

**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 Tuesday, March 11, 2025 Convenes at 9:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes March 5, 2025

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

Fund to Fund: Health Dept - \$26,221.30 from 662.2662.580100 Transfer Out to 021.2021.422101 Transfer In

- 9:30 Connor LaVelle - Ferndale Park
- 9:35 OSU Extension
- 9:45 DJFS Dir Jean Demosky - weekly updates-Davidson Bush Invoice
- 10:00 Rural Action Letter of Support- Ryan Gilliom
- 11:00 Grassroots Ohioans
- 11:30 LUNCH
- 1:00 911 Ribbon Cutting

**Agenda Items**

- 911-Kokosing Agreement
- Engineer - LPA Agreement ATH-CR 29-0.00 FY25
- Engineer - LPA Agreement ATH-CR 46C-0.96
- Engineer - ATH-CR VAR PM FY25
- Engineer - Stone Bid Advertisement
- Engineer - Asphalt Bid Advertisement
- Veterans Office Credit Card Increase
- EMS Rescind Offer
- Ferndale Park Water
- 184 Lancaster Street Deed
- add Children Service Fee Waiver

**~TRAVEL**

Auditor: Jill Davidson & Tammi Goeglein; 2025 CAAO Summer Conference, Dayton OH; 06/03 - 06/06/25

**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 March 5, 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 including Fund to Fund: Health Dept \$26,221.30 from 662.2662.580100 Transfer Out to 021.2021.422101 Transfer In and approving the payment of the required County Bills, which are included in the Auditor's Office INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 03/04/25 To: 03/06/25 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.

**Ferndale Park - Planner Connor LaVelle**

Planner Connor LaVelle provided the following updates:

Mulch Order:

\*The mulch for the park has been ordered.

Water Usage for Ball League:

\*Discussions are ongoing regarding water usage for the ball league.

\*The league has requested that the water be turned on for their event on April 12th.

\*There is a proposal for them to renew their contract, incorporating water usage responsibilities.

\*The previous issue of water theft caused high costs (\$500/month), leading to the water being shut off.

\*Possible solutions discussed:

- \*Having the league reimburse the county for seasonal water usage.
- \*Ensuring the contract states that the league is responsible for keeping hydrants locked when not in use.
- \*Locking mechanisms will be installed to prevent unauthorized use.

\*The contract update may be finalized by the end of the month, with legal review if necessary.

\*Confirmation needed on whether Davidson Bush is providing hydrant installation for free.

\*Some hydrants were previously shut off due to potential leaks; verification is needed.

**Floodplain Violation - Dover Township**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel unanimously agreed to refer Athens County Floodplain Violation 24-010FP (G0100100455500) to the Office of the Athens County Prosecutor for appropriate legal action:

March 11, 2025

RE: Floodplain Violation - Referral to Prosecutor - Parcel ID: G010010045500

A motion was made by Charlie Adkins and seconded by Chris Chmiel unanimously agreed to refer Athens County Floodplain Violation 24-010FP (G0100100455500) to the Office of the Athens County Prosecutor for appropriate legal action.

The abovementioned property is in violation of the Special Purpose Flood Damage Reduction Regulations of Athens County. These Regulations have been adopted to prevent the loss of life and property related to flood hazards within Athens County. Adherence to, and enforcement of, these Regulations is required for Athens County's continued participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Section 6.3 of the Regulations state that failure to comply will be deemed "a strict liability offense, and shall constitute a fourth-degree misdemeanor for the first violation and a first-degree misdemeanor for any subsequent violations," explaining that "each day such violation continues shall be considered a separate offense." To protect Athens County from the dangers associated with severe flooding, and to ensure the County's good standing with the National Flood Insurance Program, the Athens County Board of Commissioners is referring this case to the Office of the Athens County Prosecutor for appropriate action.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea ; 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 March 11, 2025, and appears in the Commissioners' Journal 121, page 78.

/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, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

**OSU Extension**

**4-H Program Updates**

- \*2024 enrollment numbers:
  - \*431 youth in 27 community clubs
  - \*86 volunteers
  - \*Total youth participants: 444 (including non-4H youth in camps)
- \*Focus on leadership training through camp counselor programs.
- \*Quality assurance training for youth livestock exhibitors per Ohio Revised Code requirements.
- \*Challenges:
  - \*Need for more 4-H clubs to accommodate demand.
  - \*Difficulty recruiting new club leaders.
  - \*Limited personnel for program expansion.

