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, November 10, 2026 Convenes at 9:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes November 3, 2026

Approve Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes, Then & Nows, & Bills
Fund to Fund: Sheriff $8,000.00 from 001.1180.580100 Transfers Out to 234.2234.422101 Transfers In
New Line Items: Escrow Interest Fund 202
Expenditures: Salaries 202.3202.510200, Medicare 202.3202.522100, Public Empl Retirement 202.3202.525100

9:30 Planner - Updates
9:45 HAPCAP- Jeff Jenkins CDBG
10:00 Health Dept - Patrick McGarry
10:15 Carter- Interview
11:00 Treasurer - October 2026 Financials
11:15 Ed Newman & Frank Scolaro: Bee inspectors
11:20 Sochia II - Interview

Agenda Items
W&S Extensions (Ratify Commissioner Adkins Signature)
EMS County Computer System Policy
Clerk of Courts- Software License Agreement
Road Vacation - Glouster Fairview Envelope 182A
Menards Receipt for Ceiling Tiles in the amount of $677.16 to be paid from ARPA Funds
911 Request to Hire
Surplus - Auditor
Engineer - OPWC Disbursement #1 for CR34AD/CR35AD in the amount of $534,000.00
Engineer - Bid Notice Specifications Proposal Contract (ATH-CR48-7.89)
Resolution for Veterans
Operation Green Light For Veterans
PWS Rinaldi

~TRAVEL
Commissioners: JoAnn Rockhold & Alison Pierson; CCC/EAPA of Ohio Regional Meeting, Columbus OH; 11/13/26
Commissioners: Chris Chmiel; Workforce Development Merger Celebration, Carroll, OH; 11/17/26
DJFS: Tami Collins; Workforce Development Merger Celebration, Carroll OH; 11/17/26

ADJOURNMENT

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

Minutes
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the minutes of November 3, 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 Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins approving the Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes, including Fund to Fund: Sheriff $8,000.00 from 001.1180.580100 Transfers Out to 234.2234.422101 Transfers In, New Line Items: Escrow Interest Fund 202 - Expenditures: Salaries 202.3202.510200, Medicare 202.3202.522100, Public Empl Retirement 202.3202.525100 and approving the payment of the required County Bills, which are included in the Auditor's Office INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 10/29/2026 To: 11/03/2026, INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 11/03/2026 To: 11/05/2026 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.

Buchtel Shared-Use Path - Planner LaVelle
Planner LaVelle discussed a proposed shared-use path in the Village of Buchtel.

Planner LaVelle reported attending a recent Buchtel Village Council meeting, where village officials expressed interest in applying for funding through the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). The proposed project would involve constructing a shared-use path along the north side of State Route 78.

The proposed funding structure would consist of 80% TAP funding and 20% safety funding, with no financial commitment required from Athens County. Any necessary local design costs would be addressed through cooperation among Buchtel, Nelsonville, and York Township, including the pursuit of additional funding opportunities.

The Village requested assistance from the County Planning Department with preparing and submitting the ODOT application. The Planning Department would assist with the application process, while Buchtel, Nelsonville, or York Township would remain the primary project contacts.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to authorize Planner LaVelle to assist with the TAP application for the Buchtel Share-Use Path.

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

Village of Buchtel – Recognition of Mayor Tom Taggart
Planner LaVelle advised the Commissioners that Buchtel Mayor Tom Taggart had announced his intention to step down at the end of 2026 after approximately seven years of service.

The Commissioners acknowledged Mayor Taggart's service to the community and discussed recognizing his contributions through a formal resolution.

Planner LaVelle was asked to gather additional information regarding his service so that a resolution could be prepared for future consideration.

No formal action was taken.

Athens County Together Program – Village of Jacksonville Application
Planner LaVelle presented the Board an Athens County Together funding application submitted by the Village of Jacksonville to review.

The application, submitted by Village Council member Rachel Gretz, requested $1,000 to support community improvement and engagement activities. Proposed projects included constructing benches, installing raised flower beds, planting flowers, and providing community meals.

