

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, September 03, 2024 Convenes at 9:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes August 20, 2024 & August 28, 2024

Approve Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes, Then & News, & Bills

Fund to Fund Transfer: Common Pleas, from 255.3255.560100 Other to 252.2252.417100 Other Revenue

- 8:30 Rome Twp Road Viewing
- 9:30 Rome Twp Hearing
- 9:45 DJFS Dir Jean Demosky - weekly updates
- 10:00 Bids Mass Casualty Van
- 10:30 W&S Supt Rich Kasler - weekly updates
- 10:45 Rising Appalachia Update
- 11:00 Bid Opening Dog Shelter F150
- 11:05 Eric Cottrill - Support Letter
- 11:06 911 Teresa Fouts-Imler - Drought Resolution
- 11:15 Jeff Jenkins - HAPCAP PY24 CDBG
- 11:30 Keller Blackburn- Fiber

Agenda Items

- ACWS Certifications
- Road Vacation (Piper Run Rd TR143, also referred as Archer Rd TR144)
- DLZ Unsewered Area Invoice in the amount of \$479.82 to be paid with ARPA Funds
- Annual Report ORC Section 309.16 from Prosecutor
- Conestoga Huts

~TRAVEL

- Treasurer Ric Wasserman; Land Bank Fall Summit, Mt. Vernon, OH; Oct. 2-3
- Treasurer Ric Wasserman; OLBA Annual Board Retreat, Columbus, OH; Sept 26-27
- WIOA Joe Frazier; Hocking College AI Conference, Nelsonville, OH; Oct 30

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 Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to approve the minutes of August 20, 2024 & August 27, 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 & News, & Bills**

A motion was made by Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins approving the Appropriations, Transfers (Fund to Fund Transfer: Common Pleas, from 255.3255.560100 Other to 252.2252.417100 Other Revenue), New Line Items Requests/Changes, Then & News, and approving the payment of the required County Bills, which are included in the Auditor's Office INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 08/27/2024 To: 08/29/2024 and INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 08/29/2024 To: 09/03/2024 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.

**Public Viewing Rome Twp**

The Commissioners conducted a public viewing a portion of Amesville Street (now referred to as Second Street) in the Fairfax Addition to Stewart that lies between lots 191 and 192 and 193 on original plat in envelope 187A. The portion of the street to be vacated is 40 feet wide and begins at north side of Nelsonville Street and runs 131 feet to the south side of a 20-foot wide alley.

**Rome Twp Hearing 9:30 a.m.**

A Public Hearing was conducted for a portion of Amesville Street (now referred to as Second Street) in the Fairfax Addition to Stewart that lies between lots 191 and 192 and 193 on original plat in envelope 187A. The portion of the street to be vacated is 40 feet wide and begins at north side of Nelsonville Street and runs 131 feet to the south side of a 20-foot wide alley.

Those present for the hearing:

Commissioner Lenny Eliason, Commissioner Chris Chmiel, Commissioner Charlie Adkins, Administrator JoAnn Rockhold, Clerk Alison Pierson, Helen King LWWAC, & DJFS Director Jean Demosky

**PUBLIC VIEWING AND HEARING**

The Athens County Commissioners will hold a public viewing at 8:30a.m., September 3, 2024, in Rome Township, the public hearing will be held on September 3 at 9:30a.m., in the Athens County Board of Commissioners meeting room, 2nd Floor Courthouse Annex, 15 South Court Street, Athens, Ohio for the purpose TO VACATE PORTIONS OF ALLEYS IN FAIRFAX ROME TOWNSHIP ATHENS COUNTY. OHIO AS DESCRIBED BELOW VACATE A PORTION OF AMESVILLE STREET (NOW REFERRED TO AS SECOND STREET) IN THE FAIRFAX ADDITION TO STEWART THAT LIES BETWEEN LOTS 191 AND 192 AND 193 ON ORIGINAL PLAT IN ENVELOPE 187A. THE PORTION OF THE STREET TO BE VACATED IS 40 FEET WIDE AND BEGINS AT NORTH SIDE OF NELSONVILLE STREET AND RUNS 131 FEET TO THE SOUTH SIDE OF A 20-FOOT WIDE ALLEY.

By Order of the Athens County Commissioners

Lenny Eliason, President  
JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator  
Publish 7/27 and 8/3  
No testimony was given

**Road Vacation Granted Fairfax Rome Township**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to approve the petition to vacate portions of alleys in Fairfax Rome Township Athens County, Ohio as described below vacate a portion of Amesville Street (now referred to as Second Street) in the Fairfax Addition to Stewart that lies between lots 191 and 192 and 193 on original plat in envelope 187A. The portion of the street to be vacated is 40 feet wide and begins at north side of Nelsonville Street and runs 131 feet to the south side of a 20-foot wide alley.

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

**DJFS Dir Jean Demosky - Weekly Updates**

Skimming Situation on the Snap Cards (EBT) has just gone off the rails, it is state wide. They can report it and get two months worth back on their card. DJFS is advising the customer to make sure that they change their pin around the time the cards are loaded with cash.

Starting today 09/03/24 DJFS will be closing offices at 4:30 instead of 5:00.

