

**Minutes Thursday May 14, 2026**

Mr. Wehri moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of County Commissioners of Putnam, Ohio, 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

1001-30-010-506000, Examination of Co Offices...\$ 268.00

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schlumbohm yes Mr. Wehri yes Mr. Brubaker yes  
Comm. Jrl. 122, Page 249

Mr. Schlumbohm moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of County Commissioners of Putnam, Ohio, that to provide for the unanticipated revenues for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026, the following sum be and the same are hereby appropriated for the purpose for which expenditures are to be made during the fiscal year as follows:

Fund 035, Solid Waste District Disposal Fees

5035-67-010-503000, Other Expenses.....\$ 7,000.00

Mr. Wehri seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schlumbohm yes Mr. Wehri yes Mr. Brubaker yes  
Comm. Jrl. 122, Page 250

**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**

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

Mr. seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Schlumbohm Mr. Wehri Mr. Brubaker

Exceptions: Mr. Schlumbohm Mr. Wehri Mr. Brubaker

## **Purchase order Adjustments**

**Ditch Maintenance...** addt'l needed to Kahle Excavating for E Begg Dt \$345.98

Addt'l needed to Kahle Excavating for work on T Inkrott Main# 839 of \$ 2,102.22

Mr. Brubaker moved to approve the purchase orders adjustments.

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion.

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

Office of Public Safety Director Brian Hilvers and Nancy Erhart met with Commissioners Wehri, Schlumbohm and Brubaker to discuss their fund balance, heart monitors, vehicle maintenance and furniture quotes for new addition. Brian said the special of 0% financing on the heart monitors expires this month. The rates would be \$900.00 for five years the life expectancy of a monitor is seven years. There is preventive maintenance done every year but no updates. The current monitors could be resold to another entity if there is interest. It was mentioned to sell on govdeals to keep all the resale money. There are 14 monitors. The quote was reviewed, \$5,500 would be the resale amount. Zoll has been the monitor of choice. Mercy Health has not responded about helping to finance the monitors. Brad brought up the billing, what are our rates in comparison to other surrounding EMS services. Since we are not considered essential services, we are not eligible for extra funding. If we had fire service and EMS combined, we would be essential. Brian is trying to send letters to request becoming essential. The reimbursements on billing are a few weeks behind. The people who cannot pay are being setup on payments plans if they can afford them otherwise a reimbursement of \$500 is received and the bill is written off. Great Lakes Billing does the billing and Putnam County people do pay their bills. The county's percentage of collection on the billing is over 60%. Basic Life Support is just a transport, Advance Life Support where an IV is administered are the categories for billing. Great Lakes does charges us 7% for billing. The Commissioners requested billing data from Great Lakes. They would like to compare this year to last year. The EMS fund is not in good shape. The EMS levy is a permanent levy and does not change based on the changes in real estate values. The current EMS levy is still the original levy when the staff was all volunteer. The levy needs to be increased but with the uncertainty of real estate taxes it is unknown. The EMS equipment is priced much higher than regular equipment anyway. If we get deemed as being essential services, the insurance companies would have to accept the payment set by Medicare and Medicaid. The insurance company governs the necessity of emergency services. Billing needs to be adjusted to cover the county's EMS service not just what the insurance would cover. If the EMS wants to be sustainable, they must increase their billing rates. The Commissioner said that some cuts are needed in the EMS budget due to the current situation. No extras will be approved right now. The app notification service will not be approved. On the heart monitors with our monitors being at end of life the Commissioners are ok with the financing of 0% for five years including the trade in values of \$ 5,500 per unit. An increase levy

could be added in July. Some figuring would need to be done to see what is needed to be collected for the Ems to remain sustainable. Another option would be to add a quarter percent to sales tax for EMS services. A quarter percent would bring about \$130,000 per month. Something needs to be done since the current balance is about \$380,00 and one month of payroll is \$143,000. A question of rental space in Kalida for the EMS squad was questioned. Is it worthwhile and working, yes. The old Continental squad will be kept and moved to the new building as an extra. An extra squad was needed this week with the car accident by Continental. There are a lot of mornings where an extra squad is needed due to everyone already being out on calls. There will be four squads in the new building. The Commissioners are happy with the services being done in the county. The ambulance service is going well but has decreased a bit. Find a Ride and Area Agency on Aging will help to assist people to get transported where they need. Board of D/D has been using the transport services also due to a lack of drivers for their program. A new ambulance van is coming Brian will check where it is today. With the 5310 grant funds are available for vehicle maintenance and housing to do maintenance. The van will have a lift. Brian will apply for additional grant funding. The Commissioners will advance funds to cover the expense for the heart monitors to get them ordered.

