

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 31, 2026 Convenes at 9:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes March 25, 2026

Approve Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes, Then & Nows, & Bills
New Line Items: General Fund 001
Expenditures: Mandated Share 001.1236.580700, County Contributions 001.1236.580750

- 9:30 Lynne Genter- 4th of July Celebration
- 10:00 Bid Opening (Engineer)- Various Grades of Limestone Aggregate
- 10:15 Bid Opening (Engineer)- All Grades of RC, MC, Primers, & Emulsions
- 10:30 W&S Supt Oscar Carson - weekly updates
- 10:45 Taylor Sappington - February Balances/Fund Reports
- 11:00 LUNCH

Agenda Items

- Amended Certificate
- LOS AEP
- Community Cares Distribution
- Engineer - ODNR Right of Entry
- DJFS

~TRAVEL

- Sheriff: Crystal Allen; VOCA Conference, Hilton Columbus Downtown; 05/17 - 05/19/26
- Sheriff: Doug Crites; Prisoner Transport, Lambertville NJ; 03/26 - 03/27/26
- Coroner: Carl Ortman; OSCA's 80th Annual Education Conference, Cincinnati OH; 05/07 - 05/09/26
- Auditor: Jill Davidson; Ohio GFOA Board Meeting, Dublin OH; 03/20/26
- Auditor: Jill Davidson & Marsha Few; CAAO Southeast District Meeting, Zanesville OH; 04/17/26
- Auditor: Jill Davidson; Ohio GFOA Board Meeting, Dublin OH; 02/13/26

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. Eliason to approve the minutes of March 25, 2026.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, abstain; 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 New Line Items: General Fund 001; Expenditures: Mandated Share 001.1236.580700, County Contributions 001.1236.580750 and approving the payment of the required County Bills, which are included in the Auditor's Office INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 03/24/2026 To: 03/26/2026 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.

Lynne Genter - 4th of July Celebration

Presentation regarding potential nonpartisan Fourth of July celebration in front of the Courthouse.

Ideas included small-scale activities (reenactments, poster/chalk contests, children's events).

Commissioner Eliason provided guidance:

- * Coordinate with City of Athens and local organizations.
- * Expressed support in concept, but no financial commitment.
- * Raised concerns about chalk use on courthouse grounds; alternative suggestions (poster contest).

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 31, 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.

LOS AEP

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve a Letter of Support of the Athens County Port Authority's (ACPA) application to AEP's Strategic Investment Program (SIP) for electrical upgrades to its new speculative building:

March 31, 2026

Attn: Melissa Clark
AEP Ohio
1543 Ohio River Road
Point Pleasant, WV 25550

Dear Ms. Clark,

The Board of Athens County Commissioners respectfully submits this letter in support of the Athens County Port Authority's (ACPA) application to AEP's Strategic Investment Program (SIP) for electrical upgrades to its new speculative building.

The ACPA is the site development arm of the county's economic development efforts and has made strides to increase the county's site inventory in recent years. By doing so, the county is better positioned to attract business investments that create jobs and payroll and expand the tax base.

The ACPA completed a speculative building in May of 2025 and is currently in lease negotiations with a company in a priority industry sector. The ACPA's funding request to the SIP will ensure it can support critical upgrades to the electrical service to accommodate the company's 24/7 plastics manufacturing operation. With assurance that it will have the electric capacity it requires, the company is committed to creating 50 new jobs over 50 years and \$1.75mm in payroll in its first three years.

This project directly aligns with the mission of the SIP program – to support utility infrastructure that promote economic development with the goal of creating and retaining jobs and generating new investments in disadvantaged communities. We thank you in advance for your consideration of the ACPA's application. Please don't hesitate to reach out with additional questions.

Sincerely,

/s/Lenny Eliason, President

/s/Charlie Adkins, Vice-President

/s/Chris Chmiel, Commissioner

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

Community Cares Distribution

1. Community Cares Fund Overview

- * Total funds received: \$29,171.04.
 - * Back-to-School Bash: \$7,766.83
 - * Operation Full Ability: \$1,210.46
 - * Additional allocation: \$2,221.94
 - * Remaining balance (other projects): approximately \$17,771.81
- * Administrator Rockhold stated funds have already been received and are currently held by the Commissioners.
- * Request made by DJFS Dir Jean Demosky to return funds to Child and Family Services (JFS), pending certification.

