

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. Eliason to approve the following agenda:
Athens County Board of County Commissioners

Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, August 04, 2026 Convenes at 9:00 a.m.

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes July 28, 2026

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

New Fund: Sheriff Grant Project

Expenditures: DART Salaries 213.3213.510240 DART Supplies 213.3213.540106

9:00 DLZ - New Marshfield Sewer
9:30 Bid Opening for the New Marshfield SS Contract "B".
9:30 W&S Supt Oscar Carson - weekly updates
9:45 DJFS - Weekly Updates - Child Support Awareness Month
10:00 Bid Opening- DJFS
10:15 911
10:30 EMS
10:45 Lynn Garbo-Property
11:00 Roxanne Groff- DATA Center Resolution
11:30 LUNCH

6:00-8:00 CCC-Plastics @ TPIS 90 Connett Rd

Agenda Items

Amended Certificate
W&S Extensions
Surplus - Commissioners
OWDA Payment Request #4 Stewart & Guysville Sanitary Sewer Improvements (Ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature)
Surplus - Common Pleas Court
Spectrum Contract- Records Center
Surplus - Commissioners

~TRAVEL

CP: Judge McCarthy; OJC Conference 2026 Hilton Columbus @ Easton; 9/17 - 9/18/26
CP: Melinda Bradford; Fall Conference OAM, Hilton-Polaris Columbus OH; 9/8 - 9/11/26
Maintenance: Tad Starnes; Monthly Cleaning Records Center, Glouster OH; 07/26, 08/26, 09/26, 10/26, 11/26, & 12/26

ADJOURNMENT

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

Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to approve the minutes of July 28, 2026.

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

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

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason approving the Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes, including New Fund: Sheriff Grant Project - Expenditures: DART Salaries 213.3213.510240 DART Supplies 213.3213.540106 and approving the payment of the required County Bills, which are included in the Auditor's Office INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 07/23/2026 To: 07/28/2026, INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 07/28/2026 To: 07/30/2026 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, absent; Mr. Adkins, yea.

DLZ - New Marshfield Sewer

The Contractor (Dave Weber) presented a progress update on the ongoing sewer extension project. Construction completed during the previous month included finishing work on Steinmeyer Rd, installing Grinder Pump Station No. 2, and connecting the Steinmeyer Rd sewer to Old St Rt 56. Crews have since begun work on New Marshfield Rd, where construction is expected to continue for approximately two to three weeks, depending on rock conditions encountered during excavation. Once that section is completed and the pump station installed, construction will proceed to Old St Rt 56.

Contractor Weber explained that the construction sequence was modified after discussions with transportation officials from Alexander Local Schools. School officials identified New Marshfield Rd as the higher priority route due to school bus traffic, prompting the contractor to alter the planned construction schedule. He reported that communication with the school district has continued throughout construction to minimize disruption.

Construction conditions were reported to be favorable overall, although crews continue to encounter intermittent rock formations during excavation. Contractor Weber stated that resident cooperation has been excellent, with no significant complaints received. Commissioner Adkins noted that many residents have expressed appreciation for the sewer project. Contractor Weber also discussed coordination with a property owner regarding an existing right-of-way, fence replacement, and removal of several mature trees before construction proceeds. He agreed to accommodate the owner's request to remove and market the trees prior to construction.

Gary Silcott (DLZ) presented an updated draft resident communication letter and inflow and infiltration (I&I) survey for review prior to distribution. The revised materials are intended to collect information from homeowners regarding existing drainage connections and assist with future sewer system planning. Commissioners reviewed the proposed communication before it is mailed to affected residents.

Commissioner Adkins also discussed whether it remains practical to extend sewer service to the former school property. When the project was originally designed, the school site was viewed as a potential redevelopment opportunity; however, ownership has since changed and future development plans remain uncertain. Supt. Carson explained that serving the property would require a deep sewer installation because of the school's basement elevation, significantly increasing construction costs. It was also noted that the current property owner declined sewer service for a nearby residence, further reducing the immediate benefit of extending the line. Commissioner Adkins questioned whether the expense could be justified absent future subdivision development, which would likely occur years in the future.