Planner LaVelle explained that the Village would work with its local volunteer fire department to organize the community meals. The requested amount represented the maximum allocation permitted under the Athens County Together program for an individual village or community.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the $1,000.00 Athens County Together funding request for the Village of Jacksonville.

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

Community Reinvestment Area – Accessible Housing Tax Abatement Program
Planner LaVelle presented a draft press release intended to increase public awareness of the County's Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) program, which had been approved earlier in 2026.

The program is intended to encourage construction and renovation projects that improve residential accessibility. Eligible improvements may qualify for a 50% property tax abatement for up to five years on qualifying accessibility-related improvements.

Planner LaVelle explained that the press release would be distributed during the winter to inform property owners and developers as they begin planning construction and renovation projects for the following year.

The Commissioners discussed whether the program would apply only to individual homeowners or could also benefit developers constructing multiple accessible homes. Planner LaVelle clarified that applications would be evaluated individually by the Commissioners and that the program was intentionally structured to allow consideration of different types of qualifying projects.

The Board also discussed avoiding overlapping tax abatements for developments already receiving similar incentives.

The draft press release included a statement from Amy Lipka of the Athens City-County Health Department regarding the importance of accessible housing.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve moving forward with the press release presented by Planner LaVelle. See draft press release on back of page 377.

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

Chauncey Bike Path Spur – Demolition Debris Removal and Property Cleanup
Planner LaVelle provided an update regarding a County-owned property on Main Street in Chauncey that had been acquired in connection with the Chauncey Bike Path Spur project.

Planner LaVelle explained that the property contained a former residence that had been demolished through a controlled burn conducted by the Chauncey-Dover Volunteer Fire Department. However, demolition debris and remaining structural materials still required removal.

A review of previous correspondence indicated that the Planning Department had discussed placing the property on the Athens County Land Bank's demolition list in September and November 2024. The property was not included in the demolition program at that time because the project list had already been established.

Planner LaVelle requested authorization to obtain estimates from local contractors for removing the remaining debris and completing the site cleanup. The estimated cost was expected to be below the applicable competitive bidding threshold of $75,000.

The Commissioners discussed possible funding sources, noting that the Planning Department did not have sufficient funds available in its current budget to complete the work. The Board agreed that contractor estimates should be obtained before determining how the cleanup would be funded.

Commissioner Chmiel also discussed the possibility of salvaging and selling remaining metal materials to offset a portion of the demolition and cleanup costs.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to authorize Planner LaVelle to solicit estimates for the cleanup and removal of demolition debris at the County-owned Chauncey Property.

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

Logjam Removal Project – Bid Deadline and Project Requirements
Planner LaVelle provided an update on the proposed logjam removal project and reminded the Commissioners that bids were scheduled to close on November 16, 2026.

Planner LaVelle reported receiving interest from several contractors, including local companies and an Indiana-based contractor experienced in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) projects.

PRESS RELEASE

11/10/2026

The Athens County Board of Commissioners, working with the Athens County Regional Planning Commission, have adopted Community Reinvestment Area Program to encourage property owners and developers to incorporate universal design principles when renovating or constructing new residential units through a tax exemption program.

Through the Community Reinvestment Area Program (CRA), property owners can receive up to a 50% tax abatement for up to five years. To be eligible for the CRA Program, new-builds and renovation projects must increase the accessibility of the structure by including design criteria such as having at least one "no-step" entry, exterior doors that are at least 36 inches wide, and floor plans that include all main living components to be located on the first floor, including a kitchen, bath, and bedroom.

The Athens County Board of Commissioners has designed the CRA Program to be flexible out of an understanding that each development project will be different. Each CRA Program application will be reviewed by the Commissioners to ensure that it is meeting their goals of improving the accessibility of residential buildings throughout Athens County.

The CRA Program was developed with continued input and guidance from both the Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living and the Athens City-County Health Department's Age-Friendly Athens County Initiative. "Sometimes people can plan for accessibility, but other times an injury, disability, or changes in mobility mean they have to adapt their homes so they can continue living there," explained Amy Lipka, Age-Friendly Coordinator at the Athens City-County Health Department. "This program offers a tax incentive to help with those changes and also encourages accessibility in new homes from the start. I'm glad to see Athens County taking this step to support aging in place."