2. Disposition of Funds

- * No immediate action taken on remaining Community Cares funds.
- * Funds will be held pending further review and clarification.

DJFS

Commissioner Chmiel brought to the Board his concerns with the following items:

1. TANF Compliance & Back-to-School Bash Concerns

- * Discussion focused on TANF-related expenditures and recent audit/reconciliation findings.
- * Approximately \$1.8 million in questioned or adjusted TANF expenditures, with:
 - * A significant portion believed to be tied to the Back-to-School Bash program.
- * Key issue:
 - * Events serving both eligible and ineligible participants may not comply with federal funding requirements.
- * Concern raised that:
 - * Improper allocation of staff time and funding could result in repayment obligations.

2. Audit and Financial Oversight Concerns

- * External auditor (Clark-Schaeffer-Hackett) flagged concerns regarding:
 - * Eligibility tracking
 - * Allocation of expenditures
- * Board expressed need for:
 - * Greater clarity on how participants are counted
 - * How staff time is categorized (TANF vs. non-TANF activities)
- * Follow-Up Actions
 - * Board agreed to:
 - * Invite Sabrina to a future meeting to address:
 - * Adjustments and reconciliation findings
 - * Outstanding financial questions
- * Additional concerns raised regarding:
 - * Potential need for additional funding later in the year
 - * Pending responses to previously submitted financial questions

6. Title IV-D Contract Discussion

- * Commissioner Chmiel requested clarification regarding prior handling of Title IV-D contracts:
 - * Discussion had occurred about "pausing" contracts.
 - * No formal vote was taken.
 - * Contracts do not allow for a pause, and were later reinstated.
- * Concern noted that:
 - * Any interruption may have resulted in reduced revenue to the county.

7. Revenue Concerns brought up by Commissioner Chmiel

- * Early 2026 case numbers:
 - * January and February were stable.
 - * March projected to be down approximately 50%, potentially impacting revenue.
- * Raises concern about future financial performance and projections.

8. Motion – Administrative Leave (Failed)

- * Commissioner Chmiel made the motion to:
 - * Place the Executive Director on administrative leave
 - * Conduct further investigation into \$2.5M+ repayment issue
- * Motion failed due to lack of a second.
- * Discussion noted:
 - * Commissioner Adkins & Commissioner Eliason personnel matters are typically addressed in executive session.

Engineer - ODNR Right of Entry

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Engineer's - ODNR Right of Entry for Fossil Rock Road (CR42).

See Document on back of page 114.

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

Travel

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

- Sheriff: Crystal Allen; VOCA Conference, Hilton Columbus Downtown; 05/17 - 05/19/26
- Sheriff: Doug Crites; Prisoner Transport, Lambertville NJ; 03/26 - 03/27/26
- Coroner: Carl Ortman; OSCA's 80th Annual Education Conference, Cincinnati OH; 05/07 - 05/09/26
- Auditor: Jill Davidson; Ohio GFOA Board Meeting, Dublin OH; 03/20/26
- Auditor: Jill Davidson & Marsha Few; CAAO Southeast District Meeting, Zanesville OH; 04/17/26
- Auditor: Jill Davidson; Ohio GFOA Board Meeting, Dublin OH; 02/13/26

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

Bid Opening (Engineer) - Various Grades of Limestone Aggregate

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to acknowledge the following Bids for the Engineer's Office for Various Grades of Limestone Aggregate.

See Bids on back of page 114.

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

Bid Opening (Engineer) - All Grades of RC, MC, Primers, & Emulsions

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to acknowledge the following Bids for the Engineer's Office for All Grades of RC, MC, Primers, & Emulsions.

See Bids on back of page 114.

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

Engineer Asphalt Bid Advertisement

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to authorize advertisement of Asphalt bids, pending prosecutor approval of contract language. Tentative plan is to advertise in April and open bids on April 28, 2026.