Commissioner Eliason extended discussion followed regarding funding for future wastewater treatment plant improvements. Gary Silcott (DLZ) explained that although the current sewer project came in under budget and additional grant funding was received from both the Army Corps of Engineers and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), EPA rules currently prohibit using those savings for unrelated wastewater treatment plant improvements because those improvements were not included within the original project scope. Gary Silcott (DLZ) described unsuccessful efforts to persuade the Ohio EPA to allow the transfer of principal forgiveness funds, noting that the Infrastructure Investment funding program is nearing expiration and remaining principal forgiveness funds are being reserved for future applicants. Commissioners discussed seeking assistance from state and federal elected officials to advocate for allowing Athens County to retain and redirect the unused funding.

Gary Silcott (DLZ) further explained that the existing wastewater treatment plant has deteriorated beyond the point where many components can be economically retrofitted. Existing clarifiers are obsolete, replacement parts are no longer available, and most treatment equipment—other than the headworks and ultraviolet disinfection system—will ultimately require replacement. Gary Silcott & Supt. Carson plans to prepare a new scope of work for submission through the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) later in the year in hopes of obtaining additional principal forgiveness funding for a comprehensive plant rehabilitation project. Officials estimated that approximately \$1.5 million remains available from previous project savings but cautioned that complete equipment replacement will substantially increase project costs beyond earlier estimates.

Commissioner Adkins publicly thanked the contractor (Dave Weber), and Gary Silcott (DLZ) for maintaining excellent communication throughout construction and for responding promptly to resident concerns.

OWDA Payment Request #2 US50 New Marshfield Gravity Sanitary Sewer

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to approve and authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the OWDA Payment Request #2 US50 New Marshfield Gravity Sanitary Sewer.

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

OWDA Payment Request #24 US50 New Marshfield Sanitary Sewer

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to approve and authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the OWDA Payment Request #24 US50 New Marshfield Sanitary Sewer.

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

W&S - Hire

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to hire Jared Ramirez as an entry-level employee at an hourly rate of \$20.00, with an anticipated start date of Monday, August 10, 2026.

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

W&S Weekly Updates - Supt. Oscar Carson

Wastewater Plant Staffing and EPA Inspection

Supt. Carson reported that an unannounced inspection by Brandon Atwood identified several concerns at the wastewater treatment plant, including operational issues with one clarifier, staffing levels, delayed tank cleaning, and the amount of time the superintendent spends away from the treatment plant. To address these concerns, Supt. Carson plans to assign an Owen Arix to spend more time at the plant while the newly hired employee assists with distribution system responsibilities, allowing experienced personnel to receive additional treatment plant training. Commissioner Adkins anticipate future discussions regarding additional staffing needs and potential rate increases, noting that existing water and sewer rates will likely be insufficient to support future operating costs and significant plant upgrades. EPA expectations require the superintendent to spend a minimum of four hours per day at the treatment facility whenever possible.

Amended Certificate

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel acknowledging receipt of the Amended Certificate for Athens City-County Health Dept., dated August 3, 2026 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/Payment Agreements

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel ratifying Commissioner Adkins Signature authorizing an Extension as requested by Angel Lovejoy for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is \$200.00 with \$200.00 to be paid 08/14/26. 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.

Surplus - Commissioners

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve and declare the Commissioner's Surplus to destroy:

Description:	Model #
Microsoft Surface	03385367253

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

OWDA Payment Request #4 Stewart & Guysville Sanitary Sewer Improvements

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature on the OWDA Payment Request #4 Stewart & Guysville Sanitary Sewer Improvements.

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

Surplus - Common Pleas

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve and declare the Common Pleas Surplus to destroy:

Description:	Model #	Serial #
Surface (screen broken/doesn't work)		
Zoom Camera, Remote, & Cords	20200315	697016789231

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

Spectrum Contract - Records Center

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to ratify Shari Gabriel's signature on the Spectrum Contract and authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign.

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

Surplus - Commissioners

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to table until next week to review the two parcels behind the Coolville EMS Station for Surplus.

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:

CP: Judge McCarthy; OJC Conference 2026 Hilton Columbus @ Easton; 9/17 - 9/18/26
 CP: Melinda Bradford; Fall Conference OAM, Hilton-Polaris Columbus OH; 9/8 - 9/11/26
 Maintenance: Tad Starnes; Monthly Cleaning Records Center, Glouster OH; 07/26, 08/26, 09/26, 10/26, 11/26, & 12/26

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

Bid Opening for the New Marshfield SS Contract "B"

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to acknowledge receipt of the Bid Opening for the New Marshfield SS Contract "B", Engineers Estimate \$1,700,000.00:

