

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

Agenda

A motion was made by Mr Adkins and seconded by Mr Eliason to approve the following agenda:
Athens County Board of County Commissioners

Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, June 17, 2025 Convenes at 9:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda

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

- 9:30 911 - Tax Levy
- 9:45 DJFS Dir Jean Demosky - weekly updates
- 10:00 Justin Grant- CEBCO Quarterly update
- 10:15 Jeff Jenkins- HAPCAP-Jacksonville NRG engineering agreement
- 10:30 W&S Supt Oscar Carson - weekly updates
- 10:45 Connor Lavelle- Bikepath repair
- 11:00 Senior Citizens Hearing
- 11:15 Senior Citizens Hearing
- 11:30 LUNCH

Agenda Items

- Amended Certificate
- Authorize user for Credit Card
- Public Defender Contracts
- Mass Casualty Van Bid Publishing
- Surplus - Engineer
- Painting of Exterior Windows
- Resolution for John Deak
- House Bill 335
- Sheriff Contract - Fairfield Co
- Hartman Rd Lift Station
- Change Start Time for June 24th
- Move Meeting July 15th to July 17th

~TRAVEL

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

A motion was made by Mr Adkins and seconded by Mr Eliason 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: To: 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, absent; Mr. Adkins, yea.

911 - Tax Levy

A motion was made by Mr Adkins and seconded by Mr Eliason approving the following Resolution:
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF LEVYING AN ADDITIONAL TAX OF ONE-FOURTH OF ONE PERCENT FOR A FIVE YEAR PERIOD, PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE, SECTION 5739.026 (A)(6), SETTING DATE OF ELECTION OF SAID LEVY; AND SETTING FORTH THE ALLOCATION METHOD TO DISTRIBUTE THE TAX PROCEEDS FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

THE OPERATION OF 9-1-1

The Board of County Commissioner of Athens County, Ohio, met on this 17th day of June 2025, in regular session with the following members present: Lenny Eliason and Charlie Adkins.

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Eliason to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Athens County is in need of additional revenue to finance the operation of 911 system in the County, and

WHEREAS, Public Hearings were previously held on July 31, 2020, and August 4, 2020, for the purpose of considering submitting the question of increasing the permissive sales tax by one-fourth of one percent (1/4 percent) to the voters in the November 4, 2025 general election; and

WHEREAS, The Board upon consideration has agreed the question of levying a sales tax as provided by Sections 5739.026 (A) (6) of the Ohio Revised Code should be submitted to the Athens County Board of Elections to be placed on the November 4, 2025, general election ballot; NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO:

Section 1. Upon approval by the requisite majority of the electors of the County on the question of levying a county sales and use tax under Sections 5739.026(A)(6) of the Ohio Revised Code the Board of County Commissioners of Athens County, Ohio, do hereby levy an additional tax at the rate of one-fourth of one percent for a five year (5) period. That we, the Board of County Commissioners of Athens County, Ohio, do hereby authorize and direct the Board of Elections of Athens County to submit to the voters of Athens County at the November 4, 2025, general election the question of levying an additional sales and use tax in the County.

Section 2. That the proceeds of said levy shall be used to pay expenses of administering the tax and for the following:

- (A) The implementation and operating expenses of the 911 system for the County pursuant to Section 5739.026(A)(6) of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 3. That the revenue from the levy shall be allocated for the purposes stated in Section 2 on a calendar basis, and the funds allocated shall be those received in the calendar year from the Ohio Department of Taxation, and the method of allocation shall be to designate to the use described in Section 2(A) (enhanced 911 system).

Section 4. That the Clerk immediately certify a copy of this resolution to the Athens County Board of Elections, to be submitted to the voters at the November 4, 2025, general election, and to certify a copy of this resolution to the Tax Commissioner of the State of Ohio and to the Athens County Auditor.

Section 5. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were so adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this board, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

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

I, JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator for the Board of County Commissioners of Athens County, Ohio, certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said Board June 17, 2025, and appears in the Commissioners' Journal 121.

