

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 Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve the following agenda:  
Athens County Board of County Commissioners  
Meeting Agenda for Thursday, February 27, 2025 Convenes at 9:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes February 18, 2025

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

- 9:30 HAPCAP Jeff Jenkins - History Connection 93 High St Project
- 9:35 Veteran's Office - Kim Spencer
- 9:45 Candidate for WDB Director Interview
- 10:00 Scott Zielinski, DD Board- Computers
- 10:15 Health Dept - Patrick McGarry - Sewage Grant - HSTS Authorizing Resolution - Scrap Tire Consent Form
- 10:30 W&S Supt Oscar Carson - weekly updates
- 10:45 Amy Lipka - Age Friendly Update
- 11:00 Vitruvian - Stefano Alva
- 11:30 LUNCH

Agenda Items

- Amended Certificate
- Utility Permits (3)
- Assigned Counsel Report from Auditors Office
- RFP Amesville-Area Broadband Expansion
- Athens-South RFP ARC-funded Project
- Veterans Commission Pay
- Ferndale Park - quote from NVB Playgrounds
- 911 Request to Hire
- Reappointment AMHA Board of Commissioners
- CHIP Program Grant Agreement B-C-24-1AE-1 \$391,000.00 (Ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature)
- CHIP Program Grant Agreement B-C-24-1AE-2\$644,000.00 (Ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature)
- OHTF Grant Agreement S-C-24-1AE-1 \$15,000.00 (Ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature)
- 2024 ODOT County Mileage Certificate
- ATH TR 196-0.71, PID 117490; Federal-State Exchange Agreement
- STAR Facility
- OSU Extension space
- HAPCAP Board Resignation
- EMS Recognition of Heart Month - 3 Great Saves
- Add Users Mike Biggins & Jeff Stull to Credit Cards (DJFS, EMS, Board of Elections, Clerk of Courts/Title Office, & 911)
- Employment Agreement (Executive Director/Athens County Children Services)

~TRAVEL

- Auditor- Leah Allen & Riley McKibben; Cyber Fraud Training E. State Street, Athens OH; 03/05/25
- Comm Lenny Eliason; Columbus, OH; 03/09/25-03/10/25

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 Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve the minutes of February 18, 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 Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel 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: 02/13/2025 To: 02/18/2025, INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 02/18/2025 To: 02/20/2025 INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 02/20/2025 To: 02/25/2025 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.

**HAPCAP -History Connection 93 High Street Project**

Jeff Jenkins provided updates on two topics: the status of a historical preservation project concerning a building at 93 High Street, and the ongoing renovation work on the structure.

1. Chimney Removal and Historical Considerations
  - \*The Ohio History Connection (OHC) initially opposed removing the building's chimneys, which are deteriorating and creating a safety hazard.
  - \*A prior incident occurred where a falling brick damaged a car.
  - \*As a compromise, OHC approved a mitigation plan where a historian will be hired to document the history of the building and the developing historic district in Glouster.
  - \*A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been drafted and signed by Glouster and SAOP (which is funding the historian), with the final approval needed from the entity overseeing the project.
2. Renovation Progress on the Building
  - \*Recent construction updates indicate significant progress:
    - \*The first-floor trusses and subflooring have been installed.
    - \*The second floor was in the process of being dismantled two days prior, likely completed now.
  - \*The storefront was removed without objections from the OHC, as historical photos showed the original structure did not have it.
  - \*A postcard from the 1910s, found in a Nelsonville library, provided further historical context.
3. Basement Improvements
  - \*A sump pump will be installed in the basement in a pre-existing cutout, reducing labor costs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the agreement, pending review by the prosecutor.

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

**RFP Amesville-Area Broadband Expansion**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve the revised RFP Amesville-Area Broadband Expansion.

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

**Veteran's Office - Kim Spencer**

Summary of Discussion on Board Stipend Increase Issue

\*Background:  
 Kim Spencer presented a request to the commissioners regarding an issue with board stipend payments. Since 2019, board members have been receiving \$300 per pay period, despite no formal approval from the commissioners. The previous approved stipend amount was \$275 per pay period, last set in 2013. This oversight was due to a lack of knowledge about the required approval process when the increase was originally requested.

