

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, May 19, 2026 Convenes at 9:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes May 12, 2026

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

- 9:30 HAPCAP CHIP Public Hearing #1
- 9:45 DJFS - Weekly Updates
- 10:00 Interview
- 10:15 County Planner - CRA proposal
- 10:30 W&S Supt Oscar Carson - weekly updates
- 10:45 Treasurer April Reports
- 11:15 Interview
- 11:30 LUNCH
- 1:00 Interview
- 1:45 911 Teresa Fouts-Imler
- 1:45 Interview
- 2:30 Interview
- 3:15 Interview

Agenda Items

- Amended Certificate
- Guardian Ad Litem Agreement
- Amateur Radio Operators Appreciation Days
- DJFS 510 Bond - Certificate of Membership-Authorizing Resolution-Notice of Election to Redeem
- 911 Intermittent Dispatcher Resignation
- Engineer - Bid Award
- Engineer - LPA Federal Local-LET Project Agreement Amendment (ATH-CR 46C-0.96)
- Engineer - LPA Federal Local-LET Project Agreement Amendment (ATH-CR 29-0.00 FY25)
- Career Connections Estimate & Scope of Work Agreement (Ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature)
- OWDA Payment Request #1 Stewart & Guysville Sanitary Sewer (Ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature)
- DYS 2027 Grant
- W&S Letter to Country Club
- add- Common Pleas Court - Veterans Court Gift Cards

~TRAVEL

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 May 12, 2026.

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

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

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel approving the Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes and approving the payment of the required County Bills, which are included in the Auditor's Office INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 05/07/2026 To: 05/12/2026, INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 05/12/2026 To: 05/15/2026, INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 05/15/2026 To: 05/19/2026 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.

Amended Certificate

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason acknowledging receipt of the Amended Certificate for Athens County Commissioners, dated May 19, 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.

Guardian Ad Litem Agreement

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Guardian Ad Litem Agreement for Sarah Rahter. See document on back of page 177.

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

Amateur Radio Operators Appreciation Day

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the proclamation declaring June 27-28 as Amateur Radio Operating Days within the county:

WHEREAS, amateur radio operators play a vital role in emergency communications preparedness plans for the United States, the State of Ohio and many other local government agencies; and

WHEREAS, Ohio has more than 30,500 licensed amateur radio operators, many of whom have provided valuable public assistance through emergency communication on a local, statewide, national and international basis in times of need; and

WHEREAS, amateur radio operators donate the time, equipment and expertise to help provide the public with free emergency communications; and

WHEREAS, June 27-28, 2026, has been set aside as amateur radio field day for emergency communication preparedness exercises.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, the Board of County Commissioners do hereby proclaim June 27-28, 2026 as:

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS
APPRECIATION DAYS

Throughout Athens County and recognize the contributions and importance of the amateur radio operator's role in preparing for public service and emergency communications.

Signed this 19th day of May 2026

/s/Lenny Eliason, President

/s/Charlie Adkins

/s/Chris Chmiel

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

GUARDIAN AD LITEM AGREEMENT

Sarah Rahter Hereby agrees to accept appointments by the Domestic Relations Division of the Athens County Court of Common Pleas to serve as a guardian ad litem for the Court when available to do so.

The Athens County Board of Commissioners hereby agrees to extend the General Liability and Public Officials Liability coverage provided by CORSA to Athens County to cover Sarah Rahter while performing services for, and while acting within the scope of authority granted by, the Domestic Relations Division of the Athens County Court of Common Pleas.

Sarah Rahter
Guardian ad Litem
[Signature]
Administrative Judge
[Signature]
President, Board of Commissioners
5/19/26
Date Fully Signed

DJFS 510 Bond Redemption Actions

All DJFS 510 Bond Redemption Actions available on file in the Commissioners Office.

Certificate of Membership Approval

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the certificate of membership associated with the DJFS 510 bond. Commissioners clarified that this action was necessary to facilitate payoff of the bond obligations.

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

Authorizing Resolution

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to authorize redemption of the bonds and approve the related resolution.

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

Notice of Election to Redeem

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the notice of election to redeem the bonds.

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

Discussion Regarding Capital Improvement Funds and JFS Deficit

Commissioner Chmiel discussed:

- * Remaining capital improvement funds
- * Potential future use of those funds
- * Ongoing financial concerns involving Job and Family Services

Discussion included:

- * A projected JFS deficit of approximately \$800,000
- * Potential future obligations due by September 30
- * The possibility of petitioning the court regarding transfer authority for capital improvement funds

Commissioners agreed to await updated financial statements before making additional decisions regarding those funds.

