

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, October 06, 2026 Convenes at 8:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes September 29, 2026

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

8:30 DLZ - Pre Con Meeting New Marshfield Sewer Contract "B"
9:00 DLZ - New Marshfield Sewer Contract "A"
9:30 W&S Supt Oscar Carson - weekly updates
9:45 Children Services - Agency Child Placement
10:15 EMS - Chief Pyle
10:30 Gerald Carter
11:00 Charles Dunlevy
12:00 Robert Sochia

Agenda Items

W&S Extensions (Ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature)
Surplus - EMS
Apiary Inspector
Sheriff Cruisers
Epilepsy Alliance Ohio
W&S New Marshfield Plains WWTP Upgrade Design (Ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature)
DeBra-Kuempel Invoice #01582617 in the amount of \$333,324.00 to be paid with ARPA Funds
911 Request to Hire
911 Intermittent Dispatcher Resignation
Julie Stevens's invite - Southern Ohio's Softbank Project Discussion
Radio Tower Site Lease Agreement

~TRAVEL

Treasurer: Nick Smith; Modular Home Install Observation, Chesterhill OH; 09/29/26
Planner: Connor LaVelle; Ohio Floodplain Managers Assoc Conf, Columbus OH; 11/17- 11/18/26

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 September 29, 2026.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, absent; 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: 09/29/2026 To: 10/01/2026 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, absent; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

DLZ - Pre Con Meeting New Marshfield Sewer Contract "B"

Preconstruction meeting for the New Marshfield sanitary sewer project with representatives from the County Water and Sewer Department, DLZ, and TAM Construction. Project responsibilities, construction schedules, payment procedures, change orders, safety requirements, environmental regulations, and communication protocols were reviewed. The Notice to Proceed is scheduled for November 16, 2026, with substantial completion anticipated by May 15, 2027, and final completion by June 14, 2027. Construction will primarily involve directional drilling to minimize road and property disturbances, with approximately 3.5 miles of force main and additional collection lines within New Marshfield. Commissioner Adkins requested project maps identifying affected properties and emphasized minimizing disruptions to residents. Monthly progress meetings will begin December 1, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., and the contractor will provide regular updates throughout construction. See DLZ Meeting Minutes on back of page 345.

DLZ - New Marshfield Sewer Contract "A"

New Marshfield Sewer Contract "A" review project status, upcoming work, and construction concerns. The project was reported to be approximately 17% complete, with 31% of the contract time elapsed, based on the August 21 report. Upcoming work includes completing construction along Old State Route 56, installing additional grinder pumps, completing force main installation and concrete restoration on Steinmeyer Road, and installing the lift station, which had been delayed by wet conditions. Work will then proceed to Depot Street. Discussion included challenges involving rock and existing utilities, additional grinder pump installations, and the importance of inspecting residential sump pumps and stormwater connections to prevent infiltration and inflow into the sanitary sewer system. DLZ Tracy Shoults & W&S Office Manager Stephanie Morris discussed updating inspection forms to document compliance and obtain property owner acknowledgment when practical. Commissioner Adkins also discussed coordinating with the Health Department regarding financial assistance for sewer connections and potentially holding a public informational meeting in the spring. The next construction progress meeting was scheduled for November 3.

Suspend the 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:

OWDA Disbursement/Pay App #3

OWDA Disbursement/Pay App #4

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

W&S - OWDA Disbursement/Pay App #3

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve and authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the OWDA Disbursement/Pay App #3 as presented by DLZ Tracy Shoults.

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

W&S - OWDA Disbursement/Pay App #4

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve and authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the OWDA Disbursement/Pay App #4 as presented by DLZ Tracy Shoults.

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

W&S Extensions

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel ratifying Commissioner Eliason's 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 \$104.50 with \$52.25 due on 10/13/26. 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 Eliason's Signature authorizing an extension as requested by Craig Hunt for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is \$106.54 with \$54.29 due on 10/09/26. 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 Eliason's Signature authorizing an extension as requested by Jonda Levering for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is \$369.32 with \$148.44 due on 10/08/26. 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 Eliason's Signature authorizing an extension as requested by Susie Thomas for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is \$106.82 with \$54.57 due on 10/09/26. 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.

