

Description	Williams County Commissioners' Regular Session #32	
Date	May 12, 2026	
Time	Speaker	Note
10:01:15 AM	SL	All right bring the meeting to order and begin with the pledge, please.
10:01:35 AM	Roll Call	TR: N/P; BW: Present; SL: Present; Quorum is met.
10:01:41 AM	Resolution 238	Approving the minutes from May 7; BW: Motion; SL: Second; Roll Call: TR: N/P; BW: Yes; SL: Yes; Motion Carried
10:02:23 AM	Resolution 239	Approving the agenda as presented; BW: Motion; SL: Second; Roll Call: TR: N/P; BW: Yes; SL: Yes; Motion Carried
10:02:50 AM	Resolution 240	Approving the payment of bills; BW: Motion; SL: Second; Roll Call: TR: N/P; BW: Yes; SL: Yes; Motion Carried
10:03:44 AM	Discussion	SL: Validation failed, Vond, payment request probably all of Hillsides are going to fail. VH: Correct.
10:03:51 AM	Letter	VH: I have drafted a letter for you guys to review and if you are okay with signing, granting approval to override the system knowing that we are going to transfer them cash and we will every month so they don't end in a negative balance. So once that happens, because I talked to Parker this morning, once that happens and he gets our letter it will be taken care of.
10:04:09 AM	Discussion	SL: We don't know the number that it is going to be short. VH: Not yet. SL: Yet, so we are just going, this is just to let them pay the bills and then we will transfer the money when we know the number. VH: Yes, once they get whatever revenue sources mid-month that they are going to get then that will shake out and that will be the number. SL: And it is a 3-payroll month so that just kind of exasperates the problem.
10:04:35 AM	Resolution 241	Approving the transfers (supplemental appropriations) on behalf of Common Pleas Court, Communications, Recorder and Victims Assistance; BW: Motion; SL: Second; Roll Call: TR: N/P; BW: Yes; SL: Yes; Motion Carried
10:05:11 AM	Also Sign	Courthouse Permit for Wesley United Methodist Men Chicken BBQ on June 3; Travel Request for the Juvenile Court Clerk's Conference in June; Dog Warden Weekly Report for May 4-10; Right of Way Permit to work within Co/Twp right of way on behalf of Frontier
10:06:26 AM	Discussion	BW: Missed on huh (laughter); SL: They are down on my road, they are running their machine you know and they are right at the intersection, which is a pretty quiet road with trees everywhere. There's this string up in trees, like a bunch of it, with that pulling cord, they blow that through the lines to get, well somebody wasn't there to catch it so it just went (made a swirling sound) to the tops of the trees. There was a guy out there yesterday when I was going down my road and I stopped and said Hey to him and he said that he was looking to make sure everything was done right. He is like the last inspector, I said Well come on down let me show you something, we were looking at it and I said I can only