All residential properties throughout the unincorporated areas of Athens County are eligible to apply for the Community Reinvestment Area program. Applications will be available online at https://co.athensoh.org/departments/regional_planner/index.php and available in-person at the Athens County Annex Building located at 15 South Court Street in uptown Athens.

The Commissioners discussed the importance of ensuring that the selected contractor would be responsible for removing all logs, debris, and solid waste from the project site rather than allowing materials to remain along the river.

Planner LaVelle confirmed that the bid specifications require complete removal of the materials and submission of a plan for their proper disposal or processing. Potential disposal arrangements could involve Rumpke, the local Solid Waste District, or appropriate composting and mulching operations.

The Board also discussed the potential effect of removing the logjam on nearby railroad property and an existing slope failure. Planner LaVelle representative explained that clearing the obstruction should improve water distribution and reduce the concentration of flow toward the railroad embankment.

The Commissioners discussed possible project funding arrangements, including coordination and cost-sharing with the City of Athens. The final funding source had not been determined, and the project could require General Fund support.

Planner LaVelle indicated that the bids would be reviewed after the November 16 deadline and that the information would be shared with appropriate officials, including Andy Stone from the City of Athens.

No formal action was taken.

Community Development Block Grant Awards and Project Updates - HAPCAP Jeff Jenkins
HAPCAP Jeff Jenkins met with the Board to provide updates on recent Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) awards and the status of several ongoing projects.

Mr. Jenkins reported that two of the three CDBG applications submitted during the current funding cycle were approved by the State of Ohio.

The approved projects included:
- Village of Chauncey – Critical Infrastructure Grant: Funding was awarded for flood mitigation and drainage improvements, including replacement and installation of catch basins, installation of new curbing, and repairs to existing curbs.
- Village of Trimble – Neighborhood Revitalization Grant: Funding was awarded for the Village's neighborhood revitalization project.

Mr. Jenkins advised that the City of Nelsonville's Critical Infrastructure Grant application was not funded. The proposed project included drainage and curb improvements along several streets and an alley. The State did not provide an explanation for the denial.

Mr. Jenkins indicated that the affected communities would be notified of the funding decisions.

Ongoing Project Updates
Mr. Jenkins also provided the following project updates:

93 High Street: The project was substantially complete; however, an HVAC drainage issue had caused water damage in one apartment. Stockmeister was coordinating repairs after experiencing difficulty obtaining subcontractor assistance. Final payment was being withheld pending resolution of the outstanding issues.

87 High Street: The replacement windows had arrived, and installation and final inspection were anticipated shortly. The project was expected to be completed following final approval.

Jacksonville Neighborhood Revitalization Project: The Village was combining Neighborhood Revitalization Grant funding with Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funds. Due to delays in the ARC process, bidding was anticipated during early to mid-winter, with construction expected to begin in spring 2027.

Mr. Jenkins also offered to arrange a future presentation explaining the community development division's programs and services, particularly for incoming Commissioners.

No formal action was taken on the grant and project updates.

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 Gage Coler for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is $459.68 with $304.69 due on 11/13/26. If the terms of this agreement are not met, the account will be considered delinquent and service could be shut off.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel ratifying Commissioner Adkins Signature authorizing an extension as requested by Steven Harlan for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is $143.20 with $79.40 due on 11/20/26. If the terms of this agreement are not met, the account will be considered delinquent and service could be shut off.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel ratifying Commissioner Adkins Signature authorizing an extension as requested by Rita Howland for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is $109.73 with $57.48 due on 11/16/26. If the terms of this agreement are not met, the account will be considered delinquent and service could be shut off.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel ratifying Commissioner Adkins Signature authorizing an extension as requested by Tina Rodgers for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is $167.33 with $71.19 due on 11/12/26. 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.