Surplus - EMS

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve and declare the following EMS Surplus to destroy:

Property Description:

4ft Stand Garage Fan - Broken

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

Apiary Inspector

Commissioners discussed notification that Ed Newman (Apiary Inspector) would be stepping away from his position at the end of the month. Commissioners expressed interest in inviting Ed and his successor, Frank Scolaro, to a future meeting to recognize Ed's service and meet the incoming representative.

Sheriff Cruisers

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the request from the Athens County Sheriff's Office for the purchase of three new cruisers, including one vehicle designated for K-9 operations. The total submitted cost was \$229,833.66, which included associated MARCS radios and additional equipment.

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

Epilepsy Alliance Ohio

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the request to illuminate the Athens County Courthouse in purple from November 17 through November 19 in recognition of Epilepsy Awareness Month.

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

W&S New Marshfield Plains WWTP Upgrade Design

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to ratify Commissioner Eliason's Signature on the W&S New Marshfield Plains WWTP Upgrade Design.

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

DeBra-Kuempel Invoice #01582617 in the amount of \$333,324.00 to be paid with ARPA Funds

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the DeBra-Kuempel Invoice #01582617 in the amount of \$333,324.00 to be paid with 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 Rehire

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to rehire Hannah Taylor as an Intermittent Dispatcher for Athens County 911, effective October 7, 2026.

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

911 Intermittent Dispatcher Resignation

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to accept the resignation of Ian Wells, Intermittent Dispatcher, effective October 13, 2026.

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

Julie Stevens's invite - Southern Ohio's Softbank Project Discussion

Commissioner Chmiel presented the Southern Ohio's Softbank Project Discussion being held on Monday, October 19, 2026.

Radio Tower Site Lease Agreement

911 Dir. Teresa Fouts-Imler had reviewed the agreement and indicated that only minimal changes had been requested, with the agreement remaining substantially the same. See back of page 347 for agreement.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the approve the Radio Tower Site Lease Agreement.

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:

Treasurer: Nick Smith; Modular Home Install Observation, Chesterhill OH; 09/29/26

Planner: Connor LaVelle; Ohio Floodplain Managers Assoc Conf, Columbus OH; 11/17- 11/18/26

Comm: Lenny Eliason, Charlie Adkins, Chris Chmiel, JoAnn Rockhold, & Alison Pierson; CCAO Winter Conf, Columbus OH; 12/9 - 12/11/26

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

Children Services - Agency Child Placement

The Board met with representatives of Athens County Children Services, including Deputy Director Wendy Shields and Permanency Services Manager Angie Verity, for an informational presentation regarding agency programs, foster care, and child placement services. Staff reviewed the agency's three primary service areas: prevention, protective services, and permanency, emphasizing the importance of keeping children safely with their families whenever possible. The agency currently serves an average of approximately 112 children in care and works with approximately 37 foster families, including three treatment foster homes serving six children. Discussion included kinship placements, adoption, residential treatment, foster parent recruitment, and challenges associated with finding appropriate placements for children with specialized needs. Staff also discussed plans to expand treatment foster care throughout the five-county region to reduce the need for residential placements outside the community. Partnerships with Ohio University and Hocking College were highlighted, including internship opportunities, foster family support, and educational and housing assistance for youth transitioning out of foster care. Commissioners thanked agency representatives for their presentation and continued efforts to support Athens County children and families.

Executive Session - EMS

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to enter into executive session at 10:08 with EMS Chief Amber Pyle and Legal Counsel Jeff Stankunas to discuss personnel matters involving the employment and/or discipline of a public employee. Commissioner Adkins stepped out for executive session.

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 10:36 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.

