

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

Agenda

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

Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, June 03, 2025 Convenes at 9:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda
Approve Minutes May 27, 2025
Approve Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes, Then & Nows, & Bills

- 8:30 Road Viewing- Plains
9:30 Road Hearing - Plains
9:45 Mike Biggins and Connor Lavelle- Ferndale Park- Glass
10:15 Rhonda Stalter- Regional 8 Mobility Specialist
10:30 W&S Supt Oscar Carson - weekly updates
11:00 Prosecutor's Office - County Transit Authority
11:15 Jeff Jenkins- Lin Hall
11:30 LUNCH

Agenda Items

- W&S Extensions
JAG Grant
Surplus Printer
Sheriff - Collective Bargaining Agreement
OWDA New Marshfield (Ratify Commissioner Adkins Signature)
EMS - Tuition Reimbursement Program Agreement
DJFS Hire Fiscal Specialist

~TRAVEL

- Recorder - Jessica Markins; ORA Summer Continuing Education Seminar, Canton OH; 06/10-06/13/25
DJFS Jean Demosky; OJFSDA Executive Board Retreat, Perrysville OH; 08/13-08/15/25
DJFS Jean Demosky; OJFSDA Executive Board Meeting, Columbus OH; 06/11-06/13/25

ADJOURNMENT

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

Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to approve the minutes of May 27, 2025.

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

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

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. 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: 05/27/2025 To: 05/29/2025 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, absent; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Road Viewing - The Plains

The Commissioners conducted a public viewing at The Plains.

TRANSFERRED NO. EX977
SEC. 319.202 R.C. COMPLIED WITHIN AMT. A

JUN 27 2025

JILL A. DAVIDSON
AUDITOR ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO
mf TRANS FEE 504

TRANSFERRED NO. EX980
SEC. 319.202 R.C. COMPLIED WITHIN AMT. A

JUN 27 2025

JILL A. DAVIDSON
AUDITOR ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO
mf TRANS FEE 1.50

202500002702
FILED FOR RECORD IN
ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO
JESSICA MARKINS, RECORDER
06/30/2025 08:40:18 AM
OR BOOK: 625 PAGE: 2079
VAC NO FEE 0.00 PG: 9

202500002702
ATHENS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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TX:4020166
05/27/2025



Road Hearing - The Plains

A Public Hearing was conducted for the purpose is to vacate 10-foot-wide alley. The alley is located along the east side of Lot 22 in Elzina Connett's First Addition to Butte, as recorded in Envelope 202B. The general route and termini of the proposed alley vacation is described as follows: Beginning at the south right-of-way line of High Street and extending south to the north right-of-way line of the 12-foot alley. Those present for the hearing: Commissioner Chris Chmiel, Commissioner Charlie Adkins, Administrator JoAnn Rockhold, Clerk Alison Pierson, Helen King LWVAC, Planner Connor LaVelle, Supt. Mike Biggins, & Athens Twp Trustee Steve Pierson.

The Athens County Commissioners held a public viewing at 8:00 a.m. on June 3, 2025, in The Plains. The public hearing followed at 9:30 a.m. in the Athens County Board of Commissioners meeting room, located on the 2nd floor of the Courthouse Annex, 15 South Court Street, Athens, Ohio. Testimony was given by Athens Twp Trustee Steve Pierson.

- * Explained that the issue began when property owners built a detached accessory structure without a zoning certificate, which is required in The Plains since zoning has been in effect for five years.
- * The structure was built on a platted public alley, not on private property.
- * Since zoning regulations apply only to private property, they consulted with legal and township representatives including Heidi Fowler (Ohio Township Association) and Lisa Wise (legal counsel).
- * The recommendation to the property owner was to request the alley be vacated through the County Commissioners, which would transfer ownership to adjacent property owners and bring the issue into compliance with zoning laws.
- * The process started over a year ago.
- * Mentioned a comment made during the site visit: the property owner said the neighbor didn't mind the structure remaining partly on their future portion of the vacated alley. However, Steve clarified this would still violate zoning laws.
- * Pointed out a broader issue: in the past, structures like fences and garages were often built on public alleys without concern, but enforcement is now stricter.
- * Warned that similar cases are pending. If property owners do not seek alley vacations or remove buildings, the township is prepared to take legal action to remove structures.