EMS County Computer System Policy
The Commissioners reviewed an updated computer system policy for Athens County Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

It was explained that the EMS policy had been revised following updates to the County's general computer system policy. The EMS version included certain differences to accommodate the department's 24-hour operations and operational needs, including streaming and other technology-related activities associated with emergency response services.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the updated EMS County Computer System Policy.
See back of page 379.

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

Clerk of Courts – Equivant Software License Agreement
The Board considered a software license agreement between the Clerk of Courts and Equivant for court management software.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the software license agreement between the Clerk of Courts and Equivant for court management software.

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

Athens County EMS
Computer Systems & Technology Use Policy

Adopted Date: November 4th 2026

This policy establishes requirements for the acceptable use of Athens County computer systems, networks, electronic communications, internet access, mobile devices, artificial intelligence tools, and data resources.

1. Purpose and Scope

This policy governs the use of all Athens County–owned computers, networks, email systems, internet access, mobile devices, and related technology resources ("County Systems"). Use of County Systems is a privilege, not a right.

This policy applies to all ACEMS employees, staff, and students. Information technology services are provided through an outside IT service provider under the direction of Athens County Commissioners.

2. Ownership and No Expectation of Privacy

All County Systems and all data created, sent, received, accessed, or stored on them are property of Athens County. Users should have no expectation of privacy when using County Systems. Athens County reserves the right to monitor, access, and audit system use as permitted by law.

3. User Responsibilities

Users must:

- Use County Systems in a lawful, ethical, and professional manner.
- Protect their account credentials.
- Report any suspected security incidents promptly.
- Safeguard confidential information and lock computers when unattended.
- Comply with all applicable laws, policies, and training requirements.

County Systems shall not be used to process, access, transmit, or store harassing, defamatory, pornographic, or any other illegal material using county-owned equipment, systems, or media.

Users are responsible for all activity performed under their accounts and must comply with all Athens County cybersecurity controls, including the following:

- Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) must be enabled and used for all county email accounts and any other systems designated by Athens County or its IT service provider.

- Users may not share passwords, or use personal passwords for County Systems.

4. Acceptable Use

County Systems are provided primarily for official Athens County business. Personal use is permitted only if it occurs on personal time, does not interfere with job duties, and does not violate this policy.

Prohibited activities include illegal or offensive content; personal business or political activity; installing unauthorized software or hardware; bypassing security controls; introducing malware; or unauthorized access to systems or data.

5. Internet and Email Use

Streaming media, social networking, or non-work-related services are acceptable. Users may not encrypt county communications without written authorization. Suspicious emails, links, or attachments must be reported immediately.

6. Mobile Devices and Personal Equipment

Personally owned devices may connect to Station without prior approval. Devices must meet security requirements. County data may not be stored on unauthorized devices. Athens County is not responsible for damage to personal equipment.

Public users may connect personal devices to the WiFi network if within ACEMS facilities

7. Software, Copyrights, and Licensing

Only properly licensed software approved by Athens County or its IT service provider may be installed. Copying, altering, or bypassing software licenses is prohibited. Personal storage media may not be used without approval.

8. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use

AI tools may be used only for legitimate Athens County business purposes and must not replace professional judgment. Users may not use personal AI accounts for county business, enter confidential information into AI tools, use AI for political activity or personal gain, or allow AI to make final legal, personnel, or disciplinary decisions. All AI-generated content must be reviewed and verified by a human user. Athens County reserves the right to approve, monitor, and audit AI usage.

9. Data Storage

County data must be stored on Athens County–approved systems or contracted third-party platforms. Any storage outside the County network must be approved and managed by Athens County or its IT service provider.

10. IT Oversight

Athens County and its contracted IT service provider may monitor system activity; for maintenance, security; suspend or restrict access to protect County Systems; and perform backups and routine system maintenance.

11. Violations and Enforcement

Violations of this policy may result in suspension or revocation of system access, disciplinary action up to and including termination, referral to law enforcement if criminal activity is suspected, and personal liability for damages caused to Athens County.

Commissioners' Approval

This policy is adopted by the Athens County Board of Commissioners and is effective upon approval. The Board of Commissioners authorizes county leadership to implement, enforce, and update this policy as necessary to maintain compliance with applicable laws and security standards.

