

UNION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS JOURNAL 2025

April 1, 2025

The Union County Commissioners met in regular session this 1st day of April, 2025, with the following members present:

Steve Robinson, President
David A. Lawrence, Vice President
William Narducci, County Administrator
Mallory Lehman, Clerk to the Board

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

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*Mike Williamson, Marysville Journal Tribune was 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; Sheriff Mike Justice; Wendy Golden, Court Administrator/Common Pleas Court; Judge Don Fraser/Common Pleas Court; Judge Rick Rodger/Probate and Juvenile Court; Wayne Dellinger, OSU Extension; Eric Phillips, Director/Economic and Development; Karen Riffle, Recorder; Jason Orcena, Health Commissioner/Union County Health Department; Adam Negley, Executive Director/Mental Health and Recovery Board; Andrea Weaver, Auditor; Jeff Stauch, Engineer; David Phillips, Prosecutor; Brent Nickel, District Administrator/Wildlife Specialist/Soil and Water; and Thayne Gray, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney.

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Elected Officials/Department Head Updates:

- Judge Fraser had no report.
- Judge Rodger just returned from a conference. Juvenile Court is coordinating with Children Services and Mental Health and Recovery Board to work with dual status youth. These kids are delinquent and involved with Children Services. There are no shortage of cases in the county.
- Brandon Clay stated early voting starts next Tuesday, and the last day to register to vote is next Monday. The office will be open until 9:00 p.m. to update their information or register to vote. This can also be done online. There is a board meeting today at 9:30 a.m. There is a shortage of workers, and it seems to be from election fatigue. He is coordinating with Ginger Yonak to get the word out that poll workers are needed via email later today. Sample ballots for the upcoming election are their website. The deadline to turn in petitions for the November election is August 6, and those can now be picked up at the office. He encourages individuals to do these in person in case there are any questions. Early voting hours are 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., but those will be extended the final week of early voting.

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- Mike Justice stated Kevin Rigano had his swearing in ceremony earlier this morning, and yesterday Scott Anspaugh gave his notice of retirement. His last day will be April 30, and he had 32 years of service.
 - Karen Riffle had no report.
 - Andrea Weaver stated her office is nearing the end of the six-year reevaluation of property values. There were value changes to over 15,000 parcels. The filing deadline for the tax abstract is June 30. The Ohio Department of Taxation will review the abstract, and once it is tentatively approved, the Auditor's Office will send out postcards to property owners to notify them the new property values are online. She has hired three new staff members, and one of them is an appraiser. She believes doing the appraiser functions in-house is better and more cost effective. The other two staff members are Deputy Auditor's working up front, and one will be focusing on social media. She stated she wants to use social media to get office information out to the public. Yesterday was the last day to file a BOR complaint, and dog tag sales ended January 31. Both deadlines are set by the state. She encouraged everyone to direct any questions about levies and how property taxes will be impacted by them to her office. They are happy to help.
 - Brent Nickel stated construction season is starting soon. Employees that were let go by the federal government have been hired by his office. The tree sale is April 26, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. All types of trees and availability of them are on the website. The Mill Creek Logjam project is moving along.
 - Wayne Dellinger stated the office is preparing for 4H camp and the county fair. The Family Consumer Science Educator is working on presentations for freeze drying food prep. Friday was the last of the pesticide and fertilizer application recertification classes. He was joined by Andrea Weaver and Andy Smarra last Friday at the Farmers' Breakfast Series to talk about CAUV and solar. Yesterday, the Extension Climatologist shared there are already indicators of a drought in southwest Ohio. There has not been a documented case of Bird Flu in the state since March 6. Some counties have cancelled bird shows for county fairs, but Union County has not done that yet.
 - Karen Elyon stated the annual meeting was last week. The Naturally Crafted Adventure Trail and Covered Bridge Trail have launched with the chance to win new prizes. They are now highlighting the many wineries and breweries in Union County
 - Jason Orcena stated the respiratory illness season should be slowing down, but there were a higher number of hospitalizations this year. The federal government making changes to funding is impacting the office, but they are working through it. The Health Department is working with the Ohio Department of Health on studying tick species in the area. Tick season is April – September, but ticks are out all year round. There are new species of ticks that have moved to Ohio, and they are aggressive and a threat to human, agriculture and livestock health. The first training exercise for this is at Glacier Ridge, and there will be people in white sheets for this study.
 - Jeff Stauch stated the building department is busy with new commercial plans and projects coming in. The crew at the Richwood outpost will be brought back down once there is no more snow in the forecast. The bidding season has started, and prices seem to be stabilizing. He has talked to other counties and cities, and they feel the same way. Recently, the office has lost a mechanic, engineer, and two maintenance workers. They have filled the engineer position and have postings out for the other three. The office furniture was delivered a couple of weeks ago, and once everyone has their offices back together, the first floor will be open.
 - Ginger Yonak stated today is the last day to turn in the "Go Green" challenge for Wellness. The winner will get their health insurance premium paid for one month. There is a new Anthem

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challenge. Each team is collecting non-perishable food items to donate. The deadline for the Wellness incentive is June 30. If an employee has a qualifying event to make change to their health insurance, there is a 30-day window to get that done. Later today, HR will be sending an email to all employees with some reminders and resources.

- Adam Negley stated Mental Health and Recovery is navigating the changes in federal funding. Last month there was a seminar held at the Avalon. The topic was “Empowering Parent in the Digital Era”. There was a good turnout and on April 16, there will be a virtual presentation of that presentation.
- Sue Ware stated the summer employment youth program will run from June 14 – August 1 this year. This is for youth ages 14 – 18.
- Eric Phillips stated there is a reception to welcome Marysville School’s new superintendent. It is open to the public. The annual Chamber dinner is April 24 at Grange Hall.
- Dave Phillips stated the Prosecutor’s Office filled the VOCA advocate position. Today is her second day. There have been two notable cases recently, and both defendants were sentenced appropriately. His office is working with the Treasurer’s Office on the delinquent tax list.
- Andy Smarra stated several people have gone into payment plans for their delinquent taxes.
- Brad Gilbert stated there was a tornado in Butler County on Sunday. There is the threat of severe weather later this week. He thanked everyone who participated in the tornado drill last month. April 25 is Rob Jostes’ last day. He will be retiring. This afternoon he will have a final accreditation meeting, and he will know by Friday or Monday if EMA was accredited by the commission.
- Bill Narducci stated the first solar project in the county will be sending the first pilot payment in 2026. He attended the CORSA renewal meeting last week, and it looks like rates will be going up but there could be ways to save money in other areas.

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*Commissioner Robinson adjourned the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

The preceding minutes were read and approved April 9, 2025.



Digitally signed by Steve Robinson
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 c=US
 Date: 2025.04.11 08:40:36 -04'00'
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Steve Robinson
 Commissioner




Digitally signed by David A. Lawrence
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 o=Commissioners, ou=Commissioner,
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 c=US
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David A. Lawrence
 Commissioner

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Tom McCarthy
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Tom McCarthy
Commissioner

 Digitally signed by Mallory Lehman
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ou=Assistant Clerk to the Board,
email=mlehman@unioncountyohio.gov, c=US
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Mallory Lehman, Clerk to the Board