

The Board of County Commissioners, Brown County, Ohio, met in regular session this 16th day of March, 2026 with the following members present: Barry L. Woodruff, Member Gordon Ellis, Member Tony Applegate, President

In attendance: Sarah Beath, County Administrator

IN THE MATTER OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion moved by Mr. Woodruff to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting and dispense with the oral reading. Second: Mr. Ellis.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Woodruff, yea Mr. Ellis, yea Mr. Applegate, yea

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Horn, Georgetown, presented the idea of a county operated Park Authority. He discussed the benefits to the community and opportunities for locations.

Rebecca Wallace, Clark Township, thanked the Board, including previous Commissioner Daryl Gray, for the work to improve the position of Brown County. She noted the repair of county buildings, retiring of debt, and the continued adoption of a balanced budget, as some of their accomplishments.

Paul Riley asked Commissioner Barry Woodruff to defend his position on live-streaming.

Blair Jones, Sterling Township, asked the Board to consider scheduling meetings later in the day to accommodate citizens, given the Board's choice to not live-stream.

IN THE MATTER OF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION – SHERIFF

Motion moved by Mr. Ellis to approve the request of Rita Henize, BCSO, for a supplemental appropriation of unappropriated funds from 1000 CGF in the amount of \$180.00 into 1000-2000-52125 *Sheriff Training/Continuing Education*. Said funds are reimbursement from CPR cards. Second: Mr. Woodruff.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Woodruff, yea Mr. Ellis, yea Mr. Applegate, yea

IN THE MATTER OF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION – SHERIFF

Motion moved by Mr. Woodruff to approve the request of Rita Henize, BCSO, for a supplemental appropriation of unappropriated funds from 1000 CGF in the amount of \$1,999.16 into 1000-2000-52112 *Sheriff Equipment*. Said funds are reimbursement from the Engineer's Office for security cameras. Second: Mr. Ellis.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Woodruff, yea Mr. Ellis, yea Mr. Applegate, yea

IN THE MATTER OF PERSONNEL – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Motion moved by Mr. Ellis, upon the recommendation of Sarah Beath, County Administrator, to accept the termination of Austin Sanders-Williams, Economic Development Director, effective 3/13/2026. Second: Mr. Woodruff.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Woodruff, yea Mr. Ellis, yea Mr. Applegate, yea

IN THE MATTER TO RECESS

Motion moved by Mr. Woodruff to recess the meeting at 9:19 a.m. Second: Mr. Ellis.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Woodruff, yea Mr. Ellis, yea Mr. Applegate, yea

IN THE MATTER TO RECONVENE

Motion moved by Mr. Ellis to reconvene the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Second: Mr. Woodruff.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Woodruff, yea Mr. Ellis, yea Mr. Applegate, yea

March 16, 2026

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE OHIO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM (LAEPP) – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Motion moved by Mr. Ellis to adopt the following resolution. Second: Mr. Woodruff.

**RESOLUTION NO. 03162026-1
AUTHORIZING FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE OHIO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL EASEMENT PURCHASE PROGRAM (LAEPP)**

The Board of Commissioners of Brown County met in a regular session on the 16th day of March, 2026 in regular session at the offices of said Board in the Administration Building, Georgetown, Ohio, with the following members present:

- Tony Applegate, President
- Barry Woodruff, Member
- Gordon Ellis, Member

The following resolution was presented by Mr. Ellis, who moved its adoption, and seconded by Mr. Woodruff.

WHEREAS, on 16th day of March, 2026 the Board of Commissioners of Brown County received a request from Steve and Loretta Mezger for support of their application to the State of Ohio for purchase of an agricultural easement on their property located at parcel numbers 23-052076.0100 and 23-052044.0000.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Brown County have reviewed this request and determined that the nomination of the property for purchase of an agricultural easement is compatible with the county’s goals to preserve and promote agriculture as an important part of the area’s economy;

WHEREAS, be it resolved that all formal actions of the board relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of the board in compliance with all legal requirements of ORC Section 121.22, the Sunshine Law, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Brown County support the participation of the above-named landowners in the LAEPP and acknowledge that participation in the LAEPP does not conflict with any existing or proposed land use plans of Brown County.

Upon call of the roll:

In attendance: Jack Stenger and Alison Barjaktarovich, Cardinal Land Conservancy.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Woodruff, yea Mr. Ellis, yea Mr. Applegate, yea

IN THE MATTER TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion moved by Mr. Woodruff to enter executive session at 10:28 a.m. to consider the purchase of property for a public purpose, per ORC § 121.22 (G)(2). In attendance: Sheriff Hodges, Sarah Beath, County Administrator, and Hannah Birchfield, Clerk. Second: Mr. Ellis.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Woodruff, yea Mr. Ellis, yea Mr. Applegate, yea

Commissioners exited Executive Session at 11:10 a.m.

IN THE MATTER TO ADJOURN

Motion moved by Mr. Ellis to adjourn this meeting with no further business before the Board this 16th day of March, 2026. Second: Mr. Woodruff.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Woodruff, yea Mr. Ellis, yea Mr. Applegate, yea

March 16, 2026

3/12/2026

Commissioners attended the monthly Solid Waste Authority Board Meeting.

Approval: March 18, 2026


Tony Applegate, President


Gordon Ellis, Member


Barry Woodruff, Member


Hannah Birchfield, Clerk

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