

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, March 03, 2026 Convenes at 9:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda

Approve Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes, Then & Nows, & Bills
Fund to Fund: Comm \$95,000.00 from 001.1194.580300 EMA Transfers Out to 521.2521.422101 EMA Transfers In
New Line-Item: Sheriff, IV-D Salary Reimbursement 001.1001.412525

- 9:30 Auditors Office-PERS
- 9:45 DJFS Dir Jean Demosky - weekly updates
- 10:00 Bid Opening - HVAC Courthouse & Annex
- 10:15 Bid Opening- 510 West Union
- 10:45 Planner
- 11:00 EMS - Update
- 11:15 Otis Crockron and Nancy Schell - Children Services Board Appointments
- 11:30 LUNCH

Agenda Items

- Amended Certificate
- Utility Permits (1 Frontier & 3 AEP)
- W&S Extensions
- Guysville Stewart Project OWDA
- OWDA Disbursement Request # 19 US 50 New Marshfield Sanitary Sewer Buckeye 457
- OPERS Agreement Lavelle
- DD Computer Request
- CCAO Membership Voting
- Congressional Earmark Request
- add- Auditor Jill Davidson - OPERS
- add- 911 Fringe Benefit Form
- add- Request Penalties & Interest OPERS
- add- Surplus - Engineer

~TRAVEL

Common Pleas: Judge McCarthy; OJC Court Technology Conference, Lewis Center OH; 04/08/26

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: Comm \$95,000.00 from 001.1194.580300 EMA Transfers Out to 521.2521.422101 EMA Transfers In, New Line-Item: Sheriff, IV-D Salary Reimbursement 001.1001.412525 and approving the payment of the required County Bills, which are included in the Auditor's Office INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 02/24/2026 To: 02/26/2026, INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 02/26/2026 To: 03/03/2026 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.

Auditor's Office - OPERS**OPERS Non-Reporting – Interest & Penalties**

- * The auditor's office (Brandi Coey) provided an update on the ongoing issue involving an employee whose OPERS reporting was not completed from the start of employment.
- * The principal amount was previously filed and paid. The remaining issue is interest and penalties now assessed.

Amounts Discussed

- * Employee portion (penalty only): \$346.88
- * Employer portion (penalty + interest): \$746.83
- * Total interest & penalties: \$1,093.71
- * The request was made for approval to pay the penalties/interest to prevent further interest accrual.

Commissioners' Concern

- * Commissioner Adkins reiterated that the State Auditor has advised boards not to pay penalties/late fees using taxpayer dollars, and noted they have recently denied other late-fee requests.
- * Commissioner Adkins stated he is "done paying late fees" and does not want to approve anything potentially improper or illegal.

Discussion on Responsibility / Payment Process

- * Commissioners questioned why the payment must come through the Board and argued that the auditor's office handles payroll and OPERS payments, therefore responsibility should rest with the auditor's office.
- * A proposal was raised that the auditor's office should initiate the payment like a normal bill, which would still ultimately run through the county's bill approval process—but clarifies who is originating the payment.

Commissioners discussed the possibility that:

- * If paid from the auditor's office budget, it could result in an audit finding.
- * If paid personally by the responsible party, that may avoid using public funds, but the finding would still attach to the responsible office.

Reference to Prior Legal/Audit Guidance

- * Keller's prior discussion was referenced; commissioners noted uncertainty about whether paying would be "illegal" versus simply resulting in an audit finding and possible recovery.
- * Commissioners emphasized they want clear guidance before taking action.

Decision / Next Steps

- * No motion was made and no action was taken at this meeting to approve payment.
- * The board agreed to consult directly with the State Auditor/auditors (who are present this week) for guidance on how to proceed and who should bear responsibility.
- * The item will be revisited after that discussion.

DJFS Dir Jean Demosky - Weekly Updates

Dir Demosky provided the following DJFS Weekly Updates:

1. Agency Newsletter and Community/Workforce Updates

- * Dir Demosky highlighted upcoming community and workforce programming, including:
 - * Little Friends Monthly Play Group (caregiver/child connection).
 - * Workforce Professionals Roundtable – March 12.
 - * Financial Literacy: Benefits of Banking – Thursday, March 12, 2:00–3:00 PM.
 - * Digital Literacy Basics – March 17.
 - * ACE Net Workshop: Minority Business Resources – March 25.
 - * Yoga for Wellness series – every Wednesday.