Handle with Care Foundation, Dir Jean Demosky will get with the other counties and see what they are doing and see how we can help. Dir Jean Demosky thanked Commissioner Adkins for giving her the lead on this. Commissioner Adkins stated that Joe Burrow's mother had contacted her about the foundation.

Posted a Driver Position for our RMS hits.

With Tammy's Retirement, Dir Jean Demosky has decided to refill that position as an Assistant Director of the Agency.

**ACWS Certifications**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to approve the Water & Sewer Certifications. See back of page 316.

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

**Road Vacation (Piper Run Rd TR143, also referred as Archer Rd TR144)**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to set the viewing for 8:30 a.m. on October 15<sup>th</sup> and the hearing for 9:30 a.m. on October 15<sup>th</sup> for the petition on River Rd:

The Athens Messenger  
RE: Legal Notice

**PUBLIC VIEWING AND HEARING**

The Athens County Commissioners will hold a public viewing at 8:30 a.m., October 15 meeting at River Road T-141, Rome Township and a public hearing will be held at the Commissioners' office at 9:30 a.m., October 15 for the purpose of vacating a portion of Rome Township Road 115. Following is the general route and termini of said road:

Vacation of the unmaintained portion of Piper Run Rd (TR143), also known as Archer Rd (TR144), within Rome Township beginning at the Carthage Township line and continuing north for 1.47 miles to the intersection of River Rd (TR141). HAVING A WIDTH OF APPROXIMATELY 8 FEET. AS FURTHER DEPICTED ON PLAT MAPS OF SECTION 13 AND 14 OF ROME TOWNSHIP, ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO,

By Order of the Athens County Commissioners

Lenny Eliason, President  
JoAnn Sikorski, Administrator  
Publish 9/10 and 9/14

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

**ATHENS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT**

Care of County Commissioners Office

Lenny Eliason  
Charlie Adkins  
Chris Chmiel

36 North Plains Rd  
The Plains, Ohio 45780

September 3, 2024

**Certification of Delinquent Water and Sewer Bills**

901001004900	Sandstone Terrace LLC	4239 Voice Ridge Rd, Lot 12, Athens, OH 45701	58.68
901001004900	Sandstone Terrace LLC	4239 Voice Ridge Rd, Lot 12, Athens, OH 45701	15.87
901001004900	Sandstone Terrace LLC	4239 Voice Ridge Rd, Lot 18, Athens, OH 45701	18.17
901001004900	Sandstone Terrace LLC	4239 Voice Ridge Rd, Lot 24, Athens, OH 45701	21.02
901001004900	Sandstone Terrace LLC	4239 Voice Ridge Rd, Lot 26, Athens, OH 45701	49.5
901001004900	Sandstone Terrace LLC	4239 Voice Ridge Rd, Lot 30, Athens, OH 45701	714.26
901001004900	Sandstone Terrace LLC	4239 Voice Ridge Rd, Lot 40, Athens, OH 45701	3566.65
901001004900	Sandstone Terrace LLC	4239 Voice Ridge Rd, Lot 50, Athens, OH 45701	53.05
604010010000	B Foundation Farms LLC	25 Ray Avenue, The Plains, OH 45780	181.49
404001001000	Tomsiko Partners, LLC	95 Bean Road, Lot 5, The Plains, OH 45780	46.02
404010101000	Tomsiko Partners, LLC	95 Bean Road, Lot 7, The Plains, OH 45780	46.02
404001001000	Tomsiko Partners, LLC	95 Bean Road, Lot 14, The Plains, OH 45780	47.96
404010101000	Tomsiko Partners, LLC	95 Bean Road, Lot 53, The Plains, OH 45780	287.95
404010101000	Evryn Goshong	3 Oak Street, The Plains, OH 45780	295.42
404010101000	Evryn Goshong	8 Oak Street, The Plains, OH 45780	101.52
404010101000	Tomsiko Rentals, LLC	73 James Lane, The Plains, OH 45780	48.22
404010101000	Robert Hughes	15 Roy Avenue, The Plains, OH 45780	488.47
404010101000	Shamrock BPAFL LLC	4 Carol Lane, The Plains, OH 45780	314.9
404010101000	Shamrock BPAFL LLC	5 Carol Lane, The Plains, OH 45780	47.86
404010101000	Shamrock BPAFL LLC	17 Carol Lane, The Plains, OH 45780	110.45
404010101000	Shamrock BPAFL LLC	21 Carol Lane, The Plains, OH 45780	195.58
404010101000	Shamrock BPAFL LLC	24 Birch Road, The Plains, OH 45780	242.54
404010101000	Shamrock BPAFL LLC	30 Birch Road, The Plains, OH 45780	145.63
404010101000	Shamrock BPAFL LLC	21 Birch Road, The Plains, OH 45780	834.2

Certified this day September 3, 2024  
Athens County Commissioners

*Lenny Eliason*  
Lenny Eliason  
*Chris Chmiel*  
Chris Chmiel  
*Charlie Adkins*  
Charlie Adkins