TAM Construction, Inc	\$1,109,154.00
Precise Boring of Ohio	\$1,395,179.00
RDR Utility Services Group	\$1,711,898.00

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

Public Comment – Proposed Data Center

A resident (MaryAnn Hartwick) inquired about a proposed data center project on property near U.S. Route 33. Commissioner Eliason explained that they lack authority to impose a development moratorium because zoning authority rests with the applicable township. However, they stated the county is not providing incentives to attract the project and intends to adopt a resolution expressing concerns. Commissioner Eliason also noted that extension of county sewer service to the site is not feasible due to existing treatment plant capacity limitations and staffing concerns. Any developer seeking wastewater service would likely need to pursue direct permitting through the Ohio EPA. Additional discussion addressed wetlands, access limitations, and reports that the property may contain Native American burial mounds, all of which could complicate development. MaryAnn thanked the Board for its transparency and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to observe county government in action.

DJFS - Child Support Awareness Month

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to declare August 2026 as Child Support Awareness Month:

Whereas, we recognize that the well-being of Ohio's children and families depends on consistent and adequate financial support; and

Whereas, we commend and honor those parents who are dedicated to fulfilling their moral, legal, and financial responsibilities to support their children; and

Whereas, we acknowledge that non-custodial parents may face challenges and barriers in meeting their obligations, and that many benefit from supportive services and resources to do so; and

Whereas, we affirm that a strong and effective Child Support Enforcement System requires the shared commitment, leadership, and collaboration of courts, government agencies, parents, and lawmakers;

Now, therefore, we, the Board of Commissioners for Athens County, do hereby proclaim August 2026 as **Child Support Awareness Month**, in alignment with the theme, "**Support is Key.**" We recognize the essential work of our local Child Support Enforcement Agency and encourage all citizens who are involved in or impacted by child support to join us in strengthening the lives of children and families throughout Athens County.

Signed:

/s/Lenny Eliason
Commissioner

/s/Charlie Adkins
Commissioner

/s/Chris Chmiel
Commissioner

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

DJFS - Weekly Updates**1. Community Resource Coordinator (CRC) Program Reorganization**

Assist. Dir. Lisa Radford presented plans to modernize and restructure the Community Resource Coordinator (CRC) program. Rather than operating multiple mobile outreach units and maintaining them, the agency intends to transition to a more focused service model.

Under the proposed structure:

- * One mobile unit will continue community outreach at targeted events.
- * One staff member will serve as an internal and external Resource Navigator with knowledge of all JFS divisions.
- * Staff responsibilities will expand beyond public assistance to include child support, Adult Protective Services, and other departmental programs.
- * Internal procedures and referral processes will be redeveloped to improve efficiency.
- * Another position will assume a larger public relations and communications role.

Agency leadership explained that these changes are intended to better reflect current community needs while modernizing service delivery and improving internal coordination.

2. Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) Annual Report

In recognition of Child Support Awareness Month, Social Services Director Jason Terry provided an overview of Child Support Enforcement Agency operations and accomplishments.

Highlights included:

- * Approximately 3,500 active child support cases currently managed.
- * Approximately 4,600 telephone calls received during the past year.
- * Approximately 650 walk-in clients served.
- * 680 administrative hearings conducted.
- * 615 judicial hearings completed.
- * 278 child support emancipations processed.

* 2,028 new applications received.

Nearly \$350,000 generated through Title IV-D contracts during State Fiscal Year 2026.

More than \$2.8 million collected for Athens County children during Federal Fiscal Year 2026 to date.

\$435,357.54 collected during the month of July alone.

3. Workforce Development Board Merger Update

Assist Dir Radford provided an update regarding the proposed restructuring of regional workforce development boards.

Athens County currently participates in Area 14 Workforce Development Board with Meigs, Perry, and Vinton Counties. Staff explained that discussions continue regarding a merger with Area 20, which includes Hocking, Fairfield, Pickaway, Ross, and surrounding counties, creating a seven-county regional workforce board.

Key discussion points included:

- * The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services supports the merger.
- * ODJFS plans to assign staff to assist with policy alignment and governance.
- * Policy integration is expected to begin this fall, with fiscal integration occurring later.
- * The state is encouraging larger workforce regions that more closely align with regional economic development boundaries.
- * Athens County lacks sufficient population to operate independently as a workforce region.
- * Commissioners discussed alternative merger options but agreed the proposed region provides stronger employment connections for local residents than eastern Ohio alternatives.
- * Dir Collins noted that becoming part of the larger region would provide access to specialized workforce personnel, apprenticeship programs, dedicated social media resources, grant opportunities, and enhanced training facilities while allowing Athens County to maintain comprehensive local service delivery through Ohio University and Hocking College partnerships.

