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

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

Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, October 20, 2026 Convenes at 9:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes October 14, 2026

Approve Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes, Then & Nows, & Bills
Fund to Fund: Comm $1,130.00 from 001.1236.589000 Transfers Out to 571.2571.417100 Other Rev-Pub Assist

9:45 DJFS - Weekly Updates
10:00 September Financials - Treasurer
10:15 Log Jam - Planner LaVelle
10:30 Auditor - Budget
10:45 Roxanne Groff
11:15 Juvenile/Probate - Budget
11:30 LUNCH
2:00 Coroner - Budget

Agenda Items
Utility Permits (1-SCVWD)
Common Pleas Transfer Request of $4,141.90 into Transcript Fee Line Item #1145.530230
Resignation
EODA Appointment Boone Troyer

ADJOURNMENT

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

Minutes
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to approve the minutes of October 14, 2026.

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

Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes, Then & Nows, & Bills
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason approving the Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes, including Fund to Fund: Comm $1,130.00 from 001.1236.589000 Transfers Out to 571.2571.417100 Other Rev-Pub Assist and approving the payment of the required County Bills, which are included in the Auditor's Office INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 10/13/2026 To: 10/16/2026 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, absent; Mr. Adkins, yea.

DJFS Contract - Wash-Rite Ohio LLC
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to approve the DJFS Contract with Wash-Rite Ohio LLC:

Name of Organization	Wash-Rite Ohio LLC
Total $ Value	$2,280.00
Contract Period	10/01/2026 - 09/30/2027
Program Accts & Codes to be charged	030/510050
Billing Procedure	Payments shall be made after services are rendered & 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, absent; Mr. Adkins, yea.

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

Permit No.	26-752
From:	SCVWD 15945 Second St Millfield, OH 45761

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

Location of work:	Co Rd # 34, Co Rd Name: Dutch Creek Rd
Description of Work:	Water
Type of Installation:	Underground (buried) Line Crossing Rd
Estimated Project Schedule:	10/05/2026 - 10/05/2026

Agreed to by: /s/Mandy Spencer, SCVWD
Athens County Commissioners
/s/ Lenny Eliason
/s/ Charlie Adkins
/s/Chris Chmiel - absent
/s/Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer

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

Common Pleas Transfer Request of $4,141.90 into Transcript Fee Line Item #1145.530230
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to approve the Common Pleas Transfer Request of $4,141.90 into Transcript Fee Line Item #1145.530230.

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

EMS Resignation - Kylie Cummings
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to accept the EMS Resignation from Kylie Cummings.

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

EODA Re-Appointment Boone Troyer
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to Re-Appointment Boone Troyer to the EODA Board for 2027-2028 term.

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

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

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

Title Office Building - Outstanding Bond & Potential Early Repayment
Commissioner Adkins discussed the outstanding bond associated with the Title Office building on East State Street and the possibility of early repayment. Commissioner Adkins noted that the Clerk of Courts maintains a dedicated account with an estimated balance of approximately $450,000 and questioned whether those funds could be used to reduce or pay off the remaining debt. Treasurer Sappington explained that the financial benefit of early repayment would depend on the bond's interest rate compared with current investment earnings. Treasurer Sappington agreed to review the financing documents and provide the Board with the outstanding balance, interest rate, remaining repayment term, and potential financial impact of early repayment. No formal action was taken.

Escrow Program Eligibility and Senior Citizen Outreach - Treasurer Sappington
Treasurer Sappington clarified that the County's property tax escrow program is available to all eligible property owners, regardless of the amount of property taxes owed, allowing participants to make monthly payments toward their tax obligations. Treasurer Sappington reported that the Treasurer's Office plans additional outreach targeting senior citizens and Homestead Exemption recipients who may benefit from monthly payment options. The upcoming mailing will include enrollment instructions with both a QR code for online registration and a paper application for those who prefer traditional enrollment methods. No formal action was taken.

Currier Street Logjam Removal – Authorization to Advertise for Sealed Bids
The Board reviewed the revised draft request for sealed bids for the removal of the logjam beneath the Currier Street bridge along the Hockhocking Adena Bikeway.
Planner LaVelle explained that revisions had been incorporated following the Board's previous discussion and recommendations from Andy Stone. The revisions included prohibiting heavy equipment access through the bike path and coordinating with the City of Athens to arrange access to the work area through the well field.
Commissioner Adkins discussed responsibility for the project's cost. Planner LaVelle indicated that the County would likely be responsible for the majority of the expense. However, the City of Athens had expressed willingness to assist. It was recommended that the County review the bids with City representatives after they are received to determine whether any cost-sharing arrangements or additional assistance would be available.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to approve advertising for sealed bids for the Currier Street logjam removal project.

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

Johnson Road Shared-Use Path – Project and Utility Coordination Update
The Board received an update from Planner LaVelle on the proposed Johnson Road Shared-Use Path extending from State Route 682 to the high school. The project has encountered a utility conflict with TC Energy regarding an existing transmission line located within the Johnson Road right-of-way. TC Energy has requested that the path be relocated; however, Planner LaVelle expressed concerns that doing so would require additional right-of-way acquisition and place the path closer to neighboring residences. Planner LaVelle is reviewing the utility company's right-of-way permit and its authority to restrict construction. A meeting was scheduled with Engineer Maiden, TL, and ODOT to discuss potential solutions. Planner LaVelle reported that other utility coordination, including Frontier's proposed relocation, was substantially complete. No formal action was taken.

Auditor - Budget
Auditor Jill Davidson presented the 2027 Auditor Budget.

Juvenile/Probate Court - Budget
Judge Saunders presented the 2027 Juvenile/Probate Court Budget.

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

VOCA Grant Award & Acceptance - CASA

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

VOCA Grant Award & Acceptance - CASA
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to accept the VOCA Grant Award Agreement and authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the agreement.

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

Athens County Port Authority – Public Participation and Mission Statement
Roxanne Groff addressed the Board regarding concerns about the removal of language referencing public participation from the Athens County Port Authority's website. Roxanne stated that the previously posted language encouraged securing the interest, support, and participation of area residents in the development of Port Authority facilities. She expressed concern that the language had been removed without an apparent public discussion or explanation and emphasized the importance of transparency and community involvement in economic development decisions, particularly those involving the industrial park and CCC Plastics.
Commissioner Adkins indicated that he had contacted Port Authority representatives and received information suggesting the language had appeared on the website but may not have been part of the official mission statement. The Board acknowledged the conflicting information and agreed to inquire further about who removed the language and why. Roxanne also raised concerns regarding public input during development of the industrial park, the availability of meeting agendas, and the identification of reasons for executive sessions in Port Authority meeting minutes.
The Board noted that two applicants, Adam Cody and Christine Hughes, were being considered for upcoming Port Authority appointments, with interviews anticipated the following week. Commissioners agreed to follow up with the Port Authority regarding the concerns raised. No formal action was taken.

Coroner - Budget
Coroner Carl Ortman and Ben Ashcraft presented the 2027 Coroner Budget.

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

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

JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator

Alison Pierson, Clerk

Lenny Eliason, President

Charlie Adkins, Vice-President

ABSENT

Chris Chmiel