

THE BOARD OF ATHENS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, met in regular session, with Lenny Eliason presiding, Chris Chmiel and Charlie Adkins in attendance.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the following agenda:
Athens County Board of County Commissioners

Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, January 13, 2026 Convenes at 9:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes December 23, 2025, January 6, 2026, & January 12, 2026 Organizational Meeting

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

- Fund to Fund: Comm \$52,629.85 from 001.1194.580540 Capital Improvements to 017.2017.422101 Transfers In
- Fund to Fund: Comm \$106,000.00 from 001.1194.560120 Co Planner to 501.2501.42211 Co Planners Transfer In
- Fund to Fund: Comm \$12,000.00 from 001.1194.5600120 Co Planner to 005.2005.422101 Bikeway Transfer In
- Fund to Fund: Comm \$6,770.00 from 001.1236.589000 Transfer Out to 571.2571.417100 Other Rev-Pub Assist
- Fund to Fund: Eng \$52,335.94 from 491.1300.580102 Bond Transfer to 017.2036.422101 Transfers In

- 9:30 David Stretton- Children Services Board Member
- 9:45 DJFS Dir Jean Demosky - weekly updates
- 10:30 W&S Supt Oscar Carson - weekly updates
- 11:15 IUPAT Union
- 11:30 LUNCH

Agenda Items

- Amended Certificate
- CEBCO 2026 Wellness Grant Agreement
- Surplus - COC/Legal Office
- Congressional Earmark Service Agreement
- Prosecuting Attorney's Law Enforcement Trust Fund
- Generator Maintenance Quotes
- Baker Tilly Invoice BT3420190 for \$1,791.25 to be paid with ARPA Funds
- EMS Part-Time Employees (EMT & Paramedics)
- ISSG Master Services Agreement
- Athens County HVAC Improvements Project - Legal Notice (Authorize Administrator JoAnn Rockhold to Advertise)
- Contractor Resolution

~TRAVEL

- Auditor: Katherine Smith, Marsha Few, & Brandi Sanders; 2025 CAAO Winter Conf, Dublin OH; 11/18 - 11/21/25 (Amend)
- EMS: Haley Mullett; moved from Nelsonville Station to Athens Station mid-shift; 12/11/25
- COC: Candy Russell; OCCA Meeting, The Ohioan Hotel & Event Center; 01/20 - 01/21/26
- DJFS: Jean Demosky; Southeast OJFSDA District Meeting, Jackson OH; 01/21, 02/18, 03/18, 04/15, 05/20, 06/17, 07/15/26
- DJFS: Jean Demosky; Southeast OJFSDA District Meeting, Jackson OH; 01/21, 02/18, 03/18, 04/15, 05/20, 06/17, 07/15/26
- EMS: Full Time Employees (List Attached); Various Travel throughout the County; 01/01/ - 12/31/26
- DJFS: Jean Demosky; OJFSDA Executive Board Retreat, Dublin OH; 03/12/26

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 December 23, 2025, January 6, 2026, and January 12, 2026 Organizational Meeting.

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

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

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel approving the Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes, including Fund to Fund: Comm \$52,629.85 from 001.1194.580540 Capital Improvements to 017.2017.422101 Transfers In, Fund to Fund: Comm \$106,000.00 from 001.1194.560120 Co Planner to 501.2501.42211 Co Planners Transfer In, Fund to Fund: Comm \$12,000.00 from 001.1194.5600120 Co Planner to 005.2005.422101 Bikeway Transfer In, Fund to Fund: Comm \$6,770.00 from 001.1236.589000 Transfer Out to 571.2571.417100 Other Rev-Pub Assist, Fund to Fund: Eng \$52,335.94 from 491.1300.580102 Bond Transfer to 017.2036.422101 Transfers In and approving the payment of the required County Bills, which are included in the Auditor's Office INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 12/30/2025 To: 01/08/2026, INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 01/08/2026 To: 01/09/2026, INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 01/09/2026 To: 01/12/2026, INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 01/08/2026 To: 01/12/2026 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.

David Stretton - Children Services Board Member**1. Statement & Experience**

- * Serving ~3 years; seeks another term to see major initiatives through (notably the new building project) and continue learning/contributing.
- * Personal exposure to children's behavioral health via spouse (youth counselor), giving insight into county needs; observes many child cases rooted in parental substance use and family instability.
- * Values ACCS community programs (e.g., Peanut Butter & Jelly summer meals, holiday toy drive) and engagement events.
- * Governance view: favors term limits/rotation (e.g., two terms then a break) to prevent board dominance and reduce burnout.

