

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, July 01, 2025 Convenes at 9:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes June 17, 2025 and June 24, 2025

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

- 9:30 Teresa Imler- Wireless Funds
- 9:45 DJFS Dir Jean Demosky - weekly updates
- 10:00 Bid Opening - 2025 Athens County Paving Project
- 10:15 Samuel Thornton- Port Authority Interview
- 11:00 Buckeye Hills Regional Council- ARC
- 11:30 LUNCH

Agenda Items

- Add/Remove Authorized Users on Credit Card
- LEPC Membership
- Motorola Inv #1411188824 for Sheriff's Body Cams \$52,512.00 to be paid with ARPA Funds
- Parking
- STAR Facility
- Insurance RFP
- Move meeting July 22nd to 24th
- 911 Request to Hire
- Auditor Contract with Argus Growth Consultants, LTD.
- BOR

~TRAVEL

- Comm Lenny Eliason; NACo 90th Annual Conference, Philadelphia City, PA; 07/10-07/15/25
- Auditor Jill Davidson & Marsha Few; Southwest Ohio Auditor's District Meeting, Circleville OH; 07/11/2025
- Judge Patrick Lang; 2025 OJC Annual Meeting, Hilton Columbus @ Easton; 09/11 - 09/12/25
- Clerk of Courts Candy Russell & Justin Elekes; District 2 Meeting, Ironton OH; 07/14/25
- Comm Chris Chmiel; Ohio Outdoor Recreation Economy Conference; Athens, OH 7/22-7/23/2025

ADJOURNMENT

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

Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to approve the minutes of June 17, 2025.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the minutes of June 24, 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 Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins approving the Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes and approving the payment of the required County Bills, which are included in the Auditor's Office INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 06/24/2025 To: 06/26/2025, INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 06/26/2025 To: 07/01/2025 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.

911 Request New Hire

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve hiring Layla McCollister as a full-time dispatcher for Athens County 911 as requested by Dir. Teresa Fouts-Imler. Her start date will be 08/03/2025 with a rate of pay \$21.39/hr.

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

911 Wireless Funds/Updates - Teresa Fouts-Imler

Dir. Fouts-Imler provided the following updates:

1. Recent trainings and outreach:
 - * Dementia training with the Alzheimer's Association (26 attendees).
 - * Weather spotter course by the National Weather Service (18 participants).
 - * Weather training at Athens Public Library with OU graduate students (16 attendees).
2. Planning efforts:
 - * Developing a debris management plan for townships.
 - * Collaboration with Hocking County Emergency Management; Jane involved in planning.
3. Upcoming LEPC meeting on July 9th; Dir. Fouts-Imler will be away for daughter's wedding (July 6–25). Melissa to oversee EMA; Josh to oversee 911 during this period.
4. Completed a Certified Public Executive course (funded by a \$4,000 APCO scholarship); graduation on July 18th.
5. Update on 911 funding: state payment to increase by 20 cents per line; annual funding will rise from ~\$155,000 to ~\$200,000—still short of budget needs.
6. Discussed ongoing challenge: tourists' cell phones don't contribute to local 911 funding despite straining services (notably in Hocking County).

DJFS Dir Jean Demosky - Weekly Updates

Dir Demosky provided the following weekly updates:

1. Bird Feeders & Community Event
 - * It was successful, and there are leftover bird feeders, so they plan to hold a "part two" in September.
 - * Shared photos from the event, describing it as adorable—especially the kids using small hammers.
2. Medicaid Expansion & Work Requirements
 - * As of February 2025, 4,037 people (6.6% of Medicaid recipients in the county) fall into Group 8, which may lose coverage due to proposed cuts.
 - * Mentioned difficulty getting this data until Jody Walker helped locate it.
 - * If recipients could keep coverage if they meet work requirements.
 - * There are various eligibility requirements; each case will need to be individually reviewed.
 - * It's not as simple as "just work and you keep coverage."
 - * Noted practical challenges in rural areas: lack of vehicles, transportation, and limited job opportunities.
 - * There are exemptions (e.g., mental/physical frailty) but emphasized the administrative burden.
3. SNAP Administrative Costs & Error Rates
 - * Dir. Demosky explained part of the bill proposing states pay part of SNAP administrative costs if their error rate exceeds 6%.
 - * Ohio's error rate is ~7.2%, so Ohio could soon face penalties.
 - * Athens County's error rate is "next to zero."
 - * Dir. Demosky suggested creative solutions:
 - * Counties with higher error rates might pay Athens County to process their SNAP cases.
 - * Offering training to other counties, since Athens has effective trainers.
4. Teams Phone System & Cost Savings
 - * Dir. Demosky described a research project showing that switching staff phones to Microsoft Teams (instead of desk phones) could save ~25% on the phone bill.
 - * Some phones (e.g., customer service lines using finesse software) can't switch.
 - * Mentioned Ohio University already uses this system.
 - * Commissioner Chmiel asked about actual dollar savings, but the figure wasn't immediately recalled.
5. Contracts
 - * Dir Demosky presented several new/renewed contracts:
 - * Athens County Children's Services: \$15,000 (July 1,2025–June 30,2026) for Medicaid transport of their own clients.
 - * Hopewell Health: \$100,000 for the same period for Medicaid-eligible client transport.
 - * Commissioner Adkins questioned why public funds are used for agencies that may be financially secure.

- * Commissioner Eliason clarified:
 - * The funds are tied to specific services, reimbursed by federal programs (Title XX).
 - * The county isn't directly subsidizing the agencies but paying for eligible services provided to clients.
 - * Commissioner Adkins raised concerns about for-profit providers (like Hopewell Health or Green Cab) getting these contracts.
 - * Commissioner Eliason noted it's a federal eligibility issue: clients need transport, and these agencies meet the demand.
 - * The group discussed the challenge of providing public transportation in rural areas:
 - * Buses don't reach remote areas.
 - * Personalized transport is essential for elderly and medically frail residents.
 - * Uber/Lyft are limited to weekends; rural transit consolidation attempts failed in the past.
 - * The county handles as many rides as possible before passing requests to private providers.
- * Summer Employment Program Contract
 - * Dir Demosky requested an extension (without adding funds) to the HAPCAP summer employment program contract, to allow them to keep using leftover funds (~\$75,000).
- * Event Lease Agreement
 - * Dir Demosky requested approval for Appalachian Literacy Arts and Storytelling to use the Nelsonville parking lot for a festival on October 4, 2025.

6. Building & Surplus

- * Mentioned an upcoming physical inspection of 510 building under possible transfer (details not specified).

7. Reduced Work Schedule Survey

- * Dir Demosky reported about 10% of staff expressed interest in a reduced work schedule, based on a recent internal survey.

DJFS Contracts - NET

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the following NET Contracts as requested by Dir Jean Demosky:

Athens County Children Services: \$15,000.00 (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026)
Hopewell Health Centers, Inc: \$100,000.00 (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026)

Full Contract on file in the Commissioners Office.

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

DJFS Contract - HAPCAP Summer Employment Program

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the DJFS Contract with HAPCAP Summer Employment Program as requested by Dir. Jean Demosky:

Extend Contract with HAPCAP Summer Employment Program through June 30, 2026, No New Funds.

Full contract on file in the Commissioners Office.

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

DJFS Lease Agreement

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the lease agreement with Appalachian Literacy Arts and Storytelling to use the Nelsonville parking lot on October 4, 2025 as requested by Dir. Jean Demosky.

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

Bid Opening - 2025 Athens County Paving Project

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to acknowledge the bids for the 2025 Athens County Paving Project. See Bids on back of page 218.