Executive Session - EMS Chief Position Interviews - Gerald Carter, Charles Dunlevy, & Robert Sochia

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to enter into executive session at 10:37 to discuss employment matters related to three (3) scheduled EMS Chief Position Interviews.

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

RADIO TOWER SITE LEASE AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT made and entered into this 6 day of October 2026, by and between LE-AX WATER DISTRICT, hereinafter called the "LESSOR", and the COUNTY OF ATHENS, hereinafter called the "LESSEE".

THIS AGREEMENT is made effective October 1, 2026, by and between LE-AX WATER DISTRICT ("LESSOR") and the COUNTY OF ATHENS ("LESSEE").

TERMS

In consideration of the covenants, promises, and agreements contained herein, Lessor hereby grants to Lessee the right to use certain portions of Lessor's property and facilities located at LE-AX Water District Tank 1, 4320 Marion Johnson Road, Albany, Ohio 45710, including space on the water storage tank for communications antenna equipment and space within the associated building for radio communications equipment, together with reasonable access thereto. Such use shall be limited to the installation, operation, maintenance, repair, and replacement of equipment reasonably necessary for the provision of Athens County 9-1-1 radio communications, subject to the terms and conditions set forth below:

1. TERM. The term of this Agreement shall be for a period of five (5) years, commencing on the 1st day of October 2026 and ending on the 1st day of October 2031.

2. USE OF PREMISES. Lessee shall use the Premises solely for the installation, operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade of radio communications equipment used in connection with Athens County 9-1-1 and other public-safety communications. Such use may include antennas, transmission equipment, cabling, power supplies, and related communications equipment located on the water storage tank and within the associated building.

Lessee shall not materially expand the scope of its use, install additional facilities outside the areas presently used, or permit any third party to install or operate equipment on the Premises without the prior written approval of Lessor. All use of the Premises by Lessee shall be conducted in a manner that does not unreasonably interfere with Lessor's ownership, operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, telemetry communication or replacement of its water-system facilities.

8. BINDING EFFECT. All covenants, terms, and conditions of this Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective successors and permitted assigns.

9. RECORDING. This Agreement may be recorded in the Office of the Athens County Recorder by either Lessor or Lessee.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Agreement to be executed these 21 days of SEPTEMBER, 2026.

LESSOR:

LE-AX WATER DISTRICT

By: Travis Anderson
Travis Anderson, Manager
Christina M. Richey
Witness

LESSEE:

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO

By: Bob Elin
President
John Pockler
Witness

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Keller Blackburn b, NMC
Keller Blackburn, Prosecutor
Athens County Prosecutor's Office

Frank A. Lavette
Frank A. Lavette, Esq.
Attorney for Le-Ax Water District

STATE OF OHIO)

) ss:
COUNTY OF ATHENS)

Before me, a notary public in and for said county and state, personally appeared the above-named Travis Anderson, on behalf of Le-Ax Water District, Athens County, Ohio who acknowledged that he did sign the foregoing instrument and the same is his free and act and deed and the free and authorized act and deed of Le-Ax Water District.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my official seal at Athens, Ohio, this 21 day of September, 2026.

3. RIGHTS RETAINED BY LESSOR. Lessor shall retain all right, title, and interest in and to the Premises, including all oil, gas, and mineral rights, except for the specific rights granted to Lessee under this Agreement. Lessor shall retain the right to use, operate, maintain, inspect, repair, improve, rehabilitate, replace, or modify its property and water-system facilities at any time.

Lessee shall use reasonable efforts to avoid unnecessary interference with Lessee's authorized communications equipment and operations. However, the operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, replacement, and protection of Lessor's public water-system facilities shall take priority over Lessee's use of the Premises.

Lessee shall have no right to restrict Lessor's use of its property except to the extent expressly provided in this Agreement.

