

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, September 29, 2026 Convenes at 9:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes September 22, 2026

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

Fund to Fund: Comm \$2,000.00 from 045.3045.580100 OneOhio Opioid Settlement Transfers Out to 001.1001.422101 Transfers In

9:30 OPDC Reimbursement - Prosecutor Nicole Clay
9:35 Broadband Update
9:45 DJFS - Weekly Updates
10:00 Bid Opening DJFS
10:15 Veteran's Final 2027 Budget - Kim Spencer
10:30 Patrick McGarry
10:35 Sheriff - Equipment
10:45 Planner Updates
11:00 Request for Letter - William Morgan
11:15 Grant Discussion - 911/EMS
11:30 LUNCH

Continue meeting to 9/30/26 @ 9am

9:00 W&S Supt Oscar Carson - weekly updates - Gary Silcott

Agenda Items

Health Insurance Resolution
ACWS Trailer Purchase
EMS Chief Posting
LOS SAOP
DJFS MOU w/Board for Title XX Contract
Baum Law Office Contract
Juvenile Court request for transfer \$30,000.00 to line 1194.530950 Juvenile Court Legal Services
Juvenile Court request for transfer \$30,000.00 to line 1194.530951 Juvenile Court GAL
WorkForce Merger Resolution
Water Pollution Loan Fund New Marshfield Phase 2
LOS Canaanville Arts Center
DJFS Lease Agreement
911 Pay Scale
Prosecutor's Subgrant Award Agreement FY2025 JAG
Surplus - Commissioners

~TRAVEL

Auditor: Jill Davidson; CAAO Southeast District Meeting, Columbus OH; 10/09/26
911: Teresa Imler; Yearly Ohio EMA Conference, Westerville OH; 09/29/26
Comm/Juv: JoAnn Rockhold, Alison Pierson, Kelly Post, Alex Knippa, & Mackenzie Heller; Training with Baum Law Office, Lancaster OH; 10/01/26

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 22, 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 & Now, & Bills

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel approving the Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes, including Fund to Fund: Comm \$2,000.00 from 045.3045.580100 OneOhio Opioid Settlement Transfers Out to 001.1001.422101 Transfers In and approving the payment of the required County Bills, which are included in the Auditor's Office INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 09/17/2026 To: 09/22/2026, INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 09/22/2026 To: 09/25/2026, INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 09/24/2026 To: 09/29/2026 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.

OPDC Reimbursement - Assist Prosecutor Nicole Clay

Commissioner Adkins discussed concerns regarding Ohio Public Defender reimbursements for indigent defense costs, including approximately \$12,000 to \$14,000 in expenses that had not been reimbursed. Discussion focused on ensuring required documentation is completed accurately and submitted on time, clarifying responsibility for reviewing indigency paperwork, and determining how costs and reimbursements are allocated among the County and municipalities. Commissioner Eliason discussed reviewing future agreements to establish responsibility when reimbursement is lost due to administrative errors or missed deadlines. Assist Prosecutor Clay will continue reviewing the affected reimbursements and related procedures. No formal action was taken.

Broadband Update

The Board received an update regarding the Frontier broadband expansion project following Frontier's acquisition by Verizon. Dye Stinson, who previously oversaw subsidized broadband projects for Frontier, explained that Verizon's government affairs team has assumed responsibility for governmental coordination following the acquisition. Eric Green will serve as the primary government affairs contact for Ohio, while Stinson's team will continue managing construction and addressing issues or obstacles associated with the broadband build.

Regarding the Amesville broadband project, Stinson reported that construction is underway and that one location has opened for service since the previous update, with additional locations expected to become available throughout the remainder of 2026 and into 2027. A comprehensive engineering audit has been completed for both the Amesville and Athens projects to confirm that all locations included in the funding award are incorporated into the construction plans. Permitting efforts are ongoing in coordination with AEP, ODOT, and applicable County agencies, and no significant permitting issues were reported. The contractual completion date for the Amesville project is May 2028, although Verizon is working toward completing construction as early as the end of 2027. Stinson explained that the construction timeline is largely dependent upon available resources, permitting, and other projects underway throughout Ohio.

For the Athens broadband project, the engineering audit has also been completed; however, construction has not yet begun. The project is currently included in Verizon's 2027 construction schedule, although work could begin earlier depending upon weather and other conditions. Permitting activities have already started, including joint-use applications with AEP and Buckeye Rural, as well as preparations for County and other required permits. Construction could potentially begin near the end of 2026 or early 2027. See documents on back of page 336.

