

The Board of Clark County Commissioners met in special session pursuant to adjournment in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (Sunshine Law) in the Commission Chambers, 3130 East Main Street, Springfield, Ohio.

Commission Rittenhouse called the meeting to order, and introductions were made. **Resolution 2026-0001**

The following members and guests were present at the regular session: Commissioner Sasha L. Rittenhouse; Commissioner Charles A. Patterson; Jennifer Hutchinson, County Administrator; Michelle Noble, Assistant County Administrator/HR Director; Angela Wheeler, Clerk; Madison Smith, Media Specialist; Beau Thompson, Chief Legal Counsel; Theresa Cox, Administrative Specialist; John Federer; Mary Ann Schmidt; Ethan Harris; Terry Adkins; Tom O'Neal, Veterans Service Commission; Mark Sanders; Shannon Ward; Richard L. Lohnes; Brooke Spurlock, Springfield News-Sun; Kenneth R. Seelig, Jr.; Holly McHenry, Rita Lookabaugh, and Nichi Baker, Personnel Department; Douglas Rice; Ethan Harris, Community and Economic Development Department; Sheriff Chris Clark, Clark County Sheriff's Office.

***Agenda Review:***

Ms. Hutchinson reviewed the agenda.

Resolution 2026-0002 appointed Acting County Commissioner, Richard Lohnes, until the appointing central committee appoints an officer who qualifies and takes office per Section 305.02 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Commissioner Rittenhouse explained to the audience that once a commissioner resigns, the Board of Clark County Commissioners can appoint a commissioner to serve on the board until the central committee appoints their person. She said at this point the county is not sure what that process looks like since there are two groups that recognize themselves as the Republican Central Committee. The Board's job is to make sure there is a commissioner here who, in the event one of the other two commissioners cannot be here, can allow the Board to still conduct business. She said they appreciate former Commissioner Lohnes for agreeing to join them.

Commissioner Patterson said this is a temporary appointment by law. He said the Board intentionally decided to choose someone that had experience in the Commission office and would not be tipping the scales for the primary election that is going to happen in May.

***Commission Updates:***

Commissioner Rittenhouse congratulated Commissioner Patterson for surviving his first year. She said it has been her pleasure working with him. She looks forward to working with Commissioner Lohnes also.

Commissioner Patterson thanked Commissioner Rittenhouse and said other former commissioners have told him 2025 was a unique year and this year will be another unique year.

***Calendar/Event Updates:***

There were no calendar updates.

***County Administration Team Updates:***

There were no administration team updates.

***Audience Comments:***

Ken Seelig (Barren), Springfield, Ohio, asked Commissioner Lohnes if he has any intention of running for commissioner.

Commissioner Lohnes said no.

Mr. Seelig asked where the county is with their lawsuit regarding Sheltered Inc. He also asked what the county is doing to help alleviate the burden of the homeless population.

Mr. Thompson said all the documents are available on the Clerk of Court's website, case 24CV0621 (Board of Clark County Commissioners versus Sheltered Inc.). Mr. Thompson said he cannot make comments on settlement negotiations because they are privileged. He said the case is in the discovery phase. The county has turned over 10,000 plus documents to Sheltered Inc. Sheltered Inc. got a protection order to protect some of their documents. Sheltered Inc. should be turning the remaining documents over any day now. There will be depositions and the discovery ending in Spring, and a trial in Summer.

Commissioner Rittenhouse said the case is in limbo waiting on documents.

Commissioner Rittenhouse said homelessness does not fall to the county commissioners directly. There are funds from the state that are funneled through Job and Family Services. She does not know of a facility that the county could utilize for homelessness. Unfortunately, at this juncture there are no providers in the community to form a contract with. She thanked Mr. Seelig for what he has done for the homeless population, and she acknowledges there is a homeless problem.

Commissioner Patterson said there are TANF funds and there has been Requests for Proposals (RFP) put out to search for people who can meet all of the qualifications. He said Sheltered Inc. received the same source of funding and that is why there is a lawsuit. The RFP will be put out again this year.

Mr. Seelig asked if there is a freeze on the TANF funds.

Commissioner Patterson said no, there is no freeze on TANF funds. There just needs to be a provider that is qualified. The rules are very specific on who can qualify for the funding. The standards are set at the state level. If there are no qualified providers, the county is in the same situation it has been in the last few years.

***Motions:***

Commissioner Patterson moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Rittenhouse seconded the motion. The roll being called for passage, the vote resulted as follows:

Commissioner Patterson, Yes; Commissioner Rittenhouse, Yes

***Resolutions:***

**Resolution 2026-0002  
COMO file**

**Appoint Acting County Commissioner**

Commissioner Patterson moved to acknowledge the resignation of Commissioner Melanie Flax-Wilt effective at the close of December 31, 2025. Further move to appoint Richard L. Lohnes as the Acting County Commissioner to perform the duties thereof immediately upon the passage of this resolution on January 2, 2026 until the appointing central committee appoints an officer who qualifies and takes office per Section 305.02 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Commissioner Rittenhouse seconded the motion and the roll being called for its passage, the vote resulted as follows:

Commissioner Patterson, Yes; Commissioner Rittenhouse, Yes

Commissioner Patterson moved to enter executive session to discuss imminent litigation. Commissioner Rittenhouse seconded the motion. The roll being called for passage, the vote resulted as follows:

Commissioner Patterson, Yes; Commissioner Rittenhouse, Yes

Members and guests present for the executive session: Commissioner Rittenhouse, Commissioner Patterson, Commissioner Lohnes, Jennifer Hutchinson, Michelle Noble, Beau Thompson.

Commissioner Rittenhouse returned the meeting to public session.

**Motion to Adjourn**

**Resolution 2026-0003**

Commissioner Patterson moved to adjourn the special meeting. Commissioner Rittenhouse seconded the motion. All were in favor, none were opposed.

The motion carried.

BOARD OF CLARK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sasha L. Rittenhouse, President

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Charles A. Patterson

I certify that the record is true and accurate:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commission Clerk

By: \_\_\_\_\_