

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, November 25, 2025 Convenes at 9:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes November 12, 2025 & November 18, 2025

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

9:30 Soil and Water- Budget
9:45 DJFS Dir Jean Demosky - weekly updates
10:00 EMS - Resignations
10:15 Pros Office- Budget
10:30 W&S Supt Oscar Carson - weekly updates (Sunset Development)
10:45 Planner LaVelle - ODOT TAP Grant
11:00 Engineer - Budget
11:15 Children Services-Budget
11:30 LUNCH

Agenda Items

Amended Certificate
Utility Permits
Assigned Counsel Report from Auditors Office
OWDA Payment Request #16 US50 New Marshfield Sewer (Ratify Commissioner Adkins Signature)
510 Building
Luxriot Upgrade- Freedomlinx
PSI Grant Advancement
Bed Rental Agreement - Juvenile Court
Merchant McIntyre congressional earmark proposal
ACCVB Board Appointment
Surplus - Maintenance

~TRAVEL

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. Chmiel to approve the minutes of November 12, 2025 & November 18, 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 Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel 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: 11/13/2025 To: 11/18/2025, INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 11/18/2025 To: 11/20/2025 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.

Soil & Water - Budget & Annual Report

Cathy Bobo presented the 2026 Soil & Water Budget and provided the Soil & Water Annual Report.

DJFS Dir Jean Demosky - Weekly Updates

Dir Demosky provided the following updates:

Program overview

- * SNAP serves ~1.4M Ohioans; avg monthly benefit: \$188/person; FY24 total spend in Ohio: \$3.2B.

Federal/State policy changes & fiscal impacts

- * HR1 (effective Oct 2026) halves the federal administrative match for SNAP from 50% – 25%.
 - * Estimated loss to Ohio counties: \$47M/year in admin resources.
 - * Without state backfill, counties may face furloughs/layoffs in 1H 2026.
- * Payment Error Rate (PER) risk:
 - * Ohio's FFY2024 PER cited at ~9.01%; county reports recent improvement to ~4.2%.
 - * If state PER is 8–9.99%, the state's benefit cost share penalty ≈ \$320M.
- * County mandated share: State currently requires counties to contribute \$41M toward SNAP/Medicaid administration; this will not cover the gap from the match reduction.

Work requirement changes (HR1)

- * ABAWDs (able-bodied adults without dependents): work requirement (>80 hrs/month) expands up to age 64 (currently up to 54).
- * Child exemption threshold: shifts from under 18 to under 14, increasing the number of adults subject to work requirements.

Local operational plan & staffing

- * Priority is accuracy and timeliness to help reduce the state PER; maintain experienced ERS2 caseworker capacity.
- * Dir Demosky intends to redistribute staff to core programs (SNAP/Medicaid/TANF) to protect performance; goal is to avoid layoffs.
- * 36-hour workweek MOU: either party must give 45 days' notice to change; team will re-evaluate around Dec 15.

RMS/TANF and Transportation revenue strategy

- * NET/Transportation moved from Social Services to TANF/IM pool for RMS coding to maximize reimbursement.
- * Transportation program remains strongly reimbursed (reported at ~100% so far); high RMS "productive" time due to in-car service delivery.
- * Continued training and oversight on RMS documentation/wording to ensure compliant, reimbursable coding.

Monitoring & compliance

- * WIOA monitoring (State): No observations noted; CCMEP continues under JFS operation (county is administering; WEP/SEP active).
 - * Contact Jordan for WEP worker requests.

Other agency updates

- * Records requests: Several recent public records requests were initially too broad; requesters have been asked to narrow scope. Finance can brief requesters on how to read complex fiscal reports if needed (no custom report creation).
- * Maximus: Met to explore outsourcing 4D (CSEA) contract administration; cost/benefit review pending.
- * Facilities/Real estate:
 - * Nelsonville appraisal rescheduled to Monday.
 - * Interest expressed in the 510 property; to be discussed further.

DJFS Contract - HAPCAP

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the DJFS Contract with HAPCAP CCMEP

Amendment #2:

Name of Contract Organization	Hocking Athens Perry Community Action
Total \$ Value	\$400,000.00 (additional \$50,000.00)
Contract Period	07/01/2024 - 06/30/2026
Accts & Codes to be charged	CCMEP TANF C81/510050 CCMEP WIOA X24 or Y24/510050 TANF 223/510050 WIOA FWB or FWZ/527751
Billing Procedure	Monthly invoices to be paid within 30 days

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

DJFS - New Hires

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the following DJFS New Hires:
Promote - Carmen Mitchell to Social Services Supervisor 1 (Transportation), pay rate \$31.50/hr. with start date of 11/25/2025.
Reassign - Derrick Whitlatch to Social Service Aide 2 (Driver), pay rate \$21.79/hr. with start date of 11/25/2025.

