

Minutes

February 26, 2026

Commissioners present: Jeffrey Hunker, Timothy Bechtol and William Bateson

Also Present: Alec Helms, Cindy Land, Justin Kahle, Phil Johnson, Adam Witteman, Brett Eddington and Saige Thornley from the Courier.

Commissioner Hunker opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Commissioner's 1st floor conference room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Minutes from the February 24th, 2026, meeting was read with William Bateson making a motion to approve. Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

William Bateson made a motion to approve two Warrant Journals. Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The Assistant Clerk presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #110-26 – Additional appropriation – within the Auditor's certification – Commissioner to appropriate to General Fund #1001 (Prosecutor). William Bateson made a motion to approve. Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #111-26 – Additional appropriation – within the Auditor's certification – Commissioner to appropriate to Recycling Program Fund #5254. William Bateson made a motion to approve. Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #112-26 – Additional appropriation – within the Auditor's certification – Commissioner to appropriate to Tier Fee Fund #5109. William Bateson made a motion to approve. Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Cindy Land presented the following resolutions:

Resolution #113-26 – Resolution authorizing the Hancock County Commissioners to enter contracts with various suppliers for Asphalt Concrete for May 1, 2026, Through April 30, 2027. Cindy stated the next three resolutions are all associated. The Engineer puts out materials bids then negotiates with the contractors. The companies awarded in this resolution are Bluffton Stone Company, Gerken Materials, Inc, Maple Grove Materials, Stoneco Inc and Unique Paving Materials. William Bateson made a motion to approve. Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #114-26 – Resolution authorizing the Hancock County Commissioners to enter contracts with various suppliers to provide aggregate for May 1, 2026, Through April 30, 2027. Cindy stated this is for the same time period but for aggregate. The companies awarded in this resolution are Bluffton Stone Co, Custer Stone Company, Custer Stone Company, Gerken Materials, National Lime/Stone, Shelly Materaisl, Inc and Stoneco, Inc. William Bateson made a motion to approve. Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #115-26 – Resolution authorizing the Hancock County Commissioners to enter into a contract with various suppliers to provide Fuel for May 1, 2026, Through April 30, 2027. Cindy stated this is for the same time period but for fuel suppliers. The companies awarded in this resolution are Legacy Farmers Cooperative, Gresham Petroleum Company and Petroleum Traders. William Bateson made a motion to approve. Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #116-26 – Resolution determining vacation of Ridge Run Drive and Noble Hawk Court in the Red Hawk Run Subdivision in Biglick Township, Hancock County Ohio pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §§5553.02, 5553.04, 5553.045 And 5553.05. Cindy provided the history of this vacation request. She stated she has reached out to Biglick Township multiple times and has not gotten a response with their opinion on this vacation. She did receive an email from Pat Sadowski, the petitioner's legal counsel, that stated he received verbal acceptance during a township meeting. Brett Eddgington stated he was there and can vouch for that as well. William Bateson made a motion to approve. Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #117-26 – Resolution authorizing the Hancock County Commissioners to enter into a contract with the Hancock County Combined General Health District, d/b/a Hancock Public Health to enforce Ohio Revised Code Sections 3734.01 To 3734.13 and rules orders, and terms and conditions of permits, licenses, and variances adopted or issued under those sections for the Hancock County Solid Waste Management District for 2026. Cindy stated the EPA requires this work to be done. The Health Department is capable to complete the work. The amount of this contract is \$30,000.00. William Bateson made a motion to approve. Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Phil Johnson presented the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolution #118-26 – Authorizing the Director of the Hancock County Department of Job & Family Services to establish and maintain individual bank accounts for children in the custody of the agency. Phil stated that children in care sometimes receive funds from survivor benefits and other payments from the government. This allows the director to set up individual accounts for the children so the funds will all stay separate. Cindy asked if the Treasurer's office will need to be involved in this. Adam Witteman stated they will not and explained how this will be done to stay within compliance for audit. William Bateson made a motion to approve. Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Resolution #119-26 – Authorizing the Hancock County Commissioners, in their capacity as the Board of Directors of the Hancock County Solid Waste Management District to enter into a contract with Lamps, Inc. d/b/a ERG Environmental Services for collection of household waste at Litter Landing during Calendar year 2026 (2026 collection events). Phil stated this is the annual authorization to award the contract for the HHW events that will be held later this year. William Bateson made a motion to approve. Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Cindy Land provided the Commissioners with a draft of an MOU to be used for placing recycling bins at different business locations.

Adam Witteman stated that Auditor Rauschenberg will be bringing down the Audit Engagement letter to be signed.

Meetings/Reports

Timothy Bechtol attended the Community Action Committee meeting for the HHWP last night. Yesterday he met with RCM to discuss the Treasurer's office renovations. He provided some of the information that RCM received from the companies that chose not to bid on the project and from the company that did provide a bid. RCM has recommended to hold off on doing this work and bidding out this work and the 1st floor work at the same but in phases. This would help to reduce the cost as staging costs and things would not be as high since it will not be being done two times. There were discussions on possible timelines, some key details of the project and what phasing out the project would entail. The Commissioners decided to contract with RCM to complete the architecture work for the first floor and bid the entire project as one. Phil Johnson will get the contract on the agenda.

William Bateson had nothing to report.

Jeffrey Hunker attended the Chamber Advisory Committee.

Auditor Rauschenberg provided the audit letter of engagement and explained what this will mean and when audit will begin. William Bateson made a motion for the Board Chair's signature on the Audit Engagement Letter. Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

There was a discussion on the MOY for the recycling bin placement.

At 10:30 a.m., the Commissioners met with Sheriff Cortez. Also present was Alec Helms, Cindy Land, Justin Kahle, Chief Walker, Tom Miller, Adam Witterman & Saige Thornley. Sheriff Cortez stated we have been awarded a \$500,000 grant to replace the chiller on top of the Justice Center. The estimate to have that done is \$699,983. This is a draw down grant. This is all he knows at this time but will have more information once the grant acceptance information is received.

At 10:33 a.m., Jeffrey Hunker made a motion to enter into executive session in regards to Facilities – Security and Union Contract Negotiations. Timothy Bechtol seconded. Roll call vote: William Bateson: yes; Timothy Bechtol: yes; Jeffrey Hunker: yes; At 11:14 a.m., Jeffrey Hunker made a motion to come out of executive session. Timothy Bechtol seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

At 11:15 the Commissioners met with Ben Gaff. Also present was Alec Helms, Cindy Land, Nicole Jenkins, Toby Brown, Bill Johns, Kaylee Lentz and Saige Thornley. Ben provided background information and the history of his complaint against Veterans Services. Commissioner Bateson explained we do not have any authority over the Veterans Office. Commissioner Hunker stated that the answers to his questions would come from the Veterans Services Board. Cindy Land explained what his options are for obtaining the information he would like. Nichole Jenkins stated he is more than welcome to come to a meeting and speak with the Board.

Work Session Topics

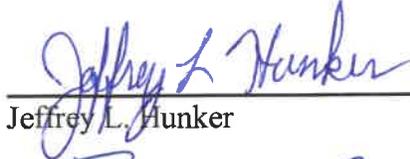
- 1) State of the County

Respectfully submitted,



Alec Helms, Assistant Clerk

Reviewed and approved by:



Jeffrey L. Hunker



Timothy K. Bechtol



William L. Bateson