

February 19, 2026

The Gallia County Board of Commissioners met on this date for the purpose of approving the minutes of the previous meeting and current transfers, appropriations and bills. At 9:00 a.m. the meeting was called to order by President Leslie Henry. Roll Call: President Leslie Henry, present; Vice President Jeremy Kroll, present; Commissioner Q. Jay Stapleton, present.

The President entertained a motion for approval of the February 12, 2026 minutes. Jeremy Kroll made and Q. Jay Stapleton seconded the motion. Roll call: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea.

2026 Canine Shelter Weekly Report														
Week Ending	Came In	Adopted	Reclaimed	Euthanized	Out to Rescue	MIA	Died (Natural or unknown Causes)	Destroyed (in field)	Total Out	Remaining at shelter	Out to County Foster	In from County Foster	Died in Foster (Natural or Unknown Causes)	Total In Foster
2/15	2	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	11	8	0	0	0	23

COMMON PLEAS – CREDIT CARD

President Henry entertained a motion to approve a request from Common Pleas Judge Margaret Evans to increase its authorized credit card limit to \$5,000.00. Jeremy Kroll made and Q. Jay Stapleton seconded the motion. Roll call: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea.

SHERIFF – VILLAGE OF CROWN CITY AGREEMENT

Sheriff Matt Champlin submitted the following Agreement for approval. Jeremy Kroll moved to approve and Q. Jay Stapleton seconded the motion. Roll call: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea.

AGREEMENT

This Agreement made and concluded this 9th day of February 2026, by and between the Village of Crown City, Ohio, Matt Champlin, Gallia County Sheriff and the Gallia County Commissioners.

WHEREAS, there exists a need for police protection for residents of the Village of Crown City, Gallia County, Ohio and

WHEREAS, Section 311.29 of the Ohio Revised Code provides for authority of a taxing district to enter into an agreement with the Sheriff of the County whereby the Sheriff undertakes and is authorized to contract to perform any police function, in behalf of the contracting subdivision.

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed by and between the parties hereto upon the considerations as follows:

1. The parties do hereby agree and understand that the employees of the Gallia County Sheriff's Office have voted and approved representation by the FOP. Therefore, upon organization and representation of the employees by the FOP each party herein (Village, Sheriff and Commissioners) reserves the right to cancel or modify this Agreement if the organization of the FOP causes a change in the terms set forth herein. If the organization of the FOP does not change the terms of the Agreement, the parties are bound by the terms listed below.
2. The Gallia County Sheriff's Office is to supply one qualified deputy chosen by mutual agreement between Council and the Sheriff's Office.
3. The Village of Crown City, in consideration for this police protection, agrees to pay directly to the Sheriff of Gallia County, Ohio, the amount of \$5.00 per contract hour to be used for expense and maintenance of Gallia County sheriff's office cruiser, training of officers, uniforms, equipment, etc. for use by the Village. Said sum shall be made payable to the TREASURER OF GALLIA COUNTY, to be credited to a special fund known as the "Sheriff's Policing Rotary Fund".
4. The Village in consideration for this police protection agrees to pay direct to the designated deputy the sum of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) per hour from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, plus employer's portion of Unemployment, Medicare, Workers Compensation and OPERS.
5. The scheduling for the deputy is to be prepared by the Gallia County Sheriff's office with recommendations from the Mayor of Crown City Village and will consist of 35 hours per month.
6. The Sheriff requires that Deputy assigned to this detail submit activity logs, preferably by electronic system, to the Village Council for review.
7. The Village of Crown City will make available to the Gallia County Sheriff's Office the use of any Village owned equipment pertaining to law enforcement for the Village.
8. The Gallia County Sheriff's Office will be entitled to use said equipment as long as there is a current agreement with the Village of Crown City for police protection.
9. It is expressly understood by the parties that upon the termination of this Agreement, the equipment, and if still in the possession of the Gallia County Sheriff's Office will be immediately returned to the Village of Crown City.
10. The parties agree that the Gallia County Commissioners shall provide liability insurance for the officers providing services pursuant to this Agreement. The Village of Crown City understands and agrees that it shall be liable for any damages that may exceed the applicable coverage, limited to the policy provided by Gallia

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County. In the event, for any reason, that any act or omission by the Officer were to result in damages assessed against the Village, the Village would be responsible for any damages, that may not be covered by the Liability Policy provided by Gallia County. This provision is not and shall not be construed as an indemnification agreement by the County in favor of the Village. The County's sole obligation is to provide liability coverage in an amount determined to the sole discretion of the Gallia County Commissioners.