Letter Regarding Copper Service Discontinuation - Tom Reid

Tom Reid discussed concerns regarding Verizon's discontinuation of legacy copper telephone service in rural areas, particularly for residents who may have limited or no reliable cellular, broadband, or satellite service. Discussion addressed concerns that existing coverage maps may overstate available service and that Athens County's terrain and tree cover can limit alternatives such as Starlink. Commissioner Adkins also requested additional information regarding Verizon's criteria for determining whether adequate alternative service exists before copper service is discontinued.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve Tom Reid to prepare and forward a letter to send to Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) expressing concerns regarding copper service discontinuation and the reliability of coverage information used in that process. See letter on back of page 336.

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

Amesville

Award Details

Amesville

Total Project Cost	\$1,068,845
Frontier Grant Contribution	\$79,125
Total Grant C/LA Awarded	126
Locations Open to Sale	1

* Red font represents changes from last update
verizon

ON TRUCK

County Grant Award	\$911,323
County Grant Contribution	\$74,391
Total Grant C/LA Awarded	124

Project Status & Audit

- Frontier has completed a comprehensive engineering audit to verify and validate all awarded locations.
- Construction has commenced and we anticipate delivering additional households in Q1 of 2027.
- Permit applications are currently in progress with all providers AEP. Coordinating the necessary ODOT and county-level permits in Athens.
- On track for completion by 5/27/2028.

Athens South

Award Details

Athens South

Total Project Cost	\$4,333,313
Frontier Grant Contribution	\$1,128,653
Total Grant C/LA Awarded	555
Locations Open to Sale	0

* Red font represents changes from last update
verizon

ON TRUCK

County Grant Award	\$1,444,503
County Grant Contribution	\$362,260
Total Grant C/LA Awarded	550

Project Status & Audit

- Frontier has completed a comprehensive engineering audit to verify and validate all awarded locations.
- Construction is projected to start in Q1 of 2027. Locations will begin to open for sale in 2027.
- Permitting efforts are currently underway. We are actively working with AEP and Buckeye Rural Electric, as well as securing township permits. Coordinating the necessary ODOT and county-level permits in Athens and Meigs.
- On track for completion by 4/29/2028.

- Critical 911 Hazards:** When landline infrastructure fails in cellular dead zones, residents cannot dial 911 in life-threatening situations. Furthermore, first responders and law enforcement officers entering these areas are frequently left without radio or phone communication, endangering public safety personnel.

Alternative Technologies Are Not Ready to Replace Landlines

While federal policies often assume that low-earth orbit (LEO) satellite, fixed wireless, or 5G mobile networks can seamlessly replace copper landlines, the physical realities of rural terrain prove otherwise:

- Fixed Wireless & 5G:** Signals above 2 GHz are heavily absorbed by foliage and obstructed by rugged hills, making 100% coverage impossible in topographically complex areas.
- Satellite Options:** Satellite internet and voice services suffer from latency, high costs, terrain obstructions, and severe weather degradation, making them unsuitable as a sole emergency service mechanism.

Under the U.S. Communications Act of 1934, federal policy established that all people in the United States must have access to rapid, efficient nationwide communication facilities at reasonable charges. Despite receiving tens of billions of dollars in Federal Universal Service Fund (USF) subsidies over recent decades, major telecommunications providers have allowed rural infrastructure to deteriorate while prioritizing urban and suburban buildouts.

Regulatory Framework

Current legal and regulatory standards, including FCC 128.23 and Administrative Code 4821.02, underscore the critical necessity of reliable 911 access. Furthermore, one of the FCC's top priorities is to ensure that the public can always reach 911. The FCC's rules require communications service providers to complete 911 calls, notify 911 call centers of outages, and certify that they are taking certain reliability measures. Completing 911 Calls: Wireless, wireline, and interconnected VoIP service providers must connect all 911 calls and transmit the caller's location information to 911 call centers. Ensuring 911 Reliability: Covered 911 service providers, or providers that aggregate 911 traffic from an originating service provider and deliver it to a 911 call center, must annually certify to the FCC whether they have implemented specific measures within the last year with respect to 911 circuit diversity, central office backup power, and network monitoring. Reporting Outages to 911 Call Centers: Communications providers must notify, as soon as possible, a designated official at the affected 911 facility, of an outage which potentially affects the 911 facility, and must convey all available information that may be useful to mitigate the effects of the outage.

Necessary Legislative Action

We urge Congress to take immediate federal action to protect rural citizens from losing access to essential communication services:

- Enforce Carrier-of-Last-Resort Obligations:** Require legacy carriers receiving federal support to maintain operational, reliable voice service—whether wireline or fiber-to-the-home—until a functional, weather-proof alternative is demonstrably available to 100% of the affected addresses.