		imagine it got blown through your line and he said yea that is probably exactly what happened and it looked like spider webs. I'll be damned that wasn't gone in about 2 hours. So, they are really on top of taking care of problems. They are just doing a great job. A couple of people complained that they are off the property line a little bit but they are in the ditch, they are in the road. BW: Ron Buda has pretty much hold them, feet to the fire and he is out checking and they know that. So, I don't know how many crews they have going they having going but. SL: There's a bunch. BW: I see them all over. SL: I field another call this week somebody said Well they are off the right of way because you know they have that boring machine and they had to bore under the road and they came up in his yard. What 10 feet, I said Well we can either put up with this sort of thing or what we can do is we can try to change our right of ways instead of only have a 30 foot from the center line maybe we should make it 90. Well, we don't want to do that. All right. It will be a little pain but it will be okay.
10:07:41 AM	AR/SL	That is all I have until your 10:30. SL: Anything else Bart?
10:07:44 AM	BW	I would just like to say that Commissioner Lirot and I just attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Vrod over in Edon. Excited to see the new manufacturer come into the county. They make fiberglass rebar. They are a Canadian company that just expanded into the US because of the demand.
10:08:01 AM	SL	They are going to have 60-100 jobs for Edon, it is going to be a good thing for Edon there. Fills up a vacant building and they are adding on or doing a bunch of work East of the building to lay their finished material out there until it gets shipped.
10:08:21 AM	BW/SL	A lot of hard work on behalf of Ashley and Jennifer at WEDCO and the regional growth partners putting that together. This stuff does not happen overnight. Kudos to them! SL: Yes, it is a winner. BL: Thank you! That is all I have.
10:08:38 AM	RECESS	SL: We will stand in recess.
10:27:22 AM	SL	All right we are back in session and we have Marvin Dietsch here who wants to talk about property taxes. We will give the floor to you Marvin, what do you got for us?
10:27:34 AM	MD	It goes back, I have had some discussion about the real estate taxes right now, are a big item. Historically all property was taxed and in 1986 they discontinued taxing bank accounts and financing totally. At one time your bank accounts, 401Ks or anything like that would be taxed and in 2013 they discontinued personal property, which was great. That was your furniture, your home, your motor boat, farm equipment, everything and the industry was big. The personal property was huge. So, those were all taken off and that leaves us with the real estate property which is buildings and land. That is all that is left and the land issue is unique to agriculture. It is the only industry that I know of that is land intensive and it represents a tax on a mortgage for the people buying it, starting or your savings, if you paid for it. So, you can't get out of it, it is an overhead on your business. We had relief, which was very much appreciated with CAUV to

		make it proportional to your profits. But I am not totally, farm bureau has taken a state position. They are not for eliminating all real estate taxes but they want to refine it and make it fair. My approach is, I have analyzed that there are two categories of real estate and one is the original purpose like roads, land, fire, legal protection and so forth. Those that real estate is in proportion to the land that you own. So, in that respect, I personally still back or support the real estate tax for my road, drainage and maintenance of those things. Because it is proportional to how much you own. But the group of real estate taxes that I am opposed to are those that are house holder direct benefits. And that's typical EMS, Health, Senior Citizen all of these are people direct benefit nothing to do with the business. And it's just overhead on the business and it is a killer. People are complaining how just about paying the taxes on their houses. But we are paying the taxes on the houses and also on our industry on the land. Though every time there is a millage that comes up, we are giving one mill will cost the average house of \$100,000 or something like \$80 dollars. Well, that is true on my farm but I also pay an additional \$1,000 on my corn and soybean fields and that is the area I am opposed to and working with Ohio Farm Bureau and getting new legislation to separate those two categories. It will take a constitutional amendment they tell us, so it is a long-term solution it's going to take time but in the interim we have what you just brough up last week the issue of senior citizens, and it was mentioned that you could perhaps raise the meal costs up to \$4 dollars but you are limited by law. Okay, to me that is the area that we need to push hard, I will push for it. We got to get that \$4 raised to \$8 or something and \$8 is half but they would go to the local restaurant and buy it for them or get it delivered. Because there is costs in delivering this food and so forth. I don't want to downgrade or belittle the intent of the senior citizens programs. I have seen what they have done on my rural neighbors who are isolated and the person delivering that food is perhaps the biggest social contact they have had in days and it is very very valuable. But we, it looks like our challenge is the money, we got to get that, and until we get that, I am opposed to the back category of real estate taxes and my recommendation is that you pick up the deficient with your sales tax. You are collecting 8 million a year on sales tax and I think we should take a hard at look and while we are doing that, try to get those minimals raised and reduce the deficit. There is empathy to our senior citizens however it is our wealthiest group of people.
10:33:57 AM	MD	55 and above is like 65-75% in Ohio of personal wealth. And above 70 is 30-40% of our personal wealth. The 20-30-year-olds represent 1-3% of personal wealth. So, a lot of these senior citizens, I personally have no qualms of paying whatever it costs to have that food delivery to my house and pay the delivery charge. Because I don't feel that that I should throw that burden on the lower income group below me. We know that the highest income group is between 55-65, when people reach their maximum incomes. Average in Ohio that I picked off the web is senior citizen's average is 70 or above are averaging \$51,000 a year in income. They have savings, they worked all their lives, husband and wife, they saved, they worked and it is a credit to them but there are exceptions

