

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, August 25, 2026 Convenes at 9:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda

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

9:45 DJFS - Weekly Updates
10:00 Bid Opening - DJFS
10:15 Amy Lipka- Age Friendly Coordinator - Updates
10:30 Selena Vore- EDC - Environmental Site Assessment for 5885 Industrial Dr.
10:45 Lynn Garbo - Pocket Park Nelsonville
11:00 NFP- Insurance Updates
11:15 NFP- Insurance Updates
11:30 LUNCH

Agenda Items

Utility Permits
W&S Extensions
Assigned Counsel Report from Auditors Office
ARPA Resolution Village of Trimble
EJP Invoice #6666209 in the amount of \$18,000.00 to be paid with ARPA Funds
Ethics and First Amendment
OPWC Issue 1
Sons of Union Veterans
Surplus ACWS
HVCRC Grant Plan (Ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature)
Independent Consulting Agreement - PWS
Resignation - EMS
Jack Bortle Resolution
Fee Waiver - Children Services

~TRAVEL

JoAnn Rockhold and Alison Pierson - Columbus, OH; September 18, 2026

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 and approving the payment of the required County Bills, which are included in the Auditor's Office INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 08/13/2026 To: 08/19/2026, INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 08/18/2026 To: 08/20/2026, INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 08/21/2026 To: 08/24/2026 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.

W&S Extensions/Payment Agreements

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel ratifying Commissioner Eliason's Signature authorizing a Payment Agreement as requested by Sierra Warthman for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is \$1,223.38 with payments 09/30/26; 10/31/26; 11/30/26; 12/31/26; 01/01/27 for \$195.57 each month plus current monthly bill and 02/28/27 for \$195.53 plus current monthly bill. 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.

ARPA Resolution Village of Trimble

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the following ARPA Resolution for the Village of Trimble:

RESOLUTION NO. 825-123

**AUTHORIZING THE ALLOCATION OF ARPA REVENUE
REPLACEMENT FUNDING TO PURCHASE A NEW
WATER METER SYSTEM AND TRUCK FOR THE VILLAGE OF TRIMBLE
WITH CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS
AS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN**

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 was signed into law on March 11, 2021, to provide additional relief to address the continued impact of COVID-19 on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, Section 9901 of ARPA amended Title VI of the Social Security Act to add section 603, which establishes the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF); and

WHEREAS, the Athens County Board of Commissioners (Board) created a separate Local Fiscal Recovery Fund per Resolution 608-113 for the purpose of receiving ARPA monies and to track allocations and expenditures consistent with the requirements of ARPA. The Board adopted Resolution 126-115 Electing to take the Standard Allowance of \$10,000,000.00 as the amount of revenue loss for use for the provision of governmental services under section 603(c)(1)©, and;

WHEREAS, supporting documentation has been received and reviewed, and this Board now finds that it is in the best interest and necessary to authorize up to \$203,489.19 for the purchase of truck and new water meter system, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Athens County Ohio, that up to \$203,489.19 of ARPA revenue replacement funding shall be appropriated for the purpose of truck and new water meter system

Signed this 25th of August 2026

/s/Lenny Eliason, President

/s/Charlie Adkins

/s/Chris Chmiel

/s/Keller J. Blackburn
Prosecuting Attorney

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

EJP Invoice #6666209 in the amount of \$18,000.00 to be paid with ARPA Funds

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the EJP Invoice #6666209 in the amount of \$18,000.00 to be paid with ARPA Funds.

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

Ethics and First Amendment

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve designated staff to the upcoming training opportunity concerning Navigating the Line: Ethic and First Amendment Challenges for Public Employees and Officials.

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

OPWC Priority 1 & 2

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve and authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the Engineer's OPWC 2027 Athens County Paving (Priority 1) and Spice Lick (TR267-2.70) Bridge Replacement (Priority 2). Documents available 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.

Sons of Union Veterans

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the request from the Sons of Union Veterans to reallocate previously awarded county funds. The organization had received \$500 for Memorial Day activities and requested permission to use those funds for the rededication of grave markers honoring United States Colored Soldiers at Fort Street Cemetery in Nelsonville.