**Agricultural Extension Updates**

- \*Programs covered six main areas of agriculture and pest management.
- \*Initiatives include:
  - \*New row crop farmer training in partnership with multiple counties.
  - \*Pesticide training and certification setup within the county.
  - \*Pest identification support for property managers and homeowners.
  - \*Research on climate-resilient gardening, in collaboration with state-level projects.
  - \*Master Gardener program expansion, including food donation (1,700 lbs. donated in 2023).

**SNAP-Ed Program Updates**

- \*Led by Crystal Howard (absent due to illness).
- \*Focuses on nutrition and physical activity education for SNAP-eligible audiences.

\*2023 Impact:

\*2,600 direct participants.

\*Programs in after-school centers, community sites, and public outreach.

Office Relocation Discussion

\*Need for timeline and location clarification.

\*Concerns:

\*Office space for four staff members.

\*Storage needs for publications and program materials.

\*High volume of walk-in traffic requiring accessibility.

\*Temporary solutions:

\*Possible use of The Plains Water & Sewer office space.

\*Alternative conference room options at fairgrounds and community spaces.

\*Nelsonville Community Cares Resource Center identified as a potential meeting venue.

\*Preference to avoid relocating in June/July due to summer programs.

Action Items

\*Follow-up with Jack regarding conference room usage and transition plans.

\*Compile a list of alternative public meeting spaces.

\*Continue exploring potential new office locations.

**DJFS Dir Jean Demosky - Weekly Updates**

Program Updates & TANF Pilot Program

The TANF Pilot Program, originally awarded to Ohio and other states, has been canceled immediately.

Concerns were raised regarding mass government worker layoffs, particularly within the Veterans Administration (76,000–83,000 workers affected).

There are ongoing threats to SNAP and Medicaid, but clarity on the impact remains uncertain.

Upcoming Executive Board Meeting may provide further insights.

Community Resource & Employment Initiatives

JFS on Wheels & Mobile Career Center continue expanding their outreach.

Community Cares Resource Center has a busy schedule, including:

\*Outdoor Recreation & Seasonal Job Fair (Thursday)

\*Ticket Raffle to support the Back-to-School Bash

\*Record Sealing Informational Event (free legal advice for expungements)

\*\*Responding to Addiction\* Community Training

\*Back-to-School Bash (July 23rd in Nelsonville) – applications due April 7th

Traffic at the County Home has increased significantly, with over 2,000 walk-ins in 2.5 months.

Facility & Relocation Updates

510 Building Sale & State Rental Proposal:

\*Exploring options to rent the building to the state due to a deadline requiring state employees to return to offices.

\*The building is turnkey-ready with state network infrastructure already in place.

\*State interest will be assessed within a week before deciding on selling options.

\*Discussing the sale price—considering \$1.5M but could go as low as \$1.2M if needed.

Office Relocations & Equipment Transfer:

\*OMJ office closure on March 27th requested to facilitate moving furniture and equipment to Nelsonville.

\*New storage shed arriving Friday for additional storage needs.

\*ADA review submitted for Nelsonville's OMJ status—awaiting approval.

\*New Workforce Development Board Director, Morgan Delay, starts Monday with mentoring support from a current member.

**DJFS Davidson Bush Invoice - 510 W Union St**

Dir Jean Demosky brought up the issue of Davidson-Bush invoice, emphasizing that while the work has been completed and payment is necessary, there was prior discussion about the damage being caused by the street contractor. Dir Demosky referenced Commissioner Adkins involvement and mentioned that the issue pertained to the 510 building and its connection to the new sewer system.

Dir. Demosky acknowledged that they were not present at the time but understood that a city representative had confirmed the damage was a result of the project. However, they also mentioned that multiple businesses along the road had sustained damage, and the city appeared unwilling to reimburse all affected property owners.

To address the issue, Dir. Demosky supported the suggestion of obtaining the city representative's name from Lisa Radford, drafting a formal letter detailing the situation, and having the prosecutor send it to the city to request reimbursement. Dir. Demosky also noted that Davidson-Bush provided documentation that included a description of the city representative's acknowledgment of responsibility, which could be useful in supporting their claim. Finally, they expressed uncertainty regarding how Lisa Radford knew the city's stance on avoiding reimbursements for all affected businesses.