2. Financial/Operational Context Discussed

- * New Building Financing:
 - * Until occupancy, ACCS must carry full payment; state depreciation reimbursement begins after move-in, covering roughly about half of the payment thereafter, easing pressure.
- * Residential Placement Costs:
 - * Rising sharply (described as \$500–600k per year and growing), creating ongoing budget stress.
- * Budgeting Approach:
 - * Director (Otis) budgets conservatively: expenses at the high end, revenues at the low end, maintaining a cushion.
- * Potential Levy Discussion:
 - * Some board members have floated ideas ranging from a replacement levy to possibly adding ~2.5–3%.
 - * David's view: not necessary at this time; prefers to avoid asking taxpayers for more unless it's critical. Any levy would require Commissioners' approval. A board budget meeting is planned to review scenarios.

3. Board/Agency Reporting & Oversight

- * Commissioners asked whether the board receives metrics on backlogged investigations (e.g., cases not pursued due to limited investigators/time) and suggested adding this to regular reporting.
- * David committed to requesting backlog data (distinct from current referral and case-flow reports) to better inform resource priorities.
- * Sheriff involvement in investigations noted; backlog clarity would help align funding/ staffing decisions.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to Re-Appoint David Stretton to serve on the Children Services Board, the term will expire on December 31, 2030.

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

DJFS - Title IV-D Case Management Discussion

Topic: Impacts of staffing changes on Title IV-D case flow, budget mechanics, and contracting

Parties Present: Prosecutor Blackburn, Judge Saunders, Keith Weins, Dir Demosky, Assist Dir Radford

Purpose: Assess whether planned staff reductions will slow case movement and affect IV-D reimbursements; align on data needs and next steps.

1. Key Discussion Points

- * Concern raised: Fewer caseworkers could mean fewer investigations of non-payment and fewer court referrals, reducing performance and billable/reimbursable activity.

- * Agency's legal duties: Must determine ability to pay before court action. Caseworker workflow includes:
 - * Identify non-paying cases; review digital file for medical documentation.
 - * Check employment databases; issue withholding orders if employed.
 - * Send notices requesting explanation, employment-help contact, and medical verification if applicable.
 - * Complete a checklist (calls to obligors and custodial parent; federal benefit checks—SSI/SSD/Veterans).
 - * Refer to legal for contempt filings after pre-court steps are verified.
 - * Staffing & caseload baseline:
 - * ~3,600 active cases; largely stable over ~5 years.
 - * Staffing: historically 16, currently 14; plan contemplates reductions (discussion referenced a drop to 10 total, but with clarification that two are supervisors, not front-line caseworkers).
 - * Capacity vs. output:
 - * One side argued fewer staff = fewer cases worked/filed; attorney capacity could be constrained if legal staff are reassigned to supervision.
 - * Commissioners requested evidence, not anecdotes—e.g., five-year trends of cases filed/processed vs. staffing—before concluding output will fall.
 - * Budget mechanics clarified:
 - * IV-D reimbursements are ~66–67% of eligible costs; ~33–34% local/cash match (some offset via in-kind/cost pool).
 - * Cutting staff may lower shared cost allocations and reduce reimbursements; savings are less than \$1 per \$1 cut due to lost federal match and fixed overhead.
 - * A line item confusion was noted between “purchase of services” and staffing totals in earlier drafts; current budget figures to be used going forward.
 - * Court contracts & volume:
 - * Draft contracts with Juvenile Court and Common Pleas contemplate ~500 hours each for IV-D matters; not yet approved.
 - * If in-house attorney time is reduced or shifted, filings/hearings volume may drop unless covered via contract counsel.
 - * Billing catch-up:
 - * While prior contracts were terminated in September, reimbursable activities (e.g., constable hours) continued. Sheriff/Domestic Relations have not billed; commissioners agreed these should be billed (timing of receipts acknowledged).
2. Decisions / Direction
- * Staffing decision stands for now: Proceed with the implementation already approved; no immediate reversal.
 - * Measure, then revisit: Re-evaluate after implementation using objective statistics (see Reporting below).
 - * Proceed with billing: Sheriff (constables) and courts authorized to submit IV-D billing for the period since contract termination; expected to aid the general fund.
 - * Continue contract development: Move forward on court contracts (Juvenile/Common Pleas) and any prosecutor support arrangements.
3. Requested Data & Documentation
- * Five-year metrics (annual & quarterly going forward)(Keith Weins to provide information):
 - * Total active IV-D cases.
 - * Cases investigated for non-payment.
 - * Court actions filed (e.g., contempt, establishment, modification) and hearings held.
 - * Outcomes (warrants issued, compliance plans, payments initiated).
 - * Staffing counts by role (caseworkers, supervisors, legal) for each period.
 - * Written plan & savings analysis (from JFS/IV-D leadership)(Dir Demosky to provide information):
 - * Work redistribution plan (Jason) detailing how cases will be absorbed post-reductions.
 - * Financial analysis: current vs. projected costs, net savings after lost match/overhead, and assumptions.
 - * Confirmation that planned changes will not impede prosecutor/juvenile court case flow (or note compensating measures such as contracted attorney time).
4. Follow-Up / Reporting
- * Quarterly report to the Board showing the above metrics; compare to the last 3–5 years to detect material changes post-restructuring.
 - * Contract status updates (Juvenile Court, Common Pleas, Prosecutor) until fully executed and operating.
 - * Billing status for outstanding reimbursable activities (constables/courts): submitted amounts, periods covered, and receipt timelines.
5. Notable Clarifications Captured in Discussion
- * Reductions include non-caseworker roles (supervisors); counts cited during the meeting will be reconciled in the written plan.