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

Surplus ACWS

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve declaring the listed property surplus and disposing of or redistributing the items as presented. The items included a John Deere lawn mower to be redistributed to the County Maintenance Department, a Land Pride brush attachment to be sold, and a old broken desk designated for disposal through the appropriate surplus process. See back of page 302 for Surplus Forms.

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

HVCRC Grant Plan

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature on the HVCRC Grant Plan. See back of page 302 for document.

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

Independent Consulting Agreement - PWS

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Independent Consulting Agreement for W&S with Chris Russell, who would serve as a qualified backup operator when Superintendent Oscar is unavailable. The agreement provides compensation at \$25 per hour. See document on back of page 303.

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

Resignation - EMS

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to accept resignation of Part Time Paramedic Matthew Cantrell, effective immediately.

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

[illegible]

County Property Declared Surplus

[illegible]

County Property Declared Surplus

[illegible]

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS FACILITIES
SIGNATURE PAGE

County Name:	Athens
Facility Name:	Hocking Valley Community Residential Center
Facility Address:	111 W 29 Drive Nelsonville OH 44764

FY 28 Budget Request:	\$2,642,028
Funded Beds:	16
FY 28 Per Diem:	452,402,048

Average Daily Population
Facility Funded Occupancy Rate
(Provided by DYS)

FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
16	13	11
65%	78%	74%

Signed by:	Director - DYS	Date:
Signed by:	 Facility Administrator	8-17-26 Date
Signed by:	 County Fiscal Officer / Commissioner	8/20/26 Date
Signed by:	Chair, Governing Board	Date:

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS FACILITIES
GRANT PLAN (PAGE 2)

COUNTY NAME:
FACILITY NAME:
DYS GRANT FUND:

FISCAL YEAR: 2027
INITIAL BUDGET: _____
REVISED BUDGET: _____

DYE GRANT FUNDS

		DOLLAR AMOUNT			CHANGES
ACCT. NO.	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	ORIGINAL BUDGET	ADJUSTMENTS REDUCTIONS	FINAL GR. BUDGET	
1001	Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$ 2,178,690.57	-	\$ 2,178,690.57	A
1021	Overtime	1,100.00	-	1,100.00	B
1031	Medical	87,855.58	-	87,855.58	C
2100	Contractual/Retirement Expenses	1,140,000.00	-	1,140,000.00	C
2109	Travel	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	C
2120	Supplies & Material	1,400,000.00	-	1,400,000.00	B
2129	General Vehicle Expenses	15,000.00	-	15,000.00	C
2200	Transitional Development	8,000.00	-	8,000.00	C
2400	Communications	28,999.58	-	28,999.58	C
2409	Lease and Utilities	88,000.00	-	88,000.00	C
2600	Maintenance & Repairs	29,000.00	-	29,000.00	C
2609	Printing, Advertising	800.00	-	800.00	C
2800	General and Others	75,300.00	-	75,300.00	C
4000	Capital	20,000.00	-	20,000.00	C
4009	Interest Cost	20,000.00	-	20,000.00	C
	DYS GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$ 2,642,288.05	-	\$ 2,642,288.05	

* All fund amounts must be validated in accordance with the approved Chart of Accounts

ACCT. NO.	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	ORIGINAL CAPITAL BUDGET	ADJUSTMENTS/REDUCTIONS	FINAL CAPITAL BUDGET	
CA 1000	Capital Expenditures		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

** All expenditures must be in alignment with approved DYS Capital Plan

NON-GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	NON DYS-GRF FUNDED BUDGET	ADJUSTMENTS/REDUCTIONS	FINAL NON DYS-GRF FUNDED BUDGET
HCILA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		\$ -	\$ -
		\$ -	\$ -
		\$ -	\$ -
		\$ -	\$ -
		\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	\$ 2,642,028.00
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PER DUES	PREP
CYS funded total/Average daily occupancy/Days in year	

Jack Bortle Resolution

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve and recognize Jack Bortle for 29 years of service and to dedicate the Port Authority's new building in his honor:

A RESOLUTION HONORING JACK BORTLE FOR 29 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ATHENS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY
AND DEDICATING THE PORT AUTHORITY'S NEW BUILDING IN HIS HONOR

WHEREAS, Jack Bortle has faithfully served as a member of the Athens County Port Authority Board of Directors for 29 years, providing nearly three decades of leadership and service dedicated to advancing economic opportunity in Athens County; and

WHEREAS, during those 29 years, Mr. Bortle served 16 years as Chairperson of the Athens County Port Authority Board, providing steady leadership and helping guide the organization through periods of growth, development, and investment; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure, Mr. Bortle has been a strong advocate for economic development, job creation, and long-term investment in Athens County, helping establish the Athens County Economic Development Council in 2009, which strengthened the coordination of economic development efforts and created a lasting partnership between the Economic Development Council and the Athens County Port Authority; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Bortle's leadership, the Athens County Port Authority undertook the development and construction of two speculative buildings, further expanding the County's inventory of development-ready space and positioning Athens County to attract and support private investment for years to come; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Athens County Port Authority and the Board of the Athens County Commissioners wish to permanently recognize Mr. Bortle's extraordinary service and the lasting impact of his leadership on the Port Authority and Athens County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of the Athens County Commissioner, in recognition of Jack Bortle's 29 years of distinguished service, including 16 years as Chairperson, and his significant contributions to economic development throughout Athens County, hereby dedicates its newest building in his honor.

Signed this 25th day of August 2026

/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.

Fee Waiver - Children Services

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Fee Waiver from Children Services on their AEP Utility Bill.

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 Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the following travel:

JoAnn Rockhold and Alison Pierson - Columbus, OH; September 18, 2026

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

Executive Session - DJFS

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to enter into executive session at 9:40 with Dir. Tami Collins, Assist. Dir. Lisa Radford to discuss discipline 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.

INDEPENDENT CONSULTING AGREEMENT

THIS INDEPENDENT CONSULTING AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is effective 08/25/26 through 08/25/27, by and between the Athens County Board of Commissioners ("Commissioners") and Chris Russell. Commissioners and Mr. Russell will collectively be referred to herein as the "Parties". In consideration of the mutual agreements hereinafter set forth, and for other valuable consideration, it is agreed to by and among the Parties as follows:

ARTICLE I
TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

- A. Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement, Commissioners hereby agree to engage Mr. Russell, and Mr. Russell hereby accepts such engagement, as an independent, self-employed contractor and not as an employee, to provide backup sewer operator of record services to assist the Commissioners in satisfying certain legal obligations imposed upon the Athens County Ohio Water & Sewer District by the Ohio Revised Code, Ohio Administrative Code, and/or the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.
- B. The term of this Agreement shall be from 08/25/26 through 08/25/27. This Agreement is not subject to automatic renewal and shall automatically terminate unless renewed by each Party hereto.

ARTICLE II
INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

- A. Mr. Russell shall be and remain an independent contractor with respect to all services performed hereunder, and assume all risks attendant thereto, and agrees to and does hereby accept full and exclusive liability for the payment of any and all contributions or taxes for social security, unemployment insurance, age-based retirement benefits, pension, or annuities, now or hereafter imposed under any state or federal law or regulation, which are measured by the wages, salaries, or on work performed under the terms of this Agreement, and further agrees to obey lawful rules and regulations and to meet all lawful requirements which are now, or hereafter may be issued or promulgated under said respective laws by any duly authorized state or federal official.
- B. Mr. Russell fully understands he is not an employee of the Commissioners, the Athens County Water & Sewer District, or Athens County, Ohio, and is therefore ineligible for benefits provided to the Commissioners' employees, including, but not limited to, health care and pension benefits.

ARTICLE III
SERVICES

- A. During seven-day term of this Agreement, by specific use of Mr. Russell's sewer license(s), knowledge, skills, expertise and goodwill, and acting at all times as an independent contractor, independent of any supervision, scheduling, or control in the performance of duties by the Commissioners, Mr. Russell agrees to provide backup sewer operator of record services, to specifically include serving as the sewer operator of record for the Athens County Water & Sewer District for the balance of

any seven day period for which the required twenty hours of sewer operator of record services are left unfulfilled by the Commissioners' designated employee(s).