Assist Dir Radford expects additional guidance from the state before implementation proceeds.

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 284.

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 10:07 with Dir. Tami Collins, Assist. Dir. Lisa Radford, Social Service Dir. Jason Terry, & Legal Counsel Jeff Stankunas 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.

Regular Session - DJFS

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to return to regular session with DJFS at 10:02 with approving a three-day suspension for an employee as disciplinary action, accompanied by a requirement for retraining.

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 Nelsonville

No bids had been received for the property. As a result, the Board discussed rebidding the property and agreed that additional discussion would occur before proceeding.

911 Internet Access Reimbursement

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the 911 Internet Access Reimbursement in the amount of \$255 for Joshua Clegg. Dir. Fouts-Imler explained that Mr. Clegg is responsible for maintaining the county's critical communications and 911 infrastructure and required internet access to remain available in the event of system issues.

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



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County Property Declared Surplus

Athens County Department of Job and Family Services

Department

[illegible]


Elected Official Department Head Signature

8/4/26
Date

Date
14/26

<u>2nd</u>	Redistribute Surplus Property	<u>3rd</u>	Destroy Surplus Property
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<u>1st Choice</u>	Auction or Sale
1. <u>100%</u>	100%
2. <u>90%</u>	90%
3. <u>80%</u>	80%
4. <u>70%</u>	70%
5. <u>60%</u>	60%
6. <u>50%</u>	50%
7. <u>40%</u>	40%
8. <u>30%</u>	30%
9. <u>20%</u>	20%
10. <u>10%</u>	10%
11. <u>0%</u>	0%



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County Property Declared Surplus

Athens County Department of Job and Family Services

Department

[illegible]

Elected Official/Department Head Signature _____

8/4/26
Date

8/4/26

2 Redistribute Surplus Property 3 Destroy Surplus Property

1 Auction or Sale

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County Property Declared Surplus

Athens County Department of Job and Family Services

Department

[illegible]


Elected Official Department Head Signature

8/4/26

8/4/26

2. Redistribute Surplus Property 3. Destroy Surplus Property

Auction or Sale

Emergency Preparedness and Industrial Development Planning

Dir. Fouts-Imler also informed the Board of an upcoming planning meeting with the York Township Fire Department and other emergency response partners regarding the proposed CCC Plastics project at the Industrial Park.

The purpose of the meeting is to conduct an early assessment of potential emergency response needs before the facility becomes operational. Topics to be addressed include:

- Identifying potential chemical hazards associated with the proposed operation.
- Conducting preliminary risk assessments.
- Coordinating among emergency response agencies.
- Developing mitigation strategies and response planning in advance of any future operations.

Dir. Fouts-Imler emphasized that the meeting is intended to ensure all agencies are prepared and have a common understanding of potential hazards should the project move forward.

New Hire - EMS

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the following New Hires for EMS:

Marissa Ruple - Part Time EMT with a pay rate of \$17.12/hr.

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

Special Response Team (SRT) Training Reimbursement Policy**1. Discussion of Employee Retention**

- * Chief Pyle discussed recent turnover among Special Response Team members after learning the county had invested approximately \$6,000 in training for each of two employees who resigned within a year.
- * Commissioner Adkins suggested implementing exit interviews for employees leaving the department to better understand why personnel resign and identify opportunities to improve retention. Chief Pyle agreed to develop an exit interview process.
- * Chief Pyle explained that the two recent resignations stemmed primarily from personal circumstances involving a couple assigned to the SRT. One individual resigned after learning couples would not serve together on the team, while the second employee resigned several months later.
- * Chief Pyle also advised that additional recruitment and testing for the SRT would begin in the coming months and that prospective applicants would be informed of the reimbursement requirements before entering the selection process.

2. Discussion of Training Obligations and Employee Well-Being

- * Commissioner Adkins raised questions regarding situations in which an employee might leave the Special Response Team because of an injury or psychological trauma, including post-traumatic stress resulting from critical incidents.
- * Chief Pyle acknowledged that the current reimbursement policy does not specifically address those circumstances and indicated such situations would likely need to be evaluated individually. Discussion also considered whether workers' compensation protections might apply in certain cases involving psychological injuries. Chief Pyle agreed to seek additional guidance on those issues if they arise.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve SOG 7-91 Special Response Team (SRT) Training Reimbursement Policy as it has been reviewed and approved by the Prosecutor's Office as presented by Chief Pyle. See SOG 7-91 on back of page 285.