11. This Agreement can be canceled by either party with thirty (30) days written notice.
12. This Agreement shall be effective from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.
13. The cost of jail confinement for prisoners of the Village will be waived.
14. If a deputy is requested to respond to a 911 call out and there is no deputy on duty at the Village, the 911 Center will then dispatch an available Sheriff's Deputy to the call.
15. Any time off leave will be the responsibility of the Village of Crown City.
16. All uniform and cruiser markings will conform to the BSSA and Gallia County Sheriff's Office standards and the purchase of these items will be the responsibility of the Sheriff's Office.
17. All deputies on duty for Village assignment will follow the Gallia County Sheriff's Office Policy and Procedure Manual in effect.
18. The parties agree that the Gallia County Sheriff's Office will be the exclusive provider of law enforcement services during the time of this contract.

*The full contract is on file in the Sheriff and Commissioner's offices.

SHERIFF – GALLIA METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY AGREEMENT

Sheriff Matt Champlin submitted the following Agreement for approval. Q. Jay Stapleton moved to approve and Jeremy Kroll seconded the motion. Roll call: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea.

CONTRACT For Enhanced Law Enforcement Service

This AGREEMENT made and concluded this 9th day of February 2026 by and between the Gallia County Sheriff, Matt Champlin, and the Gallia Metropolitan Housing Authority, Gallipolis, Ohio.

WHEREAS, there exists a need for law enforcement protection from a policing unit for the residents of the G.M.H.A., 381 Buckridge Road Complex, Green Township, Gallia County, Ohio and

WHEREAS, Section 311.29 of the O.R.C. provides for authority of a taxing district to enter into agreement with the Sheriff of the County, whereby the Sheriff undertakes and is authorized to contract to perform any policing function, in behalf of the contracting subdivision.

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed and understood that the employees of the Gallia County Sheriff's Office have voted, approved and accepted the Ohio Labor Council/Fraternal Order of Police (FOP/OLC), as the exclusive bargaining unit for patrol, corrections, investigative divisions and Sergeant divisions of the Gallia County Sheriff's Office. THEREFORE, upon recognition of the FOP/OLC, each party of the agreement reserves the right to modify this agreement if the FOP/OLC causes a change in terms set forth herein. If there is no change caused by the FOP/OLC, the parties are bound by the terms below. The Housing Authority agrees to pay directly to the deputies, in consideration for police protection, the amount of \$35.00 per hour plus fringe benefits applicable under the Ohio Revised Code, including Workers Compensation.

The Gallia Metropolitan Housing Authority, in consideration for this police protection, agrees to pay direct to the Sheriff of Gallia County, Ohio, the amount of \$5.00 per contract hour, to be used for the expense and maintenance of Gallia County Sheriff's Office cruiser, for the use by the Gallia Metropolitan Housing Authority. Said sum shall be made payable to the TREASURER OF GALLIA COUNTY, to be credited to a special fund known as the "Sheriff's Policing Rotary Fund".

The Housing Authority prefers the shifts to be between 4:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m., unless other problems or developments occur to change time of patrol hours. Housing Authority will set a meeting date and have regular meetings with deputies to assess crime related topics and management issues. Every attempt will be made to fill vacancies by the Gallia County Sheriff's Office with manpower as per contract. Housing Authority prefers two (2) deputies, each working 10 hours per week in an organized and cooperative manner, patrolling within the Housing Authority properties.

The contracted deputies will present a detailed activity log and serve at the pleasure of the Housing Authority.

The Gallia County Sheriff's Office will provide personnel acceptable to the Housing Authority Administrator. Housing Authority prefers patrol division deputies with fully equipped functioning marked patrol cruisers and be prepared for foot patrol as the weather permits. The Housing Authority prefers the concept of "Community Policing" and interaction with residents for crime prevention measures.

This Contract can be canceled by either party, with thirty (30) days written notice. This Contract shall be in effect from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

*The full contract is on file in the Sheriff and Commissioner's offices.

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WELX – LETTER OF SUPPORT

President Henry entertained a motion for the Board to sign the following Letter of Support. Jeremy Kroll made and Q. Jay Stapleton seconded the motion. Roll call: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea.

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Gallia County, we are pleased to express our support for the WELX Community Project. This initiative represents a significant opportunity to enhance the quality of life for residents throughout our county by providing accessible spaces for recreation, education, and community engagement.

