

**Minutes Thursday March 5, 2026**

Mr. Wehri moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

that to provide for the unanticipated revenues for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026, the following sums be and the same are hereby appropriated for the purpose for which expenditures are to be made during the fiscal year as follows:

Fund 001 County General

1001-42-010-509000, Advances Out....\$ 217,000.00

and also

BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of County Commissioners of Putnam County, Ohio, that for the purpose of the General Ditch Fund, the following advance of funds is authorized by the Board of County Commissioners.

<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1001-42-010-509000, Advances Out	2018-20-290-420000, Advance In	\$ 217,000.00

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schlumbohm yes Mr. Wehri yes Mr. Brubaker yes  
Comm. Jrl. 122, Page 162

**Then and Now Payments**

Mr. moved to approve the then and now payment requests.

Mr. seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schlumbohm Mr. Wehri Mr. Brubaker  
Exceptions: Mr. Schlumbohm Mr. Wehri Mr. Brubaker  
Comm. Jrl. 122, Page

**Purchase orders & Travel Requests**

**Office of Public Safety....**Blanket purchase order for other expenses for \$ 5,000.00

Mr. Brubaker moved to approve the purchase orders and travel requests.

Mr. Wehri seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schlumbohm yes Mr. Wehri yes Mr. Brubaker yes  
Exceptions: Mr. Schlumbohm Mr. Wehri Mr. Brubaker

**Purchase order Adjustments**

Mr. moved to approve the purchase orders adjustments.

Mr. seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schlumbohm Mr. Wehri Mr. Brubaker

Alaina Siefker came in to talk to Commissioners Schlumbohm, Wehri and Brubaker about the Sewer District Public Meetings being held at the Event Center in regards to the rental. We found a memorandum of understanding for the Event Center that stated if available, commissioners can use the event center for public meetings. They asked Alaina to email that to Brandi at the Event Center and tell her if she has any questions, she can call one of the commissioners.

Charlie Scheckelhoff met with Commissioners Schlumbohm, Wehri and Brubaker to discuss tax money staying in the county. Charlie has been talking to the Engineer about the fuel purchases by the county. The engineer is telling Mr. Scheckelhoff that his choice is with the Commissioners to buy fuel. The Commissioners do not make that call. The other larger fuel providers in the county are out of Indiana, so that money does not stay local. Charlie is an owner of Phillips Oil and is locally based. Mr. Scheckelhoff thinks the money should stay in the county. There were past issues with contaminated fuel while using Phillips Oil prior to Scheckelhoff's ownership. Mr. Scheckelhoff is a big advocate for local economy. The Commissioners do try to keep county contracts as local as possible. Mr. Scheckelhoff brought up the stone crushing bids for crushing concrete at the Ag Complex where Charlie was out bid. The Engineer was invited to this meeting but was not able to attend. There is more unleaded fuel usage by county departments than diesel usage. The Commissioners want to see a proposal from Charlie on testing his fuel to confirm that there are no contaminants. The county's tanks should have filters on them to filter out the water. The Commissioners are ok to recommend purchasing the unleaded fuel from Phillips Oil. The engineer has always been the purchasing agent of fuel for the county. Mr. Scheckelhoff would like to have the whole fuel contract for the county to keep money local. Mr. Scheckelhoff will just have to wait to hear from the Engineer. Mr. Scheckelhoff would rather have an order from the Commissioners to purchase from him rather than a recommendation. Charlie sells Marathon fuel out of the Lima Refinery. The Commissioners will send the engineer their recommendation letter.

Mr. Wehri led the Pledge of Allegiance with Commissioners Schlumbohm, and Brubaker, Joe Burkhart, Tim Schnipke and Cindy Landwehr, Clerk.

IT Supervisor Joe Burkhart met with Commissioners Schlumbohm, Wehri and Brubaker to discuss the IT department.

Mr. Brubaker moved to go into executive session with Joe Burkhart, Commissioners Wehri and Schlumbohm to discuss employee compensation and promotion.

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion

Vote: Schlumbohm yes Wehri yes Brubaker yes

Commissioners went back on record at 9:26am, no decision were made.

Tim Schnipke stopped in to talk with the Commissioners about the parking during the construction of Hickory Street. The handicap parking is moving to the parking lot and two spaces will remain in the lot after the construction due to the size of our parking lot. The parking

will eventually be striped for the handicap spots. Tim will talk to the village about the placement of the crosswalk from the courthouse entrance.