- * "Purchase of services" line covers IV-D contracts (e.g., with prosecutors/courts), distinct from internal staffing; earlier draft figures should not be used for current decisions.
- * IV-D in-kind/cost pool allocations (via Maximus) factor into the county match; overhead remains even if headcount drops.

DJFS Dir Jean Demosky - Weekly Updates

Dir Demosky provided the following DJFS Weekly Updates:

1. Transportation (NET) Vehicles

- * State monitors confirmed two compliant options if vehicles are used only for Medicaid (NET) rides and segregated by dispatch:
 - * Direct-charge purchase to NET, or
 - * Direct-charge lease to NET.
- * JFS will complete required permission and GAP forms; auditor will update capital asset plan to reflect the approach.

2. Facilities

- * 510 building sale: no offer yet; Nelsonville property disposition still under discussion.
- * JFS exploring short-term rentals at 510 to offset costs; Board cautioned to flag leases as potentially short-term to avoid tenant build-out issues.

3. Senior Levy / APS / Juvenile Counsel (Baum) Contract

- * Proposal: Use Senior Levy to fund the APS staffer focused 100% on 60+; this frees Title XX funds previously covering APS salary to support Juvenile Court appointed-counsel (Baum) contract (~\$80k).
 - * Prevents drawing down flexible Title XX for non-JFS obligations.
 - * RMS hits would shift to other eligible staff if levy covers APS salary (no double-dipping).
- * Board request: Submit a written proposal next week (amount, account lines, duration).

4. Contracts & Signatures

- * Board authorized signing JFS contracts prior to vendor signatures (to avoid delays); vendors will countersign afterward.
- * Contracts described/adjusted:
 - * Baum (Juvenile counsel) — amount to be reflected in minutes upon paperwork finalization.
 - * NET providers: Hopewell (increase), COAD/RSVP (increase), Green Cab – NET, Green Cab – Ambulance (increases).
 - * Separate NET master agreements also circulated.

5. HR / Labor

- * Five layoff notices issued; bumping responses due tomorrow.
 - * Sufficient vacant positions exist; no immediate separations expected; grade changes possible (up or down depending on bump).
 - * Two additional reductions previously discussed are on a different timetable.

DJFS Contract Amendment - Green Cab

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the following Amendment Contract with Green Cab:

Amendment # 2

Name of Contract Organization:	59 Green LTD. Dba Green Cab
Total \$ Value:	\$300,001.54 (additional \$100,000.00)
Contract Period:	07/01/2025 - 06/30/2026
Program Accts & Codes to be charged:	Medicaid NET 850/510050 Title XX 735/510050
Billing Procedure:	Submits bi-monthly invoices, Payment made within 30 days.

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

DJFS Contract Amendment - Hopewell Health Centers, Inc

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the following Amendment Contract with Hopewell Health Centers, Inc:

Amendment # 2

Name of Contract Organization: Hopewell Health Centers, Inc
Total \$ Value: \$300,000.00 (additional \$100,000.00)
Contract Period: 07/01/2025 - 06/30/2026
Program Accts & Codes to be charged: Medicaid NET 850/510050
Billing Procedure: Hopewell submits monthly invoices, Payment made within 30 days.