911 Intermittent Dispatcher Resignation

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to accept the resignation of Hannah Taylor a 911 Intermittent Dispatcher effective May 13, 2026.

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

Engineer - Bid Award

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the recommendation from County Engineer Jeff Maiden to award the Paving Project Bid to McKee Paving with the bid price of \$724,373.50.

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

Engineer - LPA Federal Local-LET Project Agreement Amendment (ATH-CR 46C-0.96)

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the LPA Federal Local-LET Project Agreement Amendment (ATH-CR 46C-0.96). See document on back of page 178.

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

Engineer - LPA Federal Local-LET Project Agreement Amendment (ATH-CR 29-0.00 FY25)

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the LPA Federal Local-LET Project Agreement Amendment (ATH-CR 29-0.00 FY25). See document on back of page 178.

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

Agreement Number: 42384
PID Number: 117469
County-Route-Section: ATH-CR 46C-0.96
SAM Unique Entity ID: EN3FKD6VITYK3

LPA FEDERAL LOCAL-LET PROJECT AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

THIS AGREEMENT AMENDMENT is made by and between the State of Ohio, Department of Transportation, (ODOT), 1980 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223 and the Athens County Commissioners (LPA) acting by and through the Athens County Engineer, 16000 Canaanville Road, Athens, Ohio 45701.

Reference is made to the following section of the above referenced LPA Agreement dated 3/12/2025 to be amended by this document:

3. FUNDING

3.1 The total cost for the PROJECT associated with Federal funds is estimated to be \$1,299,271.81.

ODOT shall provide to the LPA 100 percent of the eligible costs, utilizing Spending Authority Code (SAC) 4887 COUNTY LOCAL BRIDGE (Assistance Listing Number: 20.205 Highway Planning and Construction,) up to a maximum of \$56,860.23 in Federal funds in the Preliminary Engineering/Environmental phase(s)/subphase(s). The funding does include Toll Revenue Credit at 20 percent, up to a maximum of \$11,372.05. This maximum amount reflects the funding limit for the PROJECT set by the applicable SAC Program Manager.

ODOT shall provide to the LPA 100 percent of the eligible costs, utilizing Spending Authority Code (SAC) 4887 COUNTY LOCAL BRIDGE (Assistance Listing Number: 20.287 Surface Transportation Block Grant Program,) up to a maximum of \$1,535.77 in Federal funds in the Preliminary Engineering/Environmental phase(s)/subphase(s). The funding does include Toll Revenue Credit at 20 percent, up to a maximum of \$327.95. This maximum amount reflects the funding limit for the PROJECT set by the applicable SAC Program Manager.

ODOT shall provide to the LPA 95 percent of the eligible costs, utilizing Spending Authority Code (SAC) 4887 COUNTY LOCAL BRIDGE (Assistance Listing Number: 20.205 Highway Planning and Construction,) up to a maximum of \$1,639.77 in Federal funds in the Construction Contract/Construction Inspection phase(s)/subphase(s). The funding does include Toll Revenue Credit at 15 percent, up to a maximum of \$258.91. This maximum amount reflects the funding limit for the PROJECT set by the applicable SAC Program Manager.

ODOT shall provide to the LPA 95 percent of the eligible costs, utilizing Spending Authority Code (SAC) 4887 COUNTY LOCAL BRIDGE (Assistance Listing Number: 20.287 Surface Transportation Block Grant Program,) up to a maximum of \$1,225,360.23 in Federal funds in the Construction Contract/Construction Inspection phase(s)/subphase(s). The funding does include Toll Revenue Credit at 15 percent, up to a maximum of \$193,477.93. This maximum amount reflects the funding limit for the PROJECT set by the applicable SAC Program Manager.

3.2 If after execution of this Agreement, FHWA notifies ODOT that the ALN for the PROJECT is different than the ALN listed in 3.1 above, ODOT shall change the ALN to comply with the

requirements of 2 CFR 200.332 and provide notice in writing or by email of the new ALN pursuant to 14.1 of this Agreement.

3.3 The LPA shall provide all other financial resources necessary to fully complete the PROJECT, including all 100% Locally funded work, and all cost overruns and contractor claims in excess of the maximum(s) indicated in 3.1 above.

