

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 Wednesday, February 25, 2026 Convenes at 9:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes February 17, 2026

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

- 9:30 Keller Blackburn, Prosecuting Attorney
- 9:35 Jessie Markins- Microfilm
- 9:45 DJFS Dir Jean Demosky - weekly updates
- 10:00 Vitruvian
- 10:15 Eric Brooks- SRP contract on Co Home Property
- 10:30 W&S Supt Oscar Carson - weekly updates
- 10:45 Lunch

**Agenda Items**

- Amended Certificate
- Utility Permits ( 11 Frontier, 3 AEP, & 1 Columbia Gas)
- Regional Planning Commission Appointments
- Buckeye Hills Regional Commission Appointments
- Water Leak Damage
- 2025 ODOT County Mileage Certificate
- DD Computer Request
- Records Center/Micro Film Computer Request-
- EMA Transfer
- 2026 Permanent Budget General Fund
- 2026 Permanent Budget Outside Funds
- Temp Credit Card Increase (Lenny Eliason)
- Surplus - Prosecutor's Office
- FMX
- Great American - Clerk of Courts Copier
- add- Children Service Appointment

**~TRAVEL**

- COC: Candy Russell; OCCA Meeting, The Ohioan Hotel & Event Center; 02/17 - 02/18/26
- W&S: Owen Arix; Wastewater Class I, Coshocton OH; 02/27- 05/01/26 10 weeks Fridays
- WIOA: Morgan DeLay; GRIT Days of Learning Conference, Marietta OH; 02/26/26 & 02/27/26

**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 February 17, 2026.

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: 02/12/2026 To: 02/17/2026, INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 02/17/2026 To: 02/19/2026, INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 02/19/2026 To: 02/24/2026 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.

**Prosecutor Keller Blackburn - OPERS**

Commissioner Adkins noted prior guidance (referenced as coming from the State Auditor) that counties generally should not approve late fees using taxpayer dollars and that one late-fee request had already been denied earlier in the year. In this case, however, OPERS penalties were described as unavoidable because the county is legally obligated to remit required OPERS contributions and must "mitigate damages" by paying the amount due. Prosecutor Blackburn explained that while utilities or credit-card late fees can sometimes be waived by request, there is little expectation OPERS would waive its penalty because the system is based on lost time/interest.

Prosecutor Blackburn outlined options for the employee portion that was not withheld: the county could pay the employee's share and then recover it through a payroll deduction agreement over time, recognizing that most employees are unlikely to have a lump sum equal to roughly 10% of pay set aside. Commissioners confirmed they had already paid the underlying contribution amount to OPERS, and that the remaining item was the late-fee/penalty, which was added to the next week's agenda due to time sensitivity. The employee was contacted and confirmed he did not have the funds available as a lump sum, but could potentially make payments or obtain a loan.

To address potential liability to the county for the payroll error, Commissioner Eliason directed Prosecutor Blackburn to draft a written settlement-style agreement stating the employee will not pursue legal action related to the county's failure to withhold the contribution, in exchange for the county addressing the employee portion through agreed repayment terms. Commissioner Eliason asked that the agreement include specific terms (amount, duration, and repayment details) for review, and they planned to discuss it with the employee once drafted.

The group also discussed who should be responsible for the OPERS penalty, noting multiple parties could have caught the issue (department, employee, auditor's office), but no one wanted to assign blame without further review. Prosecutor Blackburn suggested the most productive step was ensuring the county's payroll checks-and-balances prevent recurrence, Administrator Rockhold noted a monthly verification process now exists and that this lapse occurred before those controls were implemented in the Auditor's Office. The commissioners indicated they would pay the penalty to avoid further penalties and then refer the question of responsibility to the State Auditor for determination as part of audit review.

**Honda Pilot - Prosecutor Blackburn**

Prosecutor Blackburn confirmed certain surplus/auction items (including vehicles and other county property) were being prepared for an upcoming auction in March 6 and that it be posted on the county website. Commissioner Adkins also asked about impound/forfeiture vehicle storage fees, tow bills, lien priority, and when (or whether) the county can recover costs; Prosecutor Blackburn indicated they needed further research on lien order and fee collection, and commissioners requested follow-up details for a separate dismissed case where fees may not have been collected.

**Burr Oak Water - Property Purchase Discussion**

The commissioners discussed a county-owned parcel leased for water wells (near the DJFS County Home) and a request from the water entity (Burr Oak) to purchase the property. Commissioners noted the county currently receives approximately \$25,000-\$27,000 per year in payments tied to the well operation and expressed openness to exploring a sale if it made sense and the county had no ongoing purpose for the land. The Burr Oak Water entity indicated it would handle surveying and provide aerial/lot-line concepts. The commissioners also discussed that the parcel had been under a CRP-related agreement that recently reached the end of a 10-year term, and they agreed legal review would be needed to ensure no restrictions would interfere with potential future well-field expansion.

