a river benching project on the north bank of the Blanchard River was not presented at this time.

Resolution #62-26 – Authorizing the execution and delivery of an IRS Form 1098-F for delivery to the board's attorneys retained to pursue the county's opioid distribution claims. Phil explained there is a settlement that could involve punitive damage. Therefore, some of the settlement may be taxable. This document will provide our tax ID number, name and address for use by our attorneys to establish that we are tax exempt. William Bateson making the motion to approve, Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Auditor Charity Rauschenberg had nothing to report.

Steve Wilson stated they started hauling bottles from the Brownfield site. So far, they have removed 250 tons of glass. This afternoon Steve has a call with Norfolk Southern Railroad.

Meetings/Reports

Timothy Bechtol is still working with both architects for the two construction projects. RCM is currently waiting for a response from Phil. Peterman is expecting to receive the consultant's drawings back this week.

William Bateson attended the OneOhio Region 17 local meeting last Thursday. Yesterday, Commissioner Bateson received a call from Adam Miller regarding the greenhouse heaters not working. He gave him approval to purchase and install a replacement heater.

Jeffrey Hunker attended the West Central Ohio Rural Planning Organization. He stated that Engineer Doug Cade submitted a project and received \$75,000.00 for a comprehensive safety investigation and engineering analysis of the intersection of C.R. 140 and C.R. 99. Commissioner Hunker also attended his first Chamber Advisory Board meeting. He was able to share information regarding the recycling program. Commissioner Bateson added that at S.R. 103 in Bluffton the new roundabout is being installed.

At 10:30 a.m., the Commissioners held a variance hearing petitioned for by Chad Eilrich. Christine Carrigan, Phil Johnson, Engineer Doug Cade, Kyle Parker and Chad Eilrich were also present. The petitioner, Chad Eilrich was sworn in. Kyle explained the variance request that was submitted. In Addition, he shared the parcel map and photo of the property located at 13611 Township Road 108. Kyle provided traffic characteristics and the Engineer's recommendation. There was discussion held on where the driveway can be installed.

The following resolution was presented for consideration:

Resolution #63-26 – Resolution – Commissioners' finding upon a variance request filed by Chad Eilrich, sitting as the Board of Appeals for the Hancock County Access Management Regulations. William Bateson making the motion to deny the variance request, Jeffrey Hunker seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

At 11:15 a.m., the Commissioners met with Adam Miller. Christine Carrigan and Phil Johnson were also present. Adam provided the following maintenance updates:

- Adam stated that the underground storage tank at the Justice Center has failed both inspections. He said the tank was installed in 1989. Discussion was held regarding repairing or replacing the tank, abandoning the tank, removing the tank and replacing it with natural gas. The Commissioners would like him to check to see if natural gas will work and the cost of using natural gas. The Commissioners asked Adam to get quotes for repairing, replacing and abandoning the tank.

- Adam provided a quote in the amount of \$1,248.00 from KC Rooter Sewer & Drain for the cost to repair the washing machine waste drains at the Justice Center.
- There are still several HVAC projects that need to be completed, including the trim around the enclosures and air duct detectors.
- Adam explained the heating units that are not working in the greenhouse should be covered under warranty. The maintenance staff installed a heater, but he does not feel it is going to be able to keep up with the cold weather that we are supposed to get.
- Adam asked for permission to trade in the grapple bucket for a heavy-duty bucket to use on the skid steer. He would like to use any money left after the trade in to service the skid steer.
- Adam also discussed trading in or selling the white maintenance truck and the white van. He would like to purchase another truck.
- Millstream is no longer able to do the bars at the cottages or the railing at the courthouse. He will get quotes from Sausser Steel. Adam stated that the concrete ramp at the courthouse needs to be replaced.
- The Commissioners requested that Adam bring the quotes in for the window and roof replacement at the county home, so they can act on them.
- Commissioner Bechtol reminded the other two commissioners that Joe Sokul from County Firm is waiting on a response back.
- Phil inquired if the contractor that is doing the repair to the Olive St building roof can provide information on replacing the roof.

Work session topics:

Respectfully submitted,



Christine Carrigan, Assistant Clerk

Reviewed and approved by:



William L. Bateson



Jeffrey L. Hunker



Timothy K. Bechtol