3.4 The LPA is not administering the Federally funded Preliminary Engineering/Environmental phase(s)/subphase(s) of the PROJECT and is therefore considered a beneficiary of Federal funds and is not responsible for reporting the applicable Federal expenditures on their Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Award.

The LPA is administering the Federally funded Construction Contract/Construction Inspection phase(s)/subphase(s) of the PROJECT and is therefore considered a subrecipient of Federal funds and is responsible for reporting the applicable Federal expenditures (including any Toll Revenue Credit or Credit Bridge) on their Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Award.

Agreement Number: 42384
PID Number: 117469
County-Route-Section: ATH-CR 46C-0.96
SAM Unique Entity ID: EN3FKD6VITYK3

The parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be duly executed as of the day and year last written below.

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| LPA: Athens County | STATE OF OHIO OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION |
| By: <i>Romy Sel</i> | By: |
| Title: <i>PECS, DEPT</i> | Pamela Boratyn Director |
| Date: <i>5/19/26</i> | Date: |

Agreement Number: 42386
PID Number: 121881
County-Route-Section: ATH-CR 29-0.00 FY 25
SAM Unique Entity ID: EN3FKD6VITYK3

LPA FEDERAL LOCAL-LET PROJECT AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

THIS AGREEMENT AMENDMENT is made by and between the State of Ohio, Department of Transportation, (ODOT), 1980 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223 and the Athens County Commissioners (LPA) acting by and through the Athens County Engineer, 16000 Canaanville Road, Athens, Ohio 45701.

Reference is made to the following section of the above referenced LPA Agreement dated 3/12/2025 to be amended by this document:

3. FUNDING

3.1 The total cost for the PROJECT associated with Federal funds is estimated to be \$241,654.90.

ODOT shall provide to the LPA 100 percent of the eligible costs, utilizing Spending Authority Code (SAC) 4AL7 PUBLIC LANDS ACCESS PROGRAM (Assistance Listing Number: 20.224 Federal Lands Access Program,) up to a maximum of \$236,000.00 in Federal funds in the Construction Contract/Construction Inspection phase(s)/subphase(s). The funding does not include Toll Revenue Credit or Credit Bridge at 0 percent, up to a maximum of \$0.00. This maximum amount reflects the funding limit for the PROJECT set by the applicable SAC Program Manager.

3.2 If after execution of this Agreement, FHWA notifies ODOT that the ALN for the PROJECT is different than the ALN listed in 3.1 above, ODOT shall change the ALN to comply with the requirements of 2 CFR 200.332 and provide notice in writing or by email of the new ALN pursuant to 14.1 of this Agreement.

3.3 The LPA shall provide all other financial resources necessary to fully complete the PROJECT, including all 100% Locally funded work, and all cost overruns and contractor claims in excess of the maximum(s) indicated in 3.1 above.

3.4 The LPA is administering the Federally funded Construction Contract/Construction Inspection phase(s)/subphase(s) of the PROJECT and is therefore considered a subrecipient of Federal funds and is responsible for reporting the applicable Federal expenditures (including any Toll Revenue Credit or Credit Bridge) on their Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Award.

Agreement Number: 42386
PID Number: 121881
County-Route-Section: ATH-CR 29-0.00 FY 25
SAM Unique Entity ID: EN3FKD6VITYK3

The parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be duly executed as of the day and year last written below.

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| LPA: Athens County | STATE OF OHIO OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION |
| By: <i>Romy Sel</i> | By: |
| Title: <i>PECS, DEPT</i> | Pamela Boratyn Director |
| Date: <i>5/19/26</i> | Date: |

Career Connections Estimate & Scope of Work Agreement

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature on the Career Connections Estimate & Scope of Work Agreement.

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

OWDA Payment Request #1 Stewart & Guysville Sanitary Sewer

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature on the OWDA Payment Request #1 for Stewart & Guysville Sanitary Sewer.

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

DYS 2027 Grant

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve and authorize necessary signatures for the DYS 2027 Grant Application.

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

W&S Letter to Country Club

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve and sign the W&S Letter to the Country Club. See letter on back of page 179.