**Microfilm - Jessica Markins**

Records Center operations, the commissioners were informed that staff identified high-risk computer equipment at the Records Center that posed a security risk. Because the issue required timely action, replacement equipment was ordered and delivered prior to formal board approval, and the meeting item was presented to retroactively approve the purchases. Administrator JoAnn Rockhold explained she asked Recorder Jessica Markins to attend to clarify what was purchased and why.

Recorder Markins reported the Records Center also needed a replacement ScanPro unit. The existing ScanPro used by Wendy had been purchased in 2013, and a vendor representative advised it was extremely outdated and created a security concern. Recorder Markins stated that, in addition to the computers Administrator Rockhold had ordered, she would cover Wendy's needed equipment and confirmed there was sufficient funding in her equipment fund to pay for both the ScanPro and the computers. The vendor had the new machine in stock and offered a favorable price, reportedly about \$2,000 less than the 2013 purchase price.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the purchase for the Records Center and Microfilm Office Computers and ScanPro Unit.

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

**DJFS Dir Jean Demosky - Weekly Updates**

Dir Demosky provided the following DJFS Weekly Updates:

1. Vehicle leasing / Medicaid-only fleet: Dir Demosky reported that Assist Dir Lisa Radford is finalizing a recommendation regarding leasing vehicles, with the intent to move forward with obtaining Medicaid-only vehicles.
2. OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) workshops and outreach: Dir Demosky highlighted multiple OMJ activities planned for March. In recognition of Women in the Workforce Month, OMJ will host a weekly remote coffee chat with a new topic each week. Additional scheduled events include "Smart Savings for Every Stage" (March 19) covering topics from retirement to family care planning, and a community networking event ("Community Connections") on March 26, offering an in-person opportunity to meet others and build a professional support system. OMJ is also offering work-ready workshops, with special outreach to individuals impacted by the new SNAP work requirements, though the workshops are open to the public. A broader social media campaign is underway to promote career resources and skill-building opportunities.
3. Nelsonville event (OMJ / Area 14): Assist Dir. Lisa Reported that OMJ Athens and Area 14 are partnering on a community-focused event titled "Nelsonville Civility and Support," promoted through social media and scheduled for March 11, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. The event is intended to support the Nelsonville community given current issues affecting the area (including concerns around the Square and local conditions). The event will include supportive service partners such as OOD and unemployment support services, and currently has 10 employers confirmed.
4. SNAP quality assurance requirement delayed: Dir Demosky followed up on prior discussion regarding SNAP application quality checks tied to House Bill changes and error-rate reduction efforts. Dir Demosky noted the program had been expected to begin in March, but the Ohio SNAP/Nutrition postponed implementation statewide to April.
5. Fiscal / projections module training: Dir Demosky reported meeting the prior Friday with the state's senior financial manager, multiple state staff, and the county's regional fiscal supervisor. The state team demonstrated the CFIS projections module and provided guidance for using it moving forward. The Director noted there had been no prior data in the module because the county had not used it previously; the state indicated this was common because the module was rolled out during COVID and many counties are only now learning to use it. The state will work with Angie Hayes to begin entering usable data, likely using the most recent quarter as a baseline because internal processes have been stabilized and earlier quarters may not produce accurate projections. Commissioners emphasized the importance of using the tool to evaluate scenarios already approved and reduce risk when making financial adjustments. When asked about repayment timing, the Director stated the state indicated the county is "not there yet," with no firm numbers provided and only "coming soon."
6. Facilities update – 510 building: Dir Demosky reported a potential additional interested party toured the 510 building and expressed strong interest. Staff are providing the party details about the bid opening/closing, which is scheduled for the following week (noted as Tuesday the 3rd at 10:15 a.m. in the discussion).
7. IV-D (Child Support) contract status: Dir Demosky provided a written progress update on multiple related contracts and documentation:
  - Clerk of Courts: follow-up emails sent; awaiting the 2026 budget.
  - Emails sent regarding additional items (noted as "13" and "18").

Domestic Relations: approved.

Juvenile Court: revising budget based on state feedback; clarification still needed.

Prosecutor's Office: draft documents prepared; awaiting performance standards from Keith.

Sheriff / Maximus: Maximus contract approved and signed; draft uploaded to SharePoint; state review underway for the sheriff-related document referenced as "sheriff constable."

Administrator Rockhold asked to discuss Maximus and Juvenile Court further outside the meeting with Dir Demosky and Assist Dir Radford.