Rich Kasler  
Superintendent  
740-593-7146

Stephanie Morris  
Office Manager  
740-797-3235

**ATHENS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT**

Care of County Commissioners Office

Lenny Eliason  
Charlie Adkins  
Chris Chmiel

36 North Plains Rd  
The Plains, Ohio 45780

**Certification of Delinquent Bills for the Route 50 Sewer Project**

801000000000	ACT HOMESIDE SERVICES COMPANY	10800 Woodland Athens, OH 45701	1224.71
801000000000	GLAXO SMITHKLINE BEECHAM	5500 Folsom Rd Athens, OH 45701	1320.75
801000000000	ROY KADDER	28 Eway Rd Athens, OH 45701	1320.25
401000000000	SPENCER, JAMES L	4534 Parkway Athens, OH 45701	316.9
401000000000	WILSON, WENDY	4534 Parkway Athens, OH 45701	1040.21
401000000000	WILLIAMS, JAMES	19944 Lake Athens, OH 45701	2351.24
401000000000	WILLIAMS, JAMES	19944 Lake Athens, OH 45701	1280.21
401000000000	ALFRED, DICKENS EDWARDS	3221 Highway Athens, OH 45701	2191.77
401000000000	NECROM, GUY	8000 Highway Athens, OH 45701	1280.00
401000000000	WELLS, THOMAS	9030 Highway Athens, OH 45701	1945.02
401000000000	WELLS, THOMAS	9030 Highway Athens, OH 45701	1945.02
801000000000	WERNER, MICHAEL	6794 University Athens, OH 45701	2320.77
801000000000	WERNER, MICHAEL	6794 University Athens, OH 45701	1366.05
401000000000	WISNIEWSKI, JAMES	4478 New Athens, OH 45701	673.26
401000000000	WISNIEWSKI, JAMES	4478 New Athens, OH 45701	184.84
401000000000	WISNIEWSKI, JAMES	4478 New Athens, OH 45701	214.42
401000000000	WISNIEWSKI, JAMES	4478 New Athens, OH 45701	596.95
401000000000	WISNIEWSKI, JAMES	4478 New Athens, OH 45701	1260.67
401000000000	WISNIEWSKI, JAMES	4478 New Athens, OH 45701	7340.89
401000000000	WISNIEWSKI, JAMES	4478 New Athens, OH 45701	1352.17
401000000000	WISNIEWSKI, JAMES	4478 New Athens, OH 45701	370.11
401000000000	WISNIEWSKI, JAMES	4478 New Athens, OH 45701	1482.19
401000000000	WISNIEWSKI, JAMES	4478 New Athens, OH 45701	1349.81
401000000000	WISNIEWSKI, JAMES	4478 New Athens, OH 45701	1350.85
401000000000	WISNIEWSKI, JAMES	4478 New Athens, OH 45701	1307.45
401000000000	WISNIEWSKI, JAMES	4478 New Athens, OH 45701	1469.71
401000000000	WISNIEWSKI, JAMES	4478 New Athens, OH 45701	573.17
401000000000	WISNIEWSKI, JAMES	4478 New Athens, OH 45701	117.89
401000000000	WISNIEWSKI, JAMES	4478 New Athens, OH 45701	117.82
401000000000	WISNIEWSKI, JAMES	4478 New Athens, OH 45701	327.20
801000000000	WISNIEWSKI, JAMES	4478 New Athens, OH 45701	3364.28
401000000000	WISNIEWSKI, JAMES	4478 New Athens, OH 45701	1,144.06

Certified this day September 3, 2024  
Athens County Commissioners

*Lenny Eliason*  
Lenny Eliason  
*Chris Chmiel*  
Chris Chmiel  
*Charlie Adkins*  
Charlie Adkins



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**DLZ Unsewered Area Invoice in the amount of \$479.82 to be paid with ARPA Funds**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to approve the DLZ Unsewered Area Invoice in the amount of \$479.82 to be paid with ARPA Funds.

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

**Annual Report ORC Section 309.16 from Prosecutor**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to acknowledge receipt of the Annual Report of ORC Section 309.16 from the Prosecutor's Office.

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

**Conestoga Huts**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to send a letter to the City of Athens on the Conestoga Huts: See back of page 317.

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 Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to approve the travel:  
Treasurer Ric Wasserman; Land Bank Fall Summit, Mt. Vernon, OH; Oct. 2-3  
Treasurer Ric Wasserman; OLBA Annual Board Retreat, Columbus, OH; Sept 26-27  
WIOA Joe Frazier; Hocking College AI Conference, Nelsonville, OH; Oct 30

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

**Bids Mass Casualty Van**

No bids for the Mass Casualty Van. Commissioner Eliason stated that EMA Dir Teresa Fouts-Imler will have to discuss what she wants to do next with the Mass Casualty Van.

**W&S Supt Rich Kasler - Weekly Updates**

Finishing up pipe this week. Another crew from Fields back in adjusting the two taps on Blackburn Rd, that's been an issue not being deep enough

TAM supposed to be there sometime this week to repair a slip on Ervin Rd, still hasn't been taken care of.

Talked with DLZ, paving should happen the first week in October.