- B. Mr. Russell shall not be required to commit to specific hours of availability but shall be available at all times during the Term hereof, upon reasonable notice, when the Commissioners or their designee requests backup sewer operator of record services.
- C. Mr. Russell's obligations authorized under this Agreement are in the nature of personal services and as such, are not assignable or transferable, except as agreed to in writing jointly by the Parties.
- D. Mr. Russell agrees to notify the Commissioners immediately should there be a change in any of his sewer licensure.

ARTICLE IV
COMPENSATION

- A. For services to be rendered by Mr. Russell pursuant to this Agreement, the Commissioners agree to cause payment to be issued to Mr. Russell in the amount of \$25.00 per hour of service performed.
- B. Mr. Russell acknowledges he will be issued an IRS 1099 form.

ARTICLE V
TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT

- A. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Agreement, either Party hereto may terminate this Agreement at any time, with or without cause, by giving at least seven calendar days written notice to the other Party.
- B. Such termination shall not prejudice any other remedy to which the terminating Party may be entitled, either by law, in equity, or under this Agreement.

ARTICLE VI
MISCELLANEOUS

- A. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of Ohio, and venue shall be proper in Athens County, Ohio.
- B. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties hereto with respect to the subject matter hereof, and supersedes any prior agreements or understandings, whether oral or written, between the Parties with respect to the subject matter thereof.
- C. Except as otherwise provided herein with respect to termination, this Agreement may not be terminated, modified, or amended orally or by any course of conduct or usage of trade but only by an agreement in writing duly executed by the Parties to be changed thereby.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have duly executed this Agreement as of the date first above written.

By: Chris Russell
Chris Russell

Date: 8-26-29

Lenny Eliason
Lenny Eliason, President
Athens County Board of Commissioners

Date: 8/24/26

Regular Session - DJFS

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to return to regular session with DJFS at 10:12 with No Action to be taken.

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

Surplus - DJFS

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to declare the DJFS items as surplus property and authorize their sale through GovDeals.com. Any items not sold through GovDeals.com shall be made available for redistribution to other county departments or, if no longer needed, disposed of in accordance with county policy. See the list of surplus items on page 304.

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

Bid Opening - DJFS 10 W. Washington Street Building

No Bids

DJFS Re-Advertising - 10 W. Washington Street Building Nelsonville

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to approve Re-Advertising the DJFS 10 W. Washington Building Nelsonville with a minimum bid of \$775,000.00. Sealed bids will be opened September 29, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, no; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Senior Emergency Assistance Fund - DJFS

Assist. Dir. Lisa Radford presented the following proposal regarding the use of available Senior Levy funds, requesting \$100,000 to establish a Senior Emergency Assistance Fund, similar to a program implemented in 2024. The program is intended to assist approximately 100 senior households with emergency expenses, including utility bills, rent or mortgage payments, urgent home repairs, medical equipment not covered by Medicare or Medicaid, furniture, safety-related needs, and other essential living expenses.

Assist. Dir. Radford explained that applicants would be required to be Athens County residents, with at least one household member meeting the program's age eligibility requirements. Individuals eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) would instead be referred to that program before receiving Senior Levy assistance.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve allocating \$100,000 in Senior Levy funds to establish the Senior Emergency Assistance Fund proposed by DJFS.

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

Age-Friendly Updates - Amy Lipka

Amy Lipka provided the quarterly update for Age-Friendly Athens County. The report highlighted ongoing initiatives related to senior housing, community health, brain health, falls prevention, transportation, social connection, and partnerships with local organizations. Updates included exploration of intergenerational home-sharing, expansion of the Friendship Bench referral program through Adult Protective Services and Hopewell Health, development of accessible housing and gardening initiatives, and distribution of transportation resource guides for older adults. Commissioner Adkins discussed the availability of farmers market benefits for seniors and requested additional information regarding potential waiting lists and funding needs. See documents on back of page 305.