\*Key Issues Discussed:

1. Historical Approval Process & Oversight:
  - \*Previously, stipends were paid per meeting, and members who missed a meeting without an excused absence were not compensated.
  - \*The current \$300 per pay period payments were made without official approval.
  - \*This oversight was discovered when payroll calculations for 2025 revealed 27 pay periods instead of 26, bringing attention to the pay discrepancy.
2. Potential Audit & Legal Issues:
  - \*Commissioners expressed concern about possible audit findings since payments were made without formal approval.
  - \*Some members who received the increased payments may no longer be serving, raising questions of reimbursement.
  - \*Legal counsel (Keller) needs to review whether past overpayments require repayment and whether this constitutes an unauthorized use of funds.
3. Mid-Term Pay Adjustments Are Not Allowed:
  - \*Ohio law prohibits salary adjustments mid-term for elected or appointed officials.
  - \*The stipend must remain \$275 per pay period until the next term begins.
  - \*Future increases must be approved before a new term starts to be valid.
4. Next Steps & Resolution Plan:
  - \*Kim Spencer will submit an official request with board approval for stipend adjustments.
  - \*Legal counsel (Keller) will review the issue and provide guidance on:
    - \*Whether past overpayments require reimbursement.
    - \*Ensuring future pay adjustments follow legal procedures.
  - \*The correct stipend rate of \$275 per pay period will remain in effect until legal clarification is provided.

**\*Conclusion:**

The commissioners are awaiting a legal review before making any decisions on past overpayments. Future stipend increases must be formally approved before the start of a new term to comply with legal requirements.

**Candidate for WDB Director Interview**

**Introduction & Candidate Presentation:**

Lauren Crum presented the Workforce Development Board's recommendation to hire Morgan Delay for Area 14 Workforce Development. Morgan has seven years of experience in workforce development, including roles at Athens County Job and Family Services and Brew and Vocational Rehabilitation. She has worked with youth, adults, and dislocated workers to connect them with training and employment opportunities. Morgan recently completed her bachelor's degree at Ohio University.

**Morgan Delay's Background & Motivation:**

- \*Morgan shared that she began her public service career working with low-income individuals on home weatherization projects.
- \*Her time at Job and Family Services (JFS) was a major career step, prompting her to return to school for her degree.
- \*She has a strong passion for helping others, rooted in her own experience using public assistance in the past.
- \*She believes in empowering individuals to improve their lives through available resources and workforce programs.

**Discussion & Questions from the Board:**

- \*Morgan is from Athens County and attended Federal Hocking High School.
- \*Board members emphasized the importance of public service values, expressing appreciation for her genuine commitment to helping others.
- \*One board member noted that the role requires collaboration with businesses and asked whether she had visited Meigs County yet.
- \*It was noted that this position required coordination with all three Job and Family Services directors in the region.

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve the appointment for WDB Director of Morgan Delay.

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

**Scott Zielinski, DD Board - Computers**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve the DD Boards purchase of 3 Surface Pros, 3 Surface Keyboards, 2 HP Probook Laptops, 2 HP Desktops, & 2 HP Docks.

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 Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel acknowledging receipt of the Amended Certificate for Athens County Commissioners, dated February 25, 2025 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.

**Utility Permits**

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

Permit No. 25-582  
 From: AEP  
 9135 SR 682  
 Athens, Ohio 45701

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

Location of work: Co Rd # 28, Co Rd Name: McDougal Rd  
 Description of Work: Electric  
 Type of Installation: Utility Pole Installation  
 Estimated Project Schedule: 03/27/25 - 06/27/25  
 Agreed to by: /s/James Graham, AEP  
 Athens County Commissioners  
 /s/ Lenny Eliason  
 /s/ Chris Chmiel  
 /s/ Charlie Adkins  
 /s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 25-584  
 From: Pearce Services on behalf of Frontier Communications  
 1222 Vine St  
 Paso Robles, CA 93446

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

Location of work: Co Rd # 71, Co Rd Name: Columbia Rd  
Description of Work: Cable  
Type of Installation: Underground (buried) Line Crossing Road  
Estimated Project Schedule: 02/24/25 - 02/24/26  
Agreed to by: /s/Hali Thurman, Pearce Services  
Athens County Commissioners  
/s/ Lenny Eliason  
/s/ Chris Chmiel  
/s/ Charlie Adkins  
/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 25-585  
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 # 100, Co Rd Name: Rhoric Rd  
Description of Work: Water  
Type of Installation: Underground (buried) Line Crossing Rd  
Estimated Project Schedule: asap  
Agreed to by: /s/Lisa Congrove, Le-Ax Water District  
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.