Brandon Abbott with AEP came in today to discuss the hookup on Heatherstone & Whitland Pump Stations. AEP is running into an issue with Kurt Montle that just bought a house on Radford Rd., he denied the original design that would be overhead line along the abandoned road on the west side of his property. Mr. Montle demanded it to be installed underground and so we had a site visit with him, looked at the feasibility of that. AEP has concerns due to trees and a creek. AEP has redesigned to the east side of Radford Rd which brought two additional landowners, so that's the two remaining letters that they are waiting on.

Whitland, AEP is waiting on the agreement to be granted but the owner has retained an attorney and they are reviewing the document now.

Once AEP has all the signed documents it will take 5 to 6 weeks for the construction.

Commissioner Adkins wanted to discuss the issue with Mr. Yanity, he states that there is a with a smell in the area, Supt Rich Kasler believes it is because of the flow, once more people connects that the smell won't be there. The only alternative is putting some kind of scent in it.

Commissioner Eliason questioned Supt Rich Kasler about answering James Reitano question about hookup. Commissioner Eliason stated that not calling him back is not acceptable, you need to call him back and tell them what's going on. Supt Rich Kasler stated that James Reitano called the office and got an answer from the office staff.

**Rising Appalachia Update**

Update with Rising Appalachia has been engaged since March in our apprenticeship program focusing on community ecology, we have planted about 8,000 trees. On October 5<sup>th</sup> from 10 - 2 Community Visioning Gathering. Requesting a letter of support for Rising Appalachia Project for the AMLER Grant.

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to send a letter of support for Rising Appalachia Project for the AMLER Grant Program:

September 5, 2024

Mary Mertz  
Director  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
2045 Morse Road  
Columbus, OH 43229

Re: Support for the Rising Appalachia Project Name Application

# Athens County Commissioners



Charlie Adkins  
cadkins@athensohio.org  
Chris Chmiel  
cchmiel@athensohio.org  
Lenny Elason, MPA  
lelason@athensohio.org

JoAnn Rockhold  
Clerk Admin Assistant  
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15 South Court St  
Athens, Ohio 45701  
(740) 592-3210  
Visit us at our website  
ca.athensohio.org

August 24, 2024

To: Athens City Planning Commission

Project and Property Owner: Athens County Commissioners, Athens Ohio  
Owner's Address: 15 South Court Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Athens, Ohio 45701  
RE: Conestoga Hut Safe Spot Site : Location: 510 W. Union St. Athens, Ohio 45701

**Description of Proposed Use:** Proto-Type Conestoga Hut Safe Spot Site: Building a Conestoga Huts, a "micro-shelter" that provides a person with roughly sixty square feet of lockable, dry, and safe space to temporarily live while working to improve their life situation. It uses minimal materials to keep cost down per shelter while providing stability to its user. If a Hut is abused or damaged, its design enables it to be disassembled, refurbished, and put back together to help another person in need, all with ease. These are not permanent structures and can be easily moved to other sites and look nice in a community space such as a parking lot or greenspace. We are requesting on behalf of Athens Mental Health Inc., dba The Gathering Place "Conestoga Hut Project" to place four 12ftx6ft huts surrounded by 224 ft of privacy fencing that will be 6ft high-materials vinyl and chain link-lockable and a 7.5ft high x4ft wide and 4ft deep porto-potty.

**Request for Conditional Use:** Referring to 23.07.02 (D) Temporary structures and uses, and ACC.23.03.24, and ACC 23.03.19

- Standards- The BZA may permit the temporary use of structures or premises in any zone for a purpose that does not conform to the regulations prescribed elsewhere in the zoning code for the zone in which it is located, provided that the BZA finds such use to be of a temporary nature, not to involve the erection of a substantial structure, and to be unlikely to cause substantial detriment to the public. Any such temporary certificate shall be granted subject to such conditions as will safeguard the public health, safety, morals and general welfare.
- In addition: Under ACC 23.03.24 all zones prohibit trailers as living units except in a trailer park. The county property at the Ohio Means Jobs located at 510 W. Union is in a B-3 zone, and as a trailer park is a conditionally permitted use in a B-3 zone, with certain conditions laid out in ACC 23.04.07 (C), which normally one would go before the BZA to gain a conditional permit. However, it is not necessary in this incidence because of ACC 23.03.19, which has the government exemption to the zoning code.

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- This safe-spot micro-shelter community is to be used as a Proto-Type project for our community members, city and county officials, health and wellness agencies, recovery agencies, and area churches and nonprofits to learn more about the possibilities of Conestoga Hut communities and how they can change lives and reach our community members in need, with shelter and other needed services until a city/county non-congregate low-barrier shelter can be acquired through Co-Create's larger on-going activities to be responsive towards our unhoused neighbors.
- AMHinc.dba The Gathering Place is perfectly positioned to take on the role of oversight for this project, as their mission is to serve marginalized populations who may be experiencing homelessness due to other factors. They provide linkage services (mental health, social services, housing, and food security) and access to basic needs such as a shower, food, laundry services, and other recovery supports and programming at their location, 7 North Congress Street, Athens, Ohio.