2. Women in the Workforce Month (March):

- * Weekly remote coffee chats focused on women's workplace issues.
- * Smart Savings for Every Stage session and a networking opportunity/community connections event were also noted.

3. The Mobile Career Center/JFS outreach efforts were described as being active throughout the month.**4. Fiscal Update Status**

- * No new information was available on the fiscal update.
- * Dir Demosky reported they requested another meeting with Sabrina and are awaiting a response, expecting follow-up soon.

5. Title XX Plan Discussion (Due June)

- * Dir Demosky noted the Title XX Plan was last updated mid-year 2025 and must be submitted by June (biennial requirement).
- * Commissioner Adkins expressed interest in reviewing how Title XX funds are planned/used, emphasizing:
 - * Two funding streams: Title XX Base (more flexible) and TANF Transfer (requires an application and has stricter requirements).
 - * Examples of use included Adult Protective Services (APS), non-emergency transportation (non-net), and

related service contracts.

* Commissioner Chmiel requested the prior year's Title XX plan be re-sent for review and proposed discussing it again next week after they have time to look it over.

* Concern was raised that some expenses were paid from the General Fund that may have been eligible under Title XX, with the goal of avoiding unnecessary general fund use.

6. Senior Services Levy Funding for APS

* Commissioners revisited whether to move forward using Senior Services levy funds to support APS-related costs.

* Clarification provided that approximately \$80,000 in senior funds covers the employee who manages senior programming, with confidence the work is devoted to residents 60+.

7. Social Media Policy Reminder / Enforcement

* Dir Demosky requested that commissioners remind county department heads about the county's social media policy, specifically that negative posts/comments that reflect poorly on the county violate policy.

* Commissioner Eliason responded that violations should result in discipline and requested a specific list of individuals/agencies involved rather than a general reminder to everyone.

* Dir Demosky agreed to provide the list so follow-up can occur with the appropriate departments.

Senior Services Levy Funding for APS

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve using Senior Levy Fund to support APS Manager cost in the amount of approximately \$80,000.00.

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 March 3, 2026 prepared by Jill Davidson, Athens County Auditor.

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

Utility Permits

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

Permit No. 26-662
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 # 89, Co Rd Name: Rainbow Lake 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 - 01/30/2027

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. 26-682
From: AEP Ohio Transmission Co., Inc
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 # 70, Co Rd Name: Meadowbrook Rd
Description of Work: Electric
Type of Installation: Soil Bore

Estimated Project Schedule: 02/26/2026 - 02/26/2026

Agreed to by: /s/Robin Whiting, AEP Ohio

Athens County Commissioners

/s/ Lenny Eliason

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

Permit No. 26-683
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 # 67, Co Rd Name: Taylor Ridge Rd
Description of Work: Electric
Type of Installation: Overhead Line Parallel to Rd, Overhead Line Crossing Rd, & Utility Pole Installation
Estimated Project Schedule: 02/02/2026 - 05/01/2026
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. 26-685
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 # 98, Co Rd Name: Angel Ridge Rd
Description of Work: Electric
Type of Installation: Overhead Line Parallel to Rd
Estimated Project Schedule: 01/15/2026 - 07/14/2026
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

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 ratifying Commissioner Adkins Signature authorizing an extension as requested by David Hickman for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is \$167.67 with \$167.67 to be paid by 03/16/2026. 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.

Guysville-Stewart Project OWDA

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the Cooperative Agreement for State Planning Project, Clerk Alison Pierson to sign the General Certificate to be Delivered to Ohio Water Development Authority, & Auditor Jill Davidson to sign the Projection of Revenues and Expenses of the System for the Guysville-Stewart Project OWDA.

Documents available on file in the Commissioners Office.

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

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:

Auditor Jill Davidson - OPERS

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

Auditor Jill Davidson - OPERS

OPERS Issue Discussion (County Planner / Payroll Oversight)

- * Auditor Davidson provided follow-up on the county planner's OPERS non-reporting issue:
 - * Described as an oversight during a period in 2024 when the office reportedly cycled through four payroll clerks.
 - * Internal controls were said to have since been rebuilt.
 - * The employee was submitted for OPERS, but the payroll clerk did not follow through to ensure the deduction/withholding was activated.