**Assigned Counsel Report from Auditors Office**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to acknowledge receipt of the Assigned Counsel Report from the Auditors Office and submit for payment:

February 2025	
Total Felony Certifications	10
Amount submitted in Felony Certifications	\$12,960.00
Total Misdemeanor Certifications	7
All Other Misdemeanor Certifications	\$3,970.00
Total Juvenile Certifications	60
Amount submitted in Juvenile Certifications	\$48,899.73
Total Number of Certifications (All Courts - All Expenses)	77
Total Amount submitted	\$65,829.73

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

**Athens-South RFP ARC-funded Project**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to accept the recommendation from Tom Reid to authorize RCG to enter negotiations with Frontier. If those negotiations prove fruitless, then he recommends negotiating with Charter as the back-up.

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

**Ferndale Park - Quote from NVB Playgrounds**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve the quote from NVB Playgrounds d/b/a AAA State of Play for Ferndale Park in the amount of \$3,001.93.

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

**W&S Supt Oscar Carson - Environmental Protection Agency ORC Form**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the Operator of Record (ORC) Notification Form.

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

**W&S Letter for 7700 Shaw Rd**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve the letter for 7700 Shaw Rd. See back of page 63 for letter.

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

**W&S Supt Oscar Carson - Weekly Updates**

Dispute Over Fence Around Station & AEP Work

- \*Supt Carson mentioned a resident on Whitland Lane who claimed that someone promised a fence around a utility station.
- \*No one from their office made such a promise, and Commissioner Eliason stated the resident was welcome to build their own fence.
- \*Supt Carson confirmed that AEP had not yet provided a timeline for installing new power lines through conduit.

Roundabout & Infrastructure Updates

- \*Supt Carson reported that crews were currently widening exits and ramps in preparation for the roundabout project.
- \*Work was expected to begin in early March, including moving a 2-inch line on Whispering Pines.

University Heights Sewer Connection Issues

- \*Commissioner Adkins asked for an update on a University Heights property that received a compliance letter.
- \*It was confirmed that the Sheriff's Department delivered the letter, but there was uncertainty about whether the homeowner responded.
- \*Supt Carson & Commissioner Chmiel planned to follow up with Patrick for confirmation.

**911 Request to Hire**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve the hiring of 2 Intermittent Dispatchers:  
Don Holbert with a rate of pay \$21.20 per hour and a start date of February 28, 2025  
Erika Klauka with a rate of pay \$21.20 per hour and a start date of February 28, 2025.

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

**HSTS Replacement Project Bid**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve the 2024 WPCLF HSTS Replacement Project Bids as recommended by Patrick McGarry:

Project Information:

Deborah McCall  
9977 Sand Ridge Rd  
Millfield, OH 45761

Contractor	Price
JR's Construction	\$15,835

Above are responsible and approved bids this office received for this project that was posted on February 4, 2025. This office recommends awarding this project to the lowest complete bid, JR's Construction.

All bids reflected the replacement of the existing STS, including the abandonment of the existing septic system, the cost of equipment, materials, site work, grading, seeding and strawing, and permits fees.

This property project will be 100% funded through the Ohio EPA WPCLF grant.

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

**HSTS Authorizing Resolution**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve the HSTS Authorizing Resolution:  
Resolution No. 121-227

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING Athens City County Health Department TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY/HEALTH DISTRICT OF Athens County FOR THE REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT OF HOME SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS:

Whereas, the County/Health District of Athens County seeks to repair and/or replace failing home sewage treatment systems; and

Whereas, the County/Health District of Athens County intends to apply to the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) for the repair and/or replacement of failing home sewage treatment systems; and

Whereas, the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund requires the government authority to pass legislation for application of a loan and the execution of a WPCLF assistance agreement; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Athens County Commissioners, Athens, Ohio:

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

Oscar Carson Jr.  
Superintendent  
740-593-7146

Stephanie Morris  
Office Manager  
740-797-3235

February 27, 2025

Maria Martinez  
7700 Shaw Rd  
Athens, OH 45701

Dear Ms. Martinez:

The Athens County Commissioners made the decision to not enforce the hook up of sanitary sewer to the residence located at 7700 Shaw Road, Athens, OH 45701 which is located on Parcel Number AC10010070200 as the house is over 200 feet from the tap.

Even though hook up will not be enforced, the Debt Retirement fee will continue to be charged on the existing tap that was installed. Failure to pay this monthly charge will result in the balance being placed on your property taxes each year. This decision will have no effect on enforcement through the Athens-City County Health Department policy and procedures.

The Commissioners approved an adjustment of the previously charged sewer charges of \$102.11 on the account 506-00070-1. The current balance on the account is \$501.34.

