

Sandusky County Commissioners – 622 Croghan Street, Fremont, OH 43420	2025 MEETING
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Meeting: Board Of Commissioners	Location: Commissioners’ Board Room	Date: 12/11/2025	Time: 8:00AM
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Present: Commissioners: Scott Miller – President, Charles Schwochow– Vice President; Russ Zimmerman

Present: Theresa Garcia – County Administrator

Others Present: Beth Tischler, Julie Schwochow, Melanie Allen, Cindy Johnson, Carlos Baez, see sign in for bid presenters, Chad Fisher, Noah Mahler

(*action items)				
AGENDA ITEMS	BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS / ACTION STEPS:	PERSON RESPONSIBLE:	DOLLAR AMOUNT:	MOTION / VOTE
Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance (8:00am)	*** Commissioner Schwochow attended the Soil & Water meeting at 8:00am and will join after that meeting	Scott Miller, President		
*Review & Approval of Commissioner Meeting Minutes, incoming Mail Review & External Meeting Notices	The 12/9/2025 minutes were reviewed/approved by the Board. The Board reviewed incoming mail and external meeting notices. There was discussion on the washer and dryer purchase by the Dog Kennel. She needed industrial appliances and did buy them local	Scott Miller Russ Zimmerman		*Motion: Move to Approve minutes Moved by: 2nd: Yes – 2 (Schwochow absent)
Commissioners and Administrator Discussion	Commissioners discussed the email chain regarding vacating TR 210 out at Wightmans Grove. Prosecutor Tischler came in for her meeting and joined the conversation. Engineer Baez called and gave his understanding and his opinion that it would be beneficial to go through the Vacation process.	Scott Miller Russ Zimmerman Beth Tischler Carlos Baez		
	Carlos Baez was asked about his opinion regarding the TMACOG RTPO agreement. Carlos had discussions with the Engineers and a couple of Commissioners with Ottawa and Seneca Counties and they are comfortable with forming the RTPO to set up the infrastructure to share resources to complete projects. The Commissioners will pass by resolution next week.			

<p>* Then /Now Documents</p>	<p>One certificate was presented by the Commissioners' Office. The PO was not done prior to receiving the invoice as the insurance company was supposed to pay directly. One invoice makes up this certificate. Selking International - \$5,805.41</p> <p>One certificate was presented for the Dog Kennel. Forgot to put in PO after requesting a new invoice and didn't receive one for October. One invoice makes up this certificate. Fremont City Waterworks - \$138.91</p>	<p>Commissioners</p> <p>Dog Kennel</p>	<p>\$5,805.41</p> <p>\$138.91</p>	<p>*Motion: Move to Approve certificates Moved by: 2nd: Yes – 2 (Schwochow absent)</p>
<p>* Personnel</p>	<p>None</p>			
<p>* Travel Requests</p>	<p>None</p>			
<p>Prosecutor</p>	<p>Beth Tischler – Prosecutor. Beth came in for her regular meeting with the Commissioners. Commissioners were discussing an email thread regarding TR 210 out at Wightmans Grove. There was a request to vacate that road and Beth was giving her opinion on how that could be done. At 8:51am Beth Tischler suggested entering executive session to discuss pending or imminent court action.</p> <p>At 9:24am Commissioners came back into regular session</p> <p>Beth sent out the latest Drug Task Force maps and where we stand with other Counties. She has also brought on a new Assistant Prosecutor. The Drug Task Force is transferring to MARC's radios so they can communicate with law enforcement in the County.</p>	<p>Beth Tischler - Prosecutor</p>		<p>*Motion: Move to enter executive session Moved by: Russ Zimmerman 2nd: Scott Miller Yes – 2 (Schwochow absent)</p> <p>*Motion: Move to enter regular session Moved by: Russ Zimmerman 2nd: Charles Schwochow Yes – 3</p>
	<p>*** Commissioner Schwochow entered session at 8:51am</p>			
<p>Sheriff</p>	<p>Sheriff was not able to attend his meeting.</p>			
<p>Job and Family Services (JFS)</p>	<p>Melanie Allen – JFS. Melanie came in for her regular meeting with the Commissioners. See attachment for agenda items. Custody count is the same as last month. They had one child sent to kin and one returned from kin placement. There was discussion on one child in custody and some struggles with foster home and daycare issues. Melanie introduced the new hire Cynthia Johnson who will be the new Group Home Director. Cindy is working on getting the right staff who will give the residents hope and what other children have</p>	<p>Melanie Allen -- Director</p>		

