

The Board of County Commissioners, Brown County, Ohio, met in regular session this 18th 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. Ellis to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting and dispense with the oral reading. Second: Mr. Woodruff.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul Riley asked the name of the legal firm working on the release of the Commissioners from the NDA with DBU STU LLC. He also requested an update on the status of the mutual release. Mr. Riley finalized his comments by requesting a revision to the Wednesday, March 11th minutes, suggesting the discussion prior to the motion, to rescind live-streaming, be added to provide context to the action.

IN THE MATTER TO APPROVE THE BILLS

Motion moved by Mr. Woodruff to approve the following bills for payment. Second: Mr. Ellis.

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

DEPT	EXPENDITURE
AUDITOR	\$733.02
BOE	\$1,089.54
BUILDING DEPT	\$90.00
CLERK OF COURTS	\$0
COMMISSIONERS	\$1,553.04
COMMON PLEAS	\$7,842.27
CORONER	\$0
CSEA	\$829.76
DEVELOPMENT	\$0
DOG TAGS	\$0
E911	\$7,693.66
EMA	\$0
ENGINEER HWY	\$24,555.19
ENGINEER OFFICE	\$3,069.68
ENGINEER SEWER & WATER	\$0
JFS	\$37,860.40
JURY COMMISSION	\$0
PROBATE/JUVENILE	\$355.87
MAINTENANCE	\$20,143.55
MUNICIPAL	\$21,422.00
PROSECUTOR	\$0
RECORDER	\$0
SHERIFF	\$5,003.82
TITLE	\$12,178.38
TREASURER	<u>\$104,842.68</u>
GRAND TOTAL	\$249,262.86

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION – ESTABLISH BUSINESS REVOLVING LOAN FUND – DEVELOPMENT

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

RESOLUTION NO. 03182026-1

ESTABLISHING THE
BROWN COUNTY BUSINESS REVOLVING LOAN FUND
FOR THE PURPOSE OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
O.R.C. § 307.07

The Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, Ohio, met on the 18th 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
Gordon Ellis, Member
Barry Woodruff, Member

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

Mr. Woodruff.

March 18, 2026

WHEREAS, the Brown County Board of Commissioners applied for and received federal Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") funds from the State of Ohio, Ohio Development Services Agency, Office of Community Development ("OCD"). These funds are for the specific purpose of undertaking Economic Development activities; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the need to support local businesses in starting, growing, or improving their operations. The Board aims to use flexible financing tools that address funding gaps and encourage sustainable economic development; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds it has authority under O.R.C. § 307.07 to make loans and provide financial assistance for economic development purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed and understands the Revolving Loan Fund Program Guidelines, Policy, and Procedures Manual used to determine the eligible use of CDBG funds for business lending; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that establishing a dedicated Business Revolving Loan Fund will streamline the County's ability to issue low-interest loans to qualified businesses in Brown County. This will expand economic opportunity, and support job creation and retention for the local workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes this fund will serve as an important tool to strengthen the county's economic base. It will encourage private investment and promote long-term county-wide economic resilience.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Brown County, Ohio, that the Brown County Business Revolving Loan Fund is hereby established for the purpose of providing low-interest loans to eligible businesses. Projects must qualify under CDBG requirements and the Revolving Loan Fund Program Guidelines, Policy, and Procedures Manual; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Brown County Department of Economic and Community Development shall administer the fund. The Department will develop application procedures, conduct loan reviews, ensure compliance with applicable federal and state regulations, and present all loan recommendations to the Board for final approval; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any loans or financial commitments from this fund require approval by the Board of County Commissioners.