		and that is where perhaps we have to look at using more money to support some of the people that don't have that wealth, there is always the higher and the lower. That is my view point and I think we have to take a real hard look at the interim here while we are trying to get some new laws passed as to using sales tax to make up our deficit and not go for another round of real estate tax.
10:35:00 AM	SL/MD	I think that is kind of what they have in mind if we lose our property taxes it is going to be mean a lot of sales tax and that is kind of the dilemma, we are in. Especially being bordered with two states, you don't want to have your sales tax triple what your neighbors are because they will just go to the neighbors and that is not going to help out any. But as far as senior centers goes, we are looking at exploring all the different possibilities. What do we really need at the senior center? Obviously, we can't afford to have a \$63,000 attendant open the doors for 4 people. Maybe the whole thing needs to be taken a hard look at and say what are our services going to be. We feel really strong that we need to have that, like you say interaction with somebody once a day, because it is not just the food, it is also their wellbeing check. MD: Okay. SL: And several times they will find somebody on the ground, on the floor, maybe not hurt bad but they just can't get up but at that point our people have to call the EMS, they have to wait there until the EMS gets there and there is all of that going on. So, it is important for us to get people food that really need food and it's a, I think there is a conception out there that people believe that I pay my taxes, so this food is free to me. MD: Yeah
10:36:27 AM	SL	I thought the same thing with my mother-in-law, she had meals on wheels and before I became Commissioners and I started seeing the dollars and cents and what do you mean it is \$13 a meal and not \$4 a meal. I didn't know how they could do it for \$4 anyways but then to delivery and all that. It is a number, so we don't know what the levy would be. We have 4 levies right now and they are talking about combining them into 1. But they also made it into a 2 mill levy instead of what was it before, do you remember Bart? Like 1.75 or 65
10:37:03 AM	BW/MD	1.8 total. MD: What is the total now that you are combining?
10:37:07 AM	SL/ND	I think I heard Sarah say she was looking at a 2 mil, which would be a bump up above. MD: Above what? SL: Above the 2005 level, I think it is 1.75
10:37:20 AM	BW/MD	1.75 I don't want to quote MD: I don't understand your saying proposing this
10:37:27 AM	BW	There are 4 levies, right now for the senior citizens and those 4 equals like 1.7 mill. So, we are talking about consolidating to go to 2 mill to offset some, however we have since found out that two of those are match funds with the state so we can't redo those or at least we have to figure out whether we can or we will lose that state match for example one is like .9 mil and the state kicks in .9 mill matches it and those are just numbers I am using, those are not the exact numbers. But if we redo those and consolidate them, we risk even losing that so going backwards rather than forward so we have to look at that before we eventually or what or how we are going to do it. I also understand Marvin, we can't charge per meal because we get a subsidy from the state. The state