8. 2026 poverty guidelines and additional handouts: Dir Demosky distributed several documents for reference, including 2026 poverty guidelines, a cash balance sheet for Joanne, and a five-year look-back document prepared by Keith.

9. Service animal inquiry (support monkey): Dir Demosky reported a recent incident at one facility involving a visitor seeking to bring a support monkey into the building. Staff had contacted Prosecutor Blackburn, who indicated it was permissible, but Dir Demosky researched Ohio law and found ownership of monkeys is generally prohibited unless grandfathered before 2012, and that requirements may include microchipping, proof of vaccinations, and liability insurance coverage. Dir Demosky requested guidance on whether the county should require documentation before allowing the animal into facilities. Commissioners indicated this is likely a legal/policy question, noted the individual and monkey may have been in the courthouse previously, and asked that Dir Demosky obtain a legal opinion on what requirements the county may impose and report back.

#### **Vitruvian**

update on the SAOP 3D-printed housing and workforce efforts. Two of three homes on Mill Street in Chauncey are nearing completion (one already drywalled; the second scheduled for drywall in early March), with an open house planned when weather improves. They described developing new procedures to help local trades work with 3D-printed walls and praised strong local contractor talent. Last summer, partners helped train 17 people on concrete 3D printing, including local contractors, bricklayer union members, and young adults; several trainees gained employment, including one foster-care youth who earned forklift training and was hired at Logan Waterworks. The speaker also outlined a new regional workforce initiative tied to major Pike County investment, aiming to train and place about 50 people per year into construction/manufacturing, and requested commissioner support letters for a state "special project" request (and a similar federal grant). The commissioners agreed to sign the support letter(s). The Commissioners asked about the organization's future expansion plans; the speaker cited continued work in Chauncey (a third home), discussions about potential Bailey's Trail cabins, and interest in participating in the Welcome Home Ohio program to keep affordable housing construction and workforce opportunities local.

#### **Letter of Support for YouthBuild Program**

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Letter of Support for YouthBuild Program.

See Letter of Support on back of page 64.

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

#### **Letter of Support for Local Workforce Area Special Projects and Initiatives**

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Letter of Support for Local Workforce Area Special Projects and Initiatives.

See Letter of Support on back of page 64.

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

#### **Eric Brooks - CRP Contract on Co Home Property**

Commissioners noted that, earlier today, Burr Oak Water District expressed interest in purchasing the property to end their lease, which could change ownership and affect whether CRP renewal makes sense. Since a potential sale is being explored, the commissioners stated they would not execute a new CRP contract if they intend to sell, and they are in a holding pattern while the water district completes due diligence on acreage and related details. A tentative CRP deadline was mentioned as around March 20, but no formal deadline had been provided to the Commissioners. The Commissioners planned to get back to the Brooks within the next week or two after further discussions and asked that Burr Oak Water District be connected with the Brooks about the CRP to discuss whether they would want to continue CRP if they purchase the property, especially considering how future well development or facilities might affect CRP requirements.

# Athens County Commissioners



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February 26, 2026

YouthBuild Program Office  
U.S. Department of Labor

Letter of Support for YouthBuild 2026 Application

Dear YouthBuild Review Committee,

On behalf of the Athens County Commissioners' Office, we are writing to express our commitment to support for the YouthBuild 2026 program put forward by our local consortium of Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center, Athens County Ohio Means Jobs Office, Athens County Jobs and Family Service Office and Vitruvian. As a county government committed to strengthening workforce pathways and addressing housing challenges, we recognize the importance of programs that connect education, skills training, and real-world experience for young people in our community. These organizations have been brought together around a shared goal: connecting Southeast Ohio residents to real, sustainable careers in construction and manufacturing. This is not a single-organization effort. It is a regionally coordinated strategy with the infrastructure, relationships, and shared commitment to deliver results at scale.

Southeast Ohio continues to face real workforce challenges in construction and manufacturing, not because opportunity is absent, but because access and pathways remain limited. Employers across the region report strong and growing demand for skilled workers, yet many residents lack clear, supported routes from where they are today into these careers. An aging workforce, declining participation in the trades, and structural barriers including poverty, transportation gaps, and population loss across Appalachian counties, have disrupted the connection between willing workers and available jobs. With the right encouragement, training, and support systems in place, this gap represents an opportunity that can and should be seized.

Southeast Ohio is also at a critical inflection point. The Centrus Energy expansion in Pike County represents a multi-billion-dollar investment and the only major economic development project in Southeast Ohio among 41 statewide. This investment creates a rare opportunity to reverse longstanding trends by preparing local workers to meet rising demand in construction

and manufacturing. If the region prepares intentionally, the benefits of this investment can extend well beyond a single project, building resilience, prosperity, and opportunity across Southeast Ohio for years to come.