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

EMS - Travel

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the following travel for David S. Hogan on 11/06/2025. He was reassigned to different station mid-shift.

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

EMS - Resignation

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to accept the Full-Time Resignation of Captain Jason Hager of the Athens Station to part-time paramedic.

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

Prosecutor - Budget

Prosecutor Keller Blackburn presented the 2026 Prosecutor Budget.

W&S Supt Oscar Carson - Portable Generator Issue

Portable Generator purchase – cable incompatibility

- * Issue: Newly purchased generator for Route 50 pump stations arrived without cables; vendor says the required connector type is no longer manufactured (supplier defunct). Proposed vendor “solution” was to change the station hubs at 29 sites, which would be costly.
- * Direction from Board:
 - * Do not pay and return the generator unless the vendor can:
 - * Supply usable, compatible cables or
 - * Cover the full cost to modify station hubs to accept the generator.
 - * If a local electrician can fabricate a compliant cable, consider it only with a price concession from the vendor.
- * Action: Oscar will re-contact the vendor after the holiday; explore local fabrication option (e.g., through an electrician) and report back.

W&S Supt Oscar Carson - Sunset Development

Avenel Crossing (Avenel/Hooper area) — sewer ownership & subdivision path

- * Developer team present: Dave Funk and consultant Roy Lowenstein (Sunset Development).
- * Developer request: Allow private ownership of the force main and pump station to avoid triggering a major subdivision review.
- * County/Planner context (Connor Lavelle):
 - * Prior to the sewer-ownership discussion, the City of Athens (Mr. Riggs) had already indicated the project would be a major subdivision, largely due to:
 - * Required improvements to Donna Lane (an unimproved, unmaintained public ROW), and
 - * Installation of a force main in public ROW.
 - * Therefore, major subdivision status is not solely a function of sewer dedication.
- * Board position / rationale:
 - * County policy is to own new sewer infrastructure to ensure reliability, operations, and inflow/infiltration (I&I) control; recent projects in The Plains have underscored this need.
 - * If the developer insists on private sewer: a sewage flow meter could be required, with the project paying for all measured flow (including any I&I); however, developers should first resolve the major subdivision determination with the City.
- * Capacity/taps: Project would utilize ~61 taps; reaching the contract maximum will require future renegotiation. Capacity exists; the issue is contractual allocation.
- * Next steps:
 - * Developers to seek formal clarification from the City on major subdivision triggers and process.
 - * County remains open to owning the system; if private ownership is pursued, developer must propose metering/monitoring that fully protects the county system.

W&S - Country Club

Commissioner Eliason provided the following EDU determination:

- * Data reviewed: Water usage for 2023, 2024, and 2025 (with 2025 March adjusted to prior-year average due to a broken meter).
- * Findings: Three-year average equates to ~10.4 EDUs (3,000 gal/EDU basis).
- * Policy notes & follow-ups:
 - * Consider revising policy language from "shall" to "may" for future EDU recalculations to preserve rate stability tied to debt service.
 - * Reserved tap monthly charges: maintain existing practice—entities reserving taps must pay the monthly debt-service charge from reservation onward.
 - * If a reserved-tap development does not proceed, contract must specify how any advance payments are handled (not automatically refundable).
 - * Action: Lenny will inform Mr. Toy of the Board's final offer of 10 EDUs and close the matter.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to set the Country Club's EDU at 10 (no retroactive adjustments), Commissioner Eliason will present the decision to Mr. Toy.

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

ODOT TAP Grant - Planner Connor LaVelle

Match: No local match expected; TAP (80%) paired with 20% safety funds for a full 100%.

Cost: Working estimate ~\$450,000 (per Alan Stone's prior estimate); staff has requested an updated cost to reflect any recent increases.

Maintenance note: Commissioners asked that annual root mitigation (rather than every-other-year) be considered to prevent premature pavement damage.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel approve submitting a TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) grant application to resurface the remaining county-owned segment of the bike path.

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

Chauncey Bridge - Planner Connor LaVelle

Work this week: Alan Stone to install remaining railings.

Safety controls: In coordination with ODOT, barriers at both ends will prevent use while railings are installed and additional concrete layer cures.

Signage: "No Motor Vehicles" signs will be posted at the bridge.