**Practical Difficulty:** The city of Athens only has one privately run homeless shelter and there are far too few beds to serve all our community members who are homeless. This is a strategy that has been quite successful in other communities, such as Eugene, Oregon and "Community Shelters" model. Some community members do not have an income or access to a means to gain housing.

#### **Preservation of Equal Property Rights:**

The location of 510 West Union is located on county property, adjacent to the city bike path and there are already individuals camping in the woods a few yards away. By providing a fence for privacy and safety and access to sanitation and waste removal, and uniform shelters that have materials sturdier and more visually appealing, the current city/county property can be better maintained and a sanctioned space can be more appealing to our community as a specific structure is developed and unhoused community members are involved in a program and a living space and the individuals served are part of a wrap-around service project, monitored by AMHINC, dba The Gathering Place.

#### **Minimum Variance:**

This variance requests that only the minimum amount of space be used at 510 West Union, the visual impact does not impact the look of the neighborhood and they are neat and appealing structures, even more appealing than a shed. A privacy fence will also be a part of the site.

#### **Absence of Detriment:**

- This structure does not increase the occupant load of this area of the city, it is among a large amount of green space, there will be no extra vehicles in the adjacent parking lot.
- This location was specifically chosen for the benefits of the bus line for transportation, being feet away from Ohio Means Jobs (JFS) and close approximate to mental health and recovery supports services. These shelters are meant to be temporary dwellings for individuals experiencing homelessness, evidence-based to reduce an individual's time being homeless, as they provide more safety, security and comfort for an individual to connect with services with goals of permanent housing and other needed health and mental health/recovery services.

- This states: 23.03.19 - Government property exemptions

The administrative authority of all governmental units (including city, township, county, state, and federal units) must make a reasonable attempt to ensure that their buildings and grounds conform to the regulations of the zoning code. When such authorities find, they cannot conform to these regulations, they shall inform the planning commission in writing, outlining the nature of and reasons for such nonconformance.

The Athens County Commissioners (ACC) observe the hardship for some of our community members who are currently unhoused and living out of doors, due to a variety of social issues of economic hardship, mental, intellectual or physical disability, those entering recovery from a substance use disorder or re-entry from the judicial system, and scarce access to affordable housing units that meet the HUD fair market rate for our county, or no access to limited governmental housing vouchers.

The ACC support interim solutions that the Athens County Housing Security Co-Create Coalition (Co-Create) have developed. Co-Create is representing 32 city/county agencies that can offer wrap-around supports and advocacy and fund development expertise for housing security in Athens County - the "safe spot" community of Conestoga Huts as an interim solution while an individual community member works toward secure housing, employment or income, and other health services while awaiting housing opportunities.

The Athens County Commissioners feel that there is an exception in this case of use due to the affordability of these micro-structures and necessity of emergency housing for community members. These structures can be rapidly constructed and dismantled and moved and can be anchored for safety to concrete blocks, as is common with sheds or trailers throughout the city and county. These micro-shelters help to fill the needed shelter space for our community, as our city/county does not yet have a city-run shelter, only a privately run shelter with limited shelter beds.

**Requested Variance:** To build a proto-type model of four Conestoga Huts at 510 West Union, Ohio Means Jobs. The project will also be constructing a fence (6ft.) for safety and privacy and respect for public image and site will have sanitation with a Porto-potty on site and access to County waste removal.

#### **Reasoning for variance request:**

- Homelessness is a huge issue in our community, especially considering not enough affordable housing stock available for individuals who may not currently have income or be involved with services that can help them obtain that resource.
- Even when an individual obtains a HUD voucher for subsidized housing, there is not enough housing stock that meets the requirements of cost using the voucher.
- Many are sleeping in tents hidden around our city without appropriate hygiene facilities in which to use the restroom, wash hands, or shower, or tents are not providing enough shelter and warmth in the winter months. This also causes undue public health concerns when human waste and other trash waste are littered around the city.

- These structures are meant to be sober living sites.
- Individuals will be vetted and have daily contact with case managers, will be required to be in services and working towards goal of permanent supportive housing.

#### **Not of General Nature:**

AMHINC, dba The Gathering Place is a member operated peer recovery organization that serves adults with a lived experience of a mental health or co-occurring substance use disorder. Staff and members work together to provide peer support, linkage services, advocacy, mental health education, recreational and wellness activities, access to healthy food, access to housing opportunities, and community integration opportunities, all in a welcoming home-like environment. They have been serving Athens County since 1976 and operate a 5-bedroom sober living home for men, called Mike's Bridge House.

AMHINC, dba The Gathering Place has the support of Sister's Health Foundation to fund this project and also support from the Co-Create Coalition which Athens Foundation facilitates the partnership of 32 city/county agencies working together to address the issue of Housing Security in Athens County.

A concrete best practice plan of case management/structure and oversight of the proposed site will be in written format and a 1-year lease and other needed documents will be outlined with the Athens County Commissioners and re-evaluated annually for any needed improvements, and to note documented outcomes and if goals are being met and if project can be advanced to other sites.

