

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, May 13, 2025 Convenes at 9:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda

Approve Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes, Then & Nows, & Bills
Fund to Fund: 911 \$805,000.00 from 591.3591.570100 Debt Principal to 042.2042.422101 Transfers In
Fund to Fund: 911 \$305,614.40 from 591.3591.571100 Debt Interest to 042.2042.422101 Transfers In
Fund to Fund: Children SVC \$769,350.00 from 421.1430.589000 Transfers Out to 049.2049.422101 Transfers In
New Fund: Children SVC 049- Bond Retirement; Transfers In 049.2049.422101

- 9:30 Carolyn Conley - transportation services
- 10:00 Treasurer Ric Wasserman - Quarterly Investment
- 10:15 Jeremy Carr - Athens County Fair Board / OSU Extension project
- 11:30 LUNCH
- 2:00 STAR facility visit

Agenda Items

- Amended Certificate
- W&S Extensions (Ratify Commissioner Adkins Signature)
- DJFS Subgrant Agreement G-2627-11-6109
- Engineer - Bid Advertisement CR109 Precast Concrete Box Culvert
- 911 solar project
- Prosecutor - VAWA Grant Pre-Award Conditions Packet
- Prosecutor - Justice Assistance Grant
- DJFS Human Resource Office 1 Hire
- Safe Streets and Roads BHRC
- Public Defender Contract

~TRAVEL

ADJOURNMENT

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 Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel approving the Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes including Fund to Fund: 911 \$805,000.00 from 591.3591.570100 Debt Principal to 042.2042.422101 Transfers In, Fund to Fund: 911 \$305,614.40 from 591.3591.571100 Debt Interest to 042.2042.422101 Transfers In, Fund to Fund: Children SVC \$769,350.00 from 421.1430.589000 Transfers Out to 049.2049.422101 Transfers In, New Fund: Children SVC 049- Bond Retirement; Transfers In 049.2049.422101 and approving the payment of the required County Bills, which are included in the Auditor's Office INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 05/06/2025 To: 05/08/2025 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.

Ben Ziff - Transportation Services

Ben Ziff initiated a preliminary conversation regarding the possibility of transitioning Athens Public Transit into a joint city-county transit system to pursue eligibility for a county sales tax levy.

- * Current Transit Structure & Ineligibility for Sales Tax Levy
 - * Athens Public Transit is currently a city entity, with the City of Athens as the pass-through designee for funding.
 - * Due to its city-only designation, the system is ineligible for a county-level sales tax levy under Ohio Revised Code.
 - * To become eligible, the system must be designated as either a county transit system or a regional transit authority (RTA)—which it is not.
- * Proposal & City's Response
 - * Proposed exploring the creation of a joint city-county transit system, allowing Athens Public Transit to qualify for a county levy.
 - * Already received strong support from the City of Athens, surprisingly enthusiastic.
 - * Stressed that this is an exploratory step, and legal teams would be required to examine the statutory and structural

implications.

- * Governance, Transparency, and Legal Complexity
 - * Acknowledged concerns from commissioners about:
 - * Governance structures (boards, authority, oversight).
 - * Risk of tax dollars from one area subsidizing another.
 - * Emphasized intent to preserve operational consistency under HAPCAP, ideally via contractual arrangement with the county.
 - * Expressed openness to legal review, transparency, and a gradual, well-informed process.
 - * Mr. Chmiel will talk with Prosecutor's Office (T.L. Warren) about the possibility of transitioning.

Amended Certificate

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel acknowledging receipt of the Amended Certificate for Athens County Commissioners, dated May 13, 2025 prepared by Jill Davidson, Athens County Auditor.

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

W&S Extensions

A motion was made by Mr Adkins and seconded by Mr Chmiel to ratify Mr Adkins signature authorizing an extension as requested by Allison Auxier for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is \$124.04 with \$51.57 due by 05/09/2025. 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, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

A motion was made by Mr Adkins and seconded by Mr Chmiel to ratify Mr Adkins signature authorizing an extension as requested by Adrienne Pritchett for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is \$111.10 with \$55.56 due by 05/22/2025. 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, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

DJFS Subgrant Agreement G-2627-11-6109

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the DJFS Subgrant Agreement G-2627-11-6109. See back of page 163 for full agreement.

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

Engineer - Bid Advertisement CR109 Precast Concrete Box Culvert

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Engineer's Advertisement for CR109 Precast Concrete Box Culvert:

Notice To Bidders

Sealed bids for the CR 109 Precast Concrete Box Culvert will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Athens County, Ohio, at their office, 15 S. Court Street, Athens Ohio until 10:00 a.m., Prevailing Local Time on the 3rd day of June, 2025 and at that time and place will be publicly opened and read aloud. All Bids will be considered valid until 60 days after the opening date, although not accepted or rejected.

Bids will be for the furnishing, delivering, and setting in place precast box culvert sections and precast headwalls.

All pertinent plans, specifications and other relative information can be obtained or examined at the office of the Athens County Engineer, 16000 Canaanville road, Athens, Ohio 45701, 7:00am-5:00 pm, Monday through Thursday. Bidders are advised to email their contact information to engineer@athensoh.org including name, address, phone, fax, and email in order to receive any amendments or other information if bid documents are obtained online.

Legal notice and bid documents are also posted on the internet at www.athenscountengineer.org under the "Bids/RFPs" heading.