Road Vacation Granted The Plains

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to grant the road vacation in The Plains a 10-foot-wide alley. The alley is located along the east side of Lot 22 in Elzina Connett's First Addition to Butte, as recorded in Envelope 202B. The general route and termini of the proposed alley vacation is described as follows: Beginning at the south right-of-way line of High Street and extending south to the north right-of-way line of the 12-foot alley. See letter on back of page 186.

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

Ferndale Park - Planner Connor LaVelle & Maintenance Superintendent Mike Biggins

Trash Truck Damage at Ferndale Park

- * Incident Overview:
 - * A trash/recycling truck drove onto the grass between the baseball fields at Ferndale Park, causing damage.
 - * The incident prompted a site visit by Commissioners Adkins and Planner LaVelle.
- * Key Points Discussed:
 - * Trash cans had been moved from their usual pickup location under the shelter house to near the dugouts by the baseball association.
 - * The driver attempted to retrieve the relocated cans, resulting in damage to the field.
- * Proposed Solutions:
 - * If they move trash/recycling cans closer to the dugouts during games, they must return them to the shelter house afterward for pickup.
 - * Haulers should only pick up containers at the shelter house and must not drive off the paved driveways.
 - * Send a letter to SORT (Southeast Ohio Recycling Terminal, formerly Athens-Hocking Recycling) stating they are not permitted to drive on the grass, and must only service cans located at the designated shelter house area.

A motion was made by Mr Chmiel and seconded by Mr Adkins to send a formal letter/email to SORT prohibiting them from driving off the driveway. SORT is responsible for repairing the field damage. If they do not fix it, the County will do so and bill them for labor and materials (e.g., dirt, straw, grass seed).

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

Disposal of Glass - Supt. Mike Biggins

Disposal of Glass at Maintenance Building:

- * Large quantities of glass have accumulated at the Sand Ridge maintenance building.
- * The glass was left behind when recycling operations ceased and is no longer wanted by current recycling handlers.

Discussion Points:

- * The glass is not surplus property and has no resale value.
- * It could be used for drainage or as base material under gravel.
- * If publicly offered, the County can load the material with equipment but will not be liable for damage during loading.

A motion was made by Mr Chmiel and seconded by Mr Adkins to advertise the free glass and allow interested individuals to pick it up at their own risk. Staff confirmed they can assist with loading using a tractor bucket but are not responsible for any damages.

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

Rhonda Stalter - Regional 8 Mobility Specialist

No Show

W&S Extensions

A motion was made by Mr Chmiel and seconded by Mr Adkins to approve an extension as requested by John Reeves for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is \$188.01 with \$113.32 due by 06/19/2025. If the terms of this agreement are not met, the account will be considered delinquent and service could be shut off.

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

JAG Grant

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to authorize Mr. Eliason to sign the Subgrant Award Agreement #2024-JG-A02-20600, Title: Coordinated Hotspot Response:

Subgrantee:	Athens County Commissioners		
Implementing Agency:	Athens County Sheriff's Office		
Award Periods:	01/01/2025 to 12/31/2025		
Closeout Deadline:	03/01/2026		
Award Amounts:	OCJS Funds:	\$16,239.85	75%
	Cash Match:	\$5,413.28	25%
	Inkind Match:	\$0.00	0%
	Project Total:	\$21,653.13	100%

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

Surplus Printer

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to declare surplus and redistribute to Solid Waste:

Property Description
Toshiba estudio 305

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

Sheriff - Collective Bargaining Agreement

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Athens County Sheriff's Office and The Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association effective January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027. Full agreement available on file in the Commissioner's Office.

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

OWDA New Marshfield (Ratify Commissioner Adkins Signature)

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to ratify Mr. Adkins Signature on the OWDA Payment Request #10 for US50 New Marshfield Sanitary Sewer in the amount of \$1,470.29.