Athens County Commissioners



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County Property Declared Surplus

Athens County Department of Job and Family Services

Department

Property Description	Model #	Serial #
Brown Loveseat Couch (CH 1st Floor - Reception area)	No tag	
Blue and White Pitcher and Bowl (CH 2nd Floor)	No tag	
Oak Wooden Stand (CH 2nd Floor)	No tag	CH Property - Damage on bottom
Brown Chair (CH 1st Floor - Full Belly Room)	JFS tag 4202	
Wooden Table (CH 1st Floor - Full Belly Room)	No tag	
Tan Plastic Chair (CH 1st Floor - Full Belly Room)	No tag	
Black Leather Chair (CH 1st Floor - Full Belly Room)	JFS tag 7099	
Misc Office Supplies (CH 1st floor - Fiscal)	No tag	
Printer Cartridges (CH 1st floor - Fiscal)	No tag	Printers no longer in use
Brown cloth chair (CH 2nd floor - across from elevator)	JFS tag 3900	
Tan Cloth chair (CH 2nd floor)	No tag	
Black Cloth Rolling office chair (CH 1st Floor - Fiscal)	JFS tag 6983	
Metal/Wooden 2 tier table/stand (CH 1st Floor - CSEA)	JFS tag 7102	
Leather chair (CH 1st Floor)	No tag	Worn


Elated Official Department Head Signature

8/21/26
Date


Athens County Commissioners Signature

8/24/26
Date

2

Redistribute Surplus Property

3

Destroy Surplus Property

1

Auction or Sale

Utility Permit - Environmental Site Assessment for 5885 Industrial Dr. - Mollie Fitzgerald

Mollie Fitzgerald provided a request for approval of a right-of-way permit to allow installation of one groundwater monitoring well and five soil borings along Industrial Drive as part of an additional environmental site assessment at 5885 Industrial Drive. Mollie explained that the work would be performed by Tetra Tech and is expected to remain in place for up to six months, or until the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) issues a No Further Action (NFA) Letter, at which time the monitoring equipment would be removed.

Mollie explained that the additional site assessment is being conducted to obtain a Covenant Not to Sue and No Further Action Letter from the Ohio EPA. These environmental protections are intended to ensure that any future tenant or purchaser of the property will not be held liable for contamination associated with the site's former use as a power plant. It was emphasized that the environmental review is being completed for the benefit of any future occupant of the property, regardless of whether CCC Plastics or another company ultimately leases or purchases the site. The Port Authority is responsible for obtaining the environmental clearances as part of the redevelopment process.

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

Permit No. 26-730
From: Tetra Tech
250 W. Court St., Ste 200W
Cincinnati, OH 45202

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

Location of work: Co Rd # 110A, Co Rd Name: Industrial Dr
Description of Work: Other: Soil Borings & Monitoring Well
Type of Installation: Other: Soil Borings to 10', Monitoring Well to 40'
Estimated Project Schedule: 08/27/2026 - 08/28/2026

Agreed to by: /s/Vicky Farmer, Tetra Tech

Athens County Commissioners

/s/ Lenny Eliason

/s/ Charlie Adkins

/s/Chris Chmiel

/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.

Suspend Rules

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

Planner Connor LaVelle - Dump Site (Cherry Ridge off of Chase Rd)

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

Planner Connor LaVelle - Dump Site (Cherry Ridge off of Chase Rd)

Planner LaVelle discussed an Attorney General-funded dump cleanup project involving a privately owned property in Alexander Township near Cherry Ridge and Chase Road. Planner LaVelle explained that the County had received a \$78,000 grant through the Ohio Attorney General's dump cleanup program to address an illegal dump site. The original cleanup estimates, however, were approximately \$120,000, requiring the project scope to be reduced to match the available funding.

Commissioner Adkins expressed concern that the limited funding might only allow partial cleanup of the site and questioned whether beginning work without sufficient funding to complete the project could expose the County to additional financial or environmental liability. It was noted that the extent of buried waste beneath the surface remains unknown, raising concerns that excavation could uncover significantly more material than anticipated. Commissioner Adkins questioned whether disturbing only a portion of the site could create additional obligations to stabilize or remediate the remaining area.