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

Athens County Engineer 2025 Athens County Paving Project Bid Tabulation - 7/1/2025					Engineer's Estimate		Shelly & Sands, Inc.		McKee Paving and Sealing, LLC		Breck's Paving	
REF NO.	ITEM NO.	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY	UNIT	UNIT COST	TOTAL COST	UNIT COST	TOTAL COST	UNIT COST	TOTAL COST	UNIT COST	TOTAL COST
1	254	PAVEMENT PLANING, ASPHALT CONCRETE	433	SY	\$ 10.00	\$ 4,330.00	\$ 12.50	\$ 5,412.50	\$ 12.00	\$ 5,196.00	\$ 9.19	\$ 3,979.27
2	407	TACK COAT	6483	GAL	\$ 3.00	\$ 19,449.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 19,449.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 19,449.00	\$ 5.24	\$ 33,970.92
3	441	ASPHALT CONCRETE SURFACE COURSE, TYPE 1, (448), PG64-22	2154	CY	\$ 200.00	\$ 430,800.00	\$ 190.00	\$ 409,260.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 387,720.00	\$ 223.58	\$ 481,591.32
4	441	ASPHALT CONCRETE INTERMEDIATE COURSE, TYPE 1, (448)	1336	CY	\$ 200.00	\$ 267,200.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 240,480.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 240,480.00	\$ 199.63	\$ 266,705.68
5	611	MANHOLE ADJUSTED TO GRADE	4	EACH	\$ 200.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 376.25	\$ 1,505.00
6	617	COMPACTED AGGREGATE	583	CY	\$ 110.00	\$ 64,130.00	\$ 85.00	\$ 49,555.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 58,300.00	\$ 139.79	\$ 81,497.57
7	642	EDGE LINE, 4", TYPE 1	10.22	MILE	\$ 800.00	\$ 8,176.00	\$ 845.00	\$ 8,635.90	\$ 840.00	\$ 8,584.80	\$ 933.47	\$ 9,540.06
8	642	CENTER LINE, TYPE 1	5.11	MILE	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 7,665.00	\$ 1,435.00	\$ 7,332.85	\$ 1,430.00	\$ 7,307.30	\$ 1,589.05	\$ 8,120.05
9	644	STOP LINE	60	FT	\$ 15.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 16.67	\$ 1,000.20
10	614	MAINTAINING TRAFFIC	1	LS	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 30,500.00	\$ 30,500.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 86,315.00	\$ 86,315.00
11	623	CONSTRUCTION LAYOUT STAKES AND SURVEYING	1	LS	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,685.00	\$ 3,685.00
12	624	MOBILIZATION	1	LS	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 13,885.00	\$ 13,885.00
13	103	PREMIUM FOR PERFORMACE BOND AND FOR PAYMENT BOND	1	LS	\$ 8,050.00	\$ 8,050.00	\$ 2,941.00	\$ 2,941.00	\$ 9,365.00	\$ 9,365.00	\$ 14,285.00	\$ 14,285.00
ESTIMATED TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST =						\$ 843,000.00	(-6.7%)	\$ 786,766.25	(-6.5%)	\$ 788,302.10	(+19.3%)	\$ 1,006,080.07

Samuel Thornton - Port Authority Interview

A new appointment was needed for the Port Authority Board following Austin's relocation to Cleveland. Samuel Thornton was nominated to fill the vacancy, bringing 15 years of industrial manufacturing experience, including operating Athens Mold & Machine since 2016 and expanding into new facilities and technologies. The business currently employs around 62 people locally and about 130 company-wide, including an Akron facility. Samuel confirmed there would be no conflicts of interest with the Port Authority.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to appoint Samuel Thornton to the Port Authority Board:

July 2, 2025

Samuel Thornton
8325 Lavelle Rd
Athens, Ohio 45701

Dear Mr. Thornton,

The Board of Athens County Commissioners, during its regular meeting held on July 1, 2025, appointed you to serve on the Athens County Port Authority, filling an unexpired term beginning November 1, 2024, and ending October 31, 2028.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication and willingness to serve Athens County in this capacity. Your contributions are essential to fostering the growth and success of our community, and we are confident that your experience and commitment will be an asset to the Port Authority.