The WELX Community Project, including plans for a splash pad, the Tennison center, a playground, and a venue for community events, will serve as a vibrant hub for families, children, and individuals of all ages. These facilities will not only foster physical activity and creative expression but also provide critical opportunities for educational programming, skill-building, and social connection.

Beyond the immediate benefits, this project is expected to generate positive economic impact by attracting visitors, supporting local businesses, and encouraging community driven initiatives. The WELX team has demonstrated a strong commitment to fostering community involvement, and this project aligns perfectly with our shared vision for a thriving, connected, and resilient Gallia County.

We wholeheartedly support WELX in their efforts and encourage your consideration of their project. The development this Community Center will be a lasting asset for the residents of Gallia County and an exemplary model of how community-led initiatives can strengthen both our social and economic fabric.

Sincerely,

Gallia County Commissioners

s/Lectia Henry

s/Jeremy Kroll

s/Q. Jay Stapleton

JUV/PROBATE – CONTRACT

Chief Probation Officer Brian Rutherford presented the following agreement for approval:

This agreement is made and entered into this 19th day of February, 2026, by and between the Board of County Commissioner of Gallia County, Ohio and the Board of County Commissioners of Lawrence County, Ohio.

Whereas Gallia County needs community residential services for juvenile offenders, and

Whereas, the Lawrence County Juvenile Center has such a program is willing to provide services to Gallia County on a contractual basis.

Now, therefore, it is mutually agreed as follows:

1. Lawrence County Juvenile Center will provide community residential services to approved County Juvenile offenders at a per diem rate of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) per bed. It is agreed that the per diem rate per bed may be renegotiated during the term of this agreement upon either party's providing sixty (60) days written notice to the other party. The rate will increase to Four Hundred Dollars (\$400.00) if the LCJC becomes IV-E eligible.
2. The term of this agreement shall be from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026.
3. All admissions to the Lawrence County Juvenile Center must follow all provision of the Ohio Revised Code, OAC, and any other applicable rules, regulations, and laws. The Gallia County Juvenile Court must comply with all admission criteria of the Lawrence County Juvenile Center and provide appropriate documentation to support the admission criteria.
4. It is agreed by the parties that all expenses for any medical, dental, counseling, or other costs, which are not ordinarily and typically provided by the Lawrence County Juvenile Center as part of routine services shall be the sole and exclusive responsibility of the juvenile offender's parent/guardian/custodian, their insurance provider, or lastly the court which placed the juvenile offender at the Lawrence County Juvenile Center.
5. The Lawrence County Juvenile Center shall prepare monthly invoices and forward to the appropriate official in Gallia County. Gallia County shall pay said invoices in a timely manner.

Q. Jay Stapleton moved to approve the contract as presented by Mr. Rutherford. Jeremy Kroll seconded the motion. Roll call: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea.

***The full contract is on file in the Commissioner's Office.**

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Special Projects Manager Tom White presented the Commission with the following 3 bid proposals for concrete work at the County Jail.

- Cardinal Concrete LLC - \$8650.00
- Hornsby Construction - \$12,500.00
- JTW Masonry LLC - \$12,520.00

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President Henry entertained a motion to allow Mr. White to move forward with the project using Cardinal Concrete LLC in the amount of \$8650.00. Jeremy Kroll made and Q. Jay Stapleton seconded the motion. Roll call: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea.

**CERTIFICATE OF SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION
GREEN SEWER PHASE 2 – FIELDS EXCAVATING**

Project Engineering firm DLZ prepared the Certificate of Substantial Completion form for the County's contract with Field's Excavating Inc. for the Green Sewer Phase 2 Project with a date of substantial completion of 9/30/2025. Ms. Henry entertained a motion that the Certificate of Substantial Completion be approved and signed as presented. Jeremy Kroll made and Q. Jay Stapleton seconded that motion. Upon roll call votes were as follows: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea.

DJFS – EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:02 a.m. the president entertained a motion to enter into executive session with DJFS Director Dana Glassburn and County Administrator's Amanda Phillips and Janie Peck concerning contract negotiation matters to be kept confidential. Q. Jay Stapleton moved and Jeremy Kroll seconded the motion. Roll call: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea.

Returned to regular session at 10:20 a.m.; No action taken.

**JAIL – BID OPENING
MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE PROJECT**

At 10:30 a.m. President Henry opened the following bids for the Jail Mechanical Maintenance Project:

Company	Total Bid
DeBra-Kuempel	\$22,838.00 a year
Limbach	\$24,000.00 a year

The bids were turned over to the Jail staff and Sheriff Champlin for review and a recommendation.