Lenny Eliason, President



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



SECTION 1. That Lenny Eliason be and is hereby authorized to apply for a WPCLF assistance agreement, sign all documents for and enter into a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for the repair and/or replacement of failing home sewage treatment systems on behalf of Athens County of Athens Ohio.

SECTION 2. That is resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Signed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February 27, 2025

/s/Lenny Eliason, President

/s/Charlie Adkins

/s/Chris Chmiel

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

**Scrap Tire Consent Form**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve the Scrap Tire Removal Application for the Sheriff's Office with Patrick McGarry handling the necessary paperwork.

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

**Reappointment AMHA Board of Commissioners**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to reappoint Ann Trout to the AMHA Board: February 27, 2025

Ann Trout  
2599 Hebbardsville Road  
Albany, Ohio 45710

Dear Mrs. Ann Trout:

The Board of Athens County Commissioners, in its regular session on February 27, 2025, reappointed you to serve on the Athens Metropolitan Housing Authority Board. Your new term will begin on March 9, 2025, and conclude on March 8, 2030.

Thank you for your willingness to serve the people of Athens County in this important role.

Sincerely,

/s/Lenny Eliason, President

/s/Charlie Adkins, Vice-President

/s/Chris Chmiel

ACC:jr

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

**CHIP Program Grant Agreement B-C-24-1AE-1**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature on the CHIP Program Grant Agreement B-C-24-1AE-1 for \$391,000.00.

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

**CHIP Program Grant Agreement B-C-24-1AE-2**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature on the CHIP Program Grant Agreement B-C-24-1AE-2 for \$644,000.00.

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

**OHTF Grant Agreement S-C-24-1AE-1**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature on the OHTF Grant Agreement S-C-24-1AE-1 for \$15,000.00.

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

**2024 ODOT County Mileage Certificate**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve and submit the 2024 ODOT County Mileage Certificate. See Certificate on back of page 65.

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

**ATH TR 196-0.71, PID 117490; Federal-State Exchange Agreement**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve the agreement with the State on ATH TR 196-0.71, PID 117490; Federal-State Exchange Agreement. Full copy available 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.

**STAR Facility**

**Facility Specs & Open House Planning**

Commissioner Chmiel reached out to Chief Matthews to obtain specifications for the STAR facility. STAR itself doesn't have the specs readily available, but they are working to provide them. There was a previous discussion about holding an open house, tentatively scheduled for the 5th next week. However, STAR representatives indicated they need more time to prepare, delaying the tour.

**Clarification on Facility Management**

There was some confusion about whether STAR is still overseeing the facility. It was clarified that the Bureau of Criminal Sanctions is actually in charge now. STAR's involvement is phasing out, with their presence officially ending in February. However, they will continue maintaining the facility until their contract expires in June.

**Interest from External Organizations**

Representatives from Hocking College expressed interest in the facility, specifically for food rescue initiatives. Kelly Helber (previously involved in discussions) had thought they could arrange a tour, but due to the management transition, no tours are currently available.

**Proposal for Future Use – RFP Discussion**

Commissioner Chmiel discussed with Joann the idea of issuing an RFP (Request for Proposals) for the facility's future use. The Bureau of Criminal Sanctions is currently reviewing the bond details associated with the facility. Once specifications and bond-related details are received, a formal RFP could be drafted and distributed. The goal is to gather proposals from interested parties for potential future use.

**Funding & Potential Uses**

Some stakeholders have shown interest in repurposing the facility. The Governor's funding for mental health was mentioned as a potential resource. ADH (potentially a state agency or health department) is reviewing options in response to concerns about bed space shortages, particularly raised by public defenders.

**OSU Extension Space**

**Concerns About the Current Extension Space**

Commissioner Chmiel has been in discussions with Jack (scheduled to speak next week) regarding the OSU Extension space and its future use. Jack has concerns about how the space is currently being used and whether changes are needed. Commissioner Chmiel is researching alternative locations if relocation becomes necessary, with a preference for free or low-cost options.

**Potential Alternative Locations**

**Water & Sewer Office:**

Stephanie mentioned a room currently available, but it's unclear who actually uses it. It's a free option but might be too small for the extension's needs.

**Glouster Offices:**

Not the most convenient location, but available. OSU representatives prefer Athens or The Plains over Glouster.

**911 Center:**

Commissioner Chmiel discussed this option with Teresa, but she was not enthusiastic, especially about 4H activities being held there.

**Fair Board:**

Initially contacted, but no available space was identified. Commissioner Chmiel noted that any non-county-owned location would likely require rent payments.

**Atco Building:**

Commissioner Chmiel is looking into whether part of the Atco building (which the county has concerns about) could be used.