Sincerely,

/s/Lenny Eliason, President

/s/Charlie Adkins, Vice-President

/s/Chris Chmiel

ACC:jr
CC: Mollie Fitzgerald

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

Baum Law Office Issue

Handling additional legal costs for the Bomb Offices Attorney's ongoing contract:

- Administrator JoAnn Rockhold raised the need to discuss the long contract related to Baum Offices Attorney services. The attorney's office contacted them, saying they will need an extra \$5,000-\$10,000 to get through the end of the year—an amount that had already been verbally agreed upon, but isn't reflected in the signed contract. Administrator Rockhold suggested an addendum or agreement to formalize covering costs beyond the current contract amount.
- Commissioner Eliason clarified that once the funds in the existing contract run out, the attorney's office would typically bill the county directly. Commissioner Eliason recommended drafting a separate addendum specifying that, after the contract amount is exhausted, additional costs would be paid from the county's general fund rather than mixing funds allocated under the existing contract.
- Administrator Rockhold agreed and said they would have TL (Prosecutor's Office) draft the addendum. They also noted there has never been a similar situation with other court-appointed cases.
- Commissioner Adkins added they might also look to see if Dir. Jean Demosky could identify other funding sources before year-end but confirmed the fallback would be to cover extra costs from the general fund. Dir. Demosky mentioned ongoing discussions with Jody and brought up Ross County and Ross Vinton from the Triple Group as points of comparison, noting Vinton's long tenure (26 years) as director.
- They briefly discussed the potential of opening longer-term discussions, possibly involving Otis, and concluded that the situation primarily relates to custody cases, indicating more planning might be needed for similar issues going forward.

Add/Remove Authorized Users on Credit Card

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the following add/remove authorized users on DJFS Credit Card:

Remove: Angela Canter

Add: Tracy McKibben

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

LEPC Membership

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to authorize Mr. Eliason to sign and submit the updated LEPC Membership Roster as provided by EMA Melissa Blank. See back of page 220 for LEPC Membership Roster.

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

Motorola Inv #1411188824 for Sheriff's Body Cams \$52,512.00 to be paid with ARPA Funds

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Motorola Inv #1411188824 for Sheriff's Body Cams \$52,512.00 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.

Parking & Maintenance Vehicle Logistics

Discussion regarding parking adjustments following the departure of Debbie Quivey, who previously had a dedicated handicap parking spot.

Proposal:

- * Convert Debbie Quivey's former parking spot and an adjacent spot for BOE use.
- * Reassign the old BOE spot to the maintenance staff so they no longer need to shuffle vehicles daily when traveling to other locations (e.g., Glouster, Nelsonville, etc.).

Next Steps: Commissioner Adkins and Administrator JoAnn Rockhold will work together on gathering and finalizing the necessary parking information.

STAR Facility

The state is reviewing two proposals for the STAR facility. One proposal is from a for-profit LLC organization based in Circleville, which the state's legal team is unlikely to approve. The other is from Dress Right Dress, which may have better chances.

There was discussion about why the county is even involved, since the building is owned by the state and the county doesn't currently have a direct use for it.

It was clarified that the building is not titled to the county now; it remains state property.

Eventually, when the bonds on the building are paid off, the county could inherit it and would then have the right of first refusal, but there is no obligation to keep it.

The county's role now is mostly to provide recommendations on what might best serve the community.

Commissioner Chmiel mentioned speaking to representatives from the recovery center (the LLC proposal) and offered to help them find another location in Athens County, since they do have funds and could create up to 100 jobs.

The group agreed the next step should be to send a letter to the state confirming that the county has no current use for the building and that the state is free to decide based on the proposals.

The conversation concluded with an agreement that the letter should be drafted and sent, and acknowledgment that the state's legal team will likely filter out the ineligible proposals (Planner LaVelle will draft and send letter).



Local Emergency Planning Committee
Application of LEPC Member Appointments for Multiple Members

c/o Ohio EPA, Lazarus Government Center
 50 W. Town St., Ste. 700
 PO Box 1049
 Columbus, OH 43216-1049

Local Emergency Planning Committee: Athens
 From 7 / 9 / 2025 through 8 / 1 / 2027