The proposed YouthBuild program aligns closely with the goals of serving opportunity youth ages 16-24 who are working toward their GED or high school equivalency while gaining pre-apprenticeship training and hands-on construction experience. This integrated approach supports both individual advancement and tangible community benefit, which are essential outcomes of an effective YouthBuild model as well as Athens County Leadership.

A critical element of a successful YouthBuild program is access to meaningful, real-world work experiences that allow participants to apply their skills in a supervised, mission-driven environment. The Athens County Commissioners met with Vitruvian in 2025, as the organization was beginning to advance its workforce development initiative and early housing efforts. It is encouraging to see that work carried through, with two homes now completed and the workforce development program having grown to a regional footprint spanning 8 participating educational organizations.

Through this work, Vitruvian has demonstrated the ability to connect training with practical construction experience while maintaining a focus on safety, quality, and workforce readiness. Their ongoing collaboration with regional education partners supports structured, career-aligned pathways that prepare youth for in-demand roles within the construction and advanced manufacturing sectors.

Paired with Workforce Area 14's coordinated wraparound and supportive services, this initiative creates a clear, supported pathway from interest to skill development to employment. The broad coalition behind this effort, spanning workforce, education, labor, employers, and county government, is not incidental. It is the reason this initiative is positioned for strong participation, completion, and placement outcomes where other programs have fallen short.

Thank you for considering this letter of support. Please feel free to contact our office should additional information be required.

Respectfully,

Lenny Eliason, President

Charlie Adkins  
  
Chris Chmiel

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# Athens County Commissioners



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February 26, 2026

Local Workforce Area Special Projects and Initiatives

Dear Review Committee,

On behalf of the Athens County Board of Commissioners, we write in strong support of the Workforce Area Board 14 application for Local Workforce Area Special Projects and Initiatives, submitted in partnership with Vitruvian, the Athens County Ohio Means Jobs Office and the Athens County Jobs and Family Service Office. This initiative reflects a genuine and broad community effort: the Workforce Area Board, labor unions, employer partners, county leadership, schools, career technical centers, Educational Service Centers, and community organizations have all been brought together around a shared goal: connecting Southeast Ohio residents to real, sustainable careers in construction and manufacturing. This is not a single-organization effort. It is a regionally coordinated strategy with the infrastructure, relationships, and shared commitment to deliver results at scale.

Southeast Ohio continues to face real workforce challenges in construction and manufacturing, not because opportunity is absent, but because access and pathways remain limited. Employers across the region report strong and growing demand for skilled workers, yet many residents lack clear, supported routes from where they are today into these careers. An aging workforce, declining participation in the trades, and structural barriers including poverty, transportation gaps, and population loss across Appalachian counties, have disrupted the connection between willing workers and available jobs. With the right encouragement, training, and support systems in place, this gap represents an opportunity that can and should be seized.

Southeast Ohio is also at a critical inflection point. The Centrus Energy expansion in Pike County represents a multi-billion-dollar investment and the only major economic development project in Southeast Ohio among 41 statewide. This investment creates a rare opportunity to reverse longstanding trends by preparing local workers to meet rising demand in construction and manufacturing. If the region prepares intentionally, the benefits of this investment can extend well beyond a single project, building resilience, prosperity, and opportunity across Southeast Ohio for years to come.

Vitruvian brings a proven model that combines cutting-edge construction and manufacturing technologies with real-world workforce training and delivery. The results speak for themselves: in its first full year of programming, Vitruvian achieved a 100% program completion rate among 47 trained individuals, with 45 of those participants a 96% positive outcome rate, going on to employment or continued education. The program has expanded from a single pilot to adoption by five schools across the region. Looking ahead, this grant would support scaling that model to serve 50 individuals annually while expanding from five schools to ten, a credible growth trajectory grounded in demonstrated execution. In 2025, Vitruvian has also delivered completed housing projects built with local labor, giving participants a visible and meaningful connection between their training, employment, and community impact.

Paired with Workforce Area 14's, OMJ and OJFS coordinated wraparound and supportive services, this initiative creates a clear, supported pathway from interest to skill development to employment. The broad coalition behind this effort, spanning workforce, education, labor, employers, and county government, is not incidental. It is the reason this initiative is positioned for strong participation, completion, and placement outcomes where other programs have fallen short.

The Athens County Commissioners strongly support this application and encourage the State of Ohio to invest in this project as a timely and strategic workforce solution for Southeast Ohio. This is exactly the kind of evidence-based, community-grounded, regionally coordinated initiative that can move the needle on workforce participation and economic opportunity in Appalachian Ohio. We appreciate your consideration and continued commitment to strengthening Ohio's workforce.