# Ohio Department of Transportation

Office of Technical Services

## 2024 County Highway System Mileage Certification

Note: This form must be submitted to ODOT no later than March 1, 2025 or county mileage will be certified by default based on the best information available.

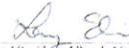
The total length of county maintained public roads in ATHENS County was 359,659 miles as of December 31, 2023

As certified by the Board of County Commissioners and/or reported by the Director of Transportation in accordance with the provisions specified in Section 4501.04 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Consider all mileage changes that occurred in CY 2024 and determine the net increase or decrease in mileage. Add the net change to the 2023 certified mileage above and fill in the new total below.

We the undersigned, hereby certify that as of December 31, 2024

the county was responsible for maintaining 359,659 miles of public roads.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of President of Board of County Commissioners

2/27/25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Signature

2/27/25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Engineer Signature

2/25/25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Engineer Signature

Comments:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please return a completed, signed copy of this form along with proper documentation of any changes made to:  
Ohio Department of Transportation  
Office of Technical Services  
Mail Stop #3210  
1980 West Broad St, 2nd Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43223  
Attn: Aaron Sivach (614) 466-5135 or aaron.sivach@dot.ohio.gov

OSU's Michelle found the idea acceptable.

Innovation Center:

It is affordable and subsidized, close to the fairgrounds, and could accommodate Ag Tech programs.

OSU's Michelle plans to visit the site and assess feasibility.

**Legal & Financial Considerations**

Discussion about whether the county is legally required to provide space for the extension office.

Commissioner Eliason recalled a section of the Ohio Revised Code (RC 3335.336) suggesting that the county must provide office space but not necessarily meeting space.

County support for OSU Extension is discretionary, except for specific retirement contributions.

If a free option exists (e.g., Glouster), the county should not pay for space elsewhere.

**Usage & Need for Space**

Concerns were raised about how often the OSU Extension office is actually being used.

In the past, the office space was utilized more frequently, but demand has declined.

Some spaces allocated to OSU Extension are currently underutilized or filled with unused materials.

**Next Steps**

Clarify legal obligations: Commissioner Chmiel to consult TL for a definitive answer on whether the county must provide space.

Gather input from Jack at next week's meeting.

Evaluate free/low-cost options before committing to any paid location.

Determine the actual space needs for OSU Extension, including frequency of use and essential facilities.

Continue discussions with OSU representatives (Michelle) and assess potential solutions such as the Atco Building or Innovation Center.

**Amy Lipka - Age Friendly Update**

Amy Lipka opened the discussion by distributing an updated "Age-Friendly Athens County" brochure, which reflects the goals and objectives outlined in the county's approved AARP strategic plan. The revised version omits the original findings report and includes five copies for distribution. Additionally, a draft of the 2023 program highlights was shared, showcasing the impact of Healthy Aging grants in fostering partnerships and projects alongside strategic planning.

A key update included the transition of the 14-person working group into a broader "Age-Friendly Coalition," with the first coalition meeting scheduled for March 21 at the Athens County Community Cares Resource Center. This change aims to encourage more participation.

Amy then provided an update on the Slovenian trip and the planned hosting of a Slovenian delegation, including elected officials, in late May to early June. Slovenia was chosen due to its strong age-friendly initiatives, particularly in transportation, housing, and social isolation. Observations from the trip highlighted Slovenia's volunteer-driven transportation programs, intergenerational activities, and co-located community services, some of which could serve as models for Athens County.

Discussions followed regarding demographic comparisons between Athens County and Slovenia, noting that while Athens city has a younger population (average age 22), certain census tracts in the county have a median age closer to Slovenia's, particularly in areas near Meigs County.

The idea of installing signs in villages to promote awareness of the age-friendly initiative was suggested, with reference to examples from Worthington. A member of the Ohio Coalition had provided insights into similar efforts in other communities. Amy emphasized that being part of the global age-friendly network provides valuable learning opportunities and resources.

The conversation also touched on potential projects, such as signage and instructional videos for HAPCAP's bus services to improve accessibility for older adults. Amy emphasized their role as a connector, facilitating collaboration among local organizations to integrate an age-friendly perspective into ongoing programs.

**HAPCAP Board Resignation**

Commissioner Adkins has chosen to step down from the HAPCAP Board to avoid causing issues with a grant application.

**EMS Recognition of Heart Month - 3 Great Saves**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve Letters of Recognition for 3 Great Saves from the Training Director Duane Moon. Copies of Letters on back of page 66.

