

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 Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the following agenda:
Athens County Board of County Commissioners

Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, August 05, 2025 Convenes at 9:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes July 29, 2025

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

Fund to Fund: Law Library \$18,500.00 from 001.1146.560100 Other Expenses to 311.2311.422101 Transfer In

9:30 Weston Lombard & Molly Jo Stanley - community forest update
9:45 DJFS Dir Jean Demosky - weekly updates
10:00 Bid opening- Sheriff's basement
10:15 Dave Leszcz - NFP
10:30 EMS - Personnel & discipline
11:30 LUNCH

Agenda Items

Utility Permits
Advertisement for Bids - ATH-CR2-1.70 Box Culvert Project
OWDA Payment Request #12 (Ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature)
Ohio EPA Permit to Install - Hartman Road Lift Station
Sunday Creek - Change Order #1 Contract 1 TAM Construction
Hotel 79- Quality Inn
Frontier - Change of Ownership Documents (2) (Ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature)
Prosecutor - Victim Assistance Program: 2024-WF-VA5-99757
Canaanville Sewer Project - Update

~TRAVEL

Common Pleas: Melinda Bradford; Fall Conference, Columbus OH; 09/02 - 09/05/25
Comm: JoAnn Rockhold & Alison Pierson; CCC-EAPA Meeting, 209 East State St, Columbus OH; 08/22/25

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. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the minutes of July 29, 2025.

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 & Nows, & Bills

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel approving the Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes, including Fund to Fund: Law Library \$18,500.00 from 001.1146.560100 Other Expenses to 311.2311.422101 Transfer In and approving the payment of the required County Bills, which are included in the Auditor's Office INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 07/29/2025 To: 07/31/2025, INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 07/31/2025 To: 08/05/2025 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.

Weston Lombard & Molly Jo Stanley - Community Forest Update

1. Community Forest Project Update

Grant Award

- * Weston and Molly Jo returned to update the board on their Community Forest Project, which had previously received a letter of support from the board for a U.S. Forest Service Community Forest Grant.
- * Despite delays, they shared that they were unofficially selected as grant recipients for approximately \$600,000.
- * They emphasized that the announcement is not yet public, but since this was a public meeting, they disclosed it.

2. Matching Funds & Resolution Request

Next Grant Opportunity

- * The federal grant requires matching funds, and Weston and Molly are planning to apply for another \$600,000 from the Clean Ohio Fund (based in Cleveland).
- * This application is due in October, and they now need a formal resolution (instead of just a letter of support) from the board to include in their submission.

Previous MOU & Tax Base Concerns

- * There was a brief discussion about the 346-acre parcel involved and concerns about it being removed from the tax base.
- * Weston and Molly clarified:
 - * They had previously signed an MOU with both the board and the township, committing to keep the land on the tax rolls.
 - * They reaffirmed that both the county and township understood and supported this condition.
- * However, a board member noted that one of the township trustees expressed concern, suggesting the township's support may no longer be clear.

3. Next Steps with Township and County

- * Weston and Molly agreed to:
 - * Meet with the Dover Township trustees (scheduled for Thursday).
 - * Request a formal resolution from the township to reaffirm their support.
 - * Email the resolution to the board once received.
- * The board indicated they would feel comfortable moving forward with their own resolution once the township support was confirmed.
- * The board encouraged them to provide legal documentation reinforcing the tax-base commitment as a safeguard.

4. Project Scope and Location

- * The \$600,000 grant is intended solely for the purchase of land from Sugar Creek Coal Company.
- * The property is located near Mill Creek Road, crossing Route 550, and near Route 13.
- * Future matching funds may include trail building, a parking area, and other infrastructure improvements.

5. Vision and Long-Term Goals

- * The goal is to create a public-access working forest that balances:
 - * Recreation
 - * Education
 - * Economic opportunity (e.g., forest product development).
- * They are also working on a forest product processing facility nearby, funded through the AML Economic Revitalization Program.
- * The long-term plan could connect the forest to the Baileys Trail System and Strouds Run State Park, creating a regional outdoor and workforce development hub.

DJFS Dir Jean Demosky - Weekly Updates

Dir Demosky provided the following weekly updates:

1. Back to School Bash

- * 1,073 registered students attended the event, plus their families.
- * 181 unregistered students also participated.
- * 177 registered students did not attend; staff are reaching out for pickup via locations, JFS on Wheels, or the mobile career center.
- * The event was considered very successful, with highlights like haircuts and support from the Joe Burrow Foundation.
- * A \$5,000 grant from Walmart was secured to support the event.

