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Committee meetings

Documenter name: Jae'la Jeter

Agency: Summit County Council

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Summary

- The county's general fund is up 16.6% for the first quarter of 2026 compared to last year. This is thanks to a mix of higher sales tax (\$1 million from 2025's holiday), casino taxes (+2%), and property transfer taxes (+3%). However, some of that money — like a \$1.2 million payment from Akron for jail fees — belongs to the 2025 budget year, not 2026. Director of Finance and Budget Phil Montgomery, adjusted for a 15% drop in investment earnings, but said the county is still performing better than expected.
- Summit County is investing in sewers, roads and youth employment.
- Summit County is launching in an AI-powered call system from Needle Inc. (Aurelian) for \$234,000 to handle non-emergency calls, which will reduce workload for dispatchers. A public meeting to discuss this is set for April 29.

Follow-Up Questions

- What specific projects or initiatives are being prioritized with the \$160 million in library bonds? Are there plans to expand branches, upgrade technology or focus

on specific communities? (*Editor's note: While specifics aren't available yet, [Signal Akron has reported](#) on why the library system placed the bond issue on the ballot last year.*)

- How will the AI-powered call system impact response times for emergency calls? Will there be a noticeable difference for residents, or is it purely for efficiency?
- What's the long-term plan for the BOSS program's success rates? Are there benchmarks or goals for job placement or education completion for the youth it serves?

Notes

- The primary responsibility of the various departments, offices and agencies of Summit County is to be as responsive as possible to the concerns and needs of residents while also ensuring the most economical, efficient and judicious use of public funds and resources. [Read more in this overview.](#)
- Committee-of-the-Whole Members:
 - **Chair Erin Dickinson** (edickinson@summitoh.net)
 - **Rita Darrow** (atrdarrow@summitoh.net)
 - **John Donofrio** (atjohndonofrio@summitoh.net)
 - **Brandon Ford** (atblford@summitoh.net)
 - **Christine Higham** (atchigham@summitoh.net)
 - **Joseph Kacyon** (atjkacyon@summitoh.net)
 - **David Licate** (atdlicate@summitoh.net)
 - **Bethany McKenney** (atbmckenney@summitoh.net)
 - **John Schmidt** (atjschmidt@summitoh.net)
 - **Elizabeth Walters** (atewalters@summitoh.net)
 - **Jeff Wilhite** (atjwilhite@summitoh.net)
- Staff Contact:
 - **Mark Potter, chief of staff** (mpotter@summitoh.net)
- The next Summit County Council Committee meeting is May. 11 from 4:30 to 7 p.m.. [See All Future Summit County Council Meeting\(s\) Here.](#)

Financial update

- Phil Montgomery is the director of Finance and Budget for Summit County. He provided an update to the general funds after the first quarter.
- The financial update wasn't in the typical full depth Montgomery gives council due to there being only three months of reported revenue and expenses.
- At the end of 2025, the county received about \$1 million in sales tax from the sales tax holiday in August.
 - This arrived in December and didn't post until January. There is an extra million dollars in 2026, and Montgomery factored this out due to it not being a 2026 performance.
 - Casino taxes are up just a little more than 2%
 - Property transfer taxes are up to almost 3% and may change due to varying factors, such as interest rates, refinancing and more..
 - Summit County's local government fund portion from the state is up to 6% to 8%.
- [Clerk of Courts](#) is up over 1% versus last year. The recorder and treasurer fees align with real estate.
- Summit County's first-half tax settlements will be coming in April, so numbers will shift coming into Q2 numbers.
- Deposit income for the treasurer is interest earnings, as mentioned to council back in 2025 by Montgomery in the 2025 year-end review. Montgomery factored in a 15% reduction in investment earnings, and so far Summit County is coming in stronger than that.
 - Summit County is down by 4.8%, but with the added 15%, the performance is better than what was previously budgeted.