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

**Add Users Mike Biggins & Jeff Stull to Credit Cards**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to add Mike Biggins & Jeff Stull to the following Credit Cards B&G Maintenance, DJFS, EMS, Board of Elections, Clerk of Courts/Title, & 911

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

**Employment Agreement (Executive Director/Athens County Children Services)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to table the agreement for review next week.

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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February 27, 2025

Subject: Recognition of Outstanding Life-Saving Efforts – Heart Month

Dear Athens County EMS, MedFlight, and Athens County 911 Dispatch,

As we observe Heart Month, we want to take this opportunity to recognize the exceptional dedication and quick thinking demonstrated by Athens County's emergency responders during a critical incident on Wednesday, September 4, 2024. Your commitment to patient care and unwavering attention to detail saved a life that day.

On that afternoon, Athens County EMS Station 51 was dispatched to Ohio University for a 47-year-old female patient experiencing diabetic issues. Initially, the patient reported feeling better and intended to return to work. However, Paramedic Kerry Weaver and Paramedic Thomas Butchko followed their instincts and continued their assessment. Their diligence led to the discovery of pain between the patient's shoulder blades, prompting them to perform a 12-lead EKG, which revealed she was suffering a heart attack.

Recognizing the severity of the situation, the crew transmitted the EKG to Fairfield Medical Center Emergency Department, where the Emergency Room Physician confirmed the heart attack and activated the cardiac team. Thanks to the seamless coordination with Athens County 911 dispatchers Cale Lewis and Catherine Hawley, air medical transport was quickly arranged, and MedFlight accepted the mission.

Upon arrival at Fairfield Medical Center, the patient was taken directly to the cardiac catheterization lab, where a blood clot was successfully removed from her coronary artery. There is no doubt that without the keen instincts and proactive actions of the EMS crew, the situation could have turned tragic, potentially leading to a cardiac arrest later in the day.

This incident highlights the critical role of Athens County EMS, MedFlight, and 911 dispatchers in saving lives. Your teamwork, expertise, and dedication to going above and beyond the standard call of duty are truly commendable.

On behalf of Athens County, we extend our deepest gratitude for your life-saving actions and your continued commitment to the health and safety of our community.

Thank you for your service and dedication.

With appreciation,

/s/Lenny Eliason, President

/s/Charlie Adkins

/s/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.



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February 27, 2025

Subject: Recognition of Outstanding Life-Saving Efforts – Heart Month

Dear Athens County EMS and Athens County 911 Dispatch,

As we observe Heart Month, we are honored to recognize the exceptional dedication and life-saving actions demonstrated by Athens County's emergency responders during a critical incident on Wednesday, December 11, 2024. Your swift and coordinated response made the difference between life and death, exemplifying the highest standards of emergency medical care.

On that evening, Athens County EMS Station 51 was dispatched to a 57-year-old male in cardiac arrest outside the Ohio University Convocation Center. With CPR already in progress, two Athens EMS units responded immediately. Upon arrival, the crews implemented advanced life support measures, including the use of the Lucas Device for automated chest compressions, securing an airway, establishing IV access, and administering life-saving medications.

The patient was transported to O'Bleness Hospital while still in cardiac arrest. However, due to the team's skilled and persistent efforts, the patient regained a pulse shortly after arrival. Once stabilized, he was transferred to Fairfield Medical Center for advanced cardiac care. In a true testament to the impact of quick intervention and expert medical care, the patient was discharged home just eight days later, fully alert and oriented.

This life-saving response was made possible by the outstanding efforts of Paramedic Ron McWilliams, Paramedic Captain Jason Hager, Paramedic Robert Brancenburg, and now Paramedic Derek Hendershot, along with Athens County 911 dispatchers Jessica Cremons and Lisa McCollister, who ensured seamless coordination from dispatch to hospital transfer.

Your professionalism, skill, and dedication to serving our community are truly commendable. This incident is a powerful reminder of the critical role you play in saving lives, and Athens County is incredibly grateful for your service.

On behalf of Athens County, thank you for your unwavering commitment to excellence and for being true heroes in our community.

With deep appreciation,

Respectfully,

/s/Lenny Eliason, President

/s/Charlie Adkins

/s/Chris Chmiel



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February 27, 2025

Subject: Recognition of Outstanding Life-Saving Efforts – Heart Month

Dear Athens County EMS, York Township Fire Department, MedFlight, and Athens County 911 Dispatch,

As we recognize Heart Month, we want to take a moment to commend the remarkable teamwork and dedication demonstrated during a life-saving response on Sunday, July 28, 2024. Your swift and coordinated efforts exemplified the highest standard of emergency medical care, ultimately saving the life of a 48-year-old patient suffering from a severe heart attack.