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

HAPCAP CHIP Public Hearing #1

No Show

DJFS - Weekly Updates

Interim Executive Director Keith Wiens provided the following DJFS Weekly Updates:

1. JFS Directors Association Conference Report
 - * Keith, Assistant Director Lisa Radford, and Fiscal Manager Angie Hayes attended the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors Association conference.
 - * Keith explained the conference focused on:
 - * Leadership training
 - * Best practices
 - * Networking with other county agencies
 - * Contract compliance and fiscal oversight
 - * 4D Contract Workshop
 - * The team attended a workshop titled:
 - * "Bouncing Back from Outdated 4D Contract Practices."
 - * Discussion focused heavily on:
 - * Child support enforcement contracts
 - * Unit-rate calculations
 - * Monthly billing justifications
 - * State monitoring requirements
 - * Keith explained:
 - * The county previously experienced issues involving sheriff contracts
 - * The county remains under a continuous improvement plan
 - * Unit rates are recalculated monthly based on actual expenses
 - * Commissioners expressed frustration regarding:
 - * Administrative complexity
 - * Frequent recalculation requirements
 - * State oversight procedures
 - * Keith acknowledged the process was cumbersome but explained the county was working to comply fully with state requirements.
 - * He further stated:
 - * All 2026 contracts were approved before March 31
 - * The county remains eligible to bill for the full year
 - * Staff are now more actively involved in monitoring monthly billing activity

Should there be any questions or concerns, please contact us immediately.

May 14, 2026

VIA EMAIL [insert email address] and Regular U.S. Mail

Michael Reed, General Manager/COO
Athens County Club
7606 Country Club Rd.
Athens, OH 45701

Re: Water & Sewer Billing Dispute

Dear Mr. Reed:

This firm serves as outside legal counsel to the Athens County Board of Commissioners ("Commissioners") and the Athens County Water and Sewer District. We write concerning the billing dispute between the Athens County Club ("Country Club") and the Water and Sewer District ("Water & Sewer").

According to Water & Sewer, sewer billing for the Country Club began in February 2025. For the twelve-month period of February 2025-January 2026, the Country Club was charged for twenty-five Equivalent Dwelling Unit's ("EDUs") per month.

Beginning in February 2026, that amount was reduced to ten EDUs per month.

The charged rate for one EDU has remained at \$52.50 per month.

Twenty-five EDUs times the charged rate of \$52.50 per month equals \$1,312.50 per month which charged during the twelve-month period of February 2025-January 2026, for a total amount charged of \$15,750.00. However, ten EDUs times the charged rate of \$52.50 equals \$525.00 per month, for a total amount charged of \$6,300.00.

The difference between \$1,312.50 and \$525.00 per month is \$787.50 per month. For the twelve-month period of February 2025-January 2026, the total difference is \$9,450.00. Put another way, the difference between the \$15,750.00 that was charged and the reduced charge of \$6,300.00 equals \$9,450.00.

The Commissioners have made the decision to refund the County Club the total amount of \$9,450.00 as the full and final resolution of this dispute.

Regards,



Jeffrey Stankunas

2. RMS (Random Moment Sample) Training

- * Keith also discussed training involving RMS procedures used by the state to determine time allocation among funding categories such as:
 - * TANF
 - * Food assistance
 - * Other assistance programs
- * He explained:
 - * Previous agency findings stemmed from incorrect funding categorizations
 - * Staff are receiving additional training to improve compliance
 - * Ongoing education and oversight are being emphasized

DJFS Contract - Dirty Detailing

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to approve the DJFS Contract with Dirty Detailing:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Name of Organization | Dirty Detailing |
| Total \$ Value | \$29,500.00 |
| Contract Period | 05/25/2026 - 05/24/2027 |
| Program Accts & Codes to be charged | various/510050 |
| Billing Procedure | Payments shall be made after services are rendered and after receipt of the invoice. |

Full Contract on file in the Commissioners Office.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, no; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Executive Session - DJFS

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to enter into executive session at 9:53 with Keith Wiens to discuss discipline of a public employee. Commissioner Adkins left the executive meeting.

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. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Eliason to return to regular session at 9:58 and terminate the employment of Melissa O'Neil.

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

DJFS Federal Repayment Agreement Discussion

Commissioner Eliason provided an update regarding the federal repayment agreement related to previously disallowed expenditures identified through audit findings.