Upon call of the roll:

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

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION – APPOINT MEMBERS TO BUSINESS REVOLVING LOAN FUND REVIEW COMMITTEE – DEVELOPMENT

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

RESOLUTION NO. 03182026-2

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE BROWN COUNTY BUSINESS REVOLVING LOAN FUND REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT O.R.C. § 307.07

The Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, Ohio, met on the 18th 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
- Gordon Ellis, Member
- Barry Woodruff, Member

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

March 18, 2026

WHEREAS, the Brown County Board of Commissioners has formally established the Brown County Business Revolving Loan Fund for the purpose of fostering economic growth and job creation; and

WHEREAS, the Revolving Loan Fund Program Guidelines require the appointment of a Loan Review Committee to evaluate loan applications, perform due diligence, and provide formal recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Board seeks to appoint individuals with diverse expertise in banking, business management, and community development to ensure the fiscal integrity of the program; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds it necessary to stagger the initial terms of these members to ensure long-term administrative stability and continuity of knowledge.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Brown County, Ohio, that the following individuals are hereby appointed to the Brown County Business Revolving Loan Fund Review Committee, with terms commencing immediately:

- Tony Applegate, for a term of one (1) year, expiring March 18, 2027.
- Jeff Ratliff, for a term of two (2) years, expiring March 18, 2028.
- Daniel Wickerham, for a term of two (2) years, expiring March 18, 2028.
- Sarah Beath, for a term of three (3) years, expiring March 18, 2029.
- Brandon Fawley, for a term of three (3) years, expiring March 18, 2029.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon the expiration of these initial staggered terms, all subsequent appointments shall be for a period of three (3) years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these members shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of County Commissioners and shall perform their duties in accordance with the Revolving Loan Fund Program Guidelines, Policy, and Procedures Manual.

Upon call of the roll:

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

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION – ESTABLISH ANNUAL INTEREST RATE FOR REVOLVING LOAN FUND – DEVELOPMENT

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

RESOLUTION NO. 03182026-3

ESTABLISHING THE ANNUAL INTEREST RATE FOR THE BROWN COUNTY BUSINESS REVOLVING LOAN FUND FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026

The Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, Ohio, met on the 18th 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
Gordon Ellis, Member
Barry Woodruff, Member

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

WHEREAS, the Brown County Board of Commissioners has established the Brown County Business Revolving Loan Fund to provide financial assistance to local businesses for the purpose of economic development and job creation; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds it necessary to establish a fixed interest rate for all loans issued through the Brown County Business Revolving Loan Fund to ensure consistency, transparency, and accessible capital for the local business community; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed current market conditions and the economic goals of the county and determines that an interest rate of three and one-half percent (3.5%) is appropriate to incentivize business growth while maintaining the fund's long-term sustainability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Brown County, Ohio, that the interest rate for all loans issued under the Brown County Business Revolving Loan Fund for the remainder of the 2026 calendar year is hereby set at 3.5%;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this interest rate shall apply to all new loan agreements executed between March 18, 2026, and December 31, 2026, unless otherwise amended or modified by subsequent official action of this Board.

Upon call of the roll:

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

March 18, 2026

IN THE MATTER TO ENTER CONTRACT – WORKERS’ COMP GROUP RATING PLAN – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Motion moved by Mr. Woodruff to enter contract with CCAO Service Corporation, 209 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215, for the CCAO Group Rating Plan, to assist in lower workers’ compensation rates and establish a safer working environment. Second: Mr. Ellis.

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

IN THE MATTER TO ENTER CONTRACT – EZJUSTICE – COMMON PLEAS COURT

Motion moved by Mr. Ellis to enter contract with StepMobile, dba ezJustice, 70 W 4th Street, Mansfield, Ohio 44903, to provide a payment facilitator (“PayArc”), to accept credit card payments through an online payment portal. Second: Mr. Woodruff.

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

IN THE MATTER TO ADJOURN

Motion moved by Mr. Woodruff to adjourn this meeting with no further business before the Board this 18th day of March, 2026. Second: Mr. Ellis.

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

3/17/2026

Commissioners Barry Woodruff and Gordon Ellis attended the monthly Planning Commission Board Meeting.

Approval: March 23, 2026


Tony Applegate, President


Gordon Ellis, Member


Barry Woodruff, Member


Sarah Beath, County Administrator

March 18, 2026