/s/JoAnn Rockhold
Administrator, Board of Commissioners
Athens County, Ohio

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

DJFS Dir Jean Demosky - Weekly Updates

Dir Demosky provided the following weekly updates:

1. Program Updates:

- * Fatherhood Event (June 26, 6–8 PM at Community Cares Resource Center):
 - * Titled "Building Bonds and Bird Feeders – Celebrating Fatherhood Together".
 - * Dads and children will build and decorate birdhouses; children receive bird seed.

- * Flyers are available.
- * New Training Partnership:
 - * Collaboration with GRIT and Hocking Hills Garment Center, an industrial sewing school and garment manufacturing facility.
 - * Six students will receive sponsored training, leading to potential wages of \$18–\$19/hour.
- 2. Funding & Budget Challenges:
 - * EIP Program Discontinued (Effective July 1):
 - * Previously provided job-start stipends and 6-month employment incentives.
 - * Ended by the state with no plans to renew in the next biennium.
 - * Benefit Bridge Expansion on Hold:
 - * Pilot program status delayed due to state budget uncertainty.
 - * WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) Budget Cuts:
 - * Area 14 adult budget cut by 13.5%, youth by 8.2%, though dislocated worker funding increased by 4.8%.
 - * Net WIOA budget reduced by 6.8%.
 - * Cuts will limit the number of individuals receiving workforce training (e.g., CDL or STNA programs), affecting partners like Hocking College.
- 3. Response Strategies to Budget Cuts:
 - * Hiring Freeze: No public hiring for 2025, mirroring 2020 (COVID year).
 - * Deferred Maintenance: No capital improvements; pending discussion with superintendent on critical infrastructure (e.g., porches at county home, wall at Nelsonville).
 - * Closer Analysis of RMS (Random Moment Sampling):
 - * Used for funding allocation; a new fiscal specialist will optimize this process.
 - * Increased Use of Agency Rides:
 - * Maximizing vehicle usage and driver staffing to enhance funding reimbursements.
- 4. Grants and Performance:
 - * Pursuing grants (e.g., OMAS and GRIT) to supplement workforce funding.
 - * Emphasis on performance management to ensure staff productivity and skill alignment.
 - * Expanding free community work readiness programs to maintain public value perception.
 - * Reviewing and possibly reducing contracted services; shifting functions back in-house where feasible.
- 5. Cost-Saving Considerations:
 - * Voluntary Furloughs:
 - * Exploring a program allowing employees to reduce hours voluntarily (e.g., four-day weeks).
 - * Benefits (health, seniority, vacation) would remain intact.
 - * Planning to survey staff interest; may adopt strategies from other counties already implementing this.
 - * Voluntary Part-Time Work:
 - * Targeting some double-dippers (retirees returning to work) who may want reduced hours.
 - * Limited savings due to continued insurance costs unless multiple workers participate.

Amended Certificate

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason acknowledging receipt of the Amended Certificate for Athens County Commissioners, dated June 17, 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, absent; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Authorize User for Credit Card

A motion was made by Mr Adkins and seconded by Mr Eliason to approve Lauren Dikis from Board of Elections as an authorized user for the Huntington Bank Credit Card.

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

Public Defender Contracts

A motion was made by Mr Adkins and seconded by Mr Eliason to approve the following Public Defender Agreements for various Villages and Cities in Athens County: The parties herein, being Athens County, herein after referred to as County, and the (City/Village of) previously entered into an agreement on the 1 st day of July, 2025, for the provision of legal counsel to indigent defendants. The parties, pursuant to Paragraph 5 of that agreement, hereby mutually extend the agreement to provide legal representation for indigent person from December 31, 2025 through June 30, 2026. All the terms of the agreement signed between the parties of July 1,2025, shall remain in full force and effect and are incorporated herein.

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

Mass Casualty Van Bid Publishing

A motion was made by Mr Adkins and seconded by Mr Eliason to authorize Administrator JoAnn Rockhold to advertise the Mass Casualty Van for EMA's Grant:

Notice To Bidders

Mass Casualty Response Vehicle - Request for Bids

The Athens County board of Commissioners is seeking sealed bids from qualified vendors to provide a van for Emergency Medical Services (EMS). This vehicle will strengthen our ability to respond effectively to mass casualty incidents.