**DJFS 510 W Union Street - Closing**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approved closing OMJ office at 510 West Union Street on March 27<sup>th</sup> to facilitate moving furniture and equipment to Nelsonville.

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

**Rural Action Letter of Support - Ryan Gilliom**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to send a letter of support for the BSC Group-Rural Action application for CSCI funds to support our community's flood resilience:  
March 17, 2025

Climate Smart Communities Initiative  
ClimateSmartCommunity.org | info@climateresiliencefund.org

Re: Support for Athens County Flood & Sediment Study Project Proposal

Dear Members of the CSCI Review Committee,

The Athens County Commissioners' Office is eager to support the BSC Group-Rural Action application for CSCI funds to support our community's flood resilience.

We recognize that flooding, erosion, and sedimentation are a threat to all that we are charged with protecting including the residents, economy, and environment in Athens County, Ohio. The flood modeling study proposed in this project will provide valuable planning information for our county, communities, and residents. The project time line coincides with the 5-year update to the Athens County Hazard Mitigation Plan, and we anticipate that the study process and results will inform suitable mitigation steps.

Athens County will support this project with the involvement of county agencies that are stakeholders in flooding such as the Regional Planner, Engineer, and Emergency Management Agency. We will furnish the project team with relevant datasets and information as needed.

Thank you for your consideration of this project for our community. You may contact Connor Lavelle at [countyplanner@athensoh.org](mailto:countyplanner@athensoh.org) Or 740-447-5890 with questions if needed.

Sincerely,

/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.

**911-Kokosing Agreement**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the Kokosing Solar Engineering, Procurement, & Construction Agreement with Athens County 911. Full agreement 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.

**Engineer - ATH-CR VAR PM FY25 Resolution**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve the ATH-CR VAR PM FY25 LPA Resolution. See back of page 81 for the Resolution.

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

**Engineer - ATH-CR VAR PM FY25 Fiscal Officer's Certificate**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve the ATH-CR VAR PM FY25 Fiscal Officer's Certificate:

Fiscal Officer's Certificate  
(Chapter 5521 and Section 5705.41, Ohio Revised Code)

I hereby certify to that the money, to wit: \$40,300.00 required for the payment of the cost other than that thereof assumed by the Federal Government, for the improvement of that portion of C.R. Various, more particularly described as follows:

The project consists of improvements to various county routes and sections within Athens County by applying edge line, center line and stop line pavement markins, lying within Athens County; and

has been lawfully appropriated for such purpose and is in the treasury to the credit of, or has been levied, placed on the duplicate and in process of collection for the appropriate fund, and not appropriated for any other purpose; or is being obtained by sale of bonds issued on account of said improvement, which bonds are sold and in process of delivery.

**FINAL RESOLUTION**

The following Final Resolution enacted by the Board of County Commissioners, County of Athens, Ohio, hereinafter referred to as the Legislative Authority/Local Public Agency or "LPA", in the matter of the stated described project.

WHEREAS, on 28th day of January 2025, the LPA enacted legislation proposing cooperation with the Director of Transportation for the described project:

The project consists of improvements to various county routes and sections within Athens County by applying edge line, center line and stop line pavement markings, lying within Athens County; and

WHEREAS, the LPA shall cooperate with the Director of Transportation in the above described project as follows:

The County agrees to assume and bear one hundred percent (100%) of the entire cost of the improvement, less the amount of Federal-Aid funds set aside by the Director of Transportation for the financing of this improvement from funds allocated by the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

The share of the cost of the LPA is now estimated in the amount of Forty Thousand Three Hundred and --- 00/100 Dollars, (\$40,300.00), but said estimated amount is to be adjusted in order that the LPA's ultimate share of said improvement shall correspond with said percentages of actual costs when said actual costs are determined; and

WHEREAS, The Director of Transportation has approved said legislation proposing cooperation and has caused to be made plans and specifications and an estimate of cost and expense for improving the above described highway and has transmitted copies of the same to this legislative authority; and

WHEREAS, The LPA desires the Director of Transportation to proceed with the aforesaid highway improvement.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved:

- I. That the estimated sum, of Forty Thousand Three Hundred and --- 00/100 Dollars, (\$40,300.00) is hereby appropriated for the improvement described above and the fiscal officer is hereby authorized and directed to issue an order on the treasurer for said sum upon the requisition of the Director of Transportation to pay the cost and expense of said improvement. We hereby agree to assume in the first instance, the share of the cost and expense over and above the amount to be paid from Federal funds.
- ii. That the LPA hereby requests the Director of Transportation to proceed with the aforesaid highway improvement.
- iii. That the LPA enter into a contract with the State, and that the President be, and is hereby authorized to execute said contract, providing for the payment of the LPA the sum of money set forth herein above for improving the described project.
- IV. That the LPA transmit to the Director of Transportation a fully executed copy of this Resolution.