Representing	Name	Title	Employer	LEPC Officer*
Fire	Robert Rymer	Chief	Athens City Fire	2
	Harry Barber	Chief	Nelsonville Fire Dept.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Law	Nick Magruder	Chief	Athens City Police Dept.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Steven Daugherty	Lt.	OSP	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elected Official	Charlie Adkins	Commissioner	Athens County	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Ted Linscott	Trustee	Athens Township	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emergency Management	Teresa Fouts-Imler	Director	Athens County 911/EMA	3
	Melissa Blank	Dep. Director	Athens County EMA	1
Hospital	Cesalie Jenkins	Emergency Management	Ohio Health, O'Bleness	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Lori Price	Emergency Management	Memorial Health System	<input type="checkbox"/>
First Aid	Amber Pyle	Chief	Athens Co. EMS	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Randy Crossen	Asst. Chief	Athens Co. EMS	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health	Jack Pepper	Administrator	Athens City/County Health	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Kate Cottrill	Emergency Response Coord.	Athens City/County Health	5
Environmental	Pat McGarry	Director of Environmental	Athens City/County Health	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>
Transportation	Jeff Maiden	County Engineer	Athens County Engineer's	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Scott Sanders	Transportation Admin.	ODOT	<input type="checkbox"/>
Media	Thom Williams	VP/Co-Owner	TMCR Broadcasting, LLC	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Group	Jean Demosky	Director	Athens Co. JFS	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Taylor Anderson	Comm. Disaster Prog. Mgr.	American Red Cross	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industry	Travis Anderson	Director	Le-Ax Water District	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	Jeff Slattery	Volunteer	Amateur Radio/Red Cross	4
	Andrew Powers	Chief	Ohio University Police	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	Jill Harris	Emergency Manager	Ohio University	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Josh Clegg	Coordinator	Athens County 911	<input type="checkbox"/>

*indicate if following officer positions: (1) information coordinator; (2) chairperson; (3) emergency coordinator; (4) vice chairperson; and (5) secretary

County Commissioner Name <i>LENA ELIAS</i>	Signature <i>Lena Elias</i>	Date Signed <i>7/1/2025</i>
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Insurance RFP

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve and proceed with the insurance RFP, Mr. Chmiel will contact NFP to have an agreement setup.

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

Move meeting July 22nd to 24th

There was discussion about moving the July 22 meeting to July 24.

Determined that it cannot be moved because there is a bid bond closing for the Health Department on July 22 at 9:30 AM.

Agreed to keep the meeting on July 22 and ensure no agenda items are scheduled after 10:30 AM.

Auditor Contract with Argus Growth Consultants, LTD

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Auditor's Contract with Argus Growth Consultants, LTD for \$4,000.00.

Full Contract on file in the Commissioners Office.

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

Travel

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

Comm Lenny Eliason; NACo 90th Annual Conference, Philadelphia City, PA; 07/10-07/15/25
Auditor Jill Davidson & Marsha Few; Southwest Ohio Auditor's District Meeting, Circleville OH; 07/11/2025
Judge Patrick Lang; 2025 OJC Annual Meeting, Hilton Columbus @ Easton; 09/11 - 09/12/25
Clerk of Courts Candy Russell & Justin Elekes; District 2 Meeting, Ironton OH; 07/14/25
Comm Chris Chmiel; Ohio Outdoor Recreation Economy Conference; Athens, OH 7/22-7/23/2025

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

BOR

There was confusion over the Board of Revision (BOR) voting to not collect certain court fees related to old land bank foreclosure cases (from 2019–2021).

The concern raised was that the BOR does not have legal authority to waive general fund fees — this power belongs to the clerk of courts or possibly the commissioners.

The fees in question arose because cases were first filed in the BOR, then transferred to the Court of Common Pleas, leading to potential double billing of court costs.

The prosecutor's office recommended waiving the duplicate fees to avoid charging the land bank twice. Some felt the correct process was not followed.

There was also broader discussion about how land bank properties now come through the forfeited land list process when properties don't sell at sheriff's sale.

Uncertainty remained about whether tax bills for such properties should be paid by the commissioners or passed on to the land bank.

Several members stressed the need for better coordination between the prosecutor, treasurer, clerk of courts, land bank, and commissioners to clarify fee waivers and property transfer processes.

Buckeye Hills Regional Council - ARC

Sam Miller and Emma Yeager presented the Buckeye Hills Regional 2025-26 ARC Pre-Applications for Athens County. See back of page 221 for complete copy of applicants.