		Department of Aging gives us an annual contribution towards our feeding these people. So, it has to be a suggested donation. We cannot put a price tag on it and charge. That is what I think I...
10:38:35 AM	MD	Are you actively getting any response on that?
10:38:38 AM	BW	Yea, they are more than happy to pay the \$4, we have not had any say we are not going to come because of it, so yes.
10:38:46 AM	MD	I think most people feel very conscientious about that. They know.
10:38:52 AM	BW	And quite frankly we have people who can afford that and we have people that it is \$4 dollars a day for 4 days it's a little taxing. Where you get that balance it is tough.
10:39:08 AM	MD	Okay well I am very active in the farm bureau and we want to work with you as much as we can. The farm situation on the tax on land, if you put up a levy tomorrow for drainage oh well, we are assessed for that so well we are already paying that. Umm highways and all those things, I would support it outright but the second group of household direct benefits is the area that I concentrate on so I am pushing it at the State Level of Farm Bureau
10:39:48 AM	BW	I think and I am going to say when I was working on the EMS levy, I think the same we do the same example where a \$100,000 home is like \$80 some dollars a year. Well that equal about a \$1 an acre for an additional tax for a farm at that whatever the 2. Mills we were going for. If I remember right, whatever we were talking about and I don't have those, but it was equivalent. So, a \$100 for a homeowner is sometimes equal almost too close to \$1 an acre.
10:40:22 AM	MD	Yes, and most farms are 300-500 acres, and that is \$300-\$500 additional rather than \$80 that's, it sounds small but there is no one acre farms around here making a living. BW: Correct; MD: They are all you know 500-1,000 farms are two incomes to make it, there is no other way. I worked 40 years off the farm and I ended up working up for the state and ended up with the state retirement which was the biggest bonus financially for all of my efforts because it covered my medicine and I today pay 1/3 for medical that my son who is self employed on the farm pays for medical. He pays three times as much and it is a killer for a small industry, I don't care if it is a restaurant or who it is, the medical thing is (inaudible) and if you don't have a good group policy or government coverage you are totally exposed and your chances of survival are very small.
10:41:34 AM	BW	We recognize what we provide to our employees and how much it costs us for employees and it is a big benefit.
10:41:41 AM	SL	It is horrible the amount of money we spend.
10:41:44 AM	BW	Proportionally, we recognize that and I know that, I think everybody is in agreeance that we need some sort of reform overall with the tax structure on how it is done in the state of Ohio and I think, my understanding that they don't have enough, there is not enough petition signatures to put it on the ballot for this fall,

		but they don't go away and I think it's got some people to step up and take notice especially in Columbus.
10:42:15 AM	MD/SL	I have one final question, is it true that your commissioner's association at the state level. Can you legally lobby because I have a farm organization lobbying for me, you as a commissioners cannot directly in your capacity commissioner lobby as I understand you're a state employee but can your SL: CCAO
10:42:56 AM	MD	Yeah, your association lobby?
10:42:57 AM	SL	They very much are in contact. MD: And my interpretation is that you helped pushed some of these ideas.
10:42:58 AM	BW/MD	Yes, and we have like the farm bureau we have legislative people in our association. MD: Because it won't change if we don't talk
10:43:08 AM	SL	When we go to Columbus for those three-day seminars and they have all the different people come in and there are all these different room and talking and one of the most busiest rooms when I was there was when we had the two people that are pushing this real estate ban, taxes on real estate they were speakers and there was a narrative and there was 100 people, 100 commissioners in that room and they are asking them what is your goal or what is your plan. They don't have no plan other than they just want to end property tax. They said that if your guy's problem to figure out what you are going to do, we have given you change after chance they said they have been wanting us to do something with real estate for a long time and nothing has every happened and they just keep going up.
10:44:02 AM	MD	Mine isn't a total solution for everyone that says you have to get rid of all of them. Because I still support the appropriate and in proportion to the land and residual but as far as you aren't given the income tax, our school district when I was on the board was given the income tax and for 40 years it has been a terrific solution. We always have the option. We will vote for the income or we will vote for the real estate but you don't have that option, except your option is in sales. That was given to you instead of income tax.
10:44:39 AM	SL	Well, if the schools would all go on an income tax that would be 68% of your land tax, right?
10:44:45 AM	MD	Yeah, and originally on the board we took the position if it is a building we will vote for land for bonding, I don't think that is even necessary. We have passed maintenance of bond issues on our buildings but anything that is operating and levies we haven't had to pass one in 40 years and that is 80% of our expenses for our school district. Most all government agency runs 80% on salaries. So, we went to income tax 1% and it has worked beautifully but you don't have that option at the county programs and these personal programs are county level. Okay I appreciate your time.
10:45:36 AM	BW	I will try to get you a name with our legal representative, so you can put them together with the Farm Bureau. I was looking through my roster, I wasn't ignoring you.