	available at their age groups. Melanie has introduced her to some of the potential residents that may come to the home and visited other homes to get an idea of what she wants to do and what she does not want to do when establishing the home. They are working on the new home and making it as much like a home as possible. Melanie shared some SNAP program statistics in Ohio. In October the Federal Government will cut these benefits by 25%. They will have to maintain an error rate to keep the benefits. The Foster Family Christmas Party had 85 children attend. They will have a Christmas gathering for families whose children are in foster care so they can visit and have time together.			
* Resolutions	2025 - 351 ORDER TO VACATE HOWARD STREET SITUATED IN STANLEY BOYER SUBDIVISION, BALLVILLE TOWNSHIP	Vacation		*Motion: Move to Approve resolution Moved by: Russ Zimmerman 2nd: Charles Schwochow Yes – 3
	2025 - 352 AUTHORIZING CHANGE FUND ACCOUNT BE ESTABLISHED FOR THE SANDUSKY COUNTY SANITARY ENGINEER FOR 2026	Sanitary Engineer		*Motion: Move to Approve resolution Moved by: Charles Schwochow 2nd: Russ Zimmerman Yes – 3
	2025 - 353 APPROVING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO EMA CONTRACT SERVICES (\$1,200.00) FOR END OF YEAR BALANCES	EMA	\$1,200.00	*Motion: Move to Approve resolution Moved by: Russ Zimmerman 2nd: Charles Schwochow Yes – 3
	2025 - 354 AUTHORIZING CHANGE FUND ACCOUNT BE ESTABLISHED FOR THE SANDUSKY COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE RECORDS OFFICE AND CONCEAL CARRY OFFICE FOR 2026	Sheriff	\$20.00 \$100.00	*Motion: Move to Approve resolution Moved by: Charles Schwochow 2nd: Russ Zimmerman Yes – 3
	2025 - 355 GRANTING ANNEXATION PETITION 2025-02 FOR ANNEXATION TO THE CITY OF FREMONT BY PETITIONER NEILSON PROPERTY LTD. BY AGENT FOR PETITIONER CRAIG BUCKINGHAM	Annexation		*Motion: Move to Approve resolution Moved by: Russ Zimmerman 2nd: Charles Schwochow Yes – 3

	2025 – 356 AUTHORIZING THE SANDUSKY COUNTY AUDITOR TO ALLOCATE FUNDS TO THE VILLAGE OF GIBSONBURG FROM THE COUNTY MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAX FUND	Gibsonburg	\$13,915.82	*Motion: Move to Approve resolution Moved by: Russ Zimmerman 2nd: Charles Schwochow Yes – 3
	2025 - 357 APPROVING APPROPRIATION TRANSFER FOR AUDITOR FROM SUPPLIES TO CONTRACT SERVICES (\$4,322.52) FOR YEAR END BALANCES	Auditor	\$4,322.52	*Motion: Move to Approve resolution Moved by: Russ Zimmerman 2nd: Charles Schwochow Yes – 3
	2025 – 358 AWARDING BID TO HENSCHEN & ASSOCIATES ON BEHALF OF THE CLERK OF COURTS FOR CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PROGRAM	Clerk of Courts	\$465,684.38	*Motion: Move to Approve resolution Moved by: Russ Zimmerman 2nd: Charles Schwochow Yes – 3
	2025 - 359 APPROVING FUND TRANSFERS FROM MUNI COURT, RECORDER WAGES AND BCMH TO SHERIFF BENEFITS (\$20,000.00); SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO EMS BOND FUND (\$20,000.00)	Various	\$20,000.00 \$20,000.00	*Motion: Move to Approve resolution Moved by: Russ Zimmerman 2nd: Charles Schwochow Yes – 3
Public Open Session	Citizens Attendees – none Media Attendees – none Elected Officials – Carlos Baez, Engineer			
Engineer Bid opening CR 213 Bridge Replacement	Commissioner Miller opened the bid by turning the process over to Engineer Carlos Baez. Chad Fisher and Noah Mahler came in with Carlos to open the bids. Bids were collected and Carlos opened the bids and read them for those in the room. Commissioner Miller moved to tabulate the bids and award at a later date.	Carlos Baez - Engineer		* Motion: Move to tabulate and award at a later date Moved by: Scott Miller 2nd: Charles Schwochow Yes - 3
* Adjournment (11:00am)	With business completed for the day the meeting was adjourned.			* Motion: Move to adjourn Moved by: Russ Zimmerman 2nd: Charles Schwochow Yes - 3

Signature of:



Scott Miller, President



Charles Schwochow, Vice President



Russ Zimmerman

Board of County Commissioners, Sandusky County Ohio

Attest:



Clerk to the Board / County Administrator

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Commissioners,
Sandusky County, Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing
is a true and correct copy from the official record of said
Board of County Commissioners as recorded in its Journal.