Age-Friendly Athens County Open House August 2026

Age-Friendly Athens County (AFAC) continued to serve as a point of connection for organizations and individuals interested in healthy aging. This included community events, coalition and regional planning, partner outreach, and sharing resources through the Age-Friendly network.

Examples of progress toward AFAC goals:

Housing: Enable people to stay in their own community as they age.

Senior Housing at The Ridges

Let by the co-chairs of the AFAC housing subcommittee with planning support from the Athens County Foundation, the Senior Housing at The Ridges Working Group brought together partners from Ohio University, local government, healthcare, housing, social services, and aging services. In August, the group hosted a panel exploring how The Ridges could serve as an age-friendly living lab for university-community partnerships.

Intergenerational and Shared Housing

AFAC continued participating in an exploratory group focused on intergenerational and shared housing. In July, the group met with the founder and CEO of Nestery, a home-sharing platform, to learn about a model that could support aging in place while expanding housing options.

Age-Friendly Housing Policy

AFAC continued supporting Athens County's Community Reinvestment Area approach to encouraging accessible housing. In August, the newly adopted Athens County CRA was used as a case study during a statewide Coalition of Age-Friendly Communities of Ohio session on moving ideas toward policy change.

Community & Health Services: Foster a supportive and interconnected community that provides essential health and community services to enhance the well-being of older adults.

The April Age-Friendly Athens County Coalition meeting focused on Community & Health Services. Participants identified existing resources, barriers, and gaps affecting older adults' access to healthcare. Since then, the Community & Health Services advisory team has been reviewing what was learned, exploring best practices, and developing a plan to respond to identified needs.

In June and July, AFAC and the Alzheimer's Association convened partners from healthcare, public health, aging services, and community organizations as part of a national public health approach to brain health. Participants explored how existing work around physical activity, chronic disease management, healthy eating, sleep, and social connection can also support brain health and reduce dementia risk.

What was learned through the April Coalition meeting, advisory team, and dementia risk reduction convening is now informing broader healthy aging planning.

Falls Prevention

Age-Friendly Athens County continued collaborating with the regional Falls Prevention Coalition, including planning for a Senior Health Fair at the Athens Farmers' Market and developing community falls prevention resources.

Connecting Older Adults to Support

A new referral system linking Athens County Adult Protective Services with phone calls through the Friendship Bench led to continued collaboration and participation in the Adult Protective Services Interdisciplinary Team. Through the I-Team, AFAC connected with Hopewell Health Centers to expand referrals for Friendship Bench phone calls to clients served by their geriatric case management team.

Communication & Engagement: Promote active engagement and collaboration with community organizations that serve older adults.

AFAC is working with United Seniors of Athens County, OhioHealth UpBEAT, and a former Council member to explore reestablishing the Athens County Council on Aging as a way for senior clubs to connect, share ideas, and identify common concerns.

Age-Friendly Athens County also supported partner-led healthy aging projects by sharing funding opportunities, providing letters of support, making connections, and helping with project development. This included a successful Mid-Atlantic Arts grant with local artist Tawon Quinn for creative aging programming and Community Food Initiative's development of a proposal focused on accessible community gardening and social connection.

Global & Statewide Learning: Actively participate in the Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities and affiliated efforts.

Age-Friendly Athens County continued participating in the Social Welfare International Exchange with partners in Japan and represented Athens County at the Third World Age-Friendly Congress in Spain in June.

The Athens County-Stevens global learning manuscript was accepted for publication in the Annals of Global Health. In August, Age-Friendly Athens County also co-lead a statewide Coalition of Age-Friendly Communities of Ohio session using Athens County's accessible housing work as a case study for moving community ideas toward policy change.

Who can help?

