

**June 9, 2026**

**Guernsey County Commissioners – Meeting Summary**

**9:00 a.m. – Data Center Inquiry (Jason Miller / Smart Energy Partners)** Present: Jackson L. Marlin (President), David L. Wilson (Vice President), William S. Cowgill (Commissioner), Jennifer Douglas (Clerk), Jason Miller, Rich Stokey (Smart Energy Partners).

The Board received a presentation on a potential data center project on ~425 acres in Guernsey County. Discussions covered modern closed-loop cooling systems (minimal water use), natural gas power generation with excess fed to the grid, job creation during construction/operations, potential co-located training facilities (possibly with Caterpillar) or farming/autism workforce initiatives, and early-stage status (no land offers yet; pending state legislation HB 15/SB 103). Officials noted non-zoned status provides flexibility but emphasized the need for community education materials and fact sheets to address infrastructure concerns proactively. Interest was expressed in economic development potential; next steps include reviewing/distributing educational materials, coordinating with the Community Improvement Corporation/Port Authority (Bill Arnett), and developing public information resources. No formal action taken.

Meeting concluded with action items for follow-up.

**9:30 a.m. – Sheriff’s Office Budget Review (Follow-up to Personnel Executive Session)** Present: Jackson L. Marlin, David L. Wilson, William S. Cowgill, Jennifer Douglas (Clerk), Jennifer Jacobs (Commissioners Office).

At 9:35 a.m., Commissioner Wilson moved (seconded by Commissioner Cowgill) to enter executive session for discussion of the Sheriff’s Office budget and related matters. The Board entered executive session at 9:35 a.m. Commissioner Cowgill moved (seconded by Commissioner Wilson) to return to regular session at 10:05 a.m. No action taken; information taken under advisement.

**11:00 a.m. – Administration Building Roof Repair (Zoom)** Present: Jackson L. Marlin, David L. Wilson, William S. Cowgill, Jennifer Douglas (Clerk), Todd Carpenter (Maintenance), Jennifer Jacobs, Stacie Stoney (Zoom), Troy Hittle (Saup Hartley).

Troy Hittle presented repair/replacement options and costs for the Administration Building roof. Insurance currently approves ~\$21,000 for partial membrane replacement (Option 1, estimate ~\$27,000). After review, the group aligned on **Option 3** (preferred): half-inch overlay of existing insulation with new membrane (~\$140,000 estimate, plus per-square-foot pricing for any wet insulation replacement) for enhanced durability. Replacement of aging RTU3 (large four-stage cooling unit, ~\$60,000 estimate including curb) was also discussed, with potential phased implementation and ~1-month lead time for parts. Stacie Stoney was tasked with submitting the Option 1 quote to pursue additional insurance funding to support Option 3 scope. Action items assigned for detailed quotes and coordination. No formal Board resolution at this session.

**2:00 p.m. – GCCS Levy and Budget Concerns (Nicole Caldwell)** Present: Jackson L. Marlin, David L. Wilson, William S. Cowgill, Jennifer Douglas (Clerk), Nicole Caldwell (Director, Guernsey County Children Services), Marie McElroy (GCCS).

Director Caldwell provided an update on cost-saving measures and operational changes since November. Five positions were eliminated through attrition and strategic reassignments (no

layoffs/terminations). Residential placements reduced to 16 youth via targeted January initiative stepping down identified youth to less restrictive settings within 30 days; target is single-digit numbers by end of summer (lowest in ~10 years). Focus is on abuse/neglect cases; families overwhelmed by mental health/behavioral/special needs (no abuse/neglect) are connected to Multi-System Youth (MSY) funding and other resources while children remain in parental custody. Juvenile justice matters are directed to court processes. Staff and union have been supportive; union participated in levy campaign. The Board agreed on the need for enhanced, robust community outreach and engagement for the upcoming levy compared to prior efforts. No formal action taken at this session.

### **Signatures:**

- G&M Construction Company Inc. AIA contract (HVAC Replacement – Guernsey County DD Building, Byesville; previously awarded via Res. 26-121 context) signed.
- Agreement Between State of Ohio (Office of First Responder Communications, 9-1-1 Program Office) and Guernsey County Board of Commissioners for Next Generation 9-1-1 system connection/services (effective ~June 8, 2026) signed.
- Overtime Letter: from Maintenance Salary E-0004-0002.00 for weeks of May 25–30, 2026.