Bid Submission Deadline:

All sealed bids must be received by Thursday, July 17th, 2025, before 9:00 AM EST.

Late bids will not be accepted.

Bid Opening:

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud during the Board of Commissioners' Meeting.

Questions and Inquiries:

All questions should be addressed to:

Teresa Imler

Email: timler@athens911.com

Phone: (740)592-3276

Vehicle Specifications

The mass casualty van must meet the following minimum specifications:

General Requirements:

- Model Year: 2023 or Newer
- Type: Wheelbase no less than 148 inches
- Engine: Gasoline
- Transmission: Automatic
- Drive train: AWD

Dimensions:

- Interior Height: 72 inches minimum
- Payload Capacity: 4000 lbs minimum
- Cargo Volume: 400 cu/ft minimum
- Doors: Side and Rear doors
- Exterior Color: White
- Hitch
- Floodlights

Interior Features:

- Climate Control
- Lighting: Cargo Compartment Lighting
- Flooring: Non-slip, easy to clean
- Safety Restraints

The Athens County Commissioners reserve the right to waive any informalities or reject any or all bids.

By Order of the Athens County Commissioners

Lenny Eliason, President

JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator

Publish 6/28 and 7/8

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

Surplus - Engineer

A motion was made by Mr Adkins and seconded by Mr Eliason to approve the following Engineer Surplus for auction or sale on Govdeals.com:

Property Description	Model #	Serial #
2024 GMC Sierra 2500HD-Pro		1GT59LE71RF146016
2008 International Tandem SFA Dump Truck		1HTWPAZT68J044148
2011 International 7400 Tandem Axle Dump Truck		1HTWHAZT6BJ341926
2008 International 7400 Tandem Axle Dump Truck		1HTWHAZT08J680464
2008 International 7400 Tandem Axle Dump Truck		1HTWHAZT08J680463
2010 Silverado 3500 4-WHL Drive Pickup Truck		1GC7KZB69AF120165
2007 GMC Sierra 3500 4WD Pickup Truck		1GTHK39D57E114786
1987 International 2500 Tar Spreader, Tandem Axle		1HTZPGJT5HH515211
Various Motorola VHF Radios	(See back of page 204)	

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

Painting of Exterior Windows

A motion was made by Mr Adkins and seconded by Mr Eliason to accept the bid from Advanced Painting to paint window trim and lintels on Annex in the amount of \$3,840.00.

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

Resolution for John Deak

A motion was made by Mr Adkins and seconded by Mr Eliason to approve the retirement resolution for John Deak.

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

House Bill 335

A motion was made by Mr Adkins and seconded by Mr Eliason to send a letter about House Bill 335.

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

Sheriff Contract - Fairfield Co

A motion was made by Mr Adkins and seconded by Mr Eliason to approve the Sheriff's Contract with Fairfield County for Prisoner Housing:

June 18, 2025

Fairfield County Commissioners
210 East Main Street
Room 302
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Re: Fairfield County Jail-Housing Prisoners

Dear Honorable County Commissioners,

The Athens County Board of Commissioners has approved the extension of the contract, originally entered into on March 19, 2024, to house prisoners at the Fairfield County Jail. The contract will now remain in effect through the end of 2025.

I, JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator for the Board of County Commissioners of Athens County, Ohio, certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said Board June 17, 2025, and appears in the Commissioners' Journal 121.

/s/JoAnn Rockhold
Administrator, Board of Commissioners
Athens County, Ohio

/s/Lenny Eliason, President /s/Charlie Adkins, Vice President /s/Chris Chmiel, Commissioner /s/Rodney Smith, Sheriff

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

Hartman Rd Lift Station

A motion was made by Mr Adkins and seconded by Mr Eliason to ratify Mr. Eliason's Signature on the Hartman Rd Lift Station Documents. See back of page 205.