* Auditor Davidson stated the problem should not be placed solely on her office and referenced that the commissioners sign off on payroll every two weeks and that withholdings appear there.

Commissioners' Response / Accountability Discussion

- * Commissioners pushed back and stated:
 - * Commissioner Eliason stated that the commissioners approve and review budgets, but do not manage day-to-day operations within another office.
 - * Auditor Davidson stated office leadership should be reviewing employee-specific items such as retirement deductions.
 - * Auditor Davidson stated the issue should have been visible because the budget includes an OPERS line item and that line showed zero deductions for two years, with unused funds reverting to the general fund.
- * Administrator Rockhold emphasized that she has worked here 33 years. The last three years we've had to go through every line on payroll. This was not a thing in the past. We submitted payroll to your office, signed off, that was it. There was nothing. We didn't check anything. I don't have time to check every line.

Risk of Audit Finding / Need to Stop Penalties

- * Auditor Davidson warned:
 - * The county could receive an audit finding, and multiple parties could be named.
 - * If payment is delayed, penalties/late fees continue to accrue daily.
 - * Auditor Davidson requested approval to pay the amount from the planner's budget to "stop the bleeding."
- * Commissioner Adkins expressed frustration about paying late fees and stated they were reluctant to approve anything conflicting with state auditor guidance on penalties.

Decision / Next Steps

- * No immediate final resolution was reached in this segment.
- * Commissioners indicated they would verify with the state auditors (who were present/meeting that day) and consider recessing and returning later to address it.

OWDA Disbursement Request #19 US 50 New Marshfield Sanitary Sewer

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature on the OWDA Disbursement Request # 19 US 50 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.

Buckeye 457

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve a withdrawal for Keith Tabler with Buckeye 457.

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

OPERS Agreement LaVelle

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve an agreement for repayment in exchange for release of liability with Planner Connor LaVelle.

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 DD Computer Request to purchase a laptop (Pro16) for \$1,500 for a webcam system.

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

CCAO Membership Voting

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Resolution to Designate the Official Representative and Alternate for the purpose of voting at the annual meeting of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio in 2026.

See Resolution on back of page 79.

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

Congressional Earmark Request

Commissioner Chmiel reported the water-tower painting project was considered not fundable by the earmark consultant/group.

Another proposed project (\$600,000) to rebuild trucks was reportedly received more favorably.

Commissioner Eliason questioned whether the truck rebuild was a good use due to timing (funds not expected until next fiscal year, after Oct. 1).

Concern was expressed about continuing to pay a company for earmark work if projects were not advancing; Commissioner Eliason stated they were not willing to vote to renew the contract even if funding is secured.

They agreed to proceed with the "engineer's project" for now, but remained dissatisfied with the consultant arrangement.

Travel

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

Common Pleas: Judge McCarthy; OJC Court Technology Conference, Lewis Center OH; 04/08/26

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

Bid Opening - HVAC Courthouse & Annex

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to acknowledge the HVAC Courthouse & Annex Bid:

One bid was received from Debra-Kuempel

Reported bid structure:

- * Base bid - \$1,087,000.00.
- * Alternate 1: Annex valve replacement — \$96,800.
- * Alternate 2: Annex fan coil replacement — \$813,400.

Plan: Project lead would contact the bidder, review scope/clarifications, create a spreadsheet of questions, and return next Tuesday with a recommendation and bid justification.

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

Bid Opening - 510 W. Union Street Building

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to acknowledge the 510 W. Union Street Building Bid:

- * A minimum bid of \$950,000 was set.
- * Integrated Services submitted a bid of \$975,000, contingent upon:
 - * Financing approval,
 - * Their board approval,
 - * Appraisal conditions.

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

Athens County Commissioners



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RESOLUTION # 303-123

RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF VOTING AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO IN 2026

Commissioner Adkins moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 7, of the Code of Regulations of the County Commissioners' Association of Ohio requires each member county to, for the purpose of voting at any annual or special meeting of the Association, designate an Official Representative and Alternate; and

WHEREAS, the designation of the Official Representative and Alternate for a county organized under the statutory form of county government shall be by resolution of the board of county commissioners; and

WHEREAS, in designating the Official Representative and Alternate only a member of the board of county commissioners is eligible to be designated as the Official Representative and Alternate;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Lenny Eliason, President designated as the Official Voting Representative of Athens County.