Sincerely,

Lenny Elason, President

Charlie Adkins, Vice-President

Chris Chmiel

ACC:js

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, we are writing to express support for Rising Appalachia's application to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' (ONDR) Abandoned Mine Lands Economic Revitalization (AMLER) grant program. Rising Appalachia will transform 47 acres of abandoned coal mining lands into a community resource center for place-based economic development, and a tourist destination that will improve access to outdoor recreation, education, and healthy, fresh foods in Dover Township.

We have been a longtime collaborative partner with Rising Appalachia and support this project. This project will help support the broader cultural and heritage tourism economy of Dover and the wider region; it will all provide extensive opportunities for economic opportunities, jobs, and both passive and active recreation; it will attract more tourists and visitors to the community, leading to increased foot traffic and business development opportunities for local establishments in the surrounding area; it can serve as a hub for community activity with events, workshops, exhibitions, teacher education training courses, place-based education seminars, and other educational opportunities that showcase the area's history, culture, and local talents as well as provide new opportunities to serve the growing need for alternative education development; it will lay the foundation for a community shift from an economy based on extraction to sustainable alternatives that empower the community through viable agriculture and forestry practices.

We hope that the Department of Natural Resources gives Rising Appalachia's application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,  
/s/ Lenny Eliason, President

/s/ Charlie Adkins, Vice-President

/s/ Chris Chmiel

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

#### **Executive Session**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to enter into executive session at 10:49 to discuss discipline of a public employee.

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 Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to return to regular session at 10:55. Let the record reflect no action to be taken right now.

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

#### **Bid Opening Dog Shelter F150**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to acknowledge receipt of the bids:

Jacob Wirick \$2,100.00  
Jack Sickles \$1,800.00  
Matt Rockhold \$1,650.00

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

#### **Award Bid Dog Shelter F150**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Eliason to award the bid for Dog Shelter F150 to Jacob Wirick for \$2,100.00.

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

#### **Eric Cottrill - Support Letter**

Eric Cottrill came to the Commissioners to ask for some relief for the farmers in this area, with the drought the crops are not producing and the farmers are losing money. Kathy Bobo from Soil & Water brought some information stating that USDA has some programs that are available now that 22 Ohio counties have been designated primary natural disaster areas due to the recent drought. Eric Cottrill brought a spreadsheet of his farm, see back of page 318 & documents from Kathy Bobo.

**Crop Water Use vs. Actual Rainfall**

Amherst, OH - Lee Township, Amherst County, Ohio

Growth Stage	Ohio Water Use Rate	Water Use Per Acre	Comprehensive Water Use
2 - 3 (Mid-June)	0.08	0.55	0.55
4 - 5 (Late June)	0.10	0.65	0.65
6 - 7 (Early July)	0.14	0.85	0.85
8 - 9 (Mid-July)	0.20	1.15	1.15
10 - 11 (Late July)	0.25	1.45	1.45
12 - 13 (Early August)	0.30	1.80	1.80
14 - 15 (Mid-August)	0.35	2.15	2.15
16 - 17 (Late August)	0.40	2.50	2.50
18 - 19 (Early September)	0.45	2.85	2.85
20 - 21 (Mid-September)	0.50	3.20	3.20
22 - 23 (Late September)	0.55	3.55	3.55
24 - 25 (Early October)	0.60	3.90	3.90
26 - 27 (Mid-October)	0.65	4.25	4.25
28 - 29 (Late October)	0.70	4.60	4.60
30 - 31 (Early November)	0.75	4.95	4.95

Form	Date Planted	15 Year Average	Actual	Percent of Average
2024-25	5/10/2024	18.2	18.9	104
2023-24	5/10/2023	18.4	18.9	103

1% increase in average water use for 2024-25

20% more water used for 2024-25

30% more water used for 2024-25

40% more water used for 2024-25

50% more water used for 2024-25

60% more water used for 2024-25

70% more water used for 2024-25

80% more water used for 2024-25

90% more water used for 2024-25

100% more water used for 2024-25

110% more water used for 2024-25

120% more water used for 2024-25

130% more water used for 2024-25

140% more water used for 2024-25

150% more water used for 2024-25

160% more water used for 2024-25

170% more water used for 2024-25

180% more water used for 2024-25

190% more water used for 2024-25

200% more water used for 2024-25

210% more water used for 2024-25

220% more water used for 2024-25

230% more water used for 2024-25

240% more water used for 2024-25

250% more water used for 2024-25

260% more water used for 2024-25

270% more water used for 2024-25

280% more water used for 2024-25

290% more water used for 2024-25

300% more water used for 2024-25

310% more water used for 2024-25

320% more water used for 2024-25

330% more water used for 2024-25

340% more water used for 2024-25

350% more water used for 2024-25

360% more water used for 2024-25

370% more water used for 2024-25

380% more water used for 2024-25

390% more water used for 2024-25

400% more water used for 2024-25

USDA  
Office of the Secretary  
Washington, DC 20250  
August 26, 2024

The Honorable Mike DeWine  
Governor  
State of Ohio  
77 S High Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine:

In accordance with 7 CFR 759.5(a), I am designating 22 Ohio counties as primary natural disaster areas due to a recent drought.

