

**UNION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS JOURNAL 2026****January 6, 2026**

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The Union County Commissioners met in regular session this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026, with the following members present:

Steve Robinson, President  
David A. Lawrence, Vice President  
Tom McCarthy, Commissioner  
Bill Narducci, County Administrator  
Mackenzie Fisher, Acting Clerk to the Board

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\*Commissioner Robinson called the meeting to order at 8:29 a.m.

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\*Mike Williamson, Marysville Journal Tribune; Joe Case, Marysville Matters; and Ben Weber; Candidate for the 86<sup>th</sup> District Ohio State Representative 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 Gilbert, Director/EMA; Brandon Clay, Director/Board of Elections; Michelle Forrider, Deputy Director/Board of Elections; Sue Ware, Director/Human Services; Wade Branstiter, IT/GIS Supervisor/Auditor's Office; Brad Bodenmiller, Director/LUC Regional Planning Commission; Wendy Golden, Court Administrator/Common Pleas Court; Judge Don Fraser/Common Pleas Court; Eric Phillips, Director/Economic and Development; Karen Riffle, Recorder; Jason Orcena, Health Commissioner/Union County Health Department; David Phillips, Prosecutor; Thayne Gray, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney; and Brent Nickel, District Administrator Wild Life Specialist/Union Soil and Water Conservation District.

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**Elected Officials/Department Head Updates:**

- Karen Riffle stated no update.
- Cassy Rawlins stated no update.
- Jason Orcena stated flu shots are still available. Commissioners Robinson asked if the shots help due to the reports of it being a different strain. Jason stated that the vaccine helps with the severity of the illness.
- Sue Ware thanked David Phillips and Melissa Chase while they are filling their Child Support Attorney position. Also thanked the Commissioner's Office for their assistance while their Human Resource position is open.
- Brent Nickel stated they hired a new Urban Technician. They have been working on the Mill Creek Log Jam and are now up to McCarthy Park and Main Street. Discussed the timeline and when it is expected to be done. He stated that they have two years to complete the project and are ahead of schedule but are only able to work during certain times due to outside factors.

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- Wayne Dellinger stated he received an email from one of the state specialists regarding a tentative positive test for highly pathogenic avian flu in Canadian geese around the uptown reservoir. He has attempted to follow up but has not found any new information but is still attempting to find definitive answers. A position with OSU Extension has opened. It is half Consumer Family Sciences and half 4H. The position could be posted as soon as next week and encouraged people to share with those who might be interested. Beef tag in deadline is today for fair.
- Brad Gilbert stated employees should monitor their emails for EMA's annual report. EMA coordinated with the Union County Sheriff's Office and Marysville Police/Fire. They designed and facilitated an exercise at Trinity and had a good discussion with Trinity's staff. Thank you to the Commissioners for the support of the Community Development Block Grant. The Siren project is about 98% done and they have the training to do with the 911 center. More reports to come. Elected officials and senior staff, there is a 402 IDF Overview Class. This helps understand what happens in disasters and is a virtual class. On morning of January 21 there will be a multi- agency exercise to bring multiple agencies into the location in the event a disaster occurs. Reminder about Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) plans and continue to update them in the new year. If offices need any assistance he is available to help.
- Ginger Yonak stated employees should check health insurance deductions on their paystubs to ensure accuracy. There will be no ID cards for dental and vision coverage. There will be an EAP information webinar on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. No RSVP is necessary. Human Resources is currently working on several job announcements and there will be about 7 jobs to post in the next several days. She is working on setting up EAP and BMI Financial lunch and learns. The first wellness program activity for the year is underway. New Year – New You promotes employees to work together as a team of 7 to complete 15 activities each. Each team and individual that completes the challenge will be entered to win prizes. They are attempting to promote a healthy start to the year.
- Brad Bodenmiller stated they are working on a Data Center report regarding what you can do with zoning and issues to pay attention to. Model text began in October, and he expects it to be completed in the first quarter of the year. LUC has put together subdivision statistics from the housing summit. They have reviewed 260 subdivision plats from 2014-2025 and 86% are acted on within 30 days.
- Wade Branstiter stated that 2025 property values have been finalized for the 2026 tax calculations. Ohio Law is very specific for homeowners looking to appeal their valuation they will need to visit the website for information on how to file an appeal with the Board of Revision. Board of Revision has no say over tax value or rates, only property values. Share a reminder about dog tags and that they are due by January 31. CAUV application renewals are due March 2. A cybersecurity reminder that House Bill 96 required additional cybersecurity. The County Commissioners approved this in December, and an informational email will be sent out later this month. A reminder about the annually required cybersecurity class for all county employees. Be sure to immediately report any suspect or potential cybersecurity concerns for IT to investigate.
- David Phillips stated the Prosecutors office currently has open position and is working with Ginger Yonak to get the position ready to be posted. The Prosecutor's office is currently helping DJFS with Child Support inditement cases.
- Judge Fraser stated there are no updates.
- Eric Phillips stated that the Economic Development Strategy has a survey out that will be shared with Elected Officials to be shared with staff. They would like to get 1500 responses and currently have 1100. Eric plans to share some of the updates on the progress of the Economic Development

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Strategic Plan. This should be done by the end of February when he comes back for adoption by the County Commissioners.

- Jeff Stauch stated the Engineer's office is preparing for upcoming construction season. He is working through project estimates and aligning it with the budget. Engineer road crews are currently catching up on drainage requests.
- Andy Smarra stated that tax bills will go out around January 14 or 15. They will be due February 18.
- Michelle Forrider stated the filing deadline for the May primary is February 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. They are currently adding a new polling location in the Dublin/Jerome Area. Board of Elections just added 3 more precincts to Jerome. They originally started with 7 precincts and now have 10. Individuals affected by this change will be receiving information in the mail.
- Bill Narducci stated their office has been receiving a lot of public record requests. He encourages offices to work with Stephen Badenhop and Thayne Gray or Sam Hobbs on future requests they may receive.
- Tom McCarthy stated no update.
- Dave Lawrence stated no update.
- Steve Robinson stated no update.

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\*Commissioner Robinson adjourned the meeting at 8:51 a.m.

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The preceding minutes were read and approved January 28, 2026.

  
Digitally signed by Steve Robinson  
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ou=Commissioner,  
email=mfrisher@unioncountyohio.gov, c=US  
Date: 2026.01.28 12:47:53 -05'00'  
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Steve Robinson  
Commissioner

  
Digitally signed by Dave Lawrence  
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ou=Commissioner,  
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Date: 2026.01.28 12:48:16 -05'00'  
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David A. Lawrence  
Commissioner

  
Digitally signed by Tom McCarthy  
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ou=Commissioner,  
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Tom McCarthy  
Commissioner

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Digitally signed by Mackenzie Fisher  
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ou=Acting Clerk,  
email=mfisher@unioncountyyhso.gov, c=US  
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Mackenzie Fisher, Acting Clerk to the Board