Approved by the Athens County Board of Commissioners: DATE upon approval

Athens County – Technology Use Quick Guide

☐ IMPORTANT SECURITY NOTICE

If you believe you have opened a suspicious email, link, attachment, or think your computer has been compromised:

1. **Immediately shut down your computer**
2. **Contact FREEDOMLINX support right away 614-417-1504 option 2**
3. **Do not restart the computer unless instructed by IT**

IT Support (Business Hours 8:00am to 4:00pm): 614-417-1504 option 2
After-Hours / Emergency IT Contact: 614-417-1504 option 1

Prompt action helps prevent data loss and protects county systems.

County Technology Is for County Business

Athens County computers, email, internet, networks, and data systems are provided for official county business. Personal use is allowed only if it is on personal time, and does not interfere with work duties.

No Expectation of Privacy

All information created, sent, received, or stored on county systems is County property. Use of county systems may be monitored as allowed by law.

Protect Your Access

- Do not share your password
- Lock your computer when away (Windows + L)
- Log out or shut down at the end of the day
- Report suspicious activity immediately

Email & Internet Rules

- Do not open unknown links or attachments
- ACEMS stations internet/WiFi may be used during your assigned shift, as long as the policy rules are followed.
- Report suspicious emails immediately

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- Use only for legitimate county work
- Verify all AI-generated content
- Do not use personal AI accounts

- Never enter confidential or sensitive information
- AI may not make final legal, personnel, or disciplinary decisions

Devices, Software & Data

- Do not install software without approval
- Store county data only on approved systems
- Protect confidential information

Violations

Misuse may result in loss of access, discipline, or legal consequences.

Questions or Concerns?

Report issues to your supervisor or Athens County IT support immediately.

Athens County – Technology Desk Card

☐ IMPORTANT SECURITY NOTICE

If you believe you have opened a suspicious email, link, attachment, or think your computer has been compromised:

4. **Immediately shut down your computer**
5. **Contact FREEDOMLINX support right away 614-417-1504 option 2**
6. **Do not restart the computer unless instructed by IT**

IT Support (Business Hours 8:00am to 4:00pm): 614-417-1504 option 2
After-Hours / Emergency IT Contact: 614-417-1504 option 1

Prompt action helps prevent data loss and protects county systems.

Road Vacation - Glouster Fairview Envelope 182A
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to establish the viewing and public hearing date and times:

PUBLIC VIEWING AND HEARING
The Athens County Board of Commissioners will hold a public viewing on December 15, 2026, at 8:30 a.m., meeting at the Church of Christ on Fairview Avenue in Glouster, Trimble Township, Ohio.

A public hearing will follow on December 15, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., in the Athens County Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Courthouse Annex, 15 South Court Street, Athens, Ohio.

The purpose of the public viewing and hearing is to consider the proposed vacation of three alleys as shown on the Plat of Fairview (Envelope 182A).

An alley of unknown width (assumed to be 15-feet wide) shall be vacated beginning at the northwest corner of Lot 1028 on the south line of Mound Street (now referred to as Waterworks Hill Rd) and running south to the northwest corner of Lot 1019. The south line of this vacation shall be the north line of Lot 1019 extended to the west line of said alley.

A 15-feet wide alley that lies between the north line of Lot 1024 and the south lines of Lots 1025-1028 shall be vacated for its entire length. An alley of unknown width (assumed to be 15-feet wide) that lies between the north line of Lot 1019 and the south line of Lot 1020 shall be vacated for its entire length.

By Order of the Athens County Commissioners
Lenny Eliason, President
JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator
Publish 11/19 & 11/28

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

Menards Receipt for Ceiling Tiles in the amount of $677.16 to be paid from ARPA Funds
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Menards Receipt for Ceiling Tiles in the amount of $677.16 to be paid from ARPA Funds.

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

911 Request to Hire
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the request to hire for 911 Intermittent Dispatcher Tristin Bell with a start date of November 10, 2026 and pay rate of $22.50.

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

Surplus - Auditor
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve and authorize the redistribution and disposal of the following Auditor Surplus Equipment. See back of page 380 for full list of items.