EMA Director Brian Hilvers met with Commissioners Schlumbohm, Wehri and Brubaker to discuss ambulette pay and the future of EMS. Lima News reporter Craig Kelly joined the meeting also. Ambulette service has had an increase in requests for service. JFs and Council on Aging needs some help with their transports through ambulances. Brian would like to increase the pay for ambulance drivers to entice someone to drive. The drivers also need to be strong enough to push a loaded wheelchair uphill. There are four ambulance vehicles that have wheelchair lifts. There are insurance and Medicaid issues to cover the transportation costs for the patients also, which is having these people contact the Office of Public Safety for transportation services. The medical services are more of a priority than the ambulance services but additional drivers would still be needed. Brian wants to hire three more part time ambulance drivers. Contract with JFS and Board of D/D will be needed to help with their transportation needs Is Brian good to go to \$15.00 per hour to hire new drivers? Current rate is \$13.00. The Commissioners are ok with the increased rate of pay. The shift would be whenever the driver is available, working when they can. The hospital transports are also a priority as they are a service to the county residents.

Brian is looking for grants for funding for equipment. Access to some grants is by a subscription fee. Brian is looking for grant to upgrade the radios. He has already talked to 911. If he can get a grant, he would like to go that route. A grant for coats, hats and gloves for accident extrication was applied for through workers comp. There are several grants for fire equipment, if he would have a fire truck that would be game changer. Brian would like to get new cardiac monitors for all the squads. He is trying to go through Lexipol. The Sheriff's office uses Lexipol. He is also trying to come up with a plan if the property taxes go away. If the property taxes go away the volunteer EMS services would go away. He is working on a plan to be ahead of the ball game. The new squad is in and getting striped. The old chassis will be traded. The new squad will be in service in the next couple of weeks. All squads will have a power cot except Pandora's. The Commissioners explained the proposed transportation plan through HHWP trying get a plan started to get transportation services for Putnam County. The transportation services would be expanded to work transportation. There are limitations with medical services and age within the county to provide transportation now. Some other questions were fielding from Mr. Kelly.

The business agenda was held with Commissioners Wehri, Schlumbohm, and Brubaker, and Cindy Landwehr, Clerk.

Melissa Bodey with CEBCO, Adam Cupp of UIS, Jonathan Fortman and Laura Basinger of Fortman Ins & Auditor's Office Kim Nordhaus met with Commissioners Schlumbohm, Brubaker and Wehri to discuss the quarterly medical insurance updates. The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2025 is being reviewed. Melissa shared that CCAO's finance team received the State Auditor's award for their record keeping. The county's claim information was reviewed by claim amount and types of claims. Prescription costs were also reviewed. Putnam County no longer has retail pharmacy stores except Walmart. Rite Aid closed and there is no CVS or Walgreens in the county. Adam asked about the adoption of GLP-1's for treatments other than weight loss. The coding of the treatment determines if the cost is covered. The co-pays are not in line with the costs of drugs. CEBCO is being affected the same as other providers by the increased prescription drug expenses. Attending the annual CEBCO meeting in April was discussed and if the commissioners want to attend also. A new CEBCO director is being hired as soon as possible

since the previously appointed director has stepped down. The Healthworks app is not working currently to retrieve the blood work results that was collected this week for the employees. CEBCO no longer offers the blood draw as part of the program the county wanted to continue the blood draw and contracted with Healthworks with the wellness grant funds. Are the employees sharing the results with their doctors? What do other counties do with their grant funds. Some use their Health Dept to do the blood draws, they have diabetes programs, some don't do anything. There are counties that have increased premiums if no healthcare is done within the year. Every employee should be able to reach the 200 goal points to qualify for completing the program. The points can be offered throughout the year rather than all at enrollment and having it be forgotten about until the next year. The program is a way of preventative maintenance for the employees., to inform them of any health issue they should be aware of. The qualification date for employees has been extended to June to accommodate and later hires in the year.

The minutes from Tuesday, March 3, 2026 were reviewed and approved.

Mike Lenhart stopped in after his morning meeting to hear the results from the meeting with Mr. Scheckelhoff. The Commissioners conveyed their recommendation of Phillips Oil for providing unleaded fuel for the county. Mr. Lenhart asked if Mr. Scheckelhoff was the only local provider that was inquiring. Are there other local providers that can provide/deliver the same products? All purchases are tried to be kept within the county to support the local economy. The current provider does call and check the fuel levels to see if we need a delivery, the county does not call to schedule a delivery. The county's undergrounds fuel tanks are checked monthly. The engineer is not in need right now of any above ground fuel tanks. Mike is working with Amy Sealts on a TID project since the application window is open.

There are new four way stops coming to intersections at SR 613 at SR 109 and SR 613 at SR 108 in May.

Mr. Brubaker moved to adjourn for the day.

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion.

Vote: Schlumbohm yes Wehri yes Brubaker yes

Commissioner Wehri returned from lunch and then left at the end of the day.

Mr. Schlumbohm moved to approve the minutes as read from Thursday, March 5, 2026.

Mr. Wehri seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schlumbohm yes Mr. Wehri yes Mr. Brubaker yes