Smoke detectors and fire safety

Athens Fire Department: 740-599-3301 (Non-Emergency)
Red Cross: 740-593-5273

Home safety

Helping Hands of Southeast Ohio: 740-807-6585
Buckeye Hills Regional Council: 800-331-3644
The Athens Village: 740-447-0500

Exercise and falls prevention

United Seniors of Athens County: 740-594-3335
Athens Community Center: 740-592-3325
UpBEAT: 740-566-4680

Walking aids

Rural Action Medical Surplus Distribution:
740-677-4047 Ext. 630

Home Safety & Injury Prevention

At Home:

- Test smoke detectors yearly
- Remove or secure loose rugs
- Improve lighting in halls, stairs, and entrances
- Install grab bars and handrails where needed
- Keep walkways clutter-free

Personal Health:

- Stay active with regular movement
- Review medications with your doctor or a pharmacist
- Get your vision checked yearly
- Wear sturdy, well-fitting shoes
- Use a walking aid if needed

Questions?

We're here to help.

Any Upka
Age-Friendly Athens County
Coordinator
Athens City-County
Health Department
278 West Union Street
Athens, OH 45701
740-592-4431 ext. 5915

Megan Smith, MPH
Falls Prevention
Coordinator
Population Health Director
Washington County
Health Department
342 Muskingum Drive
Martinsburg, WV 26151
Office: 1-800-376-2783 ext. 3142

Senior HEALTH FAIR at the Athens Farmers Market

Wednesday,
September 23, 2026
9:00AM-12:00PM

Location:
Athens Community Center
701 E State St. Athens, OH 45701

Please join us in celebrating
Older Adults and promoting the
importance of preventing falls

Get Free Screenings, Resources & Information

-Falls Screenings
-Blood pressure
-Home Safety
-Health Programs
-And SO MUCH MORE

For more information
Contact Megan Smith
740-594-3335 ext. 3343
or msmith@hapcap.org



Athens County Transportation Directory

HAPCAP provides Athens County residents with transportation resources. We help athletes in Athens County who need help with transportation, whether it's accompanying you on your first bike ride or helping you access any of the transportation providers below.

Call Ben Zitt, Mobility Coordinator, 740-527-4500 Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. or email ben.zitt@hapcap.org

Provider	Services	Availability	Contact
Athens Public Transit	- Public buses with routes serving Athens, The Plains, Chillicothe, Newcomer and Athens - FREE through April 2026 - Freeing up transportation - Wheelchair accessible	Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. expanding on days later	740-502-0277 Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Go Bus	- Public buses with service to 58 cities and towns across Ohio - Purchase locally, Ohio, Athens Community Center, etc. - Real-time app - Wheelchair accessible	Monday - Friday 7:35 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.	740-597-2034 Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Athens On Demand Transit	- Public transportation service within Athens County - FREE through April 2026 - Freeing up transportation - Wheelchair accessible	Monday - Friday 7:35 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.	740-597-2034 Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
United Seniors of Athens County	- Door-to-door ride service for Athens County residents who are 60+ - Free for ages 60+ - Wheelchair accessible	Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.	740-594-3335 Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Athens County Job & Family Services	- Door-to-door non-emergency medical transportation for Athens County residents who are Medicaid recipients - Accepts Medicaid - Can arrange wheelchair accessible ride	Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	740-594-3335 Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Provider	Services	Availability	Contact
RAVP	- Door-to-door non-emergency medical transportation for Athens County residents provided by retired senior volunteers - Free for Athens County residents who are 60+ in Medicaid	Seven days a week Advance notice required	740-569-2755 Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Athens Green Cab	- Door-to-door non-emergency medical transportation for Medicaid recipients - Accepts Medicaid and some private insurance - Wheelchair accessible	Seven days a week Advance notice required	740-265-3560 Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Art Transportation	- Door-to-door ride service - Accepts Medicaid, some private insurance, cash or check	Monday - Friday 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. and some Saturdays Advance notice required	740-517-7013 Monday - Saturday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Robert's Taxi	- Private taxi providing transportation in Athens County - Accepts cash and check	Seven days a week Advance notice required	740-512-0423 Seven days a week during daylight hours
Pop's Pickup	- Private taxi - Accepts cash and check	Operates seven days a week Advance notice recommended but not required	740-606-2742 Seven days a week 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Daybreak Ambulance	- Non-emergency medical transportation - Multiple checks accepted - Wheelchair accessible	Monday - Friday Advance notice required	740-594-2362 Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

What does advance notice mean? Due to high demand, most providers recommend that you call in at least a week to reserve a ride. If you need to schedule a ride, please call the provider directly to learn more about their policies and procedures.