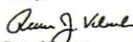
According to the U.S. Drought Monitor (see <http://www.droughtmonitor.com>), these counties suffered from a drought intensity value during the growing season of 1) D2 Drought-Extreme or 2) D3 Drought-Exceptional.

In accordance with Section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, additional areas of your state and in adjacent states are named as contiguous disaster counties. Enclosed you will find documentation that provides a detailed list of all primary and contiguous counties impacted by this disaster.

Other counties in Ohio may have already been designated as natural disaster counties if they had previously met the requirements found under 7 CFR 759.5(a) for the current crop year.

A Secretarial disaster designation makes farm operators in primary counties and those counties contiguous to each primary county eligible to be considered for Farm Service Agency (FSA) emergency loan assistance, provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have 8 months from the date of a Secretarial disaster declaration to apply for emergency loans. FSA considers such emergency loan applications on its own merits, taking into account the extent of production losses on the farm and the security and repayment ability of the operator.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,  
  
THOMAS J. BLACK  
Secretary

Enclosure

An Equal Opportunity Employer

An Equal Opportunity Employer

**DISASTER DESIGNATION AREAS FOR OHIO AND A CONTIGUOUS STATE**  
**PAGE 2**

**Primary Counties:**

Ohio	(2)		
Adams	Harrison	Monroe	Pickaway
Belmont	Highland	Morgan	Pike
Fairfield	Hocking	Montgomery	Ross
Fayette	Jackson	Noble	Vinton
Chillico	Jefferson	Perry	Washington
Conroy	Madison		

**Contiguous Counties:**

Ohio	(16)		
Adams	Clark	Punkin	Meigs
Brown	Claire	Cross	Scioto
Carroll	Columbiana	Lawrence	Tuscarawas
Champaign	Coshocton	Licking	Union

**Contiguous Counties in an Adjacent State:**

West Virginia	(1)		
Berke	Hancock	Martin	Putnam
Calhoun	Marshall	Ohio	Tyler
			Wetzel
			Wood

Field - Center - 8m - Seasonal Rainfall

Date Recorded	Seasonal Rainfall (inches)	Days Post Rainfall
5/10/2024	1.6	11
5/12/2024	1.6	13
5/13/2024	1.1	14
5/14/2024	1.1	15
5/15/2024	1.1	16
5/16/2024	1.1	17
5/17/2024	1.1	18
5/18/2024	1.1	19
5/19/2024	1.1	20
5/20/2024	1.1	21
5/21/2024	1.1	22
5/22/2024	1.1	23
5/23/2024	1.1	24
5/24/2024	1.1	25
5/25/2024	1.1	26
5/26/2024	1.1	27
5/27/2024	1.1	28
5/28/2024	1.1	29
5/29/2024	1.1	30
5/30/2024	1.1	31



**Crop Water Use vs. Actual Rainfall**  
Corn 024 - Lee Township, Amherst County, Ohio

Growth Stage	Daily Water Use Rate	Water Use Per Acre	Cumulative Water Use
Emergence (E)	0.08	0.55	0.55
1 - 2 (Early June)	0.10	0.65	1.20
3 - 4 (Mid-June)	0.14	0.85	2.05
5 - 6 (Late June)	0.20	1.15	3.20
7 - 8 (Early July)	0.25	1.45	4.65
9 - 10 (Mid-July)	0.30	1.80	6.45
11 - 12 (Late July)	0.35	2.15	8.60
13 - 14 (Early August)	0.40	2.50	11.10
15 - 16 (Mid-August)	0.45	2.85	13.95
17 - 18 (Late August)	0.50	3.20	17.15
19 - 20 (Early September)	0.55	3.55	20.70
21 - 22 (Mid-September)	0.60	3.90	24.60
23 - 24 (Late September)	0.65	4.25	28.85
25 - 26 (Early October)	0.70	4.60	33.45
27 - 28 (Mid-October)	0.75	4.95	38.40
29 - 30 (Late October)	0.80	5.30	43.70
31 (Early November)	0.85	5.65	49.35

Form	Date Planted	15 Year Average	Actual	Percent of Average
2024-25	5/10/2024	4.7	4.8	102
2023-24	5/10/2023	4.8	4.8	100

2% increase in average water use for 2024-25

0% more water used for 2024-25

0% more water used for 2024-25

0% more water used for 2024-25

0% more water used for 2024-25

0% more water used for 2024-25

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0% more water used for 2024-25