Depreciation Audit Finding

Commissioner Eliason explained that:

- * Certain depreciation expenses had been disallowed because depreciation had been claimed approximately two years before the building was occupied
- * Federal reviewers determined the depreciation was therefore not allowable

The county had explored whether:

- * Future federal distributions could be credited against the repayment amount instead of requiring direct repayment

However, federal officials advised that:

- * Federal funds cannot be used to repay federal funds in that manner

TANF Back-to-School Batch Issue

Discussion also addressed a TANF-related "back-to-school batch" issue.

Commissioner Eliason explained that:

- * The disputed amount had already been reduced
- * Remaining disagreement largely involved interpretation and technical wording

- * The county agreed not to continue disputing the matter further

Repayment Agreement Terms

Commissioner Eliason reported that the final repayment amount totaled:

\$2,585,898.15

Key repayment terms included:

- * A 15-year repayment schedule
- * Quarterly payments of approximately \$43,098.30
- * Repayment beginning in September 2026
- * No interest charges
- * Ability to prepay the agreement if funds become available

Discussion also identified a possible typographical issue in the agreement:

- * The repayment schedule referenced 2025–2040
- * Commissioner Eliason believed the correct period should likely be 2026–2040
- * Commissioner Eliason stated he would verify the dates with the State.

Funding Source and Fiscal Discussion

Commissioners discussed how the repayment would be funded.

Discussion clarified:

- * The county provides both mandated and additional local contributions to JFS
- * Mandated share funding cannot be used toward repayment
- * Additional county contributions potentially could be applied toward repayment obligations

The annual repayment obligation was identified as approximately:

\$172,393 annually

Commissioners further clarified:

- * The repayment agreement is between the State and the Board of County Commissioners
- * The county remains legally responsible because JFS functions as a county department and the county is the sub-grantee
- * Approval of Repayment Agreement

Discussion confirmed:

- * The agreement had not been reviewed by the prosecutor's office because it was prepared directly by the State and considered straightforward

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to accept the repayment agreement and authorize

Commissioner Eliason to sign the agreement:

Repayment Agreement Terms

\$2,585,898.15

Key repayment terms included:

- * A 15-year repayment schedule
- * Quarterly payments of approximately \$43,098.30
- * Repayment beginning in September 2026
- * No interest charges
- * Ability to prepay the agreement if funds become available

Additional administrative details included:

- * Administrator JoAnn Rockhold serving as the county's agreement manager
- * Sabrina Jamison serving as the State's agreement manager and primary contact

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

Child Support Hearings and Staffing Discussion

Commissioner Adkins has concerns involving child support hearings, staffing levels, and hearing-related reimbursement revenue.

Hearing Scheduling Process

Keith explained:

- * Juvenile court hearings are scheduled by the child support department
- * Domestic relations hearings are scheduled through the Court of Common Pleas

The primary legal secretaries responsible for preparation and scheduling were identified as:

- * Michelle Grubbs
- * Tiffany Peters

Keith noted that:

- * The office operated with only one legal secretary from January until the previous day
- * A second legal secretary had recently returned
- * Legal Log and Backlog Discussion

Commissioner Adkins questioned the number of hearings currently scheduled and the impact staffing shortages had on operations.

Keith explained the legal log process:

- * Caseworkers identify matters requiring hearings
- * Legal secretaries review cases and prepare motions
- * Attorneys review and approve filings before hearings are officially scheduled

Discussion revealed:

- * Unworked legal referrals increased from 118 in January to 271 by the end of April
- * Staffing shortages created a significant backlog

Keith explained that:

- * Remaining staff prioritized already-scheduled hearings
- * Prosecutors required prepared hearing packets because they do not have direct access to the child support system
- * Preparation of hearing packets is nearly a full-time responsibility
- * Prosecutor Involvement in Hearings

- * Keith described expanded prosecutor involvement beginning in 2025.

Commissioners requested:

- * Additional historical hearing data
- * Comparative statistics from 2021 forward
- * More information regarding hearings conducted by JFS attorneys versus prosecutors
- * Financial Impact of Hearings

Commissioners emphasized concern regarding hearing volume because hearings directly impact federal reimbursement revenue.

Keith explained:

- * Court contracts are based upon hearing volume
- * The county contracts for approximately 500 hearings annually in both juvenile and domestic relations courts
- * Federal participation reimburses approximately 66% of eligible costs

Commissioners expressed concern that:

- * Reduced hearing numbers could significantly reduce reimbursement revenue
- * Staffing shortages contributed to lost revenue opportunities

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to enter into executive session at 10:15 with Keith Wiens to discuss employment 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.