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

EMS - Tuition Reimbursement Program Agreement

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to approve the EMS Tuition Reimbursement Program Agreement for Derek Hendershot:

I Derek S. Hendershot, agree that I am a full-time employee with Athens County EMS. I passed my Paramedic program within one calendar year of applying for this program. I have been elevated to charge status. I understand that reimbursements are made after I provide an itemized list of expenses and receipts. It will cover the cost of my books and tuition. I understand that I will be paid the total cost of the program over 3 years, and it will be divided equally over 78 pays. If I leave, am terminated, quit, or drop from full time status I agree that no further payments will be given to me. I understand that I am not obligated to pay back what I have received if that happens.

Applicant: /s/Derek Hendershot
Date: 05/29/25

/s/Chief Amber Pyle

/s/Charlie Adkins
/s/Chris Chmiel

/s/Lenny Eliason-Absent

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

DJFS Hire Fiscal Specialist

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to approve the hiring of a Fiscal Specialist as recommended by Dir Jean Demosky:

Angie Canter with a pay rate of \$25.92/hr. and a start date of June 16, 2025

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

Travel

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

- Recorder - Jessica Markins; ORA Summer Continuing Education Seminar, Canton OH; 06/10-06/13/25
- DJFS Jean Demosky; OJFSDA Executive Board Retreat, Perrysville OH; 08/13-08/15/25
- DJFS Jean Demosky; OJFSDA Executive Board Meeting, Columbus OH; 06/11-06/13/25

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

W&S Supt Oscar Carson - Weekly Updates

Supt Carson provided the following updates:

1. New Marshfield Project and Station Tie-In
 - * Supt Carson discusses the New Marshfield project tying into a station at Sandstone on 691.
 - * The station is expected to be upgraded by DLZ (engineering/consulting firm).
 - * No formal communication has been received from DLZ yet.
2. Trailer Park Sewer Inflow and Infiltration (I&I)
 - * The trailer park feeding into the lift station has excessive I&I (water infiltration).
 - * This system is private, originally owned by Doug and Melinda Fouts.
 - * Supt Carson suggests sending a letter to the current owner to request repairs, asking about a reasonable timeline for compliance.
 - * The trailer park is allowed 18,200 gallons/day, but current use is below that (only 41 out of 60 lots are active).
 - * During rain events, alarms are triggered due to excess water.
 - * Issues stem from substandard construction: 6-inch gravity lines were used (instead of 8-inch), and the county had no oversight at the time.
 - * The EPA and health department had signed off on the original project.
 - * Supt Carson will write a letter to the Trailer Park Owners about the issue and also include the Commissioners in on the letter.
3. Hydrant Conditions and Water Loss
 - * Commissioner Adkins is concerned about water leakage from hydrants.
 - * Supt Carson stated some hydrants are leaking or nonfunctional.
 - * Treated water loss is costing the county money.
 - * Hydrants used to cost \$1,500 to replace; now over \$5,000.
 - * Limited budget prevents replacing many hydrants.
 - * Supt Carson is exploring repairs instead of replacements and is consulting a contractor.
 - * Commissioner Adkins asks for a plan on how many hydrants need fixing and how to proceed.
4. Hydrant in Specific Yard
 - * A hydrant continues leaking even after efforts to shut it off.
 - * Complication: a line to the fire department was tee'd off the hydrant line.
 - * Fire department line is unmetered, which is uncommon.
5. Fire Department Water Metering
 - * Commissioner Adkins questions why fire departments aren't metered.
 - * Supt Carson explains it's historically been the case but unclear why.
 - * Commissioner Adkins suggests at least installing a meter to track usage, even if not billed.
 - * Estimated cost: \$700-800 for parts (meter and radio excluded).
 - * Commissioner Chmiel suggests finding out why they're not billed before spending money.
 - * Commissioner Adkins will check with local trustees and departments (Waterloo, Leax, Richland).

Prosecutor's Office - County Transit Authority

T.L. Warren & Nicole Clay from the Prosecutor's Office provided the following information:

1. Purpose of the CTA Exploration:
 - * Commissioners are exploring ways to increase transit funding.
 - * One avenue is the creation of a County or Regional Transit Authority that could levy a sales tax up to 1%, subject to certain limits and voter approval.
 - * The local transit service is currently managed by HAPCAP, which operates across multiple counties.
2. County vs. Regional Transit Authority:
 - * County CTA:
 - * Easier to manage.