EMS – 3RD TRUCK

President Henry entertained a motion to give EMS Director Robert Cornwell permission to implement the 3rd Ambulance for 12 hours a day. Ms. Henry noted that this request was already included in Mr. Cornwell's 2026 budget, so it is not an extra cost request and she added that the need for the 3rd truck will be re-evaluated in a year. Jeremy Kroll made and Q. Jay Stapleton seconded the motion. Roll call: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea.

SENIOR CENTER/ENGINEER – PARKING

Marlene Stout, Executive Director of the Senior Center and County Engineer Brett Boothe met with the Commissioners to discuss parking and a green space for the Senior Center. No action taken.

NATIONAL FFA WEEK PROCLAMATION

The following were in attendance to request approval of a Proclamation for National FFA Week in Gallia County: Gallia Academy FFA Advisor Katherine Dickson and members Shelby Greenlee and Loulea Walker; South Gallia FFA Advisor Trevor Baker and members Blaise Davison and Gracie Harrison; River Valley FFA Advisor Andrew Bennett, and members Zuyleme Reitmire and Bailey Dodson. Jeremy Kroll made and Q. Jay Stapleton seconded the motion to approve the following proclamation. Roll calls: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea.

**National FFA Week
February 21 – 28, 2026
P R O C L A M A T I O N**

Whereas, FFA and agricultural education provide a strong foundation for the youth of America and the future of the food, fiber and natural resources systems; and
Whereas, FFA promotes premier leadership, personal growth and career success among its members; and
Whereas, agricultural education and FFA ensure a steady supply of young professionals to meet the growing needs in the science, business and technology of agriculture; and
Whereas, the FFA motto— "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve"—gives direction and purpose to these students who take an active role in succeeding in agricultural education; and
Whereas, FFA promotes citizenship, volunteerism, patriotism and cooperation.
Therefore, we, the Gallia County Commissioners do hereby designate the week of Feb. 21–28, 2026, as National FFA Week.

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s/Leslie Henry, President

s/Jeremy Kroll, Vice President

s/Q. Jay Stapleton, Commissioner

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Eric Whitt, Jerrod Roberts and members from the Board of Elections met with the Commissioners regarding their decision to increase the Deputy Directors salary pursuant to the following Board of Elections decision made on May 26, 2023:

The Board then turned to discussion of the hiring of a Deputy Director. The Board then entered into executive session to discuss the pay rate/timeline of pay rate for the Deputy Director. Mrs. VanMeter made a motion, and Mr. Burnett seconded, with all members voting YES, to set the Deputy Director pay at \$26.00/hr and bring that pay to equal the Director in year 3. Motion passed.

The Commissioners revisited a conversation they had with the Board of Elections in 2024 when they initially learned the decision was made. The Commission stressed the importance of operating within the provided budget and emphasized that any monetary commitment made by the Board of Elections must be within their annual budget, an approved increase during annual appropriations or an approved supplemental appropriation prior to taking board action.

President Henry entertained a motion to increase the Deputy Director's pay to match the Director's pay as previously passed by the Board of elections in 2023. Q. Jay Stapleton moved and Jeremy Kroll seconded the motion. Roll call: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea.

COMMISSIONERS – EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 11:55 a.m. the President entertained a motion to enter into executive session with County Administrators Amanda Phillips and Janie Peck concerning the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee. Jeremy Kroll moved and Q. Jay Stapleton seconded the motion. Roll call: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea. Returned to regular session at 12:15 p.m.; No action taken


3 p.m. – The Commissioners attended the monthly Landbank meeting.

PROSECUTOR – EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:25 p.m. the President entertained a motion to enter into executive session with County Prosecutor Jason Holdren, County Administrators Amanda Phillips and Janie Peck concerning the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee. Jeremy Kroll moved and Q. Jay Stapleton seconded the motion. Roll call: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea. Returned to regular session at 3:50 p.m.; No action taken

ADJOURN

At 4:00 p.m. the President entertained a motion for adjournment. Q. Jay Stapleton moved and Jeremy Kroll seconded the motion. Roll call: Ms. Henry, yea; Mr. Kroll, yea; Mr. Stapleton, yea.



Leslie Henry, President



Amanda Phillips, Clerk to the Board



Jeremy Kroll, Vice President



Q. Jay Stapleton, Commissioner

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