

UNION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS JOURNAL 2025
November 4, 2025

The Union County Commissioners met in regular session this 4th day of November, 2025, with the following members present:

David A. Lawrence, Vice President
Tom McCarthy, Commissioner
Bill Narducci, County Administrator
Janell Alexander, Budget Analyst
Mackenzie Fisher, Acting Clerk

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*Commissioner Lawrence called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

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*Mike Williamson, Marysville Journal Tribune; and Joe Case, Marysville Matters were in attendance.

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Elected Officials/Department Head Meeting

The Commissioners held their monthly staff meeting this date with the following elected officials and department heads in attendance: Andrew Smarra, Treasurer; Ginger Yonak, Director/Human Resources; Brad Bodenmiller, Director/LUC Regional Planning Commission; Judge Don Fraser/Common Pleas Court; Adam Rinehart, Magistrate/Union County Probate-Juvenile Court; Karen Riffle, Recorder; Jessica Cain, Office Administrator/Engineer's Office; Jason Orcena, Health Commissioner/Union County Health Department; Adam Negley, Executive Director/Mental Health and Recovery Board; Karen Eylon, Union County Tourism/Director; Danielle Sullivan, Clerk of Courts; Cassy Rawlins, Office Manager/Clerk of Courts; David Phillips, Prosecutor; and Thayne Gray, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney.

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Elected Officials/Department Head Updates:

- Brad Bodenmiller stated hard copies of the Comprehensive Plan have been delivered to offices, and he has sent out emails as well. Agricultural exemption training for zoning inspectors was completed two weeks ago in Logan, Union and Champaign Counties. Representatives from the Prosecutor's Office, Building Department, Engineer's Office, and Health Department were in attendance for this training. The Annual Meeting is on November 20, 2025, at 6:30 pm, and tickets are \$20. Another six subdivision plats were submitted to LUC this month.
- Andy Smarra stated he would take any questions regarding the letter sent out to county residents. Commissioner McCarthy asked what his intentions were and if he realized the impact on local levies. Mr. Smarra stated he has been working on this since August, and the vendor sent the letters out on Friday. He did not know they would arrive before the election today.
- Ginger Yonak stated open enrollment is active through November 14. If employees are not making any changes, they will not have to take any action. The one exception is employees with a spouse on their medical coverage or want to enroll in the FSA. She encouraged employees to reach out to HR for any questions before the deadline. There were five open enrollment meetings last week with CEBCO, and there will be three more this week. Employees who have gone to these meetings are very engaged. Employee Service Awards are December 11th, 2025, at London Avenue. This year

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we are celebrating employees who have service anywhere from five to 45 years at Union County. The email reminder to RSVP for this event will be re-sent this week. This is the last week to purchase “Thank You Grams”. Proceeds from this will benefit the Union County Humane Society. She thanked everyone who attended the CORSA Annual Supervisor Training. This training helps educate supervisors and managers, but it also helps ensure compliance with CORSA goal and we receive a discount for next year. Materials will be sent out to those who missed the training.

- Jessica Cain stated they are winding down on road construction and the paving program is almost finished. The bridge on Claibourne Road will be finished by the end of next week if everything continues to go well and the weather holds out. There will be a short-term closure on Mitchell Dewitt west of roundabout starting this week. It should last two to three weeks. The Richwood facility will be opening at the end of the month depending on the weather.
- Adam Rinehart had no update.
- Karen Eylon stated she has an update from Eric Phillips. The Economic Development Strategy is moving forward. Discovery sessions are November 12th and November 13th, and Eric hopes to have everything completed in March. September lodging numbers showed Union County is outpacing all surrounding counties, but they know that will change. They are aware of 29 short-term rentals with eight being active. If lodging taxes were collected on these properties at 6% to Union County Tourism (3% to the county, and 3% to the city), it would be around \$33,000. She will be meeting with Auditor Weaver on Friday to talk about this. Job openings for Union County Tourism positions have been posted. They have partnered with Arrive with GPS for cycling and driving routes. First route is up on their website on their open road landing page that outlines routes with points of interest, the first one is for the covered bridges. Marysville BMX was awarded a USA BMX Gold Cup Championship race on June 7th, 2026. The Midwest International Youth Soccer Festival was rescheduled for April 2026 due to the weather on October 18th. There is an America 250 meeting following this if anyone would like to join. The Honda Heritage Center is now an approved stop on the Ohio Innovation Trail. Christmas walk is coming up on Saturday, November 22nd, and a Historical Marker Dedications will take place November 11th at 124 E. Fourth Street.
- Judge Fraser stated Common Pleas Court received certification from Ohio Supreme Court to operate a specialized Veteran’s Docket Court. They are hoping to help more people in that population that need assistance and are working with Municipal Court to identify veterans. They have found that many people will say they are not a veteran when they are in trouble. There is a computerized system they are using to screen everyone that comes through the criminal justice system.
- David Phillips stated he is working with Gary Click on House Bill 252. This bill will amend aggravated burglary and breaking and entering to take out the element of force, stealth, or deception. It is currently stuck in the criminal justice committee, and they are working to get it out. The Prosecutor’s Office has been working with the Treasurer’s Office on delinquent tax collections. Two properties have gone to the Land Bank, and they are working on fourteen vacant properties. They are working on numbers in preparation for the budget, and their civil matters are up 43% year over year.
- Adam Negley stated Mental Health and Recovery Board hosted an update to the Adult Sequential Intercept Map. One topic of conversation was about how to work as a community to help prevent the needless cycle with behavioral health concerns through the criminal justice system. He thanked Judge Fraiser, Judge Rodger, Memorial Hospital, and Sheriff Justice. This is the third time they have done this activity and have identified a lot of success. Crisis is a gap they still have, but it was