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

Treasurer's Report for February 2026 & Tax & Assessment Discussion - Taylor Sappington

Treasurer Sappington provided the following:

1. Treasurer's Report (February 2026):
 - * February financials balanced with no issues.
 - * First-half tax collections completed; settlements processed and distributed.
 - * Collections were comparable to prior year; delinquent collections increased significantly.
2. Tax & Assessment Discussion:
 - * Clarified process for unpaid sewer assessments placed on property taxes:
 - * Taxpayers may temporarily pay current taxes only.
 - * Unpaid balances will eventually be certified as delinquent and must be paid before other obligations.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the Treasurer's Report for February 2026.

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

**CONSENT FOR RIGHT OF ENTRY,
(POLITICAL ENTITY - NO LIEN)**

FEDERAL AML PROGRAM

STATE: OHIO
PARCEL: Fossil Rock Road (R2) 421
PROJECT: Fossil Rock Road Subsurface Emergency
PROJECT NUMBER: A14-4-03

Where County _____ owner (Owner, herein) of record of record of the above identified parcel by instrument recorded deed records of deed records of Athens County, Ohio do hereby grant to the Division of Mineral Resources Management, Department of Natural Resources, State of Ohio (the Division), The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, United States Department of the Interior ("OSMRE"), and the agents, employees, and contractors retained by the Division or OSMRE, the right, privilege and easement to enter upon the above-described property with all necessary and convenient materials and equipment to perform reclamation work to restore, abate, control or prevent the adverse effects of coal mining practices, and to prevent the public health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the State of Ohio.

Any reclamation work performed by the Division, OSMRE, and their agents, employees, and contractors retained by the Division of OSMRE is pursuant to Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, 30 U.S.C., 1231, et seq., Section 1513.37 of the Ohio Revised Code, and the Executive Order of the Governor of Ohio.

As used in this agreement:

- a) "RECLAMATION WORK" means the CONSTRUCTION OF TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT STRUCTURES ON THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY to restore, abate, control, or prevent the adverse effects of coal mining practices and to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare. Construction of a temporary or permanent structure includes, but is not limited to, all grading, excavation, use of topsoil from borrow areas, installing, planting of vegetative cover, placement of drainage tile and pipes, development of dams, diversion ditches and any other necessary or expedient work done to comply with the design of the temporary or permanent structure.
- b) "COMPLETION OF RECLAMATION WORK" means the date the Chief of the Division ("Chief") or his authorized representative issues a final certificate of completion of reclamation for the reclamation work done on the property.
- c) "UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THE PROPERTY BY OWNER" means the failure of the Owner to request and obtain the permission of the Division for any proposed, or actual use of the property by the Owner, his agents, employees, contractors, lessees, invitees, or guests which could or does adversely affect the reclamation work from two years from the date of the completion of the reclamation work.
- d) "PAST MINING PRACTICES" means any mining activity conducted before August 3, 1977, or between August 4, 1977 and August 16, 1981 where performance security is not sufficient to provide for adequate reclamation, or between August 4, 1977 and November 5, 1990 where the money of the mining operator became insolvent and no money was available from the proceedings to provide for adequate reclamation.

Owner assumes no liability for injury or damage by or to employees and/or agents providing reclamation services for the Division or the OSMRE. Owner agrees to contact and gain consent from all lessees of surface interests in the property that the reclamation work will affect prior to the start of reclamation.

Owner shall reimburse the Division for the cost of any repair to the reclamation work caused by its unauthorized use of the property if:

- i. The Chief or his authorized representative determines that the unauthorized use damaged or impaired the effectiveness of the reclamation work; and
- ii. The Chief or his authorized representative determines that repairs are necessary to protect the reclamation work.

This consent is given for the purpose of the design and construction of the reclamation work, if any.

In giving consent to this right-of-entry, Owner does not waive any of its legal remedies under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, 30 U.S.C., 1232, et seq., or Section 1513.37 of the Ohio Revised Code.

OSMRE UNDERSTANDS THAT NEITHER THE DIVISION NOR OSMRE IS OBLIGATED TO PERFORM RECLAMATION WORK ON THE PROPERTY.

The Division shall bear the expense for the design and construction of the reclamation work, if any.

The Division shall perform, at its own expense, any necessary repairs to the reclamation work from time to time following the completion of the reclamation, whenever, at the period's expiration, the Division's responsibility to make repairs or to maintain the reclamation shall exist.

This right-of-entry shall terminate two years after the completion of the reclamation work, provided however, that this right-of-entry shall expire three years from the date the statement of the Division fails to begin the reclamation work within the period.