Clerk, Board of County Commissioners, Sandusky County, Ohio

County	Federal Funds Reduction
Adams	\$ (170,270)
Allen	\$ (123,398)
Ashland	\$ (148,708)
Ashtabula	\$ (265,865)
Athens	\$ (209,218)
Auglaize	\$ (88,804)
Belmont	\$ (481,816)
Brown	\$ (270,314)
Butler	\$ (939,813)
Carroll	\$ (50,765)
Champaign	\$ (118,254)
Clark	\$ (814,854)
Clermont	\$ (597,769)
Clinton	\$ (200,167)
Columbiana	\$ (327,828)
Coshocton	\$ (184,886)
Crawford	\$ (149,895)
Cuyahoga	\$ (10,041,355)
Darke	\$ (185,028)
Defiance/Paulding	\$ (293,077)
Delaware	\$ (33,400)
Erie	\$ (314,338)
Fairfield	\$ (150,368)
Fayette	\$ (137,769)
Franklin	\$ (7,560,629)
Fulton	\$ (152,210)
Gallia	\$ (92,073)
Geauga	\$ (123,599)
Greene	\$ (337,748)
Guernsey	\$ (164,502)
Hamilton	\$ (3,574,694)
Hancock	\$ (176,053)
Hardin	\$ (140,775)
Harrison	\$ (108,501)
Henry	\$ (86,422)
Highland	\$ (106,444)
Holmes	\$ (152,941)
Huron	\$ (105,979)
Jackson	\$ (141,233)
Jefferson	\$ (325,826)
Knox	\$ (193,817)

Lake	\$	(521,363)
Lawrence	\$	(40,434)
Licking	\$	(592,046)
Logan	\$	(217,373)
Lorain	\$	(1,051,140)
Lucas	\$	(3,556,080)
Madison	\$	(148,604)
Mahoning	\$	(1,156,620)
Marion	\$	(237,729)
Medina	\$	(270,944)
Meigs	\$	(108,620)
Mercer	\$	(76,464)
Miami	\$	(289,766)
Monroe	\$	(81,460)
Montgomery	\$	(3,212,856)
Morgan	\$	(72,617)
Morrow	\$	(112,797)
Muskingum	\$	(525,628)
Noble	\$	(47,569)
Ottawa	\$	(126,501)
Perry	\$	(198,573)
Pickaway	\$	(107,110)
Pike	\$	(122,327)
Portage	\$	(487,978)
Preble	\$	(181,105)
Putnam	\$	(53,053)
Richland	\$	(391,004)
Sandusky	\$	(259,707)
Scioto	\$	(203,645)
Seneca	\$	(272,581)
Shelby	\$	(39,529)
South Central	\$	(514,513)
Stark	\$	(821,422)
Summit	\$	(2,104,990)
Trumbull	\$	(1,085,409)
Tuscarawas	\$	(255,084)
Union	\$	(114,416)
Van Wert	\$	(110,731)
Warren	\$	(394,267)
Washington	\$	(180,581)
Wayne	\$	(214,106)
Williams	\$	(135,637)
Wood	\$	(391,182)

Wyandot	\$	(11,350)
Total	\$	(50,938,317)
Source: ODJFS Federal Reporting System; SFY 2025 data		
Note: Fed Match reduces to 25% October 2026		



FEDERAL LEGISLATION (H.R. 1) WILL CHANGE SNAP PROGRAM FINANCES **December 2025**

What is the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)? The SNAP program provides monthly resources to nearly 1.4 million low-income Ohioans to help with the purchase of food. Benefit amounts decline as income rises. The average monthly benefit per person is \$188. **SNAP infused \$3.2 billion into Ohio's economy in FFY 2024.**

H.R. 1 will impact the cost of SNAP administration, and possibly the cost of SNAP benefits.

- **Impact #1: Administration (October 2026)** - The federal matching rate for SNAP administration will be cut in half, from 50% to 25%. Counties will lose \$51 million in annual resources as a result and will need to lay off or furlough staff in the first half of 2026 without state help. Cuts in county administration will negatively impact the state's payment error rate, potentially increasing the state's cost share for program benefits.
- **Impact #2: Benefits (October 2027)** - States will become responsible for a share of benefit costs if their payment error rate is above 6%. Ohio's FFY 2024 error rate was 9.01%, which is below the national average, but still in the zone of potential liability.
- *OJFSDA is seeking a supplemental appropriation for SFY 2027 to stabilize staffing levels and make investments in IT systems and training to continue working with the state to bring down the error rate and avoid hundreds of millions of dollars of benefits cost share in the next state budget.*

What is the impact of the cut to the federal matching funds for administration?