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

Engineer - OPWC Disbursement #1 for CR34AD/CR35AD in the amount of $534,000.00
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Engineer's OPWC Disbursement #1 for CR34AD/CR35AD in the amount of $534,000.00.

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

Engineer - Bid Notice Specifications Proposal Contract (ATH-CR48-7.89)
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the bid notice and specifications for the proposed County Road 48 Landslip Repair.

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

Engineer - Bid Award ATH-CR48-7.89
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Engineer's Bid Award for ATH-CR48-7.89 to Alan Stone.

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

WPCLF HSTS Replacement Project Bids - Patrick McGarry
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to award the septic system replacement bid to E&J Hilltop Acres for $18,350.00 for James Graham at 51 Fie Department Lane, The Plains OH 45780. See document on back of page 381.

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

New Marshfield Sewer Project – Residential Connection Assistance - Patrick McGarry
The Commissioners discussed anticipated residential sewer connections associated with the ongoing New Marshfield sewer project and the availability of financial assistance for qualifying property owners.

The project was expected to reach substantial completion around June 2027, with connection notices anticipated after the main construction work was completed.

The discussion focused on identifying available grant funding and developing a coordinated process to assist residents with connection costs.

The program representative reported that an upcoming grant cycle would provide approximately $200,000, of which 50%, or $100,000, could be used for sewer connection assistance.

The Commissioners also discussed additional funding available through the Rural Public Infrastructure Grant and coordination with HAPCAP. A potential combined funding amount of approximately $300,000 was discussed, although the exact allocations and eligibility requirements still needed to be confirmed.

Mr. McGarry recommended coordinating the funding programs to maximize assistance for eligible households. Depending on income qualifications and program requirements, residents could potentially receive varying levels of assistance, including full or partial funding.

The Commissioners discussed conducting one or two public information sessions or funding fairs approximately 60 to 90 days before residents would need to begin applying for connection assistance. The proposed outreach would include mailed notices to affected property owners, information about eligibility requirements, and opportunities for residents to meet with program representatives.

Mr. McGarry also indicated that consolidating multiple residential connection projects into fewer bid packages might improve efficiency and reduce administrative burdens. However, applicable Ohio Environmental Protection Agency requirements and prevailing wage considerations would need to be reviewed before determining the appropriate bidding structure.

Mr. McGarry agreed to investigate these issues and coordinate with HAPCAP and other funding partners.

No formal action was taken on the residential connection assistance program.

Resolution for Veterans
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to adopt the Veterans Day Recognition Resolution:
A RESOLUTION HONORING OUR VETERANS AND RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ATHENS COUNTY VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS IN OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS DAY – NOVEMBER 11, 2026

WHEREAS, Veterans Day, observed annually on November 11, is a time for our nation to honor and express its deepest gratitude to the brave men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the Athens County Board of Commissioners recognizes the courage, dedication, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment of our veterans, whose service has protected the freedoms, liberties, and values that we hold dear; and

WHEREAS, Athens County is fortunate to have numerous veterans organizations, service providers, and community groups that work tirelessly to support our veterans and their families through advocacy, healthcare, assistance, fellowship, and community service; and

WHEREAS, these organizations provide invaluable resources, promote camaraderie among veterans, preserve the history and traditions of military service, and ensure that those who have served our country are never forgotten; and

WHEREAS, the Athens County Board of Commissioners wishes to extend its sincere appreciation and recognition to the

Athens City-County Health Department
happy. healthy. prosperous.

WPCLF HSTS Replacement Project Bids

Project Information:

James Graham
51 Fire Department Lane
The Plains, OH 45780

Contractor	Price
E&J Hilltop Acres LLC	$18,350

Above are responsible and approved bids this office received for the above referenced property. This office recommends awarding this project to the lowest complete bid, E&J Hilltop Acres, LLC.

All bids reflected the repair of the existing STS, including the cost of equipment, materials, site work, grading, seeding and strawing, and permits fees.

The project will be 100% funded through the Ohio EPA WPCLF.