This right-of-entry shall terminate two years after the completion of the reclamation work, provided however, that this right-of-entry shall expire three years from the date of the expiration of this agreement if the Division fails to begin the reclamation work within the period.

I, Leory Pliska, hereby declare to the State of Ohio that I am the President of the political entity named in the above consent and that I have full authority to execute this right-of-entry on behalf of said entity, and that the right-of-entry is being signed for and on behalf of the owner by authority of the governing body, and in witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said entity on this _____ day of _____, 2026.

SIGNED this 31st day of March, 2026

Name: Leory Pliska
Street Address: 16 S. Court Street
City: Athens
State: Ohio Zip: 45701
Phone: 740 592-3222

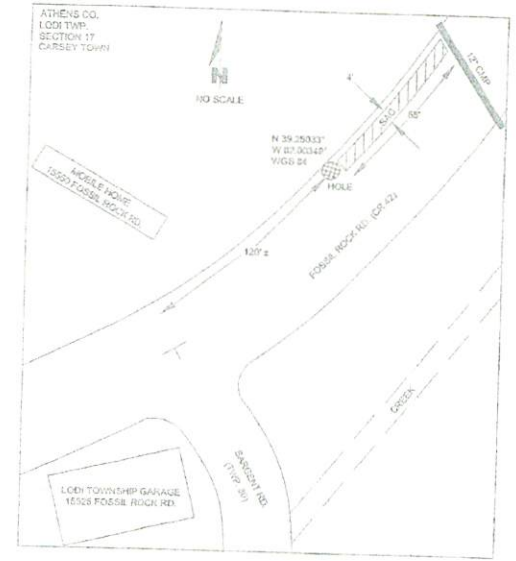
Name: [Signature]
Street Address: 15 S. Court Street
City: Athens
State: Ohio Zip: 45701
Phone: 740 592-3221

Witnessed by: [Signature]

Witnessed by: [Signature]



Project: Fossil Rock Road Gasline Extension
County: Athens OH
Subject: Mine Sub-surface



2026 Stone Bids

Diamond Stone Company 740-684-4833	Plant/Prod Price Per Ton (Material Only)	Trucking Cost Per Ton (Freight Only) to Carrawville	Delivered Price Per Ton (Material & Freight) to Carrawville	Trucking Cost Per Ton (Freight Only) to Redburn	Delivered Price Per Ton (Material & Freight) to Redburn	Trucking Cost Per Ton (Freight Only) to Cookeville	Delivered Price Per Ton (Material & Freight) to Cookeville
CR07 Item #304	\$ 29.85	\$ 9.50	\$ 39.35		\$ 11.00		\$ 50.35
#17 Aggregate	\$ 27.85	\$ 9.50	\$ 37.35		\$ 11.00		\$ 48.35
#19 Aggregate	\$ 27.85	\$ 9.50	\$ 37.35		\$ 11.00		\$ 48.35
#2 Limestone	\$ 27.35	\$ 9.50	\$ 36.85		\$ 11.00		\$ 47.85
CR07 Item #117	\$ 29.85	\$ 9.50	\$ 39.35		\$ 11.00		\$ 50.35
Limestone Dust	\$ 29.85	\$ 9.50	\$ 39.35		\$ 11.00		\$ 50.35
Ruck Channel Protection - Type C	\$ 37.40	\$ 9.50	\$ 46.90		\$ 12.00		\$ 58.90
Ruck Channel Protection - Type D	\$ 35.90	\$ 9.50	\$ 45.40		\$ 11.00		\$ 56.40

