

THE BOARD OF ATHENS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, met in regular session, with Lenny Eliason presiding, Chris Chmiel and Charlie Adkins in attendance.

Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins to approve the following agenda:
Athens County Board of County Commissioners
Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, November 19, 2024 Convenes at 9:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes November 12, 2024

Approve Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes, Then & Now's, & Bills

9:30 HAPCAP Nate Simons - Release of Funds for Sunday Creek Water RPIG
9:35 Connor Lavelle- Wooded Hills Subdivision
9:45 DJFS Dir Jean Demosky - weekly updates - Budget
10:00 Treasurer Budget Hearing
10:15 911 Budget Hearing
10:30 W&S Supt Oscar Carson - weekly updates
10:45 EMS Budget Hearing & Union Contract
11:00 Children SVC Budget Hearing
11:15 Prosecutor's Budget Hearing
11:30 Common Pleas Budget Hearing
Lunch 12-1
1:30 Juvenile Cr- Budget
1:45 Coroner- Budget
2:00 Candy Russell- Clerk of Courts and Title budget
2:15 Tom Campanella - health insurance discussion (Half Hour Needed)
2:45 Engineer Budget Hearing
3:30 BOE - Budget Hearing

Agenda Items

Amended Certificate
OPWC Disbursement #2 CR08AB/CR09AB in the amount of \$371,642.84
Annexation Petition Cable Lane
Common Pleas Transfer Request
HAPCAP Mortgage Release
HAPCAP Bid Recommendation for OMC Lin Hall HVAC Project
OH HB 568
Acknowledge Receipt of My Sister's Place
add- OWDA Payment Request New Marshfield (Ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature)

~TRAVEL

WIOA Joe Frazier; 2025 GRIT Days of Learning Conference, Warren OH; Feb 25-27, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins to approve the minutes of November 12, 2024.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes, Then & Now's, & Bills

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins approving the Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes and approving the payment of the required County Bills, which are included in the Auditor's Office INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 11/12/2024 To: 11/14/2024, INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 11/14/2024 To: 11/19/2024 and the bills are hereby the same and authorize the County Auditor to issue warrants on the County Treasurer for payment in the same. Complete list of bills maintained in the Auditor's office.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

HAPCAP Bid Recommendation for OMC Lin Hall HVAC Project

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins to award the bid contract to A.J. Stockmeister, Inc in the amount of \$1,649,500.00 as recommended by HAPCAP Nathan Simons.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

HAPCAP Nathan Simons - Release of Funds for Sunday Creek Water RPIG

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins to authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the Release of funds for Sunday Creek Water RPIG.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

HAPCAP Nathan Simons - OMC Lin Hall HVAC Project

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins to authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign all documents for the OMC Lin Hall HVAC Project after the prosecutor reviews them.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Amended Certificate

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins acknowledging receipt of the Amended Certificate for the Athens County Commissioners, dated November 19, 2024 prepared by Jill Davidson, Athens County Auditor.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

OPWC Disbursement #2 CR08AB/CR09AB in the amount of \$371,642.84

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins to approve Commissioner Eliason to sign the OPWC Disbursement #2 CR08AB/CR09AB in the amount of \$371,642.84.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Annexation Petition Cable Lane

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins granting the expedited annexation petition, releasing the property of approximately 34.874 acres of property owned by Frander Properties, LLC east of Cable Lane (Township Road 1141) and identified by the Athens County Auditor as Parcel #A01-00100821-00 and as recorded by the Athens County Recorder 600/936 into the City of Athens, pending a signed resolution appointing its member as the agent for the petition.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

DJFS Budget

DJFS Dir. Jean Demosky and Tracy Partee presented their 2025 DJFS Budget.

DJFS Dir Jean Demosky - Weekly Updates

DJFS Dir Jean Demosky provided the following weekly updates:

1. Program Updates

Budget Review - Tracy Partee

SEO District Directors' Board meeting this week

DOGE impact unknown

Benefit Bridge Pilot Application - collaboration with Gallia & Meigs Counties (application submitted promptly)

SNAP App increases - research on impact in southeastern Ohio on food insecurity & longer-term project to analyze qualifications and benefits

2. Contracts/Business/Grants

My Sister's Place - extension to contract

Baum Law - extension to contract

3. Facilities**4. Human Resources**

New Hire

DJFS Contract - The Edna Brooks Foundation, Inc. Db a My Sister's Place

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins to approve the amendment #1 for The Edna Brooks Foundation, Inc Db a My Sister's Place adding another year onto their \$8,000.00 contract as recommended by DJFS Dir Jean Demosky:

Name of Contract Organization:

The Edna Brooks Foundation, Inc. Db a My Sister's Place

Total Value:

\$8,000.00 (no additional funds)