Carl Ortman, MD
Health Commissioner

Jack Pepper, REHS
Administrator

278 W Union Street
Athens, OH 45701
P: 740.592.4431
F: 740.594.2370
athenspublichealth.org

following local veterans organizations and service providers:

American Legion Post #21 – Athens

American Legion Post #229 – Nelsonville

American Legion Post #414 – Glouster

AMVETS Post #76 – Athens

AMVETS Post #93 – Albany

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post #3467 – Nelsonville

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post #7174 – The Plains

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post #9893 – Albany

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 100 – Albany

Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans, Frost #108 – Coolville

Athens County Veterans Service Office – The Plains

Athens VA Clinic – The Plains

Athens County Veterans Court – Athens

Boots on the Trail – Athens

Ornery Vets Collective

WHEREAS, the Board further recognizes the volunteers, families, community partners, and dedicated individuals who give their time and resources to ensure that Athens County veterans receive the respect, care, and support they have earned; and

WHEREAS, the sacrifices made by our veterans and their families deserve not only our recognition on Veterans Day but also our continued gratitude and support throughout the year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Athens County Board of Commissioners hereby honors and recognizes all veterans of the United States Armed Forces, both past and present, for their honorable service, patriotism, and sacrifice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Athens County Board of Commissioners encourages all residents of Athens County to observe Veterans Day on November 11, 2026, by honoring our veterans, recognizing their sacrifices, and supporting the organizations that serve them.

Signed this 10th day of November, 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.

Operation Green Light For Veterans
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to authorize green lighting of the Athens County Courthouse for the remainder of the week in recognition of veterans.

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

W&S – Returned Check Fee Adjustment
The Board reviewed a request involving a customer with 19 water and sewer accounts.

It was explained that the customer's maintenance supervisor had inadvertently used an incorrect checkbook when issuing a single payment covering all 19 accounts. The check was returned, and the billing system automatically assessed a $50 returned-check fee to each account.

The customer subsequently corrected the payment and paid the appropriate $50 fee associated with the single returned check.

Because only one check had been returned, the Commissioners determined that the additional fees assessed across the remaining accounts should be credited.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve a $900 credit for the duplicate returned-check fees, leaving the single $50 fee in place for John Rinaldi.

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:
Commissioners: JoAnn Rockhold & Alison Pierson; CCC/EAPA of Ohio Regional Meeting, Columbus OH; 11/13/26
Commissioners: Chris Chmiel; Workforce Development Merger Celebration, Carroll, OH; 11/17/26
DJFS: Tami Collins; Workforce Development Merger Celebration, Carroll OH; 11/17/26

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

Executive Session - EMS Chief Position Interviews - Gerald Carter
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to enter into executive session at 10:00 with Gerald Carter & Autumn Brown 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 - EMS
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to return to regular session with EMS at 10:26 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.

October Accounts & Fund Recaps - Treasurer Sappington
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to acknowledge Receipt of the Treasurer Accounts & Fund Recap for October 2026 and authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign.

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

Ed Newman & Frank Scolaro - Bee Inspectors
The Board of Commissioners met with outgoing County Bee Inspector Ed Newman and his recommended successor, Frank Scolaro, to discuss the transition of responsibilities. The Commissioners thanked Ed for his years of dedicated service, including his efforts to educate and mentor local beekeepers, promote healthy bee colonies, and support the Athens County beekeeping community. The Board indicated that a formal resolution recognizing his service would be prepared and presented at a later date.

Ed recommended Frank Scolaro as his successor, noting his experience and involvement with the local beekeeping community. Scolaro discussed his approximately ten years of beekeeping experience, previous leadership in a beekeeping association, and work alongside Ed during the current inspection season.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to appoint Frank Scolaro as Athens County Bee Inspector, effective January 1, 2027.

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

Executive Session - EMS Chief Position Interviews - Robert Sochia
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to enter into executive session at 11:15 with Robert Sochia & Autumn Brown 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 - EMS
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to return to regular session with EMS at 12:15 and authorize Commissioner Eliason to extend an offer to the selected candidate for the EMS Chief's Position.

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