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

CEBCO Quarterly Updates - Justin Grant

Justin Grant provided the following CEBCO Quarterly Updates:

1. Loss Ratio & Claims:
 - * From April 2024 to March 2025, the overall loss ratio is 90%, improved to 80.6% after removing \$959,000 from inactive high-cost claimants.
 - * There were 9 high-cost claimants (down from 10), with 4 no longer active—a positive shift as they no longer generate expenses.
2. Medical & Pharmacy Costs:
 - * Medical claims increased 9.1% year-over-year to \$7.7M.
 - * Pharmacy costs rose ~4%, from \$2M to \$2.1M.
 - * For the period ending May 2025, medical claims dropped \$436K, pharmacy costs rose \$41K.
3. Drug Spending Details:
 - * Brand-name drugs made up 13% of drug spend (\$1.8M); generics 87.1% (\$244K).
 - * High-cost drugs:
 - * Kineret (for inflammatory conditions): \$267K for 1 patient.
 - * Ozempic: \$216K across 30 patients.
 - * Wegovy and Zepbound (weight loss drugs): usage discontinued after 1/1 but costs still reflected.
4. Top Conditions (Plan Cost):
 - * #1: Diabetes – \$598K.
 - * #2: Inflammatory conditions – \$519K.
 - * Others: Growth deficiencies (\$100K), cancer (\$239K), and other lifestyle/wellness-related conditions.
5. Other Notables:
 - * Medicare is secondary for employed members; county plan remains primary.
 - * County plan does not cover partners, only spouses.
 - * Wellness program ends June 30; most engagement seen through Sydney app for rewards.
 - * Renewal meeting scheduled for August 29, held virtually.

Change Start Time for June 24, 2025 Meeting

A motion was made by Mr Adkins and seconded by Mr Eliason to approve the change of the start time for the June 24, 2025 meeting to 9:00 a.m.

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

Move Meeting July 15th to July 17th

A motion was made by Mr Adkins and seconded by Mr Eliason to approve moving meeting date Tuesday, July 15th to Thursday, July 17th.

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

Bikepath Repair - Planner Connor LaVelle

A motion was made by Mr Adkins and seconded by Mr Eliason to approve the estimate from McKee Paving for the Bikepath Repair caused by the car fire over the weekend. Surveyed damage is about 10 by 20 foot section of the bikepath that will need replaced, funding will come from equipment line in the planning budget in the amount of \$3,500.00.

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

HAPCAP-Jacksonville NRG Engineering Agreement - Jeff Jenkins

A motion was made by Mr Adkins and seconded by Mr Eliason to authorize Mr. Eliason to sign the Jacksonville NRG Engineering Agreement as recommended by HAPCAP Jeff Jenkins. See back of page 206 for agreement.

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

HAPCAP Updates

Jeff Jenkins provided the following updates:

- * New Marshfield Residential Public Infrastructure Grant (RPIG) was approved, pending formal grant agreement.
- * 93 High (Glouster building):
 - * Plumbing mostly done on 1st and 2nd floors; 3rd floor work starting.
 - * Electrical mostly complete.
 - * Window delivery delayed (was due June 11).
- * 87 High (Old Luckoff building):
 - * Still in design.
 - * Brick type and color selected and submitted for approval to the State Historic Preservation Office.
- * Albany Playground:
 - * Urgency to order equipment before July to avoid price increases.

Senior Citizens Hearing

The Commissioners conducted a Senior Citizens Hearing, in attendance was Albany Community Center Senior (Nettie Miller & Kathy Llewellyn), Albany Seniors (Rita Hysell Rannells), Chauncey Friendly Circle Seniors (Linda Gilden & Jerry Dowler), Lottridge Seniors (Carl Blake), Nelsonville Seniors (Mike Bean), Shade Seniors (Sherry Coon), The Glouster Depot (Betsy Shamhart), Troy Twp Torch Seniors (Brenda Dennis), & United Seniors (Joyce Lewis & Penny McCune).

Adjourn

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

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

JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator

Alison Pierson, Clerk

Lenny Eliason, President

Charlie Adkins, Vice-President

ABSENT

Chris Chmiel