Manufacturing Sector Workforce Expansion	This initiative will implement the proven WorkAdvance program across seven southeastern Ohio counties to train, place, and support job seekers in advanced manufacturing careers through industry-aligned technical training, wrap-around services, and employer partnerships led by the Appalachian Ohio Manufacturers' Coalition.	Cecily Tyffe - Appalachian Ohio Manufacturers' Coalition	Athens, Hocking, Monroe, Noble, & Washington	1	779,446.00	1	500,000.00
New Marshfield Unsewered Area	Athens County is addressing a public health crisis in New Marshfield, caused by widespread septic tank failures that have resulted in water contamination. This project will install a gravity flow sewage collection system and sand biosolvent treatment facility as a sustainable, long-term solution for its predominantly low-to-moderate-income residents.	Lenny Eliason - Athens County Commissioners	Athens	1	9,334,350.00	1	750,000.00
Snow Fork Event Center Utilities	Shuart's Opera House will implement comprehensive utility upgrades, including power (with solar), water, internet, and road improvements, at the Snow Fork Event Center to enhance the infrastructure for the Nelsonville Music Festival and future events.	Melissa Wales - Shuart's Opera House	Athens	1	940,875.00	1	671,611.00
Special Care Nursery to Advance Maternal and Neonatal Health	OhioHealth O'Leanness Hospital will renovate 3,000 square feet to establish the first Level II Special Care Nursery in Athens County, enabling local care for high-risk newborns, reducing transport times, improving maternal and neonatal health equity in Appalachian Ohio, and creating new healthcare jobs.	Josbana Massie - OhioHealth O'Leanness Hospital	Athens, Hocking, & Meigs	1	4,537,949.00	1	600,000.00
Strengthening the Workforce Ecosystem	The Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program's project will provide job training, credentialing, wrap-around support, and recovery-friendly employment opportunities for individuals facing barriers, including substance use disorder (SUD) recovery and violence survivorship, across five Appalachian counties, while helping local employers build inclusive workplace cultures.	Grethen Gregory - Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program	Athens, Hocking, & Meigs	1	214,300.00	1	500,000.00



2025-26 ARC Pre-Applications - Athens County

*All projects listed were submitted before the April 25, 2025, deadline. They are presented in alphabetical order by project title. Athens County Commissioners Meeting: Tuesday, July 8 @ 9 a.m.

Project Title	Project Description	Point of Contact	County	Total Project Cost	ARC Request
AICD Boat Ban on the Hocking	The City of Athens is seeking funding to construct a public boat ramp downstream of White's Mill Dam on Ohio University-owned land, improving river safety, enhancing recreation, and expanding multimodal access along the Hocking River corridor.	Andy Stone - City of Athens	Athens	1 600,000.00	1 420,000.00
Ameville Water Distribution System Replacement	Ameville will replace its aging rigid pipe water distribution system with modern, corrosion-resistant infrastructure, including new mains, valves, meters, and hydrants, while establishing an emergency connection to the Sunday Creek Water District to assess long-term reliability and resiliency of its drinking water supply.	Gary Gosman - Village of Ameville	Athens	1 3,000,000.00	1 750,000.00
Athens Fairgrounds Community Building Renovation	The Athens County Agricultural Society plans to renovate and expand the Fairgrounds Community Building to house the ODS Extension Office and create a modern, accessible meeting space with upgraded features to better serve a wide range of community groups and public programs.	Jeremy Carr - Athens County Agricultural Society	Athens	1 101,000.00	1 70,000.00
BHRC Region X1 Workforce Ecosystem Map	This project will create a comprehensive regional K-12 Workforce Ecosystem Map to identify and align existing funding sources, thereby better supporting student-led career development programs and expanding high school internship opportunities with local businesses.	Tasha Werry - Building Bridges to Careers	Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, & Washington	1 214,000.00	1 499,476.00
Building the New Tabletown People of Color Museum	This project will develop a new 2,400-square-foot museum in Tabletown to attract cultural tourism to the Buckeye Hills Region.	David Butcher - The Tabletown People of Color Museum	Athens, Morgan, Perry, & Washington	1 1,350,000.00	1 750,000.00