2. SNAP Error Rate Workgroup

- * Dir. Demosky joined a statewide quality control group focused on reducing SNAP error rates.
- * Advocated for enhanced training and possibly a state-funded help line.
- * Second meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.

3. Workforce & Aspire Program Concerns

- * An Area 14 Workforce meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, expected to include updates on WIOA and CCMEP

funding cuts.

* Ongoing efforts to clarify the status of Aspire funding, which was referenced in legislation but lacks clear details.

4. Nelsonville Farmers Market & Auction Updates

* Reminder about the Nelsonville Farmers Market happening tomorrow evening.

5. 510 West Union Building

* Plans to re-attempt a sealed bid auction for a property, targeting a minimum bid and timeline.

* Potential auction submission deadline discussed for early November, with concern about past low bids and timing around Veterans Day.

* Previous accepted bid was \$325,000 under appraisal, raising questions about acceptable minimums.

Extension Office Updates

Michelle Stumbo from the Extension Office provided the following update:

1. Wall Construction Project Discussion

* Michelle provided an update after returning from vacation, specifically regarding the wall construction project previously discussed.

* She confirmed it would take 1 to 2 months to set someone up as a vendor in their system if they needed to pay an external contractor.

* The Commissioners discussed Mike's potential involvement, with confirmation that he could complete the work, particularly if given proper time and plans. However, he dislikes doing drywall.

* Michelle noted she is personally good at sanding, humorously offering help with finishing work.

2. Decision to Proceed In-House

* Based on Mike's informal approval and capabilities, the group agreed to handle the project in-house.

* Jack will move forward with preparing the plans, and the team will use available grant match funds for the project.

* Michelle confirmed that moving forward this way may be faster than vendor setup, aligning with the urgency of getting plans submitted to the state.

3. Next Steps & Optimism

* The Commissioners are optimistic that Jack's idea will work out and are hopeful for long-term grant approval.

* Michelle encouraged participation in the fair this week and committed to keeping the group updated on progress.

Utility Permits

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the following Utility Permits:

Permit No. 25-612
From: AEP
38835 OH-7
Reedsville, OH 45772

We hereby request permission to install utility lines within public right-of-way limits.

Location of work: Fossil Rock Rd
Description of Work: Electric
Type of Installation: Overhead Line Parallel to Rd, Overhead Line Crossing Rd, & Utility Pole Installation
Estimated Project Schedule: 08/11/2025 - 09/11/2025
Agreed to by: /s/ Jason Carleton, AEP
Athens County Commissioners
/s/ Lenny Eliason
/s/ Chris Chmiel
/s/ Charlie Adkins
/s/ Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 25-613
From: Le-Ax Water District
6000 Industrial Dr
Athens, Ohio 45701

We hereby request permission to install utility lines within public right-of-way limits.

Location of work: Co Rd # 19, Co Rd Name: Radford Rd
Description of Work: Water
Type of Installation: Underground (buried) Line Crossing Rd
Estimated Project Schedule: ASAP
Agreed to by: /s/ Christina Richey, Le-Ax
Athens County Commissioners

/s/ Lenny Eliason
/s/ Chris Chmiel
/s/ Charlie Adkins
/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

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

Advertisement for Bids - ATH-CR2-1.70 Box Culvert Project

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Advertisement for Bids - ATH-CR2-1.70 Box Culvert Project. See back of page 261 for Advertisement.

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

OWDA Payment Request #12

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature on the OWDA Payment Request #12 for New Marshfield. See back of page 261 for OWDA Payment Request.

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

Ohio EPA Permit to Install - Hartman Road Lift Station

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature on the Ohio EPA Permit to Install - Hartman Road Lift Station. See back of page 261 for Ohio EPA Permit to Install - Hartman Road Lift Station.

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

Sunday Creek - Change Order #1 Contract 1 TAM Construction

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Sunday Creek - Change Order #1 Contract One (1) TAM Construction in the amount of \$34,310.00.

Document available 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.

Hotel 70 - Quality Inn (Late fee waiver request on Lodging Tax)

- * The business owner (Amit) explained that the check was dated and mailed in good faith, but the postmark was late (July 25 instead of July 22).
- * Auditor Jill Davidson confirmed the due date was July 22, with no holidays to adjust the deadline.
- * There had already been a prior late fee waived, although no formal record existed of board approval.
- * The board expressed sympathy for the business's efforts and reinvestment but emphasized the importance of consistency.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to deny the request for waiving a 10% late payment fee on Lodging Tax.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, no; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Frontier - Change of Ownership Documents (2)

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature on Two (2) Frontier - Change of Ownership Documents. See back of page 263 for Frontier Documents.