0% more water used for 2024-25

**August 27, 2024**  
Observed (Rainfall) and 15 Year Average (Rainfall)

Month	Average Precipitation (inches)	Observed Precipitation (inches)	Percent of Average
May 2024	4.8	4.8	100
June 2024	5.0	5.0	100
July 2024	5.5	5.5	100
August 2024	5.5	5.5	100
September 2024	5.5	5.5	100
October 2024	5.5	5.5	100
November 2024	5.5	5.5	100
December 2024	5.5	5.5	100
January 2025	5.5	5.5	100
February 2025	5.5	5.5	100
March 2025	5.5	5.5	100
April 2025	5.5	5.5	100
May 2025	5.5	5.5	100
June 2025	5.5	5.5	100
July 2025	5.5	5.5	100
August 2025	5.5	5.5	100
September 2025	5.5	5.5	100
October 2025	5.5	5.5	100
November 2025	5.5	5.5	100
December 2025	5.5	5.5	100
January 2026	5.5	5.5	100
February 2026	5.5	5.5	100
March 2026	5.5	5.5	100
April 2026	5.5	5.5	100
May 2026	5.5	5.5	100
June 2026	5.5	5.5	100
July 2026	5.5	5.5	100
August 2026	5.5	5.5	100
September 2026	5.5	5.5	100
October 2026	5.5	5.5	100
November 2026	5.5	5.5	100
December 2026	5.5	5.5	100
January 2027	5.5	5.5	100
February 2027	5.5	5.5	100
March 2027	5.5	5.5	100
April 2027	5.5	5.5	100
May 2027	5.5	5.5	100
June 2027	5.5	5.5	100
July 2027	5.5	5.5	100
August 2027	5.5	5.5	100
September 2027	5.5	5.5	100
October 2027	5.5	5.5	100
November 2027	5.5	5.5	100
December 2027	5.5	5.5	100
January 2028	5.5	5.5	100
February 2028	5.5	5.5	100
March 2028	5.5	5.5	100
April 2028	5.5	5.5	100
May 2028	5.5	5.5	100
June 2028	5.5	5.5	100
July 2028	5.5	5.5	100
August 2028	5.5	5.5	100
September 2028	5.5	5.5	100
October 2028	5.5	5.5	100
November 2028	5.5	5.5	100
December 2028	5.5	5.5	100
January 2029	5.5	5.5	100
February 2029	5.5	5.5	100
March 2029	5.5	5.5	100
April 2029	5.5	5.5	100
May 2029	5.5	5.5	100
June 2029	5.5	5.5	100
July 2029	5.5	5.5	100
August 2029	5.5	5.5	100
September 2029	5.5	5.5	100
October 2029	5.5	5.5	100
November 2029	5.5	5.5	100
December 2029	5.5	5.5	100
January 2030	5.5	5.5	100
February 2030	5.5	5.5	100
March 2030	5.5	5.5	100
April 2030	5.5	5.5	100
May 2030	5.5	5.5	100
June 2030	5.5	5.5	100
July 2030	5.5	5.5	100
August 2030	5.5	5.5	100
September 2030	5.5	5.5	100

**911 Dir Teresa Fouts-Imler - Drought Resolution**

911 Dir Teresa Fouts-Imler is requesting that the Commissioners declare a state of emergency for Athens County for extreme drought.

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to authorize the following resolution to declare a state emergency for Athens County for extreme drought:

Resolution # 0903-120

WHEREAS, Athens County, Ohio, is experiencing an unprecedented and prolonged drought, leading to significant agricultural distress and threatening the livelihood of the farming community; and

WHEREAS, the absence of adequate rainfall has resulted in critically low soil moisture levels, severely impacting crop germination, growth, and yields, with a substantial loss in the production of staple crops and forages; and

WHEREAS, local livestock producers are facing severe shortages of feed and water, leading to increased costs and economic strain, with the potential for long-term damage to the viability of farms across Athens County; and

WHEREAS, the agricultural sector, a cornerstone of Athens County's economy and community identity, is under severe stress, with farmers and agricultural businesses at risk of financial insolvency due to reduced output and increased operational costs; and

WHEREAS, the current drought conditions have led to a heightened risk of wildfires, soil erosion, and other environmental hazards, further endangering farmland, pastures, and rural communities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners to declare a state of emergency in response to natural disasters, including droughts, and to hereby invoke and declare those portions of the Ohio Revised Code which are application to the conditions and have caused the issuance of this declaration, to be in full force and effect to access and mobilize resources for disaster relief and recovery;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Athens County, Ohio, that a state of emergency is hereby declared due to severe drought conditions, with a specific focus on the agricultural crisis facing the county.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners directs all relevant county departments and agencies to exercise the utmost diligence in the discharge of duties of them for the duration of the emergency and execution of emergency laws, regulations, and directives - state and local.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this declaration shall remain in effect until the drought conditions have sufficiently abated, as determined by the Board of County Commissioners, and the agricultural community has begun to recover from the effects of the drought.

ADOPTED this 3rd day of September, 2024, by the Board of County Commissioners of Athens County, Ohio.

Signed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2024

/s/ Lenny Eliason, President

/s/ Charlie Adkins, Vice President

/s/ Chris Chmiel

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

**Jeff Jenkins - HAPCAP PY24 CDBG**

HAPCAP Jeff Jenkins stated that the state got ahold of them and said Coolville does not meet the LMI guidelines now and there's not enough time to do a survey. Jeff Jenkins stated that the State is requesting HAPCAP to reassign it to the NRG for Jacksonville.

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to change the CDBG allocation of \$100,000.00 from Coolville to Jacksonville.

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

**Keller Blackburn - Fiber**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to authorize Keller Blackburn to get into a Five (5) year deal of \$800.00 with glofiber Enterprise as presented and no increase from general fund. Keller Blackburn can sign and send it to glofiber Enterprise.

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

**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