- Require FCC Oversight on Copper Retirement:** Mandate that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) thoroughly investigate claims by incumbent providers regarding service availability, preventing carriers from abandoning copper lines without certified replacement infrastructure.
- Prioritize Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) Buildouts:** Direct federal rural broadband and telecommunications funding (including BROAD and RDOF funds) strictly toward reliable, future-proof fiber deployments that deliver simultaneous voice and high-speed data to the last mile.

No American citizen should be left without the ability to call for emergency help simply because they live in a rural area. We ask that you champion federal regulatory protections and funding accountability to ensure our rural communities are not left behind in the dark.

Thank you for your leadership and dedicated service to our region.

Sincerely,

Board of Athens County Commissioners

Ken Elson
Athens County Commissioner
Chris Adams
Athens County Commissioner
Chris Ornel
Athens County Commissioner



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August 18, 2026

To: Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

SUBJECT: Urgent Action Needed Regarding the Abandonment of Rural Landline Telecommunications Infrastructure

Dear Members of Congress,

On behalf of the residents of Athens County, Ohio, and rural communities across Appalachia, we write to bring your urgent attention to an escalating communications and public safety crisis. Incumbent telecommunications providers are systematically failing to maintain—and in many cases, outright refusing to supply—basic landline telephone service to rural residents. This de facto abandonment of traditional wireline infrastructure is leaving thousands of families and small businesses without reliable basic communications or emergency 911 access.

The Reality on the Ground: A Growing Safety Risk

In rural regions like Appalachian Ohio, terrain and dense foliage present severe physical obstacles to wireless connectivity. Millions of residents live in deep hollows and valleys where cellular coverage is non-existent. For these households, traditional copper landline phones have historically served as the sole lifeline to emergency services, healthcare, and public notification systems.

Today, that lifeline is rapidly failing:

- Refusal of Service:** In parts of our county, major providers such as Frontier Communications are no longer offering traditional landlines to properties in rural hollows, referring residents instead to unreliable satellite alternatives that do not function in poor weather.
- Deteriorating Copper Networks:** The existing copper cables serving rural America are 50+ years old and well past their end-of-life. Neglect and understaffing have resulted in routine outages lasting weeks at a time.

This Board of Athens County Commissioners is an Affirmative Action employer and does not discriminate on basis of race, gender, age, religion or disability.



Revised Resolution Combining Workforce Area 14 and 20

WIOA Dir. Morgan DeLay presented the proposed combination of Workforce Areas 14 and 20. Dir. DeLay explained that, following the Board's previous discussion, additional language had been added to the proposed resolution to clarify the employment and funding arrangement for the Area 14 Workforce Board Director during the transition period.

Under the revised resolution, from August 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, funding will be included in the approved Area 14 budget to reimburse the Athens County Commissioners for providing the Area 14 Workforce Board Director. Athens County will continue to invoice the Perry County Department of Job and Family Services, which serves as the fiscal agent, on a quarterly basis. Dir. DeLay explained that this provision maintains the current employment and reimbursement arrangement throughout the transition period.

Beginning July 1, 2027, the permanent employment structure for the Workforce Board Director will be determined as part of the newly combined workforce area. A working committee is currently meeting weekly to develop the organizational structure and address transition issues. The future combined Workforce Board will determine the director structure and responsibilities, with Perry County serving in the CEO role. These arrangements will ultimately be addressed through a new governance agreement for the combined workforce area.

Commissioner Adkins asked whether Athens County could be required to accept an employment or organizational arrangement with which it did not agree. Dir. DeLay clarified that the future structure will be established through agreement among the participating counties and that Athens County would not be unilaterally required to provide the director position. It was further explained that each participating county will need to agree to the new governance arrangement before implementation.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the revised resolution combining Workforce Areas 14 and 20, including the additional language addressing the transition-period employment and reimbursement arrangement for the Area 14 Workforce Board Director. See Resolution on back of page 337.

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

Athens County Family Services Planning Committee Appointments

Exec. Dir. Tami Collins presented appointments to the Athens County Family Services Planning Committee for new three-year terms. Exec. Dir. Collins reported that several new members have been identified as part of an effort to get the committee fully operational again, with additional individuals having been contacted who may join at a later date. To simplify the committee's restart, the proposed members will initially serve concurrent three-year terms.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to appointment the following to the Athens County Family Services Planning Committee for new three-year terms. See back of page 338 for the appointments.

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

Bid Opening - DJFS 10 W. Washington Street, Nelsonville

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to acknowledge the receipt of the following bid for the DJFS 10 W. Washington Street Building in Nelsonville:

Jonathon Cozad

\$776,000.00

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

Bid Acceptance - DJFS 10 W. Washington Street, Nelsonville

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to accept the bid for the DJFS 10 W. Washington Street Building, Nelsonville in the amount of \$776,000.00 from Jonathon Cozad.