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

Bid Opening - Sheriff's Basement Plumbing

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to acknowledge receipt of the following Bid on the Sheriff's Basement Plumbing, estimate is \$15,000.00:

Thompson Plumbing LLC in the amount of \$24,952.00

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

Reject Bid - Sheriff's Basement Plumbing

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to reject the bid on the Sheriff's Basement Plumbing from Thompson Plumbing LLC of \$24,952.00.

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

Prosecutor - Victim Assistance Program: 2024-WF-VA5-99757

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the Prosecutor's - Victim Assistance Program: 2024-WF-VA5-99757.

Subgrantee:	Athens County Commissioners		
Implementing Agency:	Athens County Prosecutor's Office		
Award Periods:	01/01/2025 to 12/31/2025		
Closeout Deadline:	03/01/2026		
Award Amounts:		OCJS Funds:	\$37,631.54 75%
		Cash Match:	\$12,543.65 25%
		Inkind Match:	\$0.00 0%
		Project Total:	\$50,175.19 100%

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

Canaanville Sewer Project - Update

Commissioner Adkins provided the following Canaanville Sewer Project Update:

- * An email was received from Corey confirming that all necessary plans and documentation for the Canaanville Sewer Project have been submitted.
- * The board had previously instructed Corey to forward those documents once ready, at which point the project would be added to the official agenda.

1. Ownership and Resolution Requirements

- * It was suggested that a resolution may be required at some point to formalize the county's assumption of responsibility for the sewer system.
- * There was uncertainty as to whether such a resolution had already been passed.
- * It was suggested to check with Oscar to determine whether a formal letter of intent or resolution was issued, possibly in connection with a previous application.

2. Pending Agreement

- * Commissioner Eliason stated a draft agreement was previously sent to the Brent Hayes but has not been returned with comments or approval.
- * Rusty has had the draft for approximately six months without providing feedback.
- * The key unresolved issue relates to:
 - * The cost and boundaries of the land to be transferred.
 - * Necessary easements for future plant operations and potential expansion.

3. Next Meeting Planning

- * The Commissioners proposed inviting stakeholders (e.g., Gary, Lavelle, Oscar, and representatives from the Canaanville project) to the meeting on the 12th, which may serve as an opportunity to:
 - * Finalize or review the land agreement.
 - * Discuss easements and operational responsibilities.
 - * Move forward on official commitments

Travel

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

Common Pleas: Melinda Bradford; Fall Conference, Columbus OH; 09/02 - 09/05/25
Comm: JoAnn Rockhold & Alison Pierson; CCC-EAPA Meeting, 209 East State St, Columbus OH; 08/22/25

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

NFP - Dave Leszcz

Introduction & Project Overview

Dave Leszcz (NFP) introduced himself and NFP's national capabilities in benefits, risk management, HR consulting, and self-funding, particularly with government clients.

The firm is working on a Request for Proposal (RFP) to evaluate and potentially improve the county's medical benefits program

by comparing current coverage, rates, and provider access with market alternatives.

1. Scope Clarification

- * Commissioner Eliason was confusion over the scope of the project:
- * Commissioner Eliason believed the RFP was for medical benefits only.
- * Dave noted that the original RFQ included life, dental, and vision.
- * He explained that bundling these benefits can sometimes lead to cost efficiencies.

2. Next Steps & Scheduling

- * Dave suggested meeting in person ahead of the formal presentation to the board in mid-September.
- * The board ultimately decided that an in-person meeting wasn't necessary and preferred to wait for the RFP results on September 16th.

3. Legal/Advertising Concerns

- * Commissioner Eliason questioned about whether RFPs must be publicly advertised for legal compliance.
- * The RFQ (used to select NFP) was advertised, but not the RFPs being issued to carriers.
- * Legal counsel (TL) was asked to review the procurement process.
- * Dave agreed to send documentation of NFP's typical process to TL for review.

Executive Session - EMS

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to enter into executive session at 10:30 with EMS Chief Amber Pyle to discuss compensation 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. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to return to regular session at 10:47 and No Need to take any action.

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 Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to adjourn the above meeting.

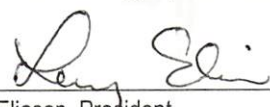
The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.



 JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator




 Alison Pierson, Clerk



 Lenny Eliason, President



 Charlie Adkins, Vice-President



 Chris Chmiel