Sincerely,

Lenny Eliason, President

Charlie Adkins  
  
Chris Chmiel

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### W&S Supt Oscar Carson - Weekly Updates

#### 1. Leak located and shut off (Old Elementary School):

Supt Carson reported they found the major leak in the old elementary school. Although the building's meters are off, an active fire line was still feeding into the school. Staff went into the basement, became soaked while searching for the shutoff, eventually located a valve, and shut the line off, resulting in a noticeable drop in overall water usage. Supt Carson noted there may still be smaller leaks elsewhere but the system is in significantly better shape.

#### 2. Responsibility for fire line and next steps with owner (Hopewell):

It was confirmed that Hopewell owns the building, and staff determined that the property owner is responsible for the fire line from the main into the building. Supt Carson asked whether to bill Hopewell or let it go. The direction given was to follow protocol: prepare a bill and send it first, then discuss any adjustments afterward.

#### 3. Billing challenge due to unmetered fire line:

Supt Carson explained the fire line is not metered, so billing would need to be estimated using the master meter. The plan discussed was to calculate the average usage and determine an appropriate added amount tied to the leak event.

#### 4. Fire safety concern (sprinkler line shutoff):

Commissioners raised a concern about shutting off the valve given the building once had a sprinkler system, and what that means if a fire occurs before demolition. Supt Carson clarified the building is unoccupied and boarded up with no utilities (water, gas, electric). It was noted the owner should have shut the fire line off earlier, especially since the building was vacant and experiencing break-ins. Supt Carson indicated a letter would be prepared and brought back for commissioner approval, including acknowledgment of the shutoff and the situation.

#### 5. System improvements and ongoing leak reduction efforts:

- \* Purchased a leak detector (cost: a couple thousand dollars) and has already identified additional small service-line leaks.

- \* Plan underway to go tap-to-tap to reduce water loss further.

- \* Several hydrants are leaking or nonfunctional; hydrant replacement costs were estimated at \$5,000 per hydrant.

Supt Carson plans to replace 4–5 hydrants each summer, prioritizing older original hydrants and phasing improvements in over several years. Some hydrants have already been ordered.

#### 6. Unmetered sprinkler/fire lines in newer developments (policy concern):

Commissioners questioned why sprinkler/fire lines for private buildings are not metered, since breaks or incidents between the main and a private facility would be the facility's responsibility but still result in public water loss without a clear way to charge for it. A recent example was cited where a forklift reportedly triggered a sprinkler line incident with significant water usage. Supt Carson referenced that historically a similar issue (Lindley Inn) did not result in billing, but commissioners emphasized that a private fire line serving a private facility should not be a free/untracked loss to the water system.

#### 7. New Marshfield septic/sewer question (Selina Hawk property):

Supt Carson measured the distance from the main to the property (referenced as 8292) and reported it is approximately 112 feet from the main. A legal opinion is being requested regarding the county's authority to grant a variance. Supt Carson noted the septic system appears new and high quality, and there was discussion of potentially honoring an agreement concept: the property would connect to sewer when the septic system fails, rather than immediately, pending legal guidance.

#### 8. Agriculture-related billing questions and need for policy:

Questions from a public meeting were referenced regarding whether agricultural/livestock water use could receive credit or reduced sewer charges. Supt Carson noted:

- \* Credits could be abused without clear eligibility limits.

- \* One suggestion discussed was only allowing certain considerations where properties qualify under CAUV/10+ acres, but no policy currently exists.

- \* The county needs a formal agriculture policy for how sewer charges relate to livestock water use (recognizing sewer is separate from water and that not all water usage goes to sewer).

#### 9. Congressional earmark priority discussion (water tower painting):

Commissioner Chmiel revisited earmark strategy. Since other funding sources may exist for the previously prioritized project (Guysville/Stewart), the group discussed shifting congressional earmark focus to water tower painting, because:

- \* There appears to be limited funding options for tower painting.

- \* The Plains area is not LMI, limiting eligibility under some programs.

- \* Supt Carson indicated he would contact Gary Silcott to rush an answer from the state about whether another eligibility route exists; if not, the recommendation is to make water tower painting the top earmark priority.

**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 February 24, 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.