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great to hear firsthand perspectives. It helps them to know how they can do better before it gets to the court system.

- Jason Orcena stated the Health Department will be a test kit distribution for flu and COVID tests around the week of Thanksgiving. The flyer will be released in the next week. Tests will be limited to Union County residents and there will be a limited amount per household. With the current shut down there is a lot of concern about food safety. Yesterday, there was a food council meeting at the Health Department to discuss the current operations for the food banks, SNAP, and WIC. Food banks are well stocked, and general information in the community has prompted people to do additional collections. This is the first week that these benefits are running out. They do not all run out at the same time, but they will phase out over time. A system is being worked on to keep everyone informed about what it will look like if the shutdown continues. In Union County, there are approximately 3,300 people on SNAP benefits and roughly 200 are on WIC. Of that, not including the JFS program, 500 are children. Those are just the people who are eligible for the Federal benefits. Commissioner McCarthy asked Mr. Orcena to share the amount that won't be funded to families. Mr. Orcena stated he believed it was over \$500,000 per month for SNAP. He does not have a hard figure for WIC benefits.
- Danielle Sullivan stated the title office and clerks' legal office are running well. She is currently working with Ginger Yonak on a job opening and have selected individuals to interview. She is looking to hire a new person in their office.
- Karen Riffle had no update.
- Brent Nickel stated that most of construction season is done. New construction projects are on hold due to the Federal Government shutdown. Ditch maintenance is moving along with the Mill Creek project. They have trees marked to city limits so residents should see H&H getting towards town soon. The office is still open and available for drainage calls.
- Jimmie Inskeep stated he is working on capital projects costs for next year. Facilities will be finishing up projects before the end of the year. There is a bid opening for the courthouse cabling project tomorrow morning.
- Bill Narducci thanked everyone for getting Janell Alexander their budget information. They will be reaching out to departments to have follow-up conversations before approving the budget. He and the Auditor's Office have had conversations about solar PILOT revenue from Acciona Union Solar Project. Due to delays in certifying the project by the Ohio Department of Development PILOT revenue that was originally projected to be received in calendar year 2026 will be delayed until calendar year 2027. There is a Veteran's Day event planned for November 9th at 4:00pm at the Veteran's Plaza.
- Thayne Gray had no report.
- Tom McCarthy stated he went to the OneOhio regional meeting, and they had good projects submitted. However, the priority of the region is still trying to find transitional employment and housing for individuals. If anyone knows someone who has a business model that could support this, please reach out.

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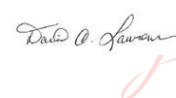
*Commissioner Lawrence adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

The preceding minutes were read and approved November 12, 2025.

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 Digitally signed by Steve Robinson
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o=Commissioners, ou=Commissioner,
email=mlehman@unioncountyohio.gov,
c=US
Date: 2025.11.12 13:30:07 -05'00'
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Steve Robinson
Commissioner

 Digitally signed by David A. Lawrence
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o=Commissioners, ou=Commissioner,
email=mlehman@unioncountyohio.gov,
c=US
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David A. Lawrence
Commissioner

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Tom McCarthy
Commissioner

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DN: cn=Mallory Lehman,
o=Commissioners, ou=Assistant
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email=mlehman@unioncountyohio.gov, c=US
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Mallory Lehman, Clerk to the Board