This is to certify that we have compared the foregoing copy of Resolution with the original record thereof, found in the record of the proceedings of the LPA, and which Resolution was duly passed by the LPA on the 11 day of March, 2025, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the record of said Resolution and the action of said LPA thereon.

We further certify that said Resolution and the action of said LPA thereon is recorded in the journal of said LPA in Volume 121, at Page 79, and under date of March 11, 2025.

Legislative Authority of the Board of County Commissioners County of Athens, Ohio

*Angela...*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President  
*Heaven...*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk (Secretary Ex-Officio)

SEAL  
(If Applicable)

I further certify that this certificate was made, sealed and filed with the legislative authority of Athens County, Ohio, after said legislative authority passed the final resolution in connection with the within described project; and that this certificate was forthwith recorded in the record of the proceedings of said legislative authority, namely:

Legislative Authority's Journal, Volume 121, at Page 79,

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal as said fiscal officer, this 11 day of March, 2025.

/s/Jill Davidson  
Fiscal Officer of the  
Board of County Commissioners  
Athens County, Ohio

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

**Engineer - ATH-CR VAR PM FY25 Contract**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve the ATH-CR VAR PM FY25 LPA Contract. See back of page 82 for full contract.

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

**Engineer - LPA Agreement ATH-CR 29-0.00 FY25**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve the LPA Agreement ATH-CR 29-0.00 FY25.

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

**Engineer - LPA Agreement ATH-CR 46C-0.96**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve the LPA Agreement ATH-CR 46C-0.96.

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

**Engineer - Stone Bid Advertisement**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve the Stone Bid Advertisement. See back of page 83 for the Stone Bid Advertisement.

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

**Engineer - Asphalt Bid Advertisement**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve the Asphalt Bid Advertisement. See back of page 83 for the Asphalt Bid Advertisement.

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

**Veterans Office Credit Card Increase**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve the Veterans Office Credit Card Increase from \$3,000.00 to \$4,500.00 due to annual Hyper-Reach Payment.

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

**EMS Rescind Offer**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to Rescind Offer of Employment as a part time paramedic to Peyton Fields, effective March 10, 2025 as recommended by Chief Amber Pyle.

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

**184 Lancaster Street Deed**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve the Quit Claim Deed to Terrier Holdings Ltd. See back of page 83 for the 184 Lancaster Street Quit Claim Deed.

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 Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve the following travel:

Auditor: Jill Davidson & Tammi Goeglein; 2025 CAAO Summer Conference, Dayton OH; 06/03 - 06/06/25

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



**Suspend Rules**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to suspend the rules and declare an emergency and add the following to the agenda:

Children Service Fee Waiver Request

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

**Children Service Fee Waiver Request**

A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Chmiel to approve the Children Service Fee Waiver Request for WEX Bank.

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

**Grassroots Ohioans**

Asks and Concerns Regarding Cannabis Legislation:

\*The ask is that the county government not support House Bill 160 and Senate Bill 56, as these bills recriminalize cannabis.

\*These bills could take resources away from the county tax money, law enforcement, and court resources.

\*Tax money is not being allocated and may be redirected to the general fund, away from communities.

\*Tim Johnson, formerly of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP) and now with a cannabis safety company, is willing to meet with County Officials.

County Commissioners' Stance:

\*It is unlikely that the county commissioners will discuss the issue.

\*Commissioner Eliason is on the Taxation and Finance and General Government committees, but these bills have not been discussed because they don't directly affect the counties.

\*County commissioners may not view the issue the same way as those at the municipal level.

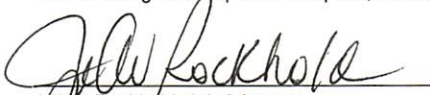
**911 Ribbon Cutting**

The Commissioners attended the 911 Ribbon Cutting.

**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