- Starting October 2026, the federal match rate will be cut in half, from 50% to 25%.
- This change will remove a total of approximately \$70 million in federal support (\$51 million counties, \$19 million state) from SNAP Administration each year. (For SFY 2027, this will be a nine month loss of \$38 million for counties because the federal fiscal year starts in October).
 - Counties are already implementing hiring freezes and anticipating the potential need to make layoffs and furloughs for next year. ***These staff reductions will have a devastating effect on both timeliness and quality control, and will likely lead to the state paying hundreds of millions of dollars annually toward SNAP benefits starting in October 2027 (the next state budget biennium).***

What is an administrative expense? Administrative expenses include properly identifying who is eligible and who is not for SNAP, what their precise benefit amount should be, identifying and

pursuing potential fraud, employment and training for SNAP recipients, quality control, training, and getting the benefit to customers. These costs are people, and technology.

What other resources are being used for SNAP Administration?

- Each year the state requires counties to contribute about \$41 million to the administration of SNAP and Medicaid. This is known as the “mandated share” (RC 5101.16). Some counties provide additional resources at their own discretion.
- The Ohio General Assembly appropriates matching funds for SNAP administration through an earmark in GRF ALI 600521 that allows “up to” \$46 million to be distributed to counties. ODJFS has allocated \$43.9 million in SFY 2026.

How will HR 1 affect the cost share for SNAP benefits?

The federal government has paid 100% of program benefits since the beginning of the program. Starting October 1, 2027, states will be required to pay a portion of SNAP benefits based on the state’s SNAP error rate from three years prior. Ohio’s error rate is below the national average, at 9.01% in SFY 2024, and has historically been below the national average in recent years.

In the first year, a state may choose to use the FFY 2025 or the FFY 2026 rate. In 2024, Ohio issued \$3.2 billion in SNAP benefits. Under HR 1, Ohio’s potential annual cost share, assuming a 9% error rate and similar benefit amount, would be:

Payment Error Rate	Benefit Cost Share	Approx Ohio Impact
<6%	\$0	\$0
6-7.99%	5%	\$160M
8-9.99%	10%	\$320M
>10%	15%	\$480M

What is the SNAP error rate?

The SNAP payment error measures how accurately states determine benefit amounts for participants. It is not a measure of fraud. Instead, it indicates how accurate states are in determining the monthly benefit amount for households. Eighty-five cases per month are randomly selected for review by ODJFS staff, and are rigorously evaluated according to federal guidelines. Error rates include both overpayments (households receiving too much) and underpayments (households receiving too little). Errors can be caused by inaccurate client reporting of income, expenses, or household composition, or by administrative errors.

How can Ohio ensure a lower error rate in FFY 2026, which begins October 1, 2025?

- Ensure front line caseworkers have the amount of time necessary to do thorough interviews with clients to minimize errors in client-reported information. This means keeping the system adequately staffed and avoiding layoffs.
- Prioritize Ohio Benefits system updates that will minimize the number of errors. Ohio Benefits has improved in recent years, but is still more error prone than the prior eligibility

system, CRIS-e. Ohio's error rate began to increase when Ohio switched SNAP eligibility to Ohio Benefits. As the system is modernized and proven to work, the workforce and bolstered QC investments should be able to be reduced in the future.

- The state and counties will need to make additional investment in quality control efforts.

How do Ohio's administrative costs compare to those of other states? Ohio's county-administered system is very low cost. Ohio's monthly administrative cost per case is \$33.31, well below the national average of \$41.62. Just two states with an error rate below 6% spent less than Ohio on program administration per case – Idaho and Nevada.¹

How does a family apply for benefits? Applications are made to county job and family services agencies, which process an average of 55,000 new applications per month statewide (even when overall caseloads are stable). The eligibility determination process includes an initial interview and verification of documents related to family income and expenses. Most non-elderly recipients have their eligibility recertified every six months.

Is there a work requirement for SNAP Benefits? Yes. Previous to HR 1, able-bodied adults without dependent children up to age 54 were subject to a work requirement of 80 hours per month. Federal policy changes in HR 1 extended the work requirement to older adults up to age 64, and to parents with children aged 14 and over.

Contacts:

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¹ USDA Food and Nutrition Service *FY 2023 State Activity Report*, published May 2025, and USDA State Payment Error Rates, FY2024, dated June 30, 2025. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/gc/per>

Dec Commissioner's Agenda

12/11/25

- I. Placements
 - a. Current custody count: **46** (46 last month Nov)
 - b. No custody changes, 1 to kin, and 1 returned to foster home after failed kin placement.
 - c. Reimbursement/ monthly placement request for December will be \$0
 - d. Commissioner Cost approx: \$1.2 million, - Overall Cost: approx \$1.8 million. Huge increase – sheer numbers and cost increases

- II. Agency updates
 - a. Group Home Update-New hire, Cynthia Johnson
 - b. SNAP update, increase County costs
 - c. Sharing space – MRSS, CHW
 - d. Foster Kids Christmas, 85 children