10:45:52 AM	MD	The head of our lobbying is Jack Urban at the State Level and Roy Norman is our local organizational director
10:46:09 AM	SL/MD	When you have farm bureau meetings can you tell about those so that we can get a heads up on them. MD: Sure. Right now, it is the Third Thursday at 7pm
10:46:30 AM	SL/MD	Where at? MD: The restaurant has been changing because they have been opening and closing on us. But right now, SL: well, you have one on the 21 st of May. MD: yea 7pm an I am trying to think of last location. I think we had it at the County Agency Office in lack of a restaurant, we moved into this building
10:46:59 AM	SL	The barn restaurant I have been there before.
10:47:02 AM	MD	Okay for the state legislature meetings where our senators and representative come, we go to the Barn Restaurant but our local county meetings monthly we have here locally was at Blue Berry Hill. That has closed on us.
10:47:22 AM	SL	The guy sold all his equipment
10:47:23 AM	MD	So, we can have a private room, we moved in next door at the county agency.
10:47:29 AM	SL	How many people go to that?
10:47:33 AM	MD	Normally with the board around 14-15 and we have had a quest speaker we have had Patti Rockey come in on one of the last meetings. We will average 15-20
10:47:58 AM	SL/MD	Okay. We try to have a representative from every township, right now it is pretty lopsided so we have a lot of at large members. SL: So where is the one on the 21 st going to be? SL: I am going to say the county agent's office until otherwise but I will notify you if its different.
10:48:14 AM	SL/MD	Okay, so just right next door here. MD: Yeah, right next door they have a back room. SL: You know Third Rail is open. MD: Okay, so...
10:48:20 AM	BW	We always have a conference room here that is available too.
10:48:28 AM	MD/BW/SL	Oh, that is true, that would be nice have more room. BW: Just call and get it reserved with Robin she takes care of that here. MD: Okay I appreciate that, that would work out real well. SL: Okay thanks Marvin. MD: Thank you.
10:48:33 AM	ADJOURNED	SL: We stand adjourned.

WILLIAMS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

APPROVED:



Scott A. Lirot, President

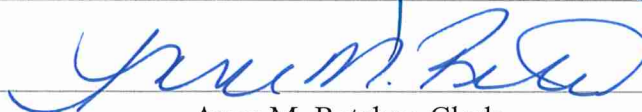


Bartley E. Westfall, Vice-President

Not Present

Terry N. Rummel, Member

ATTEST:



Anne M. Retcher, Clerk

RESOLUTION 26-0238

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE
WILLIAMS COUNTY, BRYAN, OHIO
May 12, 2026

In the Matter of:
Approving Minutes from Regular Session

The Board of Williams County Commissioners met in regular session on the above date with the following members present:

Scott A. Lirot, Yes Bartley E. Westfall, Yes Terry N. Rummel, NIP

Commissioner Westfall moved adoption of the following resolution:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that after review, the Williams County Commissioners hereby approve the minutes of Regular Session(s) held on May 7, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is further found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were so adopted in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Commissioner Lirot seconded the motion.

The vote upon adoption resulted as follows:

Mr. Scott A. Lirot, yes

Mr. Bartley E. Westfall, yes

Mr. Terry N. Rummel,

WILLIAMS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Scott Lirot
President of the Board of Commissioners

[Signature]
Vice-Pres of the Board of Commissioners

Not Present
Member of the Board of Commissioners

RESOLUTION 26-0239

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE
WILLIAMS COUNTY, BRYAN, OHIO
May 12, 2026

In the Matter of:
Approve Agenda as Amended or Presented

The Board of Williams County Commissioners met in regular session on the above date with the following members present:

Scott A. Lirot, Yes Bartley E. Westfall, Yes Terry N. Rummel, NIP

Commissioner Westfall moved adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Commission Staff, to the best of its ability, has prepared the agenda for the day, and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has reviewed said agenda and find it to be satisfactory as presented or as officially amended on the record in open session; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Williams County Commissioners hereby approves the agenda as amended or presented for today's date; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is further found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were so adopted in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Commissioner Lirot seconded the motion.