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

1. New Marshfield Property and Sewer Assessment Discussion

Discussion resumed regarding a previously referenced property in New Marshfield associated with Bridget Moore.

Supt Carson explained that:

- * A prior letter concerning the property had originally been signed by the previous homeowners
- * No updated acknowledgment or agreement had yet been signed by Bridget Moore following transfer of ownership

Supt Carson reported that:

- * Bridget Moore had been contacted directly
- * She indicated the structure would not be demolished during the current year due to lack of available funding

Supt Carson further advised that:

- * Moore had been informed that if the structure remained standing when sewer installation work progressed through the area, an assessment could potentially be applied to the property

Commissioners discussed whether:

- * An updated acknowledgment letter should be drafted for Moore's signature
- * The county could allow an exception from immediate sewer installation requirements

Discussion clarified:

- * The property is now officially in Bridget Moore's name
- * The board likely has authority to approve an exemption or alternative arrangement under these circumstances

Commissioners stated that:

- * Moore should formally acknowledge receipt of the prior letter and agree to its conditions
- * A decision regarding sewer installation must be finalized before construction crews reach the property
- * Contractors must receive clear direction regarding whether sewer service should or should not be installed

Commissioner Eliason indicated support for allowing the property to be skipped during installation if:

- * Moore signs an agreement acknowledging responsibility
- * The structure will remain unoccupied
- * Sewer service will not be installed at the property
- * The home is eventually intended for demolition when financially feasible

Commissioners characterized the situation as a rare exception.

It was agreed that:

- * Any signed document should clearly state the structure will not be occupied
- * The property will not receive sewer service
- * The owner intends eventual demolition of the structure

Supt Carson confirmed that:

- * Revised draft language had already been prepared
- * Financial documentation associated with the matter was also being finalized
- * Once approved, the letter would be sent accordingly

2. Wastewater Plant Testing and Compliance Update

Supt Carson next provided an update regarding wastewater plant testing and compliance findings.

It was reported that:

- * All recent E. coli sample results had tested satisfactorily
- * Current testing results from the plant were "coming back real good"

Commissioner Eliason instructed Supt Carson that:

- * Each corrective action completed in response to findings should be formally documented
- * Regulatory authorities should be notified in writing as corrections are completed
- * Copies of all notifications should also be provided to the commissioners

Supt Carson confirmed:

- * A required trough installation associated with prior findings had already been completed

Commissioner Eliason reiterated the importance of:

- * Maintaining written records
- * Documenting all communications and corrective actions

3. Equipment and Construction Updates

Supt Carson also reported that:

- * Previously discussed gear and equipment had been ordered several weeks earlier
- * An update was then provided regarding New Marshfield construction activity.

Supt Carson stated:

- * Construction work had been expected to begin the previous day
- * Contractors had not yet appeared onsite
- * The reason for the delay was currently unknown

Supt Carson indicated plans to:

- * Contact Mr. Weber for clarification regarding project status and scheduling

Commissioners expressed disappointment that work had not yet begun and stated they had expected construction activity to already be underway.

CRA Proposal - Planner Connor LaVelle

1. Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) Accessibility Incentive Proposal

Planner LaVelle explained that no formal action was being requested at the current meeting. Instead, commissioners were being provided copies of a proposed Athens County Community Reinvestment Policy Guide for review, with plans to revisit the matter at a future meeting for additional discussion and possible action.

Purpose of the Proposal

The proposal involved creation of a Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) program authorized under Ohio law.

Planner LaVelle explained that:

- * CRA programs allow counties and jurisdictions to offer property tax abatements
- * The proposed program is narrowly focused on increasing residential accessibility improvements
- * Incentives would apply to both renovations of existing homes and construction of new accessible residential structures

Potential qualifying improvements would need to:

- * Meet a checklist of accessibility requirements established by the county
- * Or provide justification if certain checklist requirements are not applicable to a specific project

The proposed tax abatement period would extend:

- * Up to five years

Example Financial Impact Discussion

Planner LaVelle distributed an example worksheet developed with assistance from Jill's office.