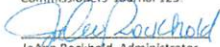
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Chris Chmiel, Vice-President is designated as the Alternate Voting Representative of Athens County.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chmiel.
Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Eliason, yea
Commissioner Chmiel, yea
Commissioner Adkins, yea

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Athens County on the 3rd day of March 2026.

I, JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator for the Board of County Commissioners of Athens County, Ohio, certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said Board March 3, 2026, and appears in the Commissioners' Journal 123.


JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator

The Board of Athens County Commissioners is an Affirmative Action employer and does not discriminate for reasons of race, gender, age, religion or disability.



Award Bid - 510 W. Union Street Building

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to award the 510 W. Union Street Building Bid to Integrated Services of \$975,000.00, subject to contingencies.

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

2026 Buckeye Hills Regional Council - Surface Transportation Block Grant Program

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve Planner LaVelle to apply for the 2026 Buckeye Hills Regional Council Surface Transportation Block Grant in the amount of \$200,000 (no match required) and consider extending down Bean Rd if possible.

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

ODOT Safe Routes to School Grant

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve Planner LaVelle to apply for the ODOT Safe Routes to School grant (no match required) with intent to request the full \$1 million.

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

Planner LaVelle - SBA Disaster Loans - Interim Final Rule (Permitting/Floodplain)

Update Provided:

- * The Small Business Administration issued an interim final rule related to preemption of local permitting for SBA disaster relief loans.
- * Planner LaVelle attended meetings (including with the Association of State Floodplain Managers) where concerns were raised about impacts to floodplain regulation enforcement.

Local Impact (Planner's Assessment):

- * Rule includes a 60-day compliance window after an SBA loan is granted; local codes must still be complied with during that period.
- * Athens County generally completes permitting actions within 60 days, so the Planner LaVelle felt local operations should not be significantly affected.
- * Floodplain regulations are considered health and safety related; the rule indicates health/safety codes should not be preempted, further reducing concern locally.
- * SBA disaster loans in Athens County have been very limited in the last five fiscal years (Planner LaVelle could identify only one), so it is unlikely to arise frequently.
- * Planner LaVelle had intended to submit comments, but the comment window was very short, and the rule was adopted quickly.

Commission Question: Whether Athens County has any local codes that supersede floodplain regs.

- * Planner response: No, so there is little expectation of local conflict/preemption.

Planner LaVelle - Bikeway Maintenance in Chauncey

Commissioners asked who is responsible for addressing an issue referenced as "Sprts" in Chauncey.

Commissioners believed there was an agreement that the Village of Chauncey would handle maintenance/cleanup (possibly related to mud) because the issue is within village boundaries.

It was noted that bikeway maintenance typically follows jurisdictional responsibility—each entity maintains its portion.

Planner agreed to pull the file and confirm the agreement; commissioners reiterated it should be the village's responsibility if within their limits.

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:

Fringe Benefits Report for 911 Dir. Teresa Fouts-Imler

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

Fringe Benefits Report for 911 Dir. Teresa Fouts-Imler

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the Fringe Benefits Report for 911 Dir. Teresa Fouts-Imler for uniforms in the amount of \$274.72.

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

EMS - Updates

Glouster Masonic Lodge Road / Easement Update

- * An update was provided regarding Glouster Masonic Lodge and the roadway leading from SR 78 to the EMS building.

- * No written documentation of the agreement could be found.

- * The county is working with legal counsel (Keller) to prepare an easement to clarify responsibilities for the road and maintenance.

- * Commissioner Adkins said once the easement document is received, it would be provided to the Commissioners & EMS.

Notice of Privacy Practices - EMS

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the updated Notice of Privacy Practices, including language related to mental illness. Chief Pyle stated Assist Prosecutor T.L. Warren reviewed and stated that it was acceptable to include.

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 11:03 with Chief Amber Pyle, Assist Prosecutor TL Warren, & Administrator JoAnn Rockhold to discuss potential litigation.

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 11:10 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.