On that day, Athens County EMS Station 54 in Nelsonville responded to a call for a male patient experiencing chest pain and difficulty breathing. Paramedic Jennifer Little and EMT Michelle Morgan arrived on the scene and quickly assessed the patient, recognizing the signs of a myocardial infarction. Their immediate transmission of a 12-lead EKG to Fairfield Medical Center Emergency Department ensured the rapid activation of the hospital's cardiac team.

As the patient was transported to the York Township Fire Department landing zone for air medical evacuation, he suffered ventricular fibrillation cardiac arrest. The EMS crew, with assistance from York Township Fire Chief Scott McMannus and firefighter/EMR Scott McKee, initiated immediate defibrillation and CPR. Thanks to their efforts, the patient briefly regained consciousness before experiencing a second cardiac arrest. Again, they acted swiftly, successfully defibrillating and reviving the patient before the arrival of MedFlight, whose crew completed the transfer to Fairfield Medical Center.

This extraordinary response was further supported by the Athens County 911 dispatch team, including Kim Hastings, Tricia Rustell, and Michelle Hutchison, who ensured seamless coordination among all agencies involved. Thanks to the dedication and quick thinking of everyone on the scene, the patient not only survived but was discharged from the hospital just three days later and returned to work in full health within eight days.

The collaborative efforts of Athens County EMS, York Township Fire Department, MedFlight, and Athens County 911 dispatchers embody the true spirit of emergency medical services. Your commitment to excellence and public service is deeply appreciated, and we are honored to recognize your life-saving actions during Heart Month.

On behalf of Athens County, thank you for your heroic efforts and unwavering dedication to the health and safety of our community.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Respectfully,

/s/Lenny Eliason, President

/s/Charlie Adkins

/s/Chris Chmiel



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**Veteran's Board Pay**

**Responsibility for Questions:**

The board is not directly responsible for asking Keller questions; it's the Auditor's office handling the matter.  
Jill (likely from the Auditor's office) will be the one submitting questions to Keller.

**Rate of Pay Issue:**

The board originally determined a per-meeting rate of pay, but it appears to have been processed incorrectly as a per-pay-period rate.  
There is a question of whether reimbursement should be required for the incorrect payments.

**Clarification of Roles:**

The board's role was only to approve the rate, not handle payroll processing.  
The proper process should involve the relevant office setting the rate and presenting it to the board for approval.  
Going forward, job descriptions should explicitly outline these responsibilities.

**Legal and Compliance Questions:**

Jill will draft a formal inquiry to Keller and CC the board for any additions.  
Three key concerns:

- Whether the pay should be per meeting.
- What supporting documentation is needed for payments going forward.
- How to address past incorrect payments.

**Audit Involvement:**

An external audit firm, Clark Shafer Hackett, is coming in next week.  
The firm will be informed about the payroll discrepancy for review.  
Unlike state auditors who work on-site daily, this audit firm operates remotely for the most part.  
If additional audit work is required due to this issue, costs may be charged accordingly.

**Legal Questions Regarding Meeting Attendance:**

Discussion on whether members must attend meetings to be paid.  
There's uncertainty about whether someone can be excused and still receive payment.  
A legal determination will be needed.

**Previous and Future Audits:**

Concern that past auditors did not do their jobs properly, leading to financial waste.  
Current audit procedures involve electronically submitting requested documents rather than in-person interactions.  
There's an outstanding financial issue: the county engineer still owes \$27,000.

**Audit Cost Allocation:**

If additional audit work is required due to this issue, an amendment to the audit contract will be issued.  
The board will be informed, and costs will be properly allocated.

**Next Steps:**

Jill will draft and submit questions to Keller.  
The audit firm will review payroll records.  
A legal determination is needed regarding pay-per-meeting rules.  
Any additional audit costs will be allocated accordingly.

**Travel**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve the following travel:  
Auditor- Leah Allen & Riley McKibben; Cyber Fraud Training E. State Street, Athens OH; 03/05/25  
Comm Lenny Eliason; Columbus, OH; 03/09/25-03/10/25

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

**Vitruvian - Stefano Alva**

**Grant Application Submission & Expectations**

Stefano Alva confirmed that the draft grant application was reviewed by Connor, who approved it with some edits that have been implemented.  
Clarified expectations for the project, emphasizing a monthly check-in process to track progress and create reports.  
Monthly meetings would likely occur in the same setting as the current discussion.