Ancillary items: Staff to verify crosswalk striping on the Chauncey side.

Grand opening: Postponed; target is early December, contingent on completion and coordination with ODOT Public Relations.

Amended Certificate

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel acknowledging receipt of the Amended Certificate for Athens County, Athens County Commissioners, dated November 25, 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.

Utility Permits

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

Permit No. 25-641
From: AEP
1 Riverside Plaza
Columbus, OH 43215

We hereby request permission to install utility lines within public right-of-way limits.

Location of work: Co Rd # 21, Co Rd Name: Pleasant Hill Rd

Description of Work: Electric
Type of Installation: Replacing 2 Poles
Estimated Project Schedule: 02/15/2026 - 03/15/2026
Agreed to by: /s/Chris Postle, AEP
Athens County Commissioners
/s/ Lenny Eliason
/s/ Chris Chmiel
/s/ Charlie Adkins
/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

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

OWDA Payment Request #16 US50 New Marshfield Sewer

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to ratify Commissioner Adkins Signature on the OWDA Payment Request #16 US50 New Marshfield Sewer.

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

510 Building

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to enter the auction agreement and proceed with the auction on January 5, 2026 with Collins Realty; minimum bid \$950,000.00; buyer pays the premium (unchanged from prior terms).

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

Engineer - Budget

Andrea Frendscho presented the 2026 Engineer Budget.

Luxriot Upgrade - Freedomlinx

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the purchase of a new server from Freedomlinx in the amount of \$24,777.00 due to the system being overloaded for the camera system.

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

Children Service - Budget

Otis Crockron & Shelly Ramey presented the 2026 Children Service Budget.

PSI Grant Advancement

Issue: PSI grant only covers 26 pay periods; county had 27 this year.

Fix: Kathy will submit a letter to adjust the annual pay-in from ~\$10,000 to \$8,232 to cover a ~\$1,400 shortfall.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the adjusted process for year-end 2025 for the PSI Grant Advancement.

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

Bed Rental Agreement - Juvenile Court

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve renewing the inter-county agreement between the County of Muskingum, Ohio and the County of Athens, Ohio for the Detention of Juvenile Offenders at \$100.00 per bed/per day agreement.

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.

Merchant McIntyre Congressional Earmark Proposal

Federal Earmark Proposal (Sewer Projects)

- * Firm: Same consultant assisting with AFG grant proposed seeking a congressional earmark.
- * Scope discussed: Focus on Guysville–Stewart sewer project (est. \$9M); Canaanville noted as moving separately.
- * Fee proposal: \$7,500/month for 3 months (reduced from \$10k); includes DC lobbying support.
- * Support: Brent Hayes is supportive and willing to lobby in DC.
- * Concerns & Direction:
 - * Verify whether 3 months is sufficient or whether a longer runway (possibly up to the fall budget cycle) is needed.
 - * Focus earmark effort on Guysville–Stewart only; avoid use of public funds that could be construed as supporting private development (Canaanville). If Canaanville is included, developer would need to fund their share of advocacy.
 - * Clarify start timing and earmark process calendar.
- * Action: Commissioner Chmiel to follow up with the firm on timeline sufficiency, narrowed scope (Guysville–Stewart), and start date; explore cost-sharing if Canaanville is pursued by private party.

ACCVB Board Appointment

Athens County Convention & Visitors Bureau Board

Appointments: Application received (Courtney Lefebvre Little).

Action: Board will conduct an interview prior to appointment decision.

Surplus - Maintenance

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve and declare the Maintenance Dept Surplus to sell and destroy:

Property Description

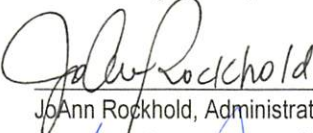
- Round Table - sell to Candy Russell for a \$1.00
- Two Drawer File Cabinet - destroy
- Four Drawer File Cabinet - destroy
- Five Drawer File Cabinet - destroy
- Fifteen bin cabinet - destroy
- Two door cabinet - destroy
- Metal bookshelf - destroy

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

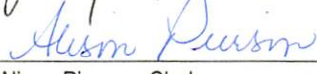
Adjourn

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


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



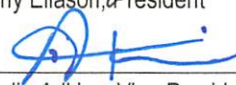
 JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator



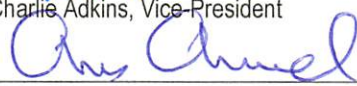
 Alison Pierson, Clerk



 Lenny Eliason, President



 Charlie Adkins, Vice-President



 Chris Chmiel