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

Four-Wheel Drive Vehicle Use Policy - EMS

Chief Pyle presented another policy, also reviewed by the Prosecutor's Office, governing the use of the department's four-wheel-drive vehicle. The one-page policy identifies who is authorized to operate the vehicle and the circumstances under which it may be used. Chief Pyle explained that the proposed policy incorporates inclement weather driving training, including guidance discouraging personnel from driving through flood waters when road conditions cannot be seen.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve SOG 7-92 Use of the department's four-wheel-drive vehicle as presented by Chief Pyle. See SOG 7-92 on back of page 285.

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

 ACEMS Emergency Dial 9-1-1	STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES	
	SOG Number:	7-91
	Effective Date:	8/4/2026
	Review Date:	8/4/2028
SRT training cost reimbursement		
APPROVAL: - Amber Pyle, Chief of Emergency Medical Services - Lenny Eliason, Athens County Commissioner - Charlie Adkins, Athens County Commissioner - Chris Chmiel, Athens County Commissioner		
This outline as written or revised becomes an official operating guideline on the effective date noted above. This guideline supersedes all previous guidelines that relate to this subject.		

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Standard Operating Guideline is to protect the investment made by Athens County EMS in the selection, training, equipping, and development of Special Response Team (SRT) members. Due to the significant costs associated with preparing personnel for specialized operations, employees who voluntarily leave the Special Response Team before completing a two-year service commitment may be required to reimburse Athens County EMS for eligible expenses incurred on their behalf.

II. Policy

Employees selected for the Special Response Team shall commit to serving on the team for a minimum of two (2) years following completion of their initial qualification process.

Employees who voluntarily resign from the Special Response Team or voluntarily separate from employment with Athens County EMS before completing the two-year commitment may be required to reimburse the agency for eligible costs incurred in preparing them for SRT duties.

III. Eligible Reimbursable Expenses

Eligible expenses include, but are not limited to:

- ATOMS Training
- Firearms training
- Critical Incident Decision Making training
- Tactical medical training
- Instructor fees
- Tuition and registration fees

[1]

VII. Required Agreement

Prior to beginning Special Response Team training, each employee shall sign a Training Cost Reimbursement Agreement acknowledging:

- Receipt of this SOG.
- Understanding of the two-year commitment.
- Understanding of the reimbursement obligation.
- Agreement to repay eligible expenses if they voluntarily leave the team before satisfying the commitment.

Failure to sign the agreement shall make the employee ineligible for assignment to the Special Response Team.

VIII. Authority

The EMS Chief or designee shall determine reimbursable costs, maintain documentation, and administer this policy.

[3]

- Travel expenses
- Lodging
- Meals when paid by the agency
- Required uniforms
- Tactical clothing
- Protective equipment
- Specialized medical equipment assigned specifically to the member
- Any additional equipment purchased specifically for the employee's assignment to the Special Response Team

The agency shall maintain documentation of all reimbursable expenses.

IV. Non-Reimbursable Expenses

The following expenses are specifically excluded:

- Regular wages
- Overtime wages
- Employee benefits
- Retirement contributions
- Payroll costs of any kind

V. Repayment Schedule

If an employee voluntarily leaves the Special Response Team before completing the required service commitment, repayment shall be based on the following schedule

Repayment shall be due within one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days of leaving the Special Response Team unless another written payment arrangement has been approved.

Athens County EMS may pursue all lawful methods of collecting unpaid reimbursement. No payroll deductions shall occur unless separately authorized by the employee in writing and permitted by law.

VI. Exceptions

Repayment shall not be required when:

- The employee is removed from the team by Athens County EMS for operational needs unrelated to misconduct.
- The employee becomes medically unable to perform SRT duties as documented by an appropriate medical authority.
- The employee is injured in the line of duty and can no longer serve.
- The EMS Chief authorizes an exception in writing.

[2]

 ACEMS Emergency Dial 9-1-1	STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES	
	SOG Number:	7-92
	Effective Date:	8/4/2026
	Review Date:	8/4/2028
APPROVAL: - Amber Pyle, Chief of Emergency Medical Services - Lenny Eliason, Athens County Commissioner - Charlie Adkins, Athens County Commissioner - Chris Chmiel, Athens County Commissioner		
This outline as written or revised becomes an official operating guideline on the effective date noted above. This guideline supersedes all previous guidelines that relate to this subject.		