Mehlers Stone - DBA Diamond Stone 740-684-4833	Plant/Prod Price Per Ton (Material Only)	Trucking Cost Per Ton (Freight Only) to Carrawville	Delivered Price Per Ton (Material & Freight) to Carrawville	Trucking Cost Per Ton (Freight Only) to Redburn	Delivered Price Per Ton (Material & Freight) to Redburn	Trucking Cost Per Ton (Freight Only) to Cookeville	Delivered Price Per Ton (Material & Freight) to Cookeville
CR07 Item #304	\$ 19.80		\$ 19.80	\$ 9.20	\$ 29.00		\$ 38.20
#17 Aggregate	\$ 23.65		\$ 23.65	\$ 9.20	\$ 32.85		\$ 42.05
#19 Aggregate	\$ 23.25		\$ 23.25	\$ 9.20	\$ 32.45		\$ 41.65
#2 Limestone	\$ 23.15		\$ 23.15	\$ 9.20	\$ 32.35		\$ 41.55
CR07 Item #117	\$ 19.80		\$ 19.80	\$ 9.20	\$ 29.00		\$ 38.20
Limestone Dust	\$ 19.80		\$ 19.80	\$ 9.20	\$ 29.00		\$ 38.20
Ruck Channel Protection - Type C	\$ 27.35		\$ 27.35	\$ 9.20	\$ 36.55		\$ 45.75
Ruck Channel Protection - Type D	\$ 27.35		\$ 27.35	\$ 9.20	\$ 36.55		\$ 45.75

Shelly Materials (East Forkhouse) 740-689-2-838	Plant/Prod Price Per Ton (Material Only)	Trucking Cost Per Ton (Freight Only) to Carrawville	Delivered Price Per Ton (Material & Freight) to Carrawville	Trucking Cost Per Ton (Freight Only) to Redburn	Delivered Price Per Ton (Material & Freight) to Redburn	Trucking Cost Per Ton (Freight Only) to Cookeville	Delivered Price Per Ton (Material & Freight) to Cookeville
CR07 Item #304	\$ 17.90	\$ 13.00	\$ 30.90	\$ 9.25	\$ 40.15	\$ 15.75	\$ 55.90
#17 Aggregate	\$ 23.50	\$ 13.50	\$ 37.00	\$ 9.25	\$ 46.25	\$ 15.75	\$ 62.00
#19 Aggregate	\$ 23.00	\$ 13.50	\$ 36.50	\$ 9.25	\$ 45.75	\$ 15.75	\$ 61.50
#2 Limestone	\$ 22.50	\$ 13.50	\$ 36.00	\$ 9.25	\$ 45.25	\$ 15.75	\$ 61.00
CR07 Item #117	\$ 17.90	\$ 13.00	\$ 30.90	\$ 9.25	\$ 40.15	\$ 15.75	\$ 55.90
Limestone Dust	\$ 17.90	\$ 13.00	\$ 30.90	\$ 9.25	\$ 40.15	\$ 15.75	\$ 55.90
Ruck Channel Protection - Type C	\$ 41.00	\$ 14.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 68.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 86.00
Ruck Channel Protection - Type D	\$ 41.00	\$ 14.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 13.00	\$ 68.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 86.00

Shelly Materials' freight charge is subject to a flat surcharge based on \$3.00 per ton. For every 50,000 lbs over the \$3.00 baseline, the delivery cost will increase by 1%. Flat prices are determined as follows: (Shelly Materials) (Shelly Materials)

2026 Bituminous Bids	Asphalt Materials	
	Plant Pickup per Gallon	Delivered per Gallon
SS-1H	\$2.30	\$2.41
PERMACOAT-200	\$3.60	\$3.71
PERMACOAT-250	\$3.80	\$3.91
CRS-2P	\$2.60	\$2.71
CRS-2	\$2.21	\$2.32
MWS-90	\$2.25	\$2.36
MWS-150 SEALING	\$2.35	\$2.46
MWS-150 MIXING	\$2.55	\$2.66
MWS-300	\$2.65	\$2.76
AE-0P	\$1.80	\$1.90
MC 800		

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to enter into executive session at 10:31 with Administrator JoAnn Rockhold to discuss employment and 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

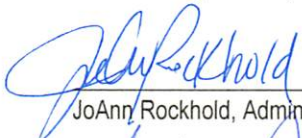
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to return to regular session at 10:46 with No Action to be taken.

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


Adjourn

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

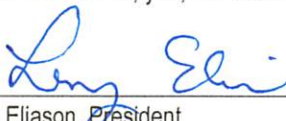
The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.



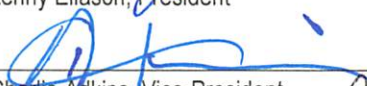
JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator




Alison Pierson, Clerk



Lenny Eliason, President



Charlie Adkins, Vice-President



Chris Chmiel