Contract Period: 12/01/2023 - 11/30/2025 (Additional Year)
Accts & Codes to be charged: TANF 255/510050 257/510050
Billing Procedure: Monthly invoices, paid within 30 days by ACDJFS

Contract on file in the commissioners office.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

DJFS Contract - Baum Law Office, LLC

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins to approve the amendment #1 for Baum Law Office, LLC extending an additional year to their contract as recommended by Dir Jean Demosky:

Name of Contract Organization: Baum Law Office, LLC
Total Value: \$80,051.00 (No new funds)
Contract Period: 11/07/2023 - 11/06/2025 (extending additional year)
Accts & Codes to be charged: Title XX base - 734/510050
Title XX transfer - 884/510050
Billing Procedures: Monthly invoices, paid with 30 days

Contract on file in the commissioners office.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

DJFS New Hire - Annetra White

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins to approve the following new hire as recommended by Dir Jean Demosky:

Annetra White as a Eligibility Referral Specialist 1, rate of pay \$21.00 an hour and a start date of November 25, 2024.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Planner Connor LaVelle - Wooded Hills Subdivision

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins to approve the Wooded Hills Subdivision as presented by Planner Connor LaVelle.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Common Pleas Transfer Request

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins to approve the Common Pleas Transfer of \$16,588.00.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

OH HB 568

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins to approve a letter of support to the Chair of Agriculture for OH HB 568 and Commissioner Chmiel will write it up. See Letter on back of page 400.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Treasurer Budget Hearing

Treasurer Ric Wasserman presented the 2025 Treasurer Budget.

911 Budget Hearing

911 Dir Teresa Fouts-Imler presented the 2025 911 Budget.

EMA Budget Hearing

EMA Dir Teresa Fouts-Imler presented the 2025 EMA Budget but needed some guidance on some funding, will work with Administrator JoAnn Rockhold to finalize the 2025 Budget.

W&S Budget

Office Manager Stephanie Morris presented the 2025 W&S Budget.

HAPCAP Mortgage Release

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins to approve HAPCAP Mortgage Release with Kelly M. Sikorski.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Athens County Commissioners



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December 10, 2024

The Honorable Don Jones
House Agriculture Committee Chairman
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High St.
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Jones,

We write to express our support for H.B. 568 (Create the Healthy Soils Task Force) and urge you to support it in the House Agriculture Committee. The Healthy Soils Task Force will be made up of 17 members, including farmers and representatives from environmental organizations, Ohio soil and water conservation districts, farm organizations, and sustainable agriculture organizations. Together they will work to:

- Identify achievable goals and timelines for soil health improvement in Ohio;
- Examine issues farmers face in accessing research, education, and technical assistance;
- Explore options for financial incentives to improve soil health;
- Research the contribution of livestock to soil health; and
- Consult with agencies and organizations like the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Ohio State University, and the Soil Health Institute.

This bill will support Ohio farmers and ranchers who want to increase farm productivity, profitability, and resiliency, and have a positive impact on their community by improving the health of their soil.

Many other states across the country have enacted or are working on soil health legislation and Ohio mustn't be left behind. States like Minnesota, Illinois, Utah, Colorado, and Washington have all passed soil health-related legislation over the past four years. As of February 2024, 26 states have passed legislation related to soil health. Building healthy soils takes time and Ohio has yet to move any soil health legislation forward—neglecting the needs of our farmers, and our communities. While we are grateful for the H2Ohio program and its goal to protect one of Ohio's other greatest natural resources, our water, more needs to be done to prioritize our soil. Additionally, this legislation is complementary to the H2Ohio Program, since making investments in soil health will reduce the need for outside fertility and water quality mitigation in the future.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of what is under our feet. Healthy soil is at the root of healthy water, food, economies, and communities. When taken care of, soil has the potential to store carbon and help mitigate the effects of severe weather events (drought, flooding, high winds). Yet, even with all that relies on healthy soils, this natural resource is increasingly becoming lost or degraded. Ohio faces significant challenges to water quality and good soil health practices can not only help mitigate this problem but can also help farmers and ranchers with long-term profitability and resiliency. Farmers are already having to adapt to more frequent extreme weather events and are interested in employing best soil health management practices that will create soils that hold more

water during droughts and allow for greater infiltration during heavy rains.

This legislation is very important for rural communities like Athens County. A strong agricultural economy is critical in smaller populated rural areas to have a robust and diverse local economy. We strongly encourage your support for H.B. 568.

Respectfully,

Lenny Eliason, President

Charlie Adkins

Chris Chmiel



The Board of Athens County Commissioners is an Affirmative Action employer and does not discriminate for reasons of race, gender, age, religion, or disability.



FOUNDED IN 1803

Acknowledge Receipt of My Sister's Place

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins to acknowledge receipt of My Sister's Place Documents.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Travel

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins to approve the following travel:

WIOA Joe Frazier; 2025 GRIT Days of Learning Conference, Warren OH; Feb 25-27, 2025

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

EMS Budget Hearing

Chief Amber Pyle presented the 2025 EMS Budget.