Purpose- This guideline is intended to cover operation of county owned pickup truck and other 4x4 vehicles that are operated by employees of Athens County EMS in inclement weather.

General Rules of Operation- Every Athens County EMS employee who drives S111 shall:

- Hold a valid Driver's License
- Have a working knowledge of all traffic laws
- Successfully complete an inclement weather drivers training by an approved instructor
- Receive a walk-through of how to place vehicle in 4WD
- Refer to the current Athens County Personnel Policy for any vehicle operation issue not specifically addressed in this Guideline

When to Use- S111 and any 4x4 vehicle will be used when:

- When staffing is available; upon Supervisor approval
- Snow emergencies
- Floods

S111- Will be used for first responding to scenes:

- That are not Accessible by our Squads
- Crew and PT safety
- Back up crews to not tie up another truck.

[1]

County-Owned Property Near Coolville EMS Station

Commissioner Chmiel discussed county-owned property located behind the Coolville EMS Station consisting of four parcels of land.

Commissioner Chmiel reported that a local individual had expressed interest in constructing a residence on the two rear parcels. Chief Pyle indicated those portions of the property are not currently used for EMS operations other than routine mowing and maintenance.

Commissioners discussed the process that would be required should the county pursue the sale of the property. Any disposition would require:

- * Declaring the parcels surplus property.
- * Completing any necessary surveys.
- * Establishing minimum bid requirements.
- * Advertising the property for public sale through the county's standard surplus process.

Commissioner Chmiel observed that the parcels have remained unused since the 1990s and may represent an opportunity to return otherwise idle property to productive use. They also discussed the possibility that proceeds from a future sale could be used to improve access to the remaining EMS property, including paving the existing gravel drive serving the station.

No formal action was taken, and the matter will remain under consideration pending additional review.

Lynn Garbo - DJFS Property Nelsonville

Lynn Garbo explained that unforeseen circumstances prevented a potential offer from being submitted but indicated discussions with city officials and community stakeholders remain active. Alternative options, including partnerships with organizations such as Parade of the Hills and other Foundations, were discussed as possible avenues for redeveloping the property through collaborative funding and grant opportunities. Commissioners encouraged continued outreach and communication with city leadership, recognizing that any municipal involvement would require City Council approval. No formal action was taken.

Data Center Resolution - Roxanne Groff

Roxanne Groff and members of the public thanked the Commissioners for taking action and discussed how the resolution, along with similar actions by local governments, sends a clear message regarding the community's concerns. Discussion focused on the impacts of data centers, including economic development, tax abatements, artificial intelligence, environmental considerations, transparency in development decisions, and the rapid growth of AI-related infrastructure.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to adopt the Data Center Resolution. See back of page 286 for the Data Center Resolution.

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

CCC Plastics Public Meeting

A public meeting regarding the proposed CCC plastics facility took place at TPIS in The Plains. Approximately 150 Residents, educators, students, environmental advocates, and public health professionals expressed strong opposition, citing concerns about plastic pollution, micro plastics, public health, drinking water protection, environmental impacts, proximity to schools, limited long-term economic benefits, and the public engagement process. Several speakers (Roughly 70 Speakers) urged the County, Port Authority, and Economic Development Council to oppose or discontinue support for the project and to prioritize sustainable economic development and environmental stewardship.

Several Port Authority board members emphasized that no final decision has been made regarding a lease with CCC Plastics and stated they continue to evaluate the proposal while considering both environmental concerns and the county's need for employment opportunities. Board members discussed their responsibility to balance economic development, job creation, and community interests, and affirmed that they were listening to the public's concerns before making a decision.

Mollie Fitzgerald of the Athens County Economic Development Council addressed several questions raised during the meeting, including emergency spill response procedures, environmental oversight, truck traffic, coordination with emergency responders, Ohio EPA permitting requirements, and provisions that could be incorporated into a lease agreement to provide additional environmental oversight and annual compliance reviews. She also summarized the recruitment process for the industrial building, explaining that dozens of prospective leads had been pursued before CCC Plastics advanced to the current due diligence stage.

Commissioners thanked those in attendance for participating in the discussion and encouraged continued public engagement throughout the decision-making process. The meeting concluded with appreciation to the school district for providing the meeting space.