Village of Cooville's Water System Improvements	The Village of Cooville will complete a 9-month project to replace outdated and leaking waterlines, install new meters and an AMI system, and restore affected areas, bringing the Village into compliance with Ohio EPA regulations and addressing the costly water loss in this low-income community.	Neil Cowen - Village of Cooville	Athens	1 2,384,876.00	1 750,000.00
Warren Road Water & Sewer Expansion	The City of Athens will extend municipal water and sewer lines along Warren Road to replace failing private systems, improve public health, support future development, and unsewered area.	Andy Stone - City of Athens	Athens	1 600,000.00	1 420,000.00
Water Meter Replacement	This project will replace all outdated water meters, install new telemetry at the water tower, and implement upgraded billing software to address significant water loss, improve efficiency, and comply with Ohio EPA standards.	Nathan Timms - Village of Glouster	Athens	1 1,080,000.00	1 340,000.00


Total Athens Submitted Applications: 19	Total Athens ARC Ask: \$ 10,460,134.00
Total Submitted Applications: 46	Total BHRC ARC Ask: \$ 25,751,235.00

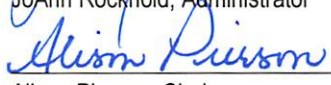
Career Pathways	The Career Pathways Leadership, Entrepreneurship Initiative is a three-year program launching in 2025 to equip over 125 underserved youth and adults in Southeast Ohio with workforce, leadership, and entrepreneurial skills that promote economic mobility, business creation, and community revitalization in economically distressed Appalachian counties.	Trenda Hordt-Love - Noble Local Schools	Athens, Morgan, Noble, & Washington	1 227,000.00	1 175,000.00
Carpenter Road Extension	The Village of Albany plans to expand its roadway, water, and sewer infrastructure along Carpenter Road to enable the development of a key business and industrial park site, one of the county's few remaining areas suitable for commercial growth.	Tim Kiskandjill - Village of Albany	Athens	1 9,976,540.00	1 750,000.00
Distilled Distillery	Distilled Distillery is a micro-batch craft spirits venture that will transform a historic building in Marietta into a distillery, tasting room, and restaurant to generate local jobs, boost tourism, and anchor a proposed "Southeastern Ohio Bourbon Trail."	Lary Stoker - Distilled Distillery, LLC	Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, & Washington	1 4,714,600.00	1 750,000.00
Economic Development	ORCA is seeking funding to sustain critical staff positions needed to complete construction and activate the Valley Trail System Hub in Chaucery to support tenant recruitment, business development, and long-term economic growth.	Heale Powers - Outdoor Recreation Council of Appalachia	Athens	1 616,000.00	1 428,000.00
Growing Affordable Housing and Infrastructure	This project will establish a modular compressed-styrawall panel manufacturing facility to create sustainable building materials, train local workers, support regional supply chains, and promote environmentally responsible, affordable housing solutions across Appalachian Ohio.	Wesley Lombard - Rising Appalachia	Athens, & Meigs	1 2,427,300.00	1 749,000.00
Growing Community Health Worker (CHW) Workforce & Effectiveness	CHW Thrive will expand and strengthen the Community Health Worker workforce in Athens, Hocking, and Perry Counties by adding CHWs through MACAP and enhancing care coordination in five key service areas (transportation, food security, medication adherence, health literacy, and mental health) to improve community health outcomes and drive regional economic development.	Paul Inghewood - Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development	Athens, Hocking, & Perry	1 588,077.00	1 313,744.00

Adjourn

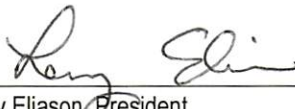
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to adjourn the above meeting.

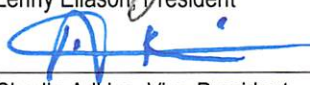
The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

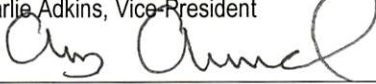


JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator


Alison Pierson, Clerk



Lenny Eliason, President


Charlie Adkins, Vice-President


Chris Chmiel