Each bid shall have filed with it a bid guaranty in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, or letter of credit revocable only at the option of Athens County in an amount equal to 10% of the bid or a bond in accordance with division (B) of Section 153.54 of the Revised Code.

The Board of County Commissioners of Athens County, Ohio reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to waive informalities as may be in the best interest of Athens County.

/s/Jeff Maiden, P.E., P.S.
Athens County Engineer

Advertising dates: 05/17/25, 05/24/25

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

911 Solar Project

Commissioner Chmiel asks that the 911 Solar Project move forward with giving a Financial Breakdown

- * Total Estimated Cost: \$241,000
- * Committed Grant Funding: \$189,000 from SOPEC
- * Outstanding Gap: \$52,000, to be covered by a 0% bridge loan until federal tax credit arrives
 - * If state solar grant (pending application) falls through, the county general fund would ultimately cover this \$52K by year-end.
- * Anticipated Returns:
 - * Federal Tax Credit: Expected to yield \$90–96K, netting roughly \$45K profit after loan repayment.
 - * Annual Energy Savings: Projected \$11,000 per year in reduced utility bills (approx. \$900/month) once system goes live.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve moving forward with the revised \$241K solar installation, leveraging \$189K in grants, a 0% bridge loan to cover the \$52K gap pending final approvals, and expects financial benefits through tax credits and annual energy savings.

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

Treasurer Quarterly Reports

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to acknowledge receipt and authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the Treasurer Quarterly Reports for January, February, & March 2025 as presented by Treasurer Ric Wasserman.

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

Prosecutor - VAWA Grant Pre-Award Conditions Packet

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the Prosecutor's VAWA Grant Pre-Award Conditions Packet.

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

Prosecutor - Justice Assistance Grant

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the Prosecutor's Justice Assistance Grant.

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

DJFS Human Resource Office 1 Hire

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the DJFS Human Resource Office 1 Hire as recommended by DJFS Dir. Demosky:

Lauren Crum with a pay rate of \$25.92/hr. and a start date of May 12, 2025

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

Safe Streets and Roads BHRC

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to send a Letter of Support for Safe Street and Roads for All (SS4A) Planning Grant Application:
May 13, 2025

U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Letter of Support - Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Planning Grant Application

Dear Selection Committee,

On behalf of Board of Athens County Commissioners, we are pleased to express our full support for the Buckeye Hills Regional Council's (BHRC) application for a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Planning Grant. As the designated Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) for an eight-county region in Southeast Ohio, Buckeye Hills is uniquely positioned to lead this critical effort to enhance roadway safety across a diverse and rural landscape.

The development of a comprehensive regional safety action plan is an urgent and necessary step to address the serious transportation safety challenges that impact our communities. Crashes involving serious injuries and fatalities continue to disproportionately affect rural areas like ours, where limited infrastructure resources and higher speeds often contribute to dangerous outcomes. The proposed SS4A planning process will help our region identify high-risk corridors, engage the public and local stakeholders, and develop actionable strategies to reduce these

incidents and save lives.

We are particularly encouraged by the collaborative and inclusive approach BHRC is taking to this work. By leading community engagement activities and partnering with a qualified transportation planning consultant, they are ensuring that local knowledge and priorities will inform the safety strategies adopted throughout the region. This inclusive planning model will empower our communities to take ownership of safety improvements and be better prepared to seek implementation funding in the future.

Moreover, aligning this initiative with the ongoing update to the region's Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is a forward-thinking strategy that will promote coordination and ensure that roadway safety is embedded in all future transportation planning decisions.

BHRC's commitment to data-driven planning, regional collaboration, and public engagement gives me full confidence in their ability to deliver a meaningful and impactful safety action plan.

Thank you for considering this application. I respectfully urge your full support for the BHRC's SS4A Planning Grant request.

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.

Public Defender Contract

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Public Defender Contract. Full copy of contract available in the commissioners office.

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

Move Meeting Date

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve moving the meeting date of Tuesday, June 10th to Thursday, June 12th.

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

OSU Extension Project

Fair Board Member Jeremy Carr presented new plans reducing the size and amount of construction to \$205K. Commissioner Chmiel will talk with T.L and draft a formal agreement between the Fair Board and the County, covering utilities and space usage. Commissioner Chmiel will also talk with Nate at HAPCAP.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve HAPCAP to apply for the Target of Opportunities Grant to move forward with the OSU Extension Project.

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

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to enter into executive session at 10:18 to discuss employment of a public employee.

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

Regular Session

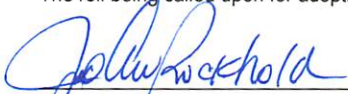
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to return to regular session at 10:27 with No Action to be taken as far as employment.

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

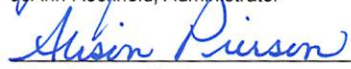
Adjourn

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

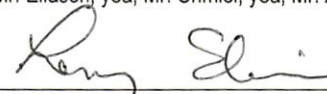
The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.



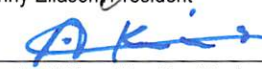
JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator



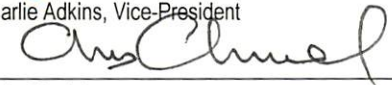
Alison Pierson, Clerk



Lenny Eliason, President



Charlie Adkins, Vice-President



Chris Chmiel