**Utility Permits**

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

Permit No. 26-657  
From: Frontier North Inc  
222 E Main St  
Plain City, OH 43064

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

Location of work: Co Rd # 83, Co Rd Name: Longview Heights Rd  
Description of Work: Cable  
Type of Installation: Overhead Line Parallel to Rd, Overhead Line Crossing Rd, Underground (buried) Line Parallel to Rd, & Fiber Optic Line

Estimated Project Schedule: 01/30/2026 - 01/12/2027

Agreed to by: /s/Amy L. Roth, Frontier North, Inc  
Athens County Commissioners  
/s/ Lenny Eliason  
/s/ Chris Chmiel  
/s/ Charlie Adkins  
/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 26-658  
From: Frontier North Inc  
222 E Main St  
Plain City, OH 43064

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

Location of work: Co Rd # 79, Co Rd Name: Selby Rd  
Description of Work: Cable  
Type of Installation: Overhead Line Parallel to Rd, Overhead Line Crossing Rd, Underground (buried) Line Parallel to Rd, & Fiber Optic Line

Estimated Project Schedule: 01/20/2026 - 01/06/2027

Agreed to by: /s/Amy L. Roth, Frontier North, Inc  
Athens County Commissioners  
/s/ Lenny Eliason  
/s/ Chris Chmiel  
/s/ Charlie Adkins  
/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 26-661  
From: Frontier North Inc  
222 E Main St  
Plain City, OH 43064

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: Cable  
Type of Installation: Overhead Line Parallel to Rd & Overhead Line Crossing Rd  
Estimated Project Schedule: 01/15/2026 - 01/15/2027

Agreed to by: /s/Amy L. Roth, Frontier North, Inc  
Athens County Commissioners  
/s/ Lenny Eliason  
/s/ Chris Chmiel  
/s/ Charlie Adkins  
/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 26-666  
From: Columbia Gas of Ohio  
290 W Nationwide Blvd  
Columbus, OH 43215

We hereby request permission to install utility lines within public right-of-way limits.  
Location of work: Co Rd # 3, Co Rd Name: New Marshfield Rd  
Description of Work: Gas  
Estimated Project Schedule: 02/03/2026 - 02/20/2026  
Agreed to by: /s/Jean Hartwell, Columbia Gas of Ohio  
Athens County Commissioners  
/s/ Lenny Eliason  
/s/ Chris Chmiel  
/s/ Charlie Adkins  
/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 26-667  
From: AEP Ohio  
700 Morrison Rd  
Gahanna, OH 43230

We hereby request permission to install utility lines within public right-of-way limits.  
Location of work: Co Rd # 110, Co Rd Name: Poston Rd  
Description of Work: Electric  
Type of Installation: Overhead Line Crossing Rd  
Estimated Project Schedule: 01/05/2026 - 04/03/2026  
Agreed to by: /s/Chris Postle, AEP Ohio  
Athens County Commissioners  
/s/ Lenny Eliason  
/s/ Chris Chmiel  
/s/ Charlie Adkins  
/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 26-668  
From: AEP Ohio  
700 Morrison Rd  
Gahanna, OH 43230

We hereby request permission to install utility lines within public right-of-way limits.  
Location of work: Co Rd Name: Millfield Rd  
Description of Work: Electric  
Type of Installation: Overhead Line Parallel to Rd & Overhead Line Crossing Rd  
Estimated Project Schedule: 01/05/2026 - 04/03/2026  
Agreed to by: /s/Chris Postle, AEP Ohio  
Athens County Commissioners  
/s/ Lenny Eliason  
/s/ Chris Chmiel  
/s/ Charlie Adkins  
/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 26-669  
From: AEP Ohio  
700 Morrison Rd  
Gahanna, OH 43230

We hereby request permission to install utility lines within public right-of-way limits.  
Location of work: Co Rd # 93, Co Rd Name: Main St  
Description of Work: Electric  
Type of Installation: Overhead Line Parallel to Rd & Overhead Line Crossing Rd  
Estimated Project Schedule: 01/05/2026 - 04/03/2026

Agreed to by: /s/Chris Postle, AEP Ohio  
Athens County Commissioners  
/s/ Lenny Eliason  
/s/ Chris Chmiel  
/s/ Charlie Adkins  
/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 26-673  
From: Frontier North Inc  
222 E Main St  
Plain City, OH 43064

We hereby request permission to install utility lines within public right-of-way limits.  
Location of work: Co Rd # 19, Co Rd Name: Hebbardsville Rd  
Description of Work: Cable  
Type of Installation: Overhead Line Parallel to Rd, Overhead Line Crossing Rd, Underground (buried) Line  
Parallel to Rd, & Fiber Optic Line

Estimated Project Schedule: 01/10/2026 - 01/10/2027

Agreed to by: /s/Amy L. Roth, Frontier North, Inc  
Athens County Commissioners  
/s/ Lenny Eliason  
/s/ Chris Chmiel  
/s/ Charlie Adkins  
/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 26-674  
From: Frontier North Inc  
222 E Main St  
Plain City, OH 43064

We hereby request permission to install utility lines within public right-of-way limits.  
Location of work: Co Rd # 19, Co Rd Name: Radford Rd  
Description of Work: Cable  
Type of Installation: Overhead Line Parallel to Rd, Overhead Line Crossing Rd, Underground (buried) Line  
Parallel to Rd