EMS New Hire

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins to approve the Full Time EMT position:

Dustin Shaw with a rate of pay \$14.55 an hour and a start date to be determined.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

EMS Personal Time Carryover

Chief Amber Pyle discussed personal time carryover due to staff shortage. Chief Pyle has received nine requests ranging from 60 hours to 4 hours. Commissioner Eliason stated Chief Pyle needed to present that to the Union and that the agreement is pending written confirmation from the Union.

EMS Executive Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins to enter into executive session at 10:40 with Chief Amber Pyle, Assist Chief Randy Crossen Jr, & Jeff Stankunas to discuss contract negotiations.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Regular Session

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins to return to regular session at 11:00 with No Action needed regarding Union Negotiations.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Children SVC Budget Hearing

Executive Director Otis Crockron & Administration Manager Shelly Ramey presented the 2025 Children SVC Budget.

Prosecutor's Budget Hearing

Prosecutor Keller Blackburn presented the 2025 Prosecutor Budget.

Common Pleas Budget Hearing

Judge Patrick Lang present the 2025 Common Pleas Budget.

Suspend Rules

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins to suspend the rules and declare an emergency and add the following to the agenda:

OWDA Payment #4

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

OWDA Payment #4 (Ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature)

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins to ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature on OWDA Payment #4 for New Marshfield.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Suspend Rules

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins to suspend the rules and declare an emergency and add the following to the agenda:

Collection Letter

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Collection Letter

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins to authorize the Prosecutor's Office to draft a Collection Letter to Melody Barnhart.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Juvenile Court Budget Hearing

Judge Zachary Saunders, Kelly Post, & Alex Knippa presented the 2025 Juvenile Court Budget.

Coroner Budget Hearing

Director Ben Ashcraft presented the 2025 Coroner Budget.

Clerk of Courts & Title Office Budget Hearing

Candy Russell presented the 2025 Clerk of Courts & Title Office Budget.

Tom Campanella - Health Insurance Discussion

Collaboration and Process

- Plans for hiring Tom to assist with RFQ preparation.
- Collaboration between Tom and the committee/commissioners emphasized.
- Inquiry about contract changes and involvement post-RFQ.
- Clarification on potential additional costs for further involvement.

Role of Consultant in RFQ Process

- Tom is well connected and knowledgeable about the region.
- Can assist in finding appropriate consultants for RFQ.
- Suggests evaluating proposals with potential consultants.
- Ensures proposals are in the best interest of the county.

RFQ and RFP Process

- Current agreement includes assistance in preparing the RFQ.
- The consultant will then create the RFP.
- The speaker is available for additional support if needed.
- Value and decision to continue involvement are at the discretion of the client.

Long-term Relationships with Consultants

- Consider a longer-term relationship after RFQ.
- Decision can be made post-competitive bid process.
- Flexibility is important in engagement terms.
- Consultants may offer better deals with long-term arrangements.

Types of Consultants Available

- Various types of consultants operate in the region.
- Examples include local players and national firms like Mercer and USI.
- Creative models can be proposed.
- Potential tie-ins with primary care doctors and the county.

Engineer Budget Hearing

Manager Andrea Friendscho & Engineer Jeff Maiden presented the 2025 Engineer Budget.

Addendum #1 Beebe Road Bridge Repair Project

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins to approve the Addendum #1 Beebe Road Bridge Repair Project as recommended by Engineer Jeff Maiden.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Engineer Jeff Maiden - Frost Law Implementation

Discussion about implementing the Frost Law starting December 1, 2024

Concern over damage to County Road 42, which was paved last year

Anticipation of a 20 year lifespan before repaving is needed

Request to lighten the load on heavy hauls

Currently, 10 semi loads of wood are being transported daily

No legal requirement for haulers to sign

Proposal to revisit the Frost Law implementation next week.

Confirmation needed from Keller regarding the process

Suggestion for Jeff to have authority to proceed without a meeting.
Need to ensure compliance with relevant regulations.

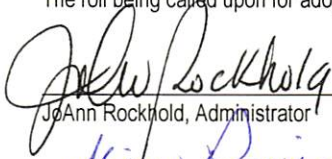
Board of Elections Budget Hearing

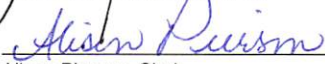
Tony Brooks presented the 2025 Board of Elections Budget.

Adjourn

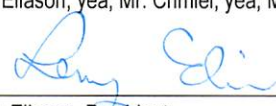
A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins to adjourn the above meeting.


The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.




JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator


Alison Pierson, Clerk



Lenny Eliason, President


Charlie Adkins, Vice President


Chris Chmiel