### **Resolutions Approved**

**Resolution #26-133** Authorized a one-time contribution of \$40,000 to the Antrim Volunteer Fire Department from the Special Projects Miscellaneous account (S07 E-0701-0020.00) to assist with the purchase of a new emergency response squad/vehicle. Motion: Commissioner Cowgill moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. All voted yea.

**Resolution #26-134** Authorized the County Maintenance Department to purchase and install fourteen (14) public faucets (restrooms on each floor and two in the break room) in the Administration Building, with total cost not to exceed \$2,500.00, to be paid from account N03 E-0202-0006.00 (Admin Building). Motion: Commissioner Cowgill moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. All voted yea.

**Resolution #26-135** Formally adopted the 2026 Guernsey County Hazard Mitigation Plan as the official county plan (prepared in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and 44 CFR Part 201). This maintains Guernsey County's eligibility for FEMA mitigation grants and disaster recovery funding. The Guernsey County EMA is authorized to coordinate future maintenance, monitoring, and updates in cooperation with participating jurisdictions. Motion: Commissioner Cowgill moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. All voted yea.

**Resolution #26-136** Approved an amendment to the existing June 24, 2025 Community Corrections Grant Agreement (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Bureau of Community Sanctions / Guernsey County Common Pleas Court). Total funding increased by \$50,079.00 to a new total of \$461,393.00 (primarily for a new statewide case management system – OCSS, including installation, kiosk, and first-year costs). All other terms (including June 30, 2027 expiration) remain unchanged. The Board President (or designee) is authorized to execute the amendment and related documents. Motion: Commissioner Cowgill moved, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. All voted yea.

**Resolution #26-137** Determined to proceed with placing on the November 3, 2026 ballot the question of renewing the existing 1.0 mill tax levy for current expenses of the Guernsey County District Public Library for a period of five (5) years. The levy is estimated to generate \$962,977 annually (based on the Guernsey County Auditor's Certificate of Estimated Property Tax Revenue dated June 8, 2026, using a total taxable value of \$1,402,963,468). If approved, the levy would be placed on the tax list beginning in tax year 2027, first due in calendar year 2028. The Clerk is directed to certify this resolution (along with prior related documents) to the Guernsey County Board of Elections not later than 90 days before the election. Motion: Commissioner Cowgill moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Wilson. All voted ye.

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**Resolution #26-138** Determined to proceed with placing on the November 3, 2026 ballot the question of renewing the existing 0.75 mill tax levy for maintaining and operating the Guernsey County Senior Citizens Meals on Wheels Program for a period of five (5) years. The levy is estimated to generate \$914,994 annually (based on the Guernsey County Auditor's Certificate of Estimated Property Tax Revenue dated June 8, 2026). If approved, the levy would be placed on the tax list beginning in tax year 2027, first due in calendar year 2028. The Clerk is directed to certify this resolution (along with prior related documents) to the Guernsey County Board of Elections not later than 90 days before the election. Motion: Commissioner Cowgill moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Wilson. All voted ye.

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**Resolution #26-139** Declared it necessary to renew the existing 1.0 mill tax levy (in excess of the ten-mill limitation) for the current expenses of the Guernsey County Sheriff's Department Enhanced 911 Public Safety Communications System for a period of five (5) years. The Clerk is directed to immediately certify a copy of this resolution to the Guernsey County Auditor requesting certification of the total current tax valuation and the estimated annual revenue that would be generated by the 1.0 mill levy. (Once the Auditor's certificate is received, a follow-up "Resolution to Proceed" will be prepared for Board consideration to place the question on the November 3, 2026 ballot.) Motion: Commissioner Wilson moved to adopt the resolution; Commissioner Cowgill seconded. Roll call vote: All members (Marlin, Wilson, Cowgill) voted ye.

Full minutes and journal available upon request in the Commissioners' office by emailing the Clerk of the Board at [commissionerclerk@guernseycounty.org](mailto:commissionerclerk@guernseycounty.org).

**Posted: June 10, 2026**