Other refunds

- Summit County received about \$400,000 from the Sheriff's department for Continuing Professional Training, [CPT](#), which is training that the department is required to do through Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy ([OPOTA](#)) and different law enforcement agencies.
 - Summit County got reimbursed for this. This was a one-time number that Montgomery factored out.
 - Summit finished the first quarter with \$35.3 million versus \$30.3 million last year, totaling a 16.6% increase year over year

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- In Q3 the arrangements were changed by Summit County Finance & Budget in terms of jail beds and how they're paying for animal control. Akron has reimbursed the county for some of the costs for animal control. This activity started in January of this year, and the payments will start in July.
- *There were no comments or questions for the Finance & Budget Committee*

Personnel Committee

- There are only two items on the agenda here:
 - 2026-10-09 – Resolution approving the new classification, classification specification, and salary schedule for the non-bargaining classified position of medical laboratory technologist.
 - Revising the county's 2026 staffing report to include said position for the medical examiner and the executive department of human resources.
 - *This motion was approved by council*
 - 2026-01-10 – A resolution approaching the promotion and salary adjustment for non-bargaining employees,
 - *There were no questions, and this motion was approved.*

Public Works

- Went a bit out of order, and it began with 2026-01-15, followed by 2026-01-16:
 - **2026-01-15** – Resolution confirming the award by the Board of Control of a construction contract with [Karvo Companies Inc.](#) for [Project Q-165-1](#): Akron Cleveland Road, Sanitary Sewer Extension located in Boston Township in Council District 1 in an amount not to exceed \$2.3 million.
 - Michael Venet, director of the Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services, said this is the last phase of the long-standing project in Boston Township and included portions of Cuyahoga Falls with the Seasons Road Pump Station and Sanitary Sewer Extension. Karvo Cos. is extending the sewer up Akron Cleveland Road for business retention and expansion opportunities.
 - *There were no questions, and this motion was approved*
 - **2026-01-16** – Resolution authorizing the Executive to enter into a cooperative funding intergovernmental agreement with the village of Lakemore for the rehabilitation of sanitary sewer lines as part of the Lakemore Infrastructure Improvements Project located in the village of Lakemore in Council District 8 in an amount not to exceed \$321,705.

Planning and Economic Development

- **2026-01-20** – Resolution authorizing the executive to execute real estate purchase agreement with the Summit County Land Reutilization Corp. and any other necessary documents for the sale of a parcel of county real property, parcel #0209872, located at [2525 State Road](#), in Council District 2 for the amount of \$480,000 for the purpose of returning said parcel to productive use for the executive and declaring an emergency.
 - This real estate purchase agreement had been recently discussed with the Land Bank. This appraisal came back higher than expected. It was estimated at \$480,000. The Land Bank has agreed to purchase the property at the appraised value, and the county will provide a 5% redevelopment service fee, which is aligned with commissions.
 - *There were no questions, and the motion was approved.*

Public Safety Committee

- **2026-09-08** – Resolution confirming the award of the Board of Control of a renewal of the Master Service Agreement Needle Inc. (Aurelian) to process non-emergency calls using automated voice assistance for various Summit County Public Safety offices for a year in an amount not to exceed \$234,000. This was unanimously approved and passed on to the council for a second reading.
 - **Additional Context of the System:** For historical purposes, the system was implemented a year ago. It answers non-emergency calls that come into the dispatch center, and it answers calls for the SECC, which is the combined center. Approximately 90% of the county is currently using the system.
 - Diverts these non-emergency calls to a system that is able to route them to where they need to go, and records divisions. They are able to provide people with information about fireworks, able to dispatch police officers and provide for dispatcher wellness. It helps to take less critical calls off the table.
 - *There were no questions.* **There will be a public meeting to discuss this topic further April 29.**

Health and Human Services Committee

- **2026-11-07** – Resolution renewing the first of three professional services contracts between certain providers and the [Summit County Department of Job and Family Services](#). The Summit and Medina Workforce Area Council of Governments provide in-school and out-of-school youth employment and educational services under the comprehensive case management and employment program..
 - This is a renewal of the [BOSS program](#). This is the case management and employment services program for the youth population aged 14 to 24. Primarily works with 16 to 24 for the current program year. It runs from July 25 to June 2027.
 - Summit County Department of Job and Family Services works through counselors, guidance officials and teachers. For out-of-school opportunities, there is collaboration with the [YSS network](#) and the [out-of-school time network](#).
 - *There were no questions, and the motion was approved.*

- **2026-11-08** – Resolution declaring May 3-9 as National Small Business Week in Summit County. Encouraging the residents of Summit County to support Summit County small businesses.
 - *There were no questions, and the motion was approved.*

- **2026-01-02** – Resolution providing issuance and sale of not to exceed \$160 million in bonds to the Akron Summit County Public Library District for the purpose of constructing, adding to, renovating, remodeling, refurbishing, equipping, and otherwise improving library buildings and facilities and acquiring, clearing, and improving the sites and declaring an emergency.
 - *There were no questions, and the motion carried.*