The vote upon adoption resulted as follows:

Mr. Scott A. Lirot, <u>yes</u>	WILLIAMS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS <u>Scott Lirot</u> President of the Board of Commissioners
Mr. Bartley E. Westfall, <u>Yes</u>	<u>Bartley E. Westfall</u> Vice-Pres of the Board of Commissioners
Mr. Terry N. Rummel, <u> </u>	<u>Not Present</u> Member of the Board of Commissioners

RESOLUTION 26-0240

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE
WILLIAMS COUNTY, BRYAN, OHIO
May 12, 2026

In the Matter of:
Approving Payment of Bills

The Board of Williams County Commissioners met in regular session on the above date with the following members present:

Scott A. Lirot, Yes Bartley E. Westfall, Yes Terry N. Rummel, NIP

Commissioner Westfall moved adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Williams County Auditor certifies that the money for the credit of the bills listed on the Disbursement List is in the Treasury for the credit of the Funds from which they are to be paid, and is not appropriated for any other purpose; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Williams County Commissioners hereby approve the payment of bills as submitted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is further found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were so adopted in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Commissioner Lirot seconded the motion.

The vote upon adoption resulted as follows:

Mr. Scott A. Lirot, yes

Mr. Bartley E. Westfall, yes

Mr. Terry N. Rummel, —

WILLIAMS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Scott Lirot
President of the Board of Commissioners

[Signature]
Vice-Pres of the Board of Commissioners

Not Present
Member of the Board of Commissioners

RESOLUTION 26-0241

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE
WILLIAMS COUNTY, BRYAN, OHIO
May 12, 2026

In the Matter of
Supplemental Appropriation(s)

The Board of Williams County Commissioners met in regular session on the above date with the following members present:

Scott A. Lirot, Yes Bartley E. Westfall, Yes Terry N. Rummel, NIP

Commissioner Westfall moved adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Williams County Commissioners that we hereby approve Vickie L. Grimm, Williams County Auditor to create new lines and make supplemental appropriation(s) from and to the following funds:

Department: Williams County Common Pleas Court

From:	1001-41-170-509015	Transcripts	\$300.00
To:	1001-41-170-506076	Foreign Judge	\$300.00
<i>Reason: Budget shortfall</i>			

From:	2032	Unappropriated	\$8,000.00
To:	2032-41-103-506000	Contract Services	\$8,000.00
<i>Reason: Additional funding required for services</i>			

Department: Williams County Communications

From:	2055	Unappropriated	\$357,726.55
To:	2055-42-180-505030	911 Capital Assets-Computer & Software	\$357,726.55
<i>Reason: To cover Frontier Vesta 911 phone system</i>			

Department: Williams County Recorder

From:	1001	Unappropriated	\$3,955.00
To:	1001-40-360-506000	Contract Services	\$3,955.00
<i>Reason: ORC 317.32(A)(3) surcharge to be used for digitization & preservation – amount collected for March (\$1,775.00) and April (\$2,180.00) – 1001-03-60-403002</i>			

Department: Williams County Victims Assistance

From:	2006-42-444-503000	Vic Supplies	\$234.00
To:	2006-42-444-503300	Vic Non-Capital Equipment	\$234.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is further found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were so adopted in an open meeting of this Board and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Commissioner Lirot seconded the motion.

The vote upon adoption resulted as follows:

Mr. Scott A. Lirot, yes

Mr. Bartley E. Westfall, yes

Mr. Terry N. Rummel, —

WILLIAMS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Scott Lirot
President of the Board of Commissioners

Bartley E. Westfall
Vice-Pres of the Board of Commissioners

Not Present
Member of the Board of Commissioners