Estimated Project Schedule: 01/25/2026 - 01/25/2027

Agreed to by: /s/Amy L. Roth, Frontier North, Inc  
Athens County Commissioners  
/s/ Lenny Eliason  
/s/ Chris Chmiel  
/s/ Charlie Adkins  
/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 26-675  
From: Frontier North Inc  
222 E Main St  
Plain City, OH 43064

We hereby request permission to install utility lines within public right-of-way limits.  
Location of work: Co Rd # 20, Co Rd Name: Scatter Ridge Rd  
Description of Work: Cable  
Type of Installation: Overhead Line Parallel to Rd, Overhead Line Crossing Rd, & Fiber Optic Line  
Estimated Project Schedule: 01/25/2026 - 01/25/2027

Agreed to by: /s/Amy L. Roth, Frontier North, Inc  
Athens County Commissioners  
/s/ Lenny Eliason  
/s/ Chris Chmiel  
/s/ Charlie Adkins  
/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 26-676  
From: Frontier North Inc  
222 E Main St  
Plain City, OH 43064

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

Location of work: Co Rd # 42, Co Rd Name: Fossil Rock Rd  
Description of Work: Cable  
Type of Installation: Overhead Line Parallel to Rd, Overhead Line Crossing Rd, & Fiber Optic Line  
Estimated Project Schedule: 01/25/2026 - 01/25/2027

Agreed to by: /s/Amy L. Roth, Frontier North, Inc

Athens County Commissioners

/s/ Lenny Eliason

/s/ Chris Chmiel

/s/ Charlie Adkins

/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 26-677  
From: Frontier North Inc  
222 E Main St  
Plain City, OH 43064

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

Location of work: Co Rd # 44, Co Rd Name: Shade Rd (CR-44)  
Description of Work: Cable  
Type of Installation: Overhead Line Parallel to Rd, Overhead Line Crossing Rd, & Fiber Optic Line  
Estimated Project Schedule: 01/25/2026 - 01/25/2027

Agreed to by: /s/Amy L. Roth, Frontier North, Inc

Athens County Commissioners

/s/ Lenny Eliason

/s/ Chris Chmiel

/s/ Charlie Adkins

/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 26-678  
From: Frontier North Inc  
222 E Main St  
Plain City, OH 43064

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

Location of work: Co Rd # 3, Co Rd Name: Old US Route 33  
Description of Work: Cable  
Type of Installation: Overhead Line Parallel to Rd, Overhead Line Crossing Rd, & Fiber Optic Line  
Estimated Project Schedule: 01/30/2026 - 01/30/2027

Agreed to by: /s/Amy L. Roth, Frontier North, Inc

Athens County Commissioners

/s/ Lenny Eliason

/s/ Chris Chmiel

/s/ Charlie Adkins

/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 26-679  
From: Frontier North Inc  
222 E Main St  
Plain City, OH 43064

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

Location of work: Co Rd # 78, Co Rd Name: Marion Johnson Rd  
Description of Work: Cable  
Type of Installation: Overhead Line Parallel to Rd, Overhead Line Crossing Rd, & Fiber Optic Line

Estimated Project Schedule: 01/25/2026 - 01/25/2027  
Agreed to by: /s/Amy L. Roth, Frontier North, Inc  
Athens County Commissioners  
/s/ Lenny Eliason  
/s/ Chris Chmiel  
/s/ Charlie Adkins  
/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 26-680  
From: Frontier North Inc  
222 E Main St  
Plain City, OH 43064

We hereby request permission to install utility lines within public right-of-way limits.  
Location of work: Co Rd # 20, Co Rd Name: Strouds Run Rd  
Description of Work: Cable  
Type of Installation: Overhead Line Parallel to Rd, & Overhead Line Crossing Rd  
Estimated Project Schedule: 01/20/2026 - 01/20/2027  
Agreed to by: /s/Amy L. Roth, Frontier North, Inc  
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.

**Regional Planning Commission Appointments**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to appoint Mayor Kirkendall as the Village Mayor Appointment for the Regional Planning Commission.

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

**Buckeye Hills Regional Commission Appointments**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to appoint Mayor Ford (Amesville Mayor) to the Buckeye Hills Regional Commission.

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

**Water Leak Damage**

The board reviewed damages from the water leak impacting the Recorders Office, primarily the Board of Elections. The BOE provided an itemized list of damaged supplies totaling \$8,494.58 (folders, envelopes, election-related materials). The plan is to submit the claim to CORSA with a \$5,000 deductible paid by the county. The remaining amount was described as being covered by CORSA. Preventive measures were discussed, including the possible need for waterproof storage cabinets. Administrator Rockhold agreed to follow up with BOE regarding storage needs and options.