**County's Role in Outreach and Recruitment**

Connor noted that the county's role in the application included outreach and recruitment of local electrical contractors.  
Various local contractors were mentioned, including ARP Solar, Aton Electric, and Claypool, with commitments to reach out to Kal Electric.

**Grant Application Timeline**

The results of the application will be announced on May 21.  
A meeting with SOPEC is scheduled for March 5.

**Additional Grant Opportunity (Energy Efficiency & Solar)**

Stefano Alva introduced another grant application, with the concept paper due immediately and the full application due in August.  
The grant supports energy efficiency measures, solar installation, and EV charging for community and public-serving buildings.  
The funding ranges from \$2 million to \$10 million, and the current project scope includes approximately \$4 million in identified needs.

**Proposed Buildings for Solar & Energy Efficiency Upgrades**

Several buildings have been identified for inclusion, including:

Corporation of Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD)  
Nelsonville Public Library  
Arts West  
Athens County Job & Family Services  
Glouster Public Library  
Athens MEG Educational Service Center  
Tri-County Career Center  
New Lexington High School  
Technical Considerations & Benefits

Stefano Alva described the solar pergola solution designed for parking areas, which avoids the need for additional land. Addressed common rooftop solar limitations (e.g., roof orientation, replacement timelines). The pergola system is compliant with strict building codes (e.g., 185 mph wind resistance). The solution would provide backup energy, EV charging, and storage, creating small microgrids. AEP's upcoming 15% electricity rate increase was mentioned as a factor increasing the importance of this initiative.

Additional Locations & Stakeholder Input

Potential locations for expansion were discussed:  
Glouster Recreation Center  
Athens City Schools  
Trimble School District  
Township buildings  
County buildings  
Community buildings  
Hospitals

Suggestions included consulting with townships to identify additional eligible sites.

Energy Cost Savings for Schools & Other Buildings

The project aims to reduce energy costs for schools and public buildings. Schools and facilities could enter long-term agreements to reduce electricity expenses while ensuring maintenance support. Emphasized that the project would not require upfront costs and would provide immediate savings.

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve a letter of support for the grant: February 27, 2025

The Funders Network  
ATTN: People for Places  
2000 Ponce de Leon Blvd  
Suite 500  
Coral Gables, FL 33134

RE: People for Places - Athens County, OH

To whom it may concern,

The Athens County Board of Commissioners is excited to partner with the Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program (SAOP) and Vitruvian LLC in their efforts to provide safe, affordable, and energy independent housing to the rural communities of Athens County. Through the Partners for Places grant opportunity, Vitruvian, SAOP, and Athens County will be able to equip newly developed homes with radiant heating/cooling and solar systems designed to make the buildings net-zero.

This project works towards two distinct goals outlined within the Athens County Comprehensive Land Use Plan:

1. Prioritized Sector Development - the Comprehensive Plan highlights the need to "build consensus among partners on specific sector development for the county to be included in regional and state plans and applications including...environmental technology." Through this partnership with SAOP and Vitruvian, on-site applications of environmental technology to develop net-zero residential housing will provide an opportunity to demonstrate the feasibility and scalability of these projects and define Athens County's role in a clean energy future for the housing sector.

2. Affordable Housing - The Plan notes the continued need for affordable housing throughout the Athens County community, finding that "the County and other public entities should approach the development community...to establish a working group and investigate opportunities for affordable new housing." This project works toward this goal by developing a core partnership between the County, Vitruvian, and SAOP, while also building relationships with local contractors and the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 23.

It is exciting to see new residential development within Athens County that will provide safe, affordable housing while also cementing Athens County's role as a leader in environmental sustainability. Balancing a care for the natural ecosystem with the construction trades can be a challenge, but through partnership with SAOP and Vitruvian, Athens County is confident that such a balance is possible.

Please accept the support of the Athens County Board of Commissioners for the Partners for Places grant application that will form a unique partnership between Vitruvian, the Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program, and Athens County, Ohio.

Respectfully,

/s/Lenny Eliason, President

/s/Charlie Adkins

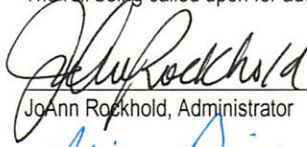
/s/Chris Chmiel

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

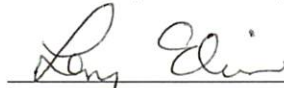
**Adjourn**


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

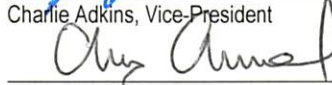
The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alison Pierson, Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lenny Eliason, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charlie Adkins, Vice-President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Chmiel