- * Authority lies within Athens County alone.
- * Can later be expanded regionally.
- * Regional CTA:
 - * Would require collaboration and agreement from all involved counties.
 - * All participating counties must approve both the formation and any levies.
- * More complex and politically challenging.
- 3. Governance Structure Options:
 - * Two choices:
 - * The Board of County Commissioners can oversee the CTA.
 - * A separate board of seven individuals (3-year terms) can be formed.
 - * This governance structure can be changed later by resolution.
- 4. Sales Tax Levy Process and Legal Constraints:
 - * The maximum allowable additional sales tax for a CTA is 1%, but subject to:
 - * A complex calculation involving existing levies under ORC §5739.021.
 - * The total sales tax levied under certain purposes cannot exceed 1.5%.
 - * Any tax increase must:
 - * Be passed by the Board of Commissioners.
 - * Then be approved by voters through the Board of Elections.
 - * Biggest barrier is passing the levy with voters, especially in rural areas.
- 5. Coordination with Existing Transit Providers (HAPCAP):
 - * HAPCAP receives substantial grant funding, which might be impacted by a new authority.
 - * HAPCAP uses City of Athens transportation assets, which could be:
 - * Leased, sold, or contracted to a newly created CTA.
 - * Commissioners could contract with HAPCAP to continue operating transit services under the new CTA, potentially only for Athens County.
 - * Concern: The new CTA's sales tax revenue may not exceed current HAPCAP funding, which is grant-based.
- 6. Consideration of Additional Counties:
 - * If Vinton or Meigs Counties wanted to join in the future:
 - * Their inclusion would depend on forming a regional CTA or separate agreements.
 - * Not fully researched yet; commissioners may explore this later if needed.
- 7. Decision Moving Forward:
 - * Commissioners expressed interest in focusing only on Athens County for now.
 - * Nicole will draft a written summary/report for the commissioners, outlining:
 - * The legal structure.
 - * Governance models.
 - * Tax levy implications.
 - * Coordination with HAPCAP and funding issues.

HAPCAP Jeff Jenkins - Lin Hall Change Order #2

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to approve Change Order #2 for Lin Hall in the amount of \$20,969.49 related to issues discovered under the plaster ceiling (similar to the first change order). This additional work will also be paid entirely by Ohio University (OU) from its own contingency funds - no grant funds involved. See back of page 189 for change order #2.

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

HAPCAP Jeff Jenkins - Additional Project Updates

Jeff Jenkins provided the following additional project updates:

1. Jacksonville Engineering Services
 - * Engineering agreement has been signed by local officials.
 - * Waiting on DLZ's legal team to complete their review and signature. No issues anticipated.
2. Albany Inclusive Playground
 - * Project status: Moving forward.
 - * Target: Purchase of new equipment in June to avoid July price increases.
 - * Installation timeline undetermined.
3. 93 High Street Renovation
 - * Interior framing nearly complete.
 - * Plumbing in progress.
 - * Windows expected the week of the 11th (tentatively June).
 - * Doors have been ordered and are also on the way.
 - * Laundry hookups to begin shortly.
 - * Drainage and sewer tie-in is being coordinated with the village administrator (Mark).
 - * Overall progress described as "smooth and steady" despite earlier difficulties.
4. 87 High Street (Webster's Building)

- * This is next door to 93 High Street.
- * Planned work includes:
 - * New roof
 - * Facade improvements
 - * New windows
- * Project is separate from Sam's project.

* The hope is to put this project out to bid in the next month or two.

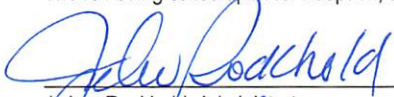
5. Sunday Creek R-PIG

- * Project is being handled primarily by Nathan.
- * Current status not discussed in detail.

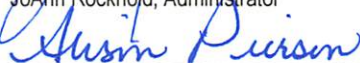
Adjourn

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

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




JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator



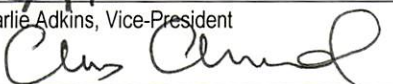
Alison Pierson, Clerk

ABSENT

Lenny Eliason, President



Charlie Adkins, Vice-President



Chris Chmiel