**2025 ODOT County Mileage Certificate**

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the 2025 County Highway System Mileage Certification. See back of page 70 for the 2025 County Highway System Mileage Certification.

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

**DD Computer Request**

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the purchase of 3 Surface Pro 11's and 3 HP Probook 450's for Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

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



# Ohio Department of Transportation

Office of Technical Services

## 2025 County Highway System Mileage Certification

Note: This form must be submitted to ODOT no later than March 1, 2026 or county mileage will be certified by default based on the best information available.

The total length of county maintained public roads in ATHENS County was 359,659 miles as of December 31, 2024

As certified by the Board of County Commissioners and/or reported by the Director of Transportation in accordance with the provisions specified in Section 4501.04 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Consider all mileage changes that occurred in CY 2025 and determine the net increase or decrease in mileage. Add the net change to the 2024 certified mileage above and fill in the new total below.

We the undersigned, hereby certify that as of December 31, 2025

the county was responsible for maintaining 359,579 miles of public roads.

[Signature]  
Signature of President of Board of County Commissioners

2/25/26  
Date

[Signature]  
Commissioner Signature

2-25-26  
Date

[Signature]  
Commissioner Signature

2/19/26  
Date

[Signature]  
County Engineer Signature

2/19/26  
Date

Comments:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please return a completed, signed copy of this form along with proper documentation of any changes made to:  
Ohio Department of Transportation  
Office of Technical Services  
Mail Stop #3210  
1980 West Broad St, 2nd Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43223  
Attn: Aaron Shvach (614) 466-5135 or aaron.shvach@dot.ohio.gov

Probook 450's for Athens County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

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

#### **EMA Transfer**

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the EMA Transfer of \$95,000.00.

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

#### **2026 Permanent Budget General Fund**

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the 2026 Permanent Budget General Fund excluding the City Municipal Court Portion.

See back of page 72 through back of page 73.

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

#### **2026 Permanent Budget City Municipal Court**

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the 2026 Permanent Budget for City Municipal Court.

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

#### **2026 Permanent Budget Outside Funds**

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the 2026 Permanent Budget for Outside Funds.

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

#### **Temp Credit Card Increase (Lenny Eliason)**

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the temporary increase of the county credit card limit (Commissioner Lenny Eliason's card) to \$5,000, the increase was needed due to limited available balance at the time a hotel charge was processed. The card limit will be reduced back after payment is made.

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

#### **Surplus - Prosecutor's Office**

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve to declare the Prosecutor's Office items as surplus and to auction them. See List of all Surplus items to be auctioned on back of page 71.

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

#### **FMX**

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the FMX contract with a Cost: \$20,400 for year one (includes \$6,800 implementation), then \$13,600 annually. CORSA would contribute approximately \$3,750-\$4,000, bringing the county's cost closer to roughly \$10,000/year ongoing. Contract 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.

#### **Great American Contract - Clerk of Courts**

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Great American Contract as presented by the Clerk of Courts. See back of page 72 for the Great American Contract.

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:

COC: Candy Russell; OCCA Meeting, The Ohioan Hotel & Event Center; 02/17 - 02/18/26  
W&S: Owen Arix; Wastewater Class I, Coshocton OH; 02/27- 05/01/26 10 weeks Fridays



WIOA: Morgan DeLay; GRIT Days of Learning Conference, Marietta OH; 02/26/26 & 02/27/26

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

**Children Service Appointments**

Commissioner Adkins raised concerns that Children's Services leadership (Otis and/or board chair) appeared to be interviewing candidates before the commissioners had reviewed or appointed anyone, which commissioners felt was improper and could create unfair expectations for candidates. Concerns were also expressed about board dysfunction and potential influence over appointments.

Commissioner Chmiel's suggestion was made to invite the board chair and Otis to a future meeting to discuss expectations and process. Staff was instructed to inform Otis that no appointment decision is being made at this time, and the matter will be revisited.

**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:

EMS Station 53 Glouster - Parking Paving

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

**EMS Station 53 Glouster - Parking Paving**

Commissioner Adkins's discussion addressed deteriorating pavement near Glouster EMS Station and uncertainties about ownership/maintenance responsibility between the county and the neighboring Masonic Lodge. Records were not found due to the age of the issue and destroyed files.

The recommendation was to amend or re-file an easement to clearly include road maintenance language, establishing exactly what portion the county maintains. It was noted Nicole from the Prosecutor's Office had been consulted and would assist with the legal/easement update.

**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



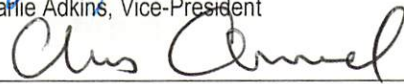
Alison Pierson, Clerk



Lenny Eliason, President



Charlie Adkins, Vice-President



Chris Chmiel