Examples included:

- * A hypothetical \$350,000 new residential construction project
- * A \$50,000 renovation to an existing \$250,000 residential property

The examples illustrated:

- * Potential tax savings generated through the abatement program
- * Estimated financial impacts for participating property owners
- * Discussion of Annual Abatement Limits

Additional discussion focused on whether:

The county should establish a maximum annual amount of taxes eligible for abatement

Planner LaVelle explained that:

- * If total approved abatements exceeded a predetermined cap during a given year
- * The program could temporarily close for the remainder of that year

- * Applications would then reopen the following year

Planner LaVelle encouraged commissioners to:

- * Review the materials during the upcoming week
- * Consider additional questions or modifications before further discussion at a future meeting
- * Township Tax Rate Concerns

Commissioner Eliason raised concerns regarding the example calculations used in the proposal.

Discussion clarified:

- * Dover Township had been used for the sample calculation
- * Dover Township represents one of the highest-tax examples in the county due to overlap with city school district taxation and village taxation

Commissioners expressed concern that:

- * Using only Dover Township may not accurately represent average countywide impacts
- * Additional comparison data would be helpful

A request was made for:

- * Additional calculations using other townships
- * Potentially both high-tax and low-tax examples
- * More complete comparative data for evaluation purposes

Planner LaVelle agreed to provide additional township comparisons at a future meeting.

2. Waltz Bar Properties Permit Update

Planner LaVelle also provided a brief update regarding Waltz Bar Properties.

It was reported that:

- * The required permit application had been submitted by the property owner
- * Outstanding issues related to the permit had been resolved
- * The matter was considered squared away and in good standing

Treasurer April Reports

Treasurer's Office Financial Report – April 2026

Treasurer Sappington presented the financial report for April 2026 and distributed signed copies and supporting documentation to the commissioners.

The Treasurer reported that:

- * April was a relatively smooth reconciliation month
- * Financial reconciliation was completed within a few days, which was faster than usual
- * No major financial issues or irregularities were identified during the reporting period

The Treasurer also provided a personal and operational update, noting:

- * A recent week-long vacation
- * Attendance at two professional conferences
- * Participation as a presenter and panelist at the Ohio Land Bank Conference in Toledo
- * Participation at the Ohio Treasurer's Association conference

Additionally, the Treasurer shared that:

- * A personal home purchase had recently been completed
- * The closing occurred immediately following the Treasurer's Association conference
- * The recent schedule had been especially busy due to overlapping professional and personal obligations

Discussion then turned to upcoming operational deadlines and tax billing preparation.

Treasurer Sappington advised that:

- * The county is approaching the second half of the annual busy season
- * Second-half tax bills are expected to be mailed prior to the next regular meeting in that setting
- * Delays had previously occurred due to pending state-provided figures connected to ongoing property tax reform legislation

* The auditor's office had recently begun receiving the necessary information from the state
Treasurer Sappington further stated that:

- * The new cashiering system is expected to be operational before second-half tax bills are issued

Commissioners offered encouragement regarding workload management and the recent transition into homeownership.

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

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

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to enter into executive session at 11:17 with Tamara Collins to discuss employment 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 11:50.

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

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to enter into executive session at 12:59 with Geraldine Cotter to discuss employment 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 1:23.

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

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to enter into executive session at 1:23 with Kevin Dugan to discuss employment 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 1:47.

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

911 Teresa Fouts-Imler - AFG Grant and MARCS Radio Transition

Teresa Fouts-Imler provided updates regarding the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) application process and countywide MARCS radio transition efforts.

1. Teresa provided an update on the federal AFG grant opportunity, noting that:

- * The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) officially opened the previous day
- * The opening had been delayed approximately four months
- * Additional conference discussions with grant consultants were expected

Staff reported that:

- * York Township had withdrawn participation from the project
- * The Plains Fire Department remained involved
- * Richland Township participation was still pending confirmation

Discussion clarified that the county continues pursuing grant funding for:

- * EMS

- * 9-1-1 communications
- * EMA operations
- 2. Background Discussion Regarding Fire Department Participation
 - * Commissioners reviewed the history of the project, noting:
 - * Local fire departments originally requested assistance pursuing the AFG grant
 - * The county approved hiring a grant writer to assist with the application
 - * Participation from several departments later declined after the process began
 - * Commissioners expressed frustration that:
 - * Departments initially supported the collaborative effort
 - * Some departments later independently pursued separate grant opportunities
 - * The county had already invested resources into the application process
 - * Teresa explained that:
 - * Several departments obtained MARCS-related funding through the Ohio MARCS grant program
 - * Other departments secured funding through smaller fire department grants
 - * Some departments already possessed needed communications equipment
 - * Teresa's discussion noted that:
 - * Glouster and Jacksonville had not been major concerns because they had independently pursued communications upgrades for years
 - * Those departments routinely coordinate with neighboring counties including Morgan, Perry, and Hocking counties
 - * Administration and Oversight Concerns
 - * Discussion also focused on administrative responsibility for the fire department side of the project.
 - * Concerns were raised regarding:
 - * Lack of township administrative oversight
 - * Difficulty identifying a township willing to administer or coordinate the project
 - * Challenges associated with maintaining a countywide unified communications approach
 - * Teresa explained that:
 - * Discussions with grant consultants suggested departments may ultimately need to file separately
 - * Separate filings could slightly reduce competitiveness for funding
 - * However, separate applications may improve participation willingness among departments
 - * Commissioners indicated that:
 - * Since grant-writing services had already been paid for, the county should continue pursuing available opportunities regardless of participation changes
 - * The county's role and efforts should remain documented in the public record

MARCS Radio Transition Update

Dir. Teresa Fouts-Imler provided the following MARCS Radio Update:

Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)

- * reported ongoing work to finalize updated MOUs required by MARCS.

The agreements are needed to:

- * Share radio frequencies between counties
- * Coordinate interoperability
- * Meet MARCS operational requirements

MOUs were being coordinated with:

- * Hocking County
- * Perry County
- * Meigs County
- * Department Readiness

It was reported that:

- * Glouster
- * Jacksonville
- * Amesville

could transition to MARCS immediately if necessary.

Questions remained regarding:

- * York Township's final readiness status

Teresa indicated:

- * Radio zones have largely been established
- * Chief Rymer has already coordinated with the Fire Association
- * Installation of radios into apparatus is expected during June and July

Once installation is complete:

- * Agencies will begin pilot operations on MARCS
- * Full transition efforts can continue incrementally
- * Communications Improvements

Teresa explained that:

- * Some departments are already occasionally switching to MARCS during incidents due to simulcast communication issues
- * TAC channels and OPS channels have already been configured
- * Radio programming is substantially complete

Additional infrastructure work remains underway involving:

- * Additional paging channels at the Amesville MARCS tower
- * Programming and code plug completion pending finalized MOUs

Representatives from MARCS recently met with county staff to finalize technical planning details.

Operational Benefits Discussion

Discussion highlighted expected operational improvements once full MARCS implementation occurs.

Benefits discussed included:

- * Improved coordination between EMS and fire departments
- * More consistent dispatch information
- * Elimination of conflicting or incomplete dispatch messaging
- * Improved interoperability across agencies

Teresa explained that:

- * Dispatchers currently split responsibilities during major incidents
- * Different responders sometimes receive different information
- * Future procedures will allow consistent simultaneous messaging across agencies

Commissioners acknowledged that:

- * Some technical adjustments and troubleshooting will likely occur during rollout
- * The transition nevertheless represents a major modernization improvement for county communications

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to enter into executive session at 2:17 with Tracy Galway to discuss employment 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 2:35.

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

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to enter into executive session at 2:50 with Joe Frazier to discuss employment 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 3:24.

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

Recess until Thursday May 21, 2026 at 8:00

Commissioners indicated that Tammy would be asked to return at that time so remaining matters could be finalized.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to enter into executive session at 8:00 with Tamara Collins to discuss employment 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 8:23 and to hire Tamara Collins as the Executive Director for Job and Family Services. Her official start date is Tuesday, May 26th 2026. She will begin at a rate of pay of \$50.50 per hour. After successful completion of a six-month probationary period, her rate of pay will increase to \$60.10 per hour.

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

DJFS - Authorization for Pre-Employment and Transition Paperwork

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to authorize Tamara Collins to complete all necessary paperwork and transition-related administrative tasks prior to her official start date.

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:

Common Pleas Court - Veterans Court Gift Cards

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

Common Pleas Court - Veterans Court Gift Cards

Discussion referenced:

- * Guidance reportedly provided by the auditor's office regarding use of county credit cards versus reimbursement vouchers
- * Concerns regarding accounting documentation and appearance of impropriety when reimbursement vouchers are created after purchases

Commissioners discussed avoiding involvement in procedural disputes between departments and the auditor's office.

Ultimately, the board agreed that:

- * The court should coordinate directly with the auditor's office
- * The auditor should determine the preferred purchasing and documentation procedure

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