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

DJFS Contract Amendment - C.O.A.D., Sponsor of RSVP

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the following Amendment Contract with C.O.A.D, Sponsor of RSVP:

Amendment # 2

Name of Contract Organization: C.O.A.D., Sponsor of RSVP
Total \$ Value: \$300,000.00 (additional \$100,000.00)
Contract Period: 07/01/2025 - 06/30/2026
Program Accts & Codes to be charged: Medicaid NET 850/510050
Title XX 735/510050
Billing Procedure: Submits bi-monthly invoices, Payment made within 30 days.

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

DJFS Contract Amendment - Green Cab Ambulette

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the following Amendment Contract with Green Cab:

Amendment # 1

Name of Contract Organization: 59 Green LTD. Dba Green Cab
Total \$ Value: \$200,000.00 (additional \$100,000.00)
Contract Period: 07/01/2025 - 06/30/2026
Program Accts & Codes to be charged: Medicaid NET - Ambulette 850/510050
Title XX - Ambulette 723/510050
Billing Procedure: Submits bi-monthly invoices, Payment made within 30 days.

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

DJFS Contract - Baum Law Office

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the following Amendment Contract with Baum Law Office:

Name of Contract Organization: Baum Law Office, LLC
Total \$ Value: \$60,000.00
Contract Period: 01/01/2026 - 09/30/2026
Program Accts & Codes to be charged: Title XX base - 734/510050
Title XX transfer - 884/510050
Billing Procedure: Monthly invoices, paid within 30 days..

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

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 January 13, 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.

CEBCO 2026 Wellness Grant Agreement

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the CEBCO 2026 Wellness Grant Agreement.

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

W&S Supt Oscar Carson - Weekly Updates

Supt Carson provided the following W&S Weekly Updates:

1. Tank Refurbishment Options & Costs

- * Full rehab (preferred): Sandblast + paint both tanks – \$742,000.
- * Partial/appearance option: Pressure wash + spot prime only – ≈ \$500,000 (does not address full rehab needs).
- * Engineer's write-up was "confusing"; offer to attend a future meeting to walk through scope, options, and pricing.

Board sentiment: The \$500k wash-only option is poor value; inclination is to pursue full rehab if funding can be secured.

2. Funding/Finance Discussion

- * W&S Supt Carson stated that the department does not have funds on hand.
- * One-year borrowing limit not suitable; direction is to pursue grants/earmarks.
- * Related timing: consider bundling needs for competitive funding (see below).

3. Treatment Plant Needs

- * Aeration system: Active air leaks; crews are excavating to repair underground airlines.
- * Sludge management: Explore purchasing a sludge press (and heated building/enclosure). Rough order of magnitude:
 - * Press alone > \$500,000 (plus building, containers, landfill hauling setup).

4. Strategy — Package as a Single Program

- * Board directed staff to compile comprehensive cost estimates with the engineer (DLZ Gary Silcott) for:
 - * Full tank rehab (sandblast/paint),
 - * Aeration system replacement/upgrade,
 - * Sludge press + building + associated O&M logistics.
- * Intent: package these items as one infrastructure program for a grant/earmark application (and/or multiple funding sources).

5. Public/Customer Notes

- * Positive resident feedback relayed (358 Estates subdivision leak case resolved).
- * New Marshfield (Paul Jones - Steinmeyer Rd.): Coordinated with homeowner to relocate sewer tap to avoid newly poured concrete; resident satisfied.

Surplus - COC/Legal Office

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve and declare the COC/Legal Office Surplus to destroy:
Xerox Waste Toner Container
Xerox Black Toner (3)
Xerox Transfer Belt Cleaner
Xerox Drum Cartridge (2)

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

Congressional Earmark Service Agreement

- * Agreement reviewed by TL; authorized to proceed through April while timing and alternates are refined.
- * Key guidance from congressional staff:
 - * Members want timely photo-op milestones; funds would likely arrive next spring.
 - * Design work must be underway before funds hit; can't wait to start after award.
 - * Provide alternate projects to fit timing/visibility needs.
- * Primary target: Guysville & Stewart sewer planning/design.
- * Alternates discussed:
 - * Bridge project (e.g., CR 17/17A closure noted; Engineer to prioritize).
 - * Countywide milling/roads.
 - * W&S Water Tank System project listed as a formal alternate as well.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the Congressional Earmark Service Agreement with Merchant McIntyre Associates.

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

Prosecuting Attorney's Law Enforcement Trust Fund

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to acknowledge receipt of the Prosecuting Attorney's Law Enforcement Trust Fund expended during the year 2025.

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

Generator Maintenance Quotes

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to awarded the Generator Maintenance Quote to BJ's Electrical in the amount of \$4580.00.

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

Baker Tilly Invoice BT3420190 for \$1,791.25 to be paid with ARPA Funds

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Baker Tilly Invoice BT3420190 for \$1,791.25 to be paid with ARPA Funds.

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

EMS Part-Time

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the EMS Part-Time Employee (EMT's/Paramedics) to receive same wage increase as bargaining unit members for 2026.

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

ISSG Master Services Agreement - Auditor's Office

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the ISSG Master Services Agreement as provided by the Auditor's Office. Complete copy of the agreement on file in the Commissioners' Office.

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

Athens County HVAC Improvements Project - Legal Notice

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Athens County HVAC Improvements Project - Legal Notice and authorize Administrator JoAnn Rockhold to advertise. See back of page 19 for Legal Notice.

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

Contractor Resolution

- * New resolution establishing responsible contractor standards (successor to older practices); to include:
 - * Certification of no delinquent federal/state/local taxes.
 - * Minimum health care plan provision (conditional triggers—e.g., applies if bid is 20% below lowest or other thresholds—will be clarified).
- * Legal edits returned from Prosecutor's Office; additional edits to be made.
- * Action: Revise per notes; bring back next week for consideration.

Travel

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

- Auditor: Katherine Smith, Marsha Few, & Brandi Sanders; 2025 CAAO Winter Conf, Dublin OH; 11/18 - 11/21/25 (Amend)
- EMS: Haley Mullett; moved from Nelsonville Station to Athens Station mid-shift; 12/11/25
- COC: Candy Russell; OCCA Meeting, The Ohioan Hotel & Event Center; 01/20 - 01/21/26
- DJFS: Jean Demosky; Southeast OJFSDA District Meeting, Jackson OH; 01/21, 02/18, 03/18, 04/15, 05/20, 06/17, 07/15/26
- DJFS: Jean Demosky; Southeast OJFSDA District Meeting, Jackson OH; 01/21, 02/18, 03/18, 04/15, 05/20, 06/17, 07/15/26
- EMS: Full Time Employees (List Attached); Various Travel throughout the County; 01/01/ - 12/31/26
- DJFS: Jean Demosky; OJFSDA Executive Board Retreat, Dublin OH; 03/12/26

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

Legal Notice

Sealed bids will be received by the Board of Athens County Commissioners (the "Owner"), as provided in this notice for the Athens County HVAC Improvements Project (the "Project"). Contract documents, which include additional details of the Project, are on file and available at www.co.athensoh.org. Click on "Public Notices"

Bids shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed to Athens County Commissioners, ATTN: JoAnn Rockhold, Athens County Commissioners Office, 15 S. Court Street, Athens, Ohio 45701 and plainly marked on the outside "Athens County HVAC Improvements Project" Bids will be received until 10:00 a.m., local time, February 17, 2026.

A pre-bid meeting will be held Tuesday January 27, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at 15 S. Court Street, Athens, Ohio 45701.

Questions regarding plans and specifications should be addressed in writing to Palmer Conservation Consulting, Attn: Eric Booher at ehcoher@palmerc2.com.

All bids must include a Bid Guaranty, as described in the Instructions to Bidders. No bidder may withdraw its bid within 60 days after the opening; the County reserves the right to waive irregularities, reject any or all bids, and conduct necessary investigations to determine bidder responsibility.

Prevailing wage requirements apply to this project.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ATHENS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Executive Session - DJFS

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to enter into executive session at 10:48 with Dir Jean Demosky and Assist Dir. Lisa Radford to discuss discipline of a public employee.

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

Regular Session

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to return to regular session at 11:16 with No Action to be taken.

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

IUPAT Union

1. Policy Draft Status

- * The Board already has a working draft; Prosecutor's Office performed a legal review and made typo/format fixes.
- * Commissioners intend to renew/update the existing Responsible Contractor Policy, adding explicit delinquent tax screening.

2. Tax Compliance Requirement

- * New language to disqualify contractors with delinquent taxes (property or other applicable taxes).
- * Rationale reinforced with examples from other jurisdictions (e.g., contractors owing state taxes being awarded state-funded work is unacceptable; same principle for county taxes).

3. Next Steps on Policy

- * Finalize revised policy with tax language and minor edits.
- * Bring final draft for Board action next Tuesday.
- * Provide IUPAT Union with a copy of the final policy once approved.

4. Upcoming County Projects / Bidding

- * Discussion of planned courthouse HVAC work (and references to roofing/plumbing scopes).
- * Project notice advertised via newspaper and county website (bid window open).
- * Goal: maximize local contractor participation; Buddy Malone to circulate bid information and help identify local bidders.


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