Commissioners Wehri, Schlumbohm and Brubaker returned a call to Kevin Erford, Board of D/D President regarding a request for payout for Mike Boaz Board of D/D superintendent. The Commissioners are ok with the buyout that was proposed to payout for 2026.

Commissioner Wehri led the Pledge of Allegiance with Commissioners Schlumbohm and Brubaker and Cindy Landwehr, Clerk.

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

Denny Coates stopped in to talk with Commissioners Wehri, Schlumbohm and Brubaker regarding the America 250 celebrations. There is no God and Country night planned for this year. Denny would like to know what the Commissioners have planned for the celebration. There is an essay contest with a cash prize donated. A parade trailer will be constructed for large parades. There is also a coloring contest which will be displayed on the float. A booth at the fair will also be displaying items. Denny has had some family as well as health issues that he has been dealing with this year. It was thought to do something later in the summer maybe August 16 on a Sunday night, it would be a concert. Could they use the event center at the fairgrounds, since it could be divided into smaller areas? Brandi Schrader is who he can contact for rental of the Event Center building. If there are other ideas for venues, they are welcome. They are looking for something indoors as to not have to worry about the weather. The Rex was also suggested. Either the legion or VFW could also be an option. Denny offered a book about the country that we got based on historical events. Denny shared some historical information from these events.

The minutes from Tuesday, May 12, 2026 were reviewed and approved.

Job & Family Services (JFS) Director John Folk met with Commissioners Wehri, Schlumbohm and Brubaker to discuss JFS updates. Staffing Agency updates- they hired a new case manager. Amber Buddelmeyer was hired. OMJ still has an opening yet and they are seeing if

they need to add a new supervisor or not. They are also working on job descriptions yet. John asked for permission to close the building on May 18<sup>th</sup> to do a training for all staff; some state employees coming and offered to do all branches in the agency for Motivational Interviewing – MI is a client centered communication style used by case managers to empower individuals to make sustainable, self-directed changes towards self-sufficiency. JFS is still working on a summer work program for 16–18-year-olds and max they can pay is \$13 so they are having a hard time getting them to want to participate in the program. They are going to do a Back To School clothing program with Ashley at the local United Way in conjunction to their backpack program. They will have a 2-week period open to register and they are looking at doing \$250-\$300 per child. Van Wert contract is going well. Projections looking out to June, funding is doing good. John is looking at seeing if they can give some funds to the Putnam County Family Children First Council (FCFC). He has some that can be used for that and thinks they would just have to invoice JFS. He is working with Beth Tobe on that right now and finding out all the procedures to do that right with it being a great opportunity.

Mr. Wehri moved to go into executive session at 11:27am to discuss employee discipline with John Folk, Commissioners Schlumbohm and Brubaker.

Mr. Schlumbohm seconded the motion.

Vote Schlumbohm yes Wehri yes Brubaker yes

Mr. Schlumbohm moved to come out of executive session at 11:47am.

Mr. Wehri seconded the motion

Vote Schlumbohm yes Wehri yes Brubaker yes

No decisions were made.

Mr. Schlumbohm moved to adjourn for lunch.

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

Vote: Schlumbohm yes Wehri yes Brubaker yes

Commissioners Schlumbohm, Wehri and Brubaker returned to the office.

Edith Wannemacher met with Commissioners Wehri, Schlumbohm and Brubaker to discuss citizen questions. She is one of six and they own around 120 acres in an LLC by Cloverdale. Several have passed and two years ago she started getting the LLC moved to the next generation. One of the things that were discussed was allowing wind turbines. The State put in laws for setbacks that are preventing turbines from coming in. The Planning Commission have set backs in place locally for solar. The farm also needs tiled. Will this effect the taxes? There were no changes with CAUV to the Commissioners knowledge. Then that lead to the property tax possibly going away and how that will affect the property as well. It would go away but other things would go up to compensate for that. The CRP program is also an option for some profit and it is being explored as well as logging in the woods on the property. They are also currently leasing the land for farming. She is having discussions with her siblings about passing the land on to let the next generation make the decisions of how the land will be maintained and used. Their farm manager has suggested to get the farm tiled for better drainage. The farm managers are out of Indiana. How will the road erosion be handled along road K-22? The Commissioners

explained the ditch layover process done by the Engineer to move the ditch back away from the road. The Commissioners referred her to talk with Soil & Water also regarding soil conservation and options.

Commissioners Wehri, Schlumbohm and Brubaker left to go to the EMA/EMS office for the new EMS building addition progress meeting.

Mr. Schlumbohm moved to adjourn for the day.

Mr. Wehri seconded the motion.

Vote: Schlumbohm yes Wehri yes Brubaker yes

Mr. Wehri moved to approve the minutes as read from Thursday, May 14, 2026.

Mr. Brubaker seconded the motion.

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