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

Page 2 of 2

MOU between DJFS and Commissioners

Exec. Dir. Tami Collins presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) related to legal services for Title XX-eligible recipients. Exec. Dir. Collins explained that the agreement between Job and Family Services and the Commissioners had been amended to provide legal services for eligible individuals in any court where a Title XX eligibility application may be applicable. The revised arrangement expands upon the previous contract structure involving Juvenile Court and Baum Law Office and is intended to establish a broader process for providing eligible legal services.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the MOU between DJFS and Commissioners. See MOU on back of page 338.

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

Veteran's Final Proposed 2027 Budget - Kim Spencer

Kim Spencer provided an update on the Veterans Service Commission's proposed budget for the upcoming year. The budget includes an increase in Memorial Day funding to reflect the allowable \$1,000 per Veterans Service Organization, as well as adjustments for increased medical insurance costs, transportation services, and medical reimbursements. Commissioner Adkins also discussed funding eligibility for other veterans-related organizations, including the Sons of Union Veterans. The Veterans Service Commission will continue administering funding in accordance with applicable Ohio law. No formal action was taken.

Health Insurance Incentive Resolution

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Health Insurance Incentive Resolution:

Health Incentive Resolution

WHEREAS, the Athens County Commissioners find that certain County Employees are able to obtain Health/Hospital Insurance from another source outside of County employment; and

WHEREAS, the Athens County Commissioners further find, if any employee obtains insurance from an outside source it would be a financial benefit to Athens County; and

WHEREAS, the Athens County Commissioners agree to offer a cash incentive up to One Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$1,800.00) to employees who obtain Health/Hospital Insurance from another source besides the County; and

WHEREAS, the Athens County Commissioners further find that this resolution can be superseded by Union Contract Agreements and departments governed by their own respective boards and is subject to the amounts specified by those boards and respective collective bargaining agreements; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that any employee of a department of Athens County that receives its funding from the County General Fund shall receive up to One Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$1,800.00) cash incentive (prorated if less than a year) on a payday in December 2027. Non General Fund employees are authorized to participate and shall be paid from their appropriate funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any employee who obtains Health/Hospital Insurance from an outside source, and is not receiving benefits from any County Health insurance Program, must sign a release stating that they have obtained Health/Hospital Insurance from an outside source, show proof of insurance and agree to dismiss Athens County from its obligation to provide said insurance, and hereby release Athens County from any liability for not providing insurance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if, for any reason, any employee's outside insurance is terminated during 2027, the County will re-admit the employee to the County Plan, based upon the County's insurance company's approval and the employee will receive the cash incentive on a pro rata basis.

This resolution shall take effect upon its signing this 29th, day of September 2026.

Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

/s/Lenny Eliason, President

/s/JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator

/s/Charlie Adkins, Vice-President

/s/Chris Chmiel

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

Memorandum of Understanding
Between
Athens County Department of Job & Family Services
And
Athens County Board of Commissioners

This agreement is entered into by and between Athens County Job & Family Services (hereafter referred to as "ACDJFS") and Athens County Board of Commissioners (hereafter referred to as "Board") and is executed pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth herein. In consideration of those mutual undertakings and covenants, the parties agree as follows:

I. PURPOSE

Whereas, the Board has entered into a contract(s) to provide legal services to Title XX eligible Athens County residents with a case(s) before the court(s).

Now Therefore, ACDJFS wishes to enter this Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") with the Board in order that legal services be provided for eligible residents of Athens County.

II. TERMS OF AGREEMENT

This MOU shall become effective October 1, 2026, and shall remain in effect until September 30, 2027, or either party terminates said MOU or a lack of or discontinuance of Title XX funding.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board shall ensure eligible residents are provided with legal services.

The Board shall submit a monthly invoice to ACDJFS for reimbursement of eligible Title XX services. The Board will provide ACDJFS with all Title XX applications that it receives from the court(s) along with billable hours for legal services. Eligibility for each applicant will be determined annually by court(s), with redetermination occurring once per calendar year following initial approval.

When ACDJFS or the Board intends to withhold, reduce, suspend or terminate Title XX services, the assistance group shall be provided prior written notice of action. The notice shall be mailed or personally delivered no less than fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the processing of the proposed action. *PRIOR NOTICE OF A RIGHT TO A STATE HEARING (ODJFS 4065) shall be used pursuant to 5101:6-2-04 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

IV. MODIFICATION

This memorandum may be modified at any time by a written modification mutually agreed upon by both parties.

V. CANCELLATION

This memorandum agreement may be cancelled upon thirty (30) days prior written notice of such cancellation being delivered by either party.

County Family Services Planning Committee Member & Terms	Name	Organization	Representation	1-Year Term
Tami Collins	Tami Collins	Athens County Department of Job & Family Services	Job & Family Services