Athens County Commissioners



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WHEREAS, Ohio has experienced a recent surge in land being used for data centers and related services; and

WHEREAS, "data center" shall mean one or more buildings or physical facilities or infrastructure, located on a single real property parcel or on contiguous, adjacent, or otherwise aggregated real property parcels that are used primarily or exclusively for digital information services such as the management, storage, processing, and dissemination of electronic data and information through the use of computer systems, servers, networking equipment, and related components, including equipment cooling systems; and derived from any energy source, or a combination thereof; and

WHEREAS, data center facilities and related services present questions relating to land use, utilities, public services, appropriateness of location, and other concerns as such use consumes vast amounts of land, electricity and often water depending on their cooling technology, may present challenges for the treatment of sewage generated, and may create a strain on public resources and infrastructure, and does not create a significant number of local well paying permanent jobs and

WHEREAS, the expanded use of land for data center facilities and related services is known to have adverse impacts on surrounding land uses from significant noise and other related development issues, affecting the economy and quality of life of the County; and

WHEREAS, concerns expressed by communities located close to data centers include: extreme and persistent noise, vast water usage, significant acreage of land transformed into industrial centers, exposure to high levels of air pollution from power generation, increased need for high voltage transmission lines cutting through communities and farmlands, and drastic increases in home utility bills due to vast increases in power consumption, all affecting land values, tourism, and the health and quality of life of residents, and

WHEREAS, data centers' practice of installing multiple backup power systems can lead to even more pollution. For example, Ohio EPA recently granted Bistrotzi an air permit allowing its data center's generators to emit 236 tons of nitrogen oxides, 96 tons of carbon dioxide, and about 5 tons of fine particulate matter. The engines can run for a maximum of 500 hours per year. And,

WHEREAS, The tens of thousands of servers, which require semiconductors, cooling systems, and fire suppressant are all sources of PFAS forever chemicals. Discarded microchips and other electronic equipment often end up in landfills, where they can release chemicals, including PFAS, into the environment, and

WHEREAS, Data centers emit loud noises 24/7, in many cases above 85 decibels (the safe level of exposure). There are vibrations associated with data centers, once they are up and running, diesel generators plus heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems creating a constant hum audible to neighboring residents and wildlife, with associated health impacts on humans, including hypertension, insomnia, hearing loss, and elevated cortisol levels, as well as on non-human life, even if below legally permitted decibel levels,

WHEREAS, Closed-loop cooling systems rely on a cocktail of additives such as corrosion inhibitors, biocides, antifreeze, PFAS and other chemicals, and the same water loops again and again, anything that does not evaporate or break down simply piles up. Salts, metals, and treatment chemicals keep increasing in concentration with each recycling round and frequently reach concentrations that move well beyond established limits. The release of recycled water known as "blow-down" then releases these chemicals into waters of the state or local sewage treatment plants, and

WHEREAS, closed loop cooling systems require more energy use, with a single data center consuming the equivalent electricity of 50,000 homes, and

WHEREAS, if the data center is forced to provide its own electrical power generation, it is likely to be highly polluting fossil gas, adding to local air pollution, increased greenhouse gas emissions, land disruption for associated infrastructure, even more noise, and further risk of explosions and other harm, and

WHEREAS, the enormous negative impact of a data center and its buildouts do not fit into Athens County's Sustainability Road Map or the County Sustainability Action Plan to develop strategic initiatives with business plans, while demonstrating environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

The Athens County Commissioners have determined that significant legitimate public interests exist and it is in the County's best interests, necessary to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the County and its residents, to hereby declare that the county cannot support the building of or the resources needed to fulfill the needs of the development of Data Centers.

And be it further determined that this resolution is declared to be an emergency necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of residents of Athens County from exposure to the long term negative environmental and financial impacts data centers impose on surrounding communities.

Signed this 4th day of August 2026


Lenny Eliason, President


Charlie Adkins


Chris Chmiel



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Please do not litter

Adjourn

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

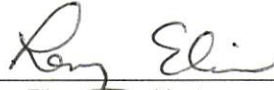
The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.



JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator



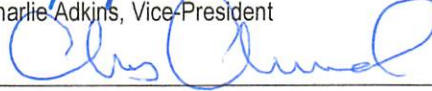
Alison Pierson, Clerk



Lenny Eliason, President



Charlie Adkins, Vice-President



Chris Chmiel