HAPCAP is not responsible for the consequences of providers not being able to provide rides.

Revised 8-4-2025

Aging Safely in Athens County

Did you know?
Just 30 minutes of physical activity a day can help improve balance, strength, and energy.

Tips and local resources to support safe, healthy aging.



Planner LaVelle explained that the property ownership has changed since the initial grant application and that a new right-of-entry agreement had been obtained from the current property owner. The site remains privately owned, although the illegal dumping reportedly occurred decades earlier when a previous owner accepted municipal waste for disposal. Planner LaVelle acknowledged sharing the Board's concerns about proceeding with only a partial cleanup.

Planner LaVelle advised that the project is currently out for bid with a September 2 bid opening, but suggested that if the Board determined the available funding was insufficient, it could reject all bids and request permission from the Ohio Attorney General's Office to redirect the grant funds to another eligible cleanup project, such as the accumulated solid waste removal at the Currier Street log jam, which is located on publicly owned property and presents fewer uncertainties.

Commissioner Adkins questioned how the original cleanup estimate had been developed and learned that contractors familiar with similar remediation projects had conducted a site visit and prepared estimates based on visible conditions. Planner LaVelle explained that the bid specifications had been intentionally limited to fit within the available grant amount, focusing on areas believed to contain the highest concentration of surface waste. However, additional discussions with contractors raised concerns that excavation could reveal substantial buried waste beyond the defined project scope.

Commissioner Adkins also discussed whether the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) should become involved. Commissioner Adkins questioned the distinction between an illegal dump and a permitted landfill, noting uncertainty regarding the site's regulatory status and whether EPA funding or technical assistance might be available to complete a full remediation. Planner LaVelle explained that the Attorney General's program had accepted the project because it involved an illegal dump used decades ago by a private waste hauler, but agreed that consultation with the Ohio EPA would be appropriate before proceeding further.

After further discussion, Commissioners agreed that no action should be taken until bids are opened on September 2. They directed Planner LaVelle to continue gathering information from the Ohio EPA and other knowledgeable individuals (Ed Newman) regarding the site's history, the potential extent of buried waste, and possible additional funding sources. Commissioners indicated that once the bids are received, the Board will determine whether to proceed with the current project, reject the bids and revise the scope, or pursue alternative funding or cleanup options that would allow the entire site to be remediated safely and responsibly.

Pocket Park Nelsonville - Lynn Garbo

Lynn Garbo discussed a concept for the future use of a portion of the DJFS Nelsonville property as a public gathering space. Lynn shared a conceptual design and reported discussions with Nelsonville city officials regarding potential acquisition of the front portion of the property for community events and downtown revitalization. Commissioner Eliason stated they would consider selling a portion of the property only if the City of Nelsonville formally expressed interest and submitted an offer. A preliminary discussion included an estimated purchase price of approximately \$15,000, with the City responsible for survey, lot split, and related costs. Commissioner Eliason advised that the City would need to approve the purchase by ordinance and submit a formal offer before the Board could take further action.

NFP - Insurance Updates

Dave Leszcz presented an update from NFP regarding the County's 2027 health insurance renewal through CEBCO, including a projected 9.1% premium increase and several plan design options intended to reduce costs. Commissioner Eliason discussed the potential impact of proposed deductible and copay changes on employees and requested additional information comparing employee premium contributions and out-of-pocket costs before considering any plan changes. NFP also presented benchmarking data comparing the County's health benefits to similar public employers, discussed open enrollment support. Commissioner Eliason requested additional analysis comparing the County's current plan to a self-funded model and scheduled further discussion before the September deadline for plan changes.

Employee-paid GLP-1 medication program

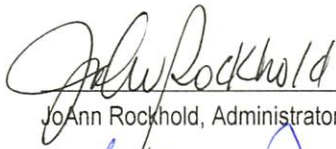
A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to approve NFP to introduce an optional employee-paid GLP-1 medication program to be added to the employee benefits landing page.

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