Otis Crockron & Nancy Schell - Children Services Board Appointments

1) Commissioner Adkins Concerns About "Interviewing" Candidates

- * Commissioner Adkins stated that after receiving a letter indicating Children's Services had interviewed a potential commissioner-appointed candidate, they believed that was inappropriate.

- * Commissioner Adkins emphasized:

- * Commissioners are the appointing authority, and interviews before appointment can create unfair expectations for the individual.

- * It may cause stress or the assumption they are likely to be appointed, even if no promises are made.

- * Commissioner Adkins noted they themselves sometimes connect interested individuals with current board members for information-sharing, but did not want Children's Services conducting what felt like a pre-appointment selection process.

2) Children's Services Response / Clarification of Their Practice

- * Children's Services explained that:

- * Community members sometimes approach them expressing interest in serving (retired, more time, relevant experience, etc.).

- * When they meet with interested individuals, it is informational, intended to explain:

- * the board's role,

- * expectations and function,

- * how the board interfaces with the community.

- * They stated they do not tell anyone they will be appointed and do not intend to make anyone feel like a "shoo-in."

- * They reiterated that after these informational discussions, they may forward the individual's information to the commissioners for the commissioners to conduct their own conversation and decision-making.

3) Discussion About Collaboration and Avoiding Surprises

- * Children's Services expressed appreciation for recent commissioner appointments, noting that recent appointees have been strong additions.
 - * They explained their goal is to maintain a board that reflects:
 - * Geographic representation across five school districts (to better support keeping children in their home districts when possible),
 - * Demographic diversity,
 - * Experience and skill diversity.
- 4) Disagreement About Prior Understanding of Process
- * Children's Services referenced an earlier email from when the director started, stating they had asked what process commissioners preferred and believed they had been told their approach was acceptable.
 - * The commissioner clarified:
 - * They did not agree to Children's Services "interviewing" candidates before commissioner review.
 - * The acceptable process (as the commissioner described it) was that Children's Services may suggest names, but the commissioners select and appoint.
 - * Children's Services indicated that if the commissioners now want that practice stopped entirely, they would follow the commissioners' direction going forward.
 - * Children's Services again emphasized they explicitly told the two recent individuals:
 - * This conversation does not mean appointment now or in the future, and
 - * Commissioners are the decision-makers.
- 5) Commissioner Comments on Independence and Community Perception
- * Commissioner Adkins discussed their view of commissioner appointments:
 - * Appointees should be independent and not influenced by internal dynamics.
 - * Commissioner Adkins said they aim to recommend individuals who will act independently as board members.
 - * Children's Services responded that the two recent interested individuals were not known personally to Children's Services leadership and were not "insiders," and that leadership had no prior relationship with them.
- 7) Vacancy Status and Next Steps
- * Commissioner Adkins said they planned to bring something forward next week regarding appointments.
 - * Children's Services reiterated recommendations for future appointments to consider:
 - * diversity (gender, ethnicity/culture where possible),
 - * varied professional backgrounds,
 - * individuals with lived or professional connection to social services/foster/adoption/child welfare systems.
 - * They emphasized the learning curve for the Children's Services board is steep, and relevant experience helps.

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:

Request Penalties & Interest OPERS

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

Request Penalties & Interest OPERS

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the OPERS Late Fees & Penalties, the Commissioners see it as an appropriate public use of funds in the amount of \$1,093.71.

- * Employee portion (penalty only): \$346.88
- * Employer portion (penalty + interest): \$746.83
- * Total interest & penalties: \$1,093.71

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

Suspend Rules

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

Surplus - Engineer

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

Surplus - Engineer

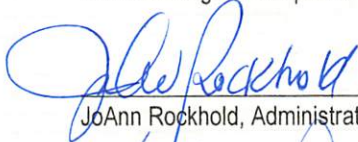
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Engineer Surplus to destroy as requested by Engineer Jeff Maiden. See back of page 83 for Engineer Surplus.

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.

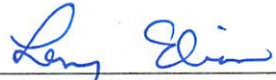
The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.




JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator



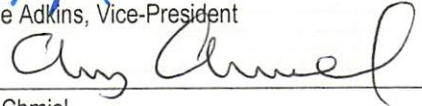
Alison Pierson, Clerk



Lenny Eliason, President



Charlie Adkins, Vice-President



Chris Chmiel