4. INGRESS AND EGRESS; REPAIR OF DAMAGE. Lessee and its authorized employees, agents, and contractors shall have reasonable rights of ingress and egress to the Premises at all times as necessary for the operation, inspection, maintenance, repair, replacement, and emergency service of Lessee's authorized communications equipment. Such access shall be subject to Lessor's reasonable security and site-access requirements and shall be exercised in a manner that does not unreasonably interfere with the operation of Lessor's water-system facilities.

All antennas, radio equipment, cabling, fixtures, and other equipment installed by or for Lessee shall remain the property of Lessee unless otherwise agreed in writing. Upon termination of this Agreement, Lessee shall, at its sole expense, remove its equipment from Lessor's water storage tank, building, and property within a reasonable period not to exceed six (6) months, unless otherwise agreed in writing by Lessor.

Lessee shall be responsible for the cost of repairing any damage to Lessor's property or facilities resulting from the installation, operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, or removal of Lessee's equipment, or from the exercise of Lessee's rights of ingress and egress, reasonable wear and tear excepted. Any repairs or restoration shall be completed to the reasonable satisfaction of Lessor.

5. INSURANCE. Lessee shall be responsible for maintaining, at its sole expense, insurance, self-insurance, or other governmental risk coverage applicable to its personal property, equipment, operations, employees, agents, and contractors associated with its use of the Premises. Such coverage shall be sufficient to address liability for bodily injury, property damage, and damage to Lessor's property or facilities arising from Lessee's use of the Premises, to the extent permitted by law.

Lessee shall also be responsible for any insurance or other coverage required by law for its employees and contractors performing work on the Premises.

6. LESSOR'S TITLE. Lessor represents that it owns or otherwise has lawful control of the Premises and has the authority to grant Lessee the rights of use provided under this Agreement. To Lessor's knowledge, there are no existing restrictions or encumbrances that would materially interfere with Lessee's authorized use of the Premises under this Agreement.

7. RENTAL FEE. Lessee shall pay Lessor rent in the amount of One Dollar (\$1.00) per year for the term of this Agreement, beginning on the effective date. Rental payments shall be made to Le-Ax Water District, 6000 Industrial Drive, Athens, Ohio 45701.

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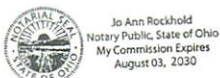
Christina M. Richey
NOTARY PUBLIC
My Comm. Expires: 6/1/29

STATE OF OHIO)
COUNTY OF ATHENS)

Before me, a notary public in and for said county and state, personally appeared the above-named Lenny Eliason, on behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Athens County, Ohio who acknowledged that he did sign the foregoing instrument, and the same is his free and act and deed, and the free and authorized act and deed of the Athens County Commissioners.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my official seal at Athens, Ohio, this 4 day of October, 2026.

SEAL



John Pockler
NOTARY PUBLIC
My Comm. Expires: 8/3/2030

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This Instrument prepared by Le-Ax Water District, 6000 Industrial Drive, Athens, OH 45701

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Regular Session - EMS

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to return to regular session with EMS at 11:46 with No Action to be taken.

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

Suspend the 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:

ATH-2026 OEMA Landslide Repairs Contracts - Engineer

Advertisement for Bids ATH-CR48-7.89 Landslide Repair - Engineer

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

ATH-2026 OEMA Landslide Repairs Contracts - Engineer

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to authorize the signing of the ATH-2026 OEMA Landslide Repair Contracts as presented by the Engineer's Office.

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

Advertisement for Bids ATH-CR48-7.89 Landslide Repair - Engineer

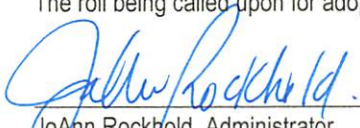
A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Advertisement for Bids ATH-CR48-7.89 Landslide Repair as presented by the Engineer's Office.

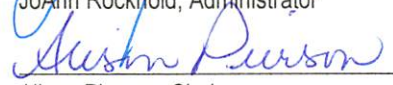
The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea.

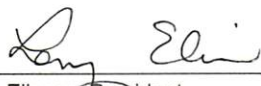
Adjourn

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