

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

Agenda

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

Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, January 06, 2026 Convenes at 9:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda

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

Fund to Fund: Common Pleas \$10,000.00 from 001.1145.590100 Gen Fund Advance Out to 256.2256.421100 PSI Grant Advance In

- 9:25 2025 Meeting
- 9:30 Mike Biggins- Maintenance
- 9:35 Planner Connor LaVelle
- 9:45 DJFS Dir Jean Demosky - weekly updates
- 10:00 EMS
- 10:30 W&S Supt Oscar Carson - weekly updates
- 11:30 LUNCH

Agenda Items

- Amended Certificate
- Utility Permits
- W&S Extensions
- Assigned Council Fees
- OWDA Payment Request #17 US50 New Marshfield Sanitary Sewer (Ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature)
- Deposit Agreement Farmers 2025 (Ratify Commissioner Eliason & Commissioner Adkins Signatures)
- Prosecutor's Subsidy Grant Agreement for CCA 2.0 & TCAP Grants for FY26-27
- Country Club Water Usage
- Zoom meetings
- Apiary Inspector
- Children Services Board Re-appointment

-TRAVEL

- Sheriff: Alan Sullivan; SORAT Instructor Training, Brunswick/Lagrange OH; 01/19 - 01/22/26
- Auditor: Jill Davidson, Riley McKibben, & Lee Raines; '26 Annual Breakfast Meeting, Nelsonville OH; 01/14/26 or 01/21/26
- Auditor: Jill Davidson & Riley McKibben; Southeast District Meeting, Wellston OH; 01/09/26
- Engineer: Donnie Stevens; NHI-Bridge Inspection Training, Ohio LTAP Center Columbus OH; 01/06 - 01/08/26
- Engineer: Brandon Williams; NHI-Bridge Inspection Training, Ohio LTAP Center Columbus OH; 01/06 - 01/08/26
- Sheriff: Joel Banks; Tactical Team Leader Training, Mansfield OH; 03/08 - 03/11/26
- Auditor: Lee Raines; Township Meetings, Various Locations in Athens County; 12/01/25 - 12/31/25
- Comm: JoAnn Rockhold & Alison Pierson; Safety Council, Logan OH; 01/21, 02/18, 03/18, 04/15, 05/20, 06/17, 07/15, 08/19, 09/16, 10/21, 11/18, & 12/16/26
- Comm: JoAnn Rockhold & Alison Pierson; Safety Congress BWC, Columbus OH; 03/10 - 03/13/26
- Comm: Lenny Eliason, NACo Conference, Washington DC; 02/20-02/24/26, 05/05-05/08/26, & 07/16-07/21/26

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel approving the Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes, including Fund to Fund: Common Pleas \$10,000.00 from 001.1145.590100 Gen Fund Advance Out to 256.2256.421100 PSI Grant Advance In and approving the payment of the required County Bills, which are included in the Auditor's Office INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: To: 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.

Executive Session - Maintenance

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to enter into executive session at 9:29 with Supt. Mike Biggins and Administrator JoAnn Rockhold 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 9:42 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.

Athens County Together Grant - Planner LaVelle

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the ACT Grant for Village of Albany as presented by Planner LaVelle. See back page 2 for ACT Grant application.

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

Ohio Building Officials Association (OBOA) - Damage Assessment Response Teams (DART) MOU

Planner LaVelle provided the following for OBOA - DART MOU:

- * Overview: Shared-services MOU enabling certified personnel to assist post-disaster floodplain structure damage assessments (substantial damage reviews). Not roadway/utility focused.
- * Status: No action/vote today; document distributed for review.
- * Required Reviews/Consults:
 - * Assistant Prosecutor (TL) to review MOU language and liabilities.
 - * EMA (Melissa) to coordinate fit with county disaster ops.
 - * Engineer (re roads/overlaps) – awareness only; scope remains structures.
- * Board Concerns to Address in MOU:
 - * Cost exposure: After the first 8 hours (free), the requesting subdivision bears all costs (travel, lodging, meals, time, etc.). Explore funding sources (e.g., disaster funds) and consider caps/advance Board approval before inviting outside teams.
 - * Authority: Ensure the Board must authorize any request to bring DART resources into the county (not solely staff discretion).

DJFS Dir Jean Demosky - Weekly Updates

Dir Demosky provided the following DJFS Weekly Updates:

1. Transportation Updates

- * Program & State Coordination
 - * Dir Demosky has a state executive board meeting this week for guidance, including on recent SNAP changes.
 - * State monitoring meeting scheduled this week focused on transportation (NET/Title XX) compliance.
- * Vehicles & NET (Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation)
 - * State fiscal guidance: It's permissible to direct-charge NEW vehicles to NET if those vehicles are used exclusively for Medicaid rides.
 - * Current dispatch system can designate/schedule vehicles by program (Medicaid-only vs. Title XX), enabling compliance.
 - * County Cost Plan constraint: Vehicles in the county plan are depreciated; direct charge for purchase would not be allowed if depreciation is required.
 - * Leasing concept: Idea raised to lease vehicles and direct-charge lease costs to NET for Medicaid-only units—potentially avoids depreciation conflicts.

2024 ACT Funding Request Form

2025/6 APPROVED WORK 2024 FOLIO

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The 2024 ACT Program funding request will be accepted between May 1, 2024 - October 25, 2024. Once this form is complete, please submit it for approval Laura Olbers at lolbers@athensoh.org OR mail it to the Athens County Regional Planning Department, 1 S Court Street RM 122, Athens, OH 45701.

Each team can receive up to \$1,000 for the 2023 ACT Program year. The deadline to turn in all receipts/paperwork is December 1, 2024.

Participating Community:

Village of Albany

Team Leader(s):

Deb Moreland

Each team must consist of at least 7 community members that represent at least one of the following criteria:

- ✓ Elected official (Mayor, Council Member, TWP Trustee)
- ✓ Young adult (ages 11 to 19)
- ✓ Employed professional
- ✓ Retired person or senior citizen
- ✓ Local civic organization representative
- ✓ Local school representative (employee, teacher, PTO member, etc.)
- ✓ Local artist

Any additional members may be listed under any of these categories or listed as "team member".

Team members, their role in the community, and email:

Name	Representative Role	Email
Tammy Goodin	Village Council Rep.	tmjjpg@gmail.com
Elliot John-Conry	Employed Professional	ejeguitars@gmail.com
Deb Moreland	Retired person	wildmoon2012@gmail.com
Leah Crow	Local civic org. representative	alex_spartan18@hotmail.com

(1)

Stephanie Kendrick	Local artist	stephthepost88@gmail.com
Tami Wires	Team member Comm. resident	twires1@gmail.com
Miles Kendrick	Young adult	stephthepost88@gmail.com
Kirk Crow	teacher	alex_spartan@hotmail.com
Kevin Brown	Team member Village	adm.vacablongm.org

List a project your team would like to implement in your community:

#1 - Install electric access in the newly created Heritage Park in the Village of Albany

OR
#2 - A repeat "Village Clean Up Day"

- How would this improve your community?
- #1) Electric access would enable the village parks & rec committee to provide programming and events using Heritage Park as an event location, such as to decorate for holidays, etc.
 - #2) A repeat clean up day would provide opportunity for residents of the village to dispose of unwanted landfill items and large recyclables.

List project expenses:

Item Description	Cost	Supplier	Additional Notes
materials for electric install	\$1000	(see attached) unknown	inquiry in progress
one 30 yard dumpster	\$650	ACE DUMPSTERS	possibly two with additional funds from village.
supplies & volunteer signage	\$50	AMAZON?	
signage	\$100	VISTA PRINT?	
tonnage overage	\$200	ACE Dumpsters	

Funding request amount: \$ 1000
If you are using additional funds not provided by the grant to complete your community project, please list them below (ex. donations, sponsors, etc):

(2)

Please see attached.

Athens County Laws and Regulations

There are laws and regulations found in each neighborhood, village, town, city, township, county, state, and at the national level. Each of these regulators have various responsibilities for the various areas of development. Multiple permits may be required from a variety of entities, for example, a village council may require a permit approved for use of the park/shelter, if food is served at your event you will need approval from the Athens City-County Health Department. Some of these forms can be found online, but you may have to speak directly with the city council to obtain the necessary approval.

Make a list of requirements needed/acquired for your project (if applicable). If a permit was obtained for your project please attached it to this form:

Pending option #1 - for any permits needed.

option #2 - none anticipated

Teams can engage through community meetings (in-person or virtual), social media, email, or something as simple as an informational post/flyer.

List how you have been engaging with your team and/or community members:

Form of Engagement	Additional Notes
in-person meeting	Albany Village Grants, Parks Comm. Meeting
email	for project details, etc.
Social media	announcements of activity volunteers
direct mail	would be for clean-up day via village had billing.

Once this form is complete, please submit it for approval to Laura Olbers at lolbers@athensoh.org OR mail it to the Athens County Regional Planning Department, 1 S Court Street, RM 122, Athens, OH 45701.

(3)

Potential Projects for ACT funding for Village of Albany

#1 - Electric in Heritage Park - We anticipate that this project could be done with donated professional work for the cost of materials. A local resident has contacted Mayor Tim Kirkendall regarding his desire to "do something for the Village." We have not had sufficient time to gather the costs associated with this effort but hope that it could be completed with the \$1000 funds and additional funds if needed from village parks and rec account.

However, if this project should not come to fruition, our #2 option is as follows:

#2 - A repeat "Clean Up Day" (in summer or early fall) to pay for at least one 30-yard dumpster (possibly two, with additional village funds) plus the repeat invite and collaboration with Rural Action for providing opportunity to dispose of recyclable materials. This was a popular event in October 2024. Would include the donation of a site to hold the event (Albany fairgrounds.)

(4)

- * Ownership/assignment: All vehicles are owned by the County; assignment and accounting treatment must align with capital asset policy and state monitor expectations.
- * Auditor/Capital Asset Policy
 - * Auditor Davidson joined the discussion:
 - * Open to exploring the approach; requested an email outlining the proposal, including which vehicles and intended funding/accounting.
 - * Suggested the County update the Capital Asset Plan (work with Urig) and include any necessary provisions to support the NET-only vehicle treatment.
 - * Next steps (Dir Demosky): Email the Auditor Davidson with the proposed NET-only vehicle plan (purchase vs. lease), vehicle count/specs, and dispatch segregation method; coordinate on capital asset plan update.
- *Newsletter
 - * Distributed a 22-page agency newsletter (JFS On Wheels schedules, Mobile Career Center events, Nelsonville activities, OMJ programming; healthcare career fair; tech drop, etc.). Will share with the Board.

2. Real Property & Facilities

- * 510 W. Union ("510")/Nelsonville Building
 - * Auction outcome: No bidders
 - * Nelsonville building disposition: General interest in pursuing sealed bids (e.g., 60-day window) with minimum bid = appraised value (\$875,000); Administrator Rockhold to verify statutory advertising period for real property sales.
 - * Stakeholder meeting: Noted Jan 14 meeting (Madison/SAOP) to gauge agency interest in Nelsonville space; some Commissioners favored moving forward with sealed bids while simultaneously monitoring that meeting.
 - * Investments/values (approx.): Purchase \$400k+; improvements ~\$650k (total ~\$1M); appraisal \$875k.
 - * Leasing/landlord option: While the Board does not prefer to be long-term landlords, there is openness to short-term leasing at 510 to offset costs; explore potential renters (e.g., Veterans-adjacent groups, NAMI, other agencies). Director will identify "swing space" and canvass state partners/others for interest.

Executive Session - DJFS

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to enter into executive session at 10:01 with Dir Demosky to discuss sale of real estate.

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 10:10 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.

DJFS Dir Jean Demosky - Staffing, SNAP, HR, & Title IV-D

Dir Demosky provided the following:

1. Staffing Hours & Public Office Hours
 - * Bargaining unit staff will return to 40 hours/week effective Feb 1, 2026 (first workday in Feb).
 - * Public office hours will remain 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday (i.e., keep the 7:30 a.m. opening and extend Friday to 4:30 p.m. instead of noon).
2. SNAP Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) Work Requirements (State/Federal Changes)
 - * Clients are receiving letters regarding March 2026 changes:
 - * Age threshold for ABAWD exemption increases from 54 to 64 (i.e., more adults fall under the 20-hours/week work requirement).
 - * Parental exemption changes: having a child under 18 previously exempted; now exemption applies only if the child is under 13.
 - * Exemptions still exist; agency expects more case reviews/interviews to determine exemption status.
 - * Capacity & Partners:
 - * Existing work experience program (WEP) partners will be engaged; additional sites may be recruited as needed.
 - * Data & estimates: The agency holds a list of potentially affected clients; each must be interviewed to confirm status before estimating added weekly hours needed.
 - * Action: Director to email the Board a written summary of the SNAP changes; internal lead (Jordan) to coordinate counts once interviews refine eligibility.
3. HR Environment Note (Informational)
 - * Shared statewide HR perspective: some counties face financial constraints, e.g., reducing CSEA staff to 35

hours/week; rising focus on retention, overtime tracking, AI, and policy alignment on marijuana (still prohibited for employees under federal funding requirements). No policy change locally—federal rules still control.

4. Child Support (Title IV-D) Updates

- * IV-D contract sent to Ohio Department of Child Support for review/approval.
- * Prosecutor's Office: budget submitted; follow-up questions pending.
- * Sheriff's Office: awaiting contract/budget response from Maximus; Dir Demosky will follow up.
- * Clerk of Courts & Juvenile Court: budgets outstanding to reinstate their IV-D participation.

DJFS Public Office Hours

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the DJFS Public Office Hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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 10:15 with Dir Demosky and Administrator JoAnn Rockhold to discuss layoffs (includes executive employees and union contract consideration).

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 10:33 and implement five (5) layoffs immediately and two (2) additional layoffs in February..

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

Executive Session - EMS

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to enter into executive session at 10:33 with Chief Pyle and Assist Chief Crossen 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 10:46 and accept the recommendation for discipline.

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

W&S Supt Oscar Carson - Weekly Updates

Supt Carson provided the following W&S weekly updates:

- 1) Plant Improvements & EPA Correspondence
 - * Engineering review completed with Nick Hammer; current plant uses coarse air diffusers.
 - * Recommended upgrades (for EPA letter):
 - * Convert to fine-bubble aeration to improve oxygen transfer/coverage.
 - * Return to in-house dewatering via a sludge press, discontinuing land injection. Rationale: enables daily wasting, reduces dependence on contractor availability and weather.
 - * If a new press is pursued, it will likely require a heated enclosure and roll-off containers for landfill disposal (consistent with City of Athens and Nelsonville practices). Cost estimates to be obtained.
 - * Action: W&S Staff to finalize and transmit the letter to Ohio EPA reflecting the above direction. (No objections raised.)
- 2) Private Service Line Responsibility (Nurad Road case)
 - * Incident: Homeowner's lateral blocked under the county road, between property cleanout and main; main was flowing.
 - * Current policy language conflicts (tap to ROW vs. "owner responsible to main if main is clear").
 - * Board decision (one-time): County will pay the customer's immediate clearing cost (approx. \$300) because the blockage was under the public roadway and, if excavation were required, the County would necessarily perform/coordinate it.
 - * Policy direction—future standard:
 - * Homeowner responsible from house to the tap.
 - * County/District responsible from the main up to (and including) the far side of the tap.

* Design standard going forward: Ensure every service tap is on the customer's property side of the road and include cleanout to avoid future roadway excavations.

* Action: Prosecutor/W&S staff to draft revised Sewer Policy clarifying responsibilities and design requirements (taps on property side; cleanout; cost recovery if excavation under public ROW is required).

3) New Marshfield Project – Service Tap & Constructability

* Noted that along Depot St./Railroad St. some homes sit at the ROW line; placing taps on the property side may require longer service runs and additional cleanout.

* Action: Address tap locations, cleanout placements, and owner/County responsibilities at the pre-construction coordination meeting with engineer Gary.

* Pre-construction meeting: Jan 20, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

* Public meeting: Early February (date to be confirmed).

* Staff to circulate a design directive before the meeting: taps on property side; include cleanout; clarify maintenance limits.

4) Guysville & Stewart Sewer Design Timing

* Direction: Do not start design on local funds until external funding is secured.

* Pursue congressional earmark (under way); if not awarded, reassess at next April funding window.

* Rationale: Avoid triggering loan repayment before construction funding is identified.

5) Country Club EDU Dispute

* History: Board had previously indicated 10 EDUs; customer countered at 4 EDUs (referenced an incorrect calculation dividing by 400).

* Technical correction: For restaurants/high-strength waste, the strength factor increases load; requestor's method improperly divided by 400. Under policy, 200 gpd/EDU is the base; restaurant/high-BOD flow increases required EDUs (i.e., not a halving).

* Commissioner Eliason to draft a written response:

* Explain the proper EDU methodology (base 200 with appropriate strength considerations; 400 is a BOD strength reference, not a divisor).

* Provide the recalculated EDU (discussion suggests approximately 8 EDUs) and rationale.

* Status: Prior 10-EDU position was discussed; Board will revisit final assignment after reviewing the written technical justification and any customer response.

6) Year-End Operations Report

* Year-end summary received (major work items and costs). No action requested.

486 Nurad Rd Reimbursement

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve a process one-time reimbursement of \$300.00 for Nurad homeowner's blockage under the county ROW.

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

Amended Certificates

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel acknowledging receipt of the Amended Certificates for 317 Board, Health Dept, & Athens County Commissioners, dated January 6, 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. 25-648
From: Columbia Gas of Ohio
290 W Nationwide Blvd
Columbus, OH

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

Location of work: Co Rd #19, Co Rd Name: 6212 Radford Rd
Description of Work: Gas
Type of Installation: Underground (buried) Line Parallel to Road & Directional Boring Parallel to Road
Estimated Project Schedule: 12/24/2025 - 12/24/2025
Agreed to by: /s/Jean Hartwell, Columbia Gas
Athens County Commissioners
/s/ Lenny Eliason
/s/ Chris Chmiel

/s/ Charlie Adkins
/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 25-649
From: Le-Ax Water District
6000 Industrial Dr
Athens, OH 45701

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

Location of work: Co Rd #33A, Co Rd Name: Old US 33
Description of Work: Water
Type of Installation: Underground (buried) Line Crossing Road
Estimated Project Schedule: ASAP - Same Day
Agreed to by: /s/Christina Richey, Le-Ax Water District
Athens County Commissioners
/s/ Lenny Eliason
/s/ Chris Chmiel
/s/ Charlie Adkins
/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 25-650
From: American Electric Power (AEP)
38831 State Route 7
Reedsville, OH 457772

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

Location of work: Co Rd #90, Co Rd Name: Mansfield Rd
Description of Work: Electric
Type of Installation: Utility Pole Installation
Estimated Project Schedule: 02/09/2026 - 08/07/2026
Agreed to by: /s/Ken Clark, AEP
Athens County Commissioners
/s/ Lenny Eliason
/s/ Chris Chmiel
/s/ Charlie Adkins
/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 25-651
From: American Electric Power (AEP)
38831 State Route 7
Reedsville, OH 457772

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

Location of work: Co Rd #24, Co Rd Name: S. Canaan Rd
Description of Work: Electric
Type of Installation: Other - Anchor and Guy
Estimated Project Schedule: 02/09/2026 - 08/07/2026
Agreed to by: /s/Ken Clark, AEP
Athens County Commissioners
/s/ Lenny Eliason
/s/ Chris Chmiel
/s/ Charlie Adkins
/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 25-652
From: American Electric Power (AEP)
1 Riverside Plaza
Columbus, OH 43215

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

Location of work: Co Rd #42, Co Rd Name: Fossil Rock Rd

Description of Work: Electric

Type of Installation:

Estimated Project Schedule: 03/04/2026 - 04/04/2026

Agreed to by: /s/Chris Postle, AEP

Athens County Commissioners

/s/ Lenny Eliason

/s/ Chris Chmiel

/s/ Charlie Adkins

/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 25-653

From: American Electric Power (AEP)

1 Riverside Plaza

Columbus, OH 43215

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

Location of work: Co Rd #44, Co Rd Name: Shade Rd

Description of Work: Electric

Type of Installation: Pole Replacement

Estimated Project Schedule: 03/04/2026 - 04/04/2026

Agreed to by: /s/Chris Postle, AEP

Athens County Commissioners

/s/ Lenny Eliason

/s/ Chris Chmiel

/s/ Charlie Adkins

/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

Permit No. 25-654

From: Columbia Gas of Ohio

290 W Nationwide Blvd

Columbus, OH

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

Location of work: Co Rd #19, Co Rd Name: 3619 Hebbardsville Rd

Description of Work: Gas

Type of Installation: Underground (buried) Line Parallel to Road

Estimated Project Schedule: 12/12/2025 - 12/12/2025

Agreed to by: /s/Jean Hartwell, Columbia Gas

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.

W&S Extensions

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to ratify Commissioner Adkins Signature authorizing a payment agreement as requested by Savannah Call for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is \$217.94 with \$105.48 due on 01/09/2026. 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.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to ratify Commissioner Adkins Signature authorizing a payment agreement as requested by Steven Harlan for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is \$210.80 with \$65.00 due on 01/19/2026. 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.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to ratify Commissioner Adkins Signature authorizing a payment agreement as requested by Stacey Valentine for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is \$340.71 with \$166.03 due on 01/19/2026. 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.

Assigned Counsel Fees

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to rescinded the assigned counsel fee schedule previously adopted on September 16, 2025, and adopted the following fee schedule for assigned counsel.

RESOLUTION — ASSIGNED COUNSEL FEE SCHEDULE (RESCINDED AND REPLACED)

At its regular meeting on January 6, 2026, the Board of Athens County Commissioners rescinded the assigned counsel fee schedule previously adopted on September 16, 2025, and adopted the following fee schedule for assigned counsel.

This resolution supersedes and replaces all prior assigned counsel fee schedule language, including any rates or provisions previously approved by the Board.

Trials

Reimbursement shall be made at \$100.00 per hour for representation out of court and \$100.00 per hour for representation in court, subject to the maximum amounts for the offense classifications and other proceedings as defined in and limited by the Ohio Public Defender Standards and Guidelines; State Maximum Fee Schedule for Appointed Counsel Reimbursement; County Public Defender Office Reimbursement Standards; and State Public Defender Billing, Payment, and Reimbursement (September 2021), which are incorporated herein by reference.

Adopted: January 6, 2026

Effective: January 1, 2026

CERTIFICATION

I, JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator for the Board of County Commissioners of Athens County, Ohio, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said Board on January 6, 2026, and that it appears in the Commissioners' Journal 123.

JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator
Board of County Commissioners, Athens County, Ohio

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

OWDA Payment Request #17 US50 New Marshfield Sanitary Sewer

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature approving the OWDA Payment Request #17 US50 New Marshfield Sanitary Sewer.

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

Deposit Agreement Farmers 2025

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to ratify Commissioner Eliason and Commissioner Adkins Signature approving the Application/Agreement for Deposit of Public Funds with Farmers Bank and Savings Co.

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

Prosecutor's Subsidy Grant Agreement for CCA 2.0 & TCAP Grants for FY26-27

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Prosecutor's Subsidy Grant Agreement for CCA 2.0 & TCAP Grants for FY26-27.

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

Zoom Meetings

Board reaffirmed ending Zoom/virtual access due to cybersecurity risk; Commissioner Chmiel noted opposition and accessibility concerns.

Action: Administrator Rockhold to explore live streaming (e.g., YouTube Live) as a one-way, lower-risk public access option and report back.

Apiary Inspector

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to reappoint Edward Newman for the 2026 - Appointment for County Apiary Inspector. See back of 9 for Appointment.

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

Children Services Board Re-appointment

Interest from David Stretton to continue; Commissioners invite him for a brief report before reappointment decision on January 13, 2026 at 9:30.

Travel

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

- Sheriff: Alan Sullivan; SORAT Instructor Training, Brunswick/Lagrange OH; 01/19 - 01/22/26
- Auditor: Jill Davidson, Riley McKibben, & Lee Raines; '26 Annual Breakfast Meeting, Nelsonville OH; 01/14/26 or 01/21/26
- Auditor: Jill Davidson & Riley McKibben; Southeast District Meeting, Wellston OH; 01/09/26
- Engineer: Donnie Stevens; NHI-Bridge Inspection Training, Ohio LTAP Center Columbus OH; 01/06 - 01/08/26
- Engineer: Brandon Williams; NHI-Bridge Inspection Training, Ohio LTAP Center Columbus OH; 01/06 - 01/08/26
- Sheriff: Joel Banks; Tactical Team Leader Training, Mansfield OH; 03/08 - 03/11/26
- Auditor: Lee Raines; Township Meetings, Various Locations in Athens County; 12/01/25 - 12/31/25
- Comm: JoAnn Rockhold & Alison Pierson; Safety Council, Logan OH; 01/21, 02/18, 03/18, 04/15, 05/20, 06/17, 07/15, 08/19, 09/16, 10/21, 11/18, & 12/16/26
- Comm: JoAnn Rockhold & Alison Pierson; Safety Congress BWC, Columbus OH; 03/10 - 03/13/26
- Comm: Lenny Eliason, NACo Conference, Washington DC; 02/20-02/24/26, 05/05-05/08/26, & 07/16-07/21/26


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

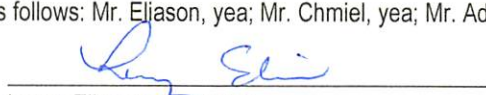
Adjourn

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


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


JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator


Alison Pierson, Clerk


Lenny Eliason, President


Charlie Adkins, Vice-President


Chris Chmiel

2026 - APPOINTMENT FOR COUNTY APIARY INSPECTOR

County Athens		Appoints: Edward Newman	
Name: Edward Newman			
Street: 30 Currier Street			
City: Athens	State: Ohio	Zip: 45701	
Phone Number: 740-541-8231		Email: ed@ruralaction.org	
<p>The county apiary inspector shall serve for the 2026 apiary season (approximate season from April 1st to October 31st weather permitting)</p> <p>PLEASE COMPLETE ONE FORM FOR EACH COUNTY INSPECTOR AND RETURN BY JANUARY 31st TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE:</p>			
The following was approved on January 6, 2026 (Date)			

Please Complete All Lines →	\$6,000	Appropriation
	\$90.00	Compensation Rate (Hourly, Daily)
	\$.725	Mileage Rate
	N/A	Meals (if applicable)

- Lenny Eliason Commissioner
- Charlie Adkins Commissioner
- Chris Chmiel Commissioner
- Alison Pierson Clerk

COUNTY COMMISSIONER CONTACT INFORMATION

County Commissioner Contact Person Name: JoAnn Rockhold

Address: 15 S. Court Street

City | State | Zip: Athens, Ohio 45701

Contact Person: JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator

Phone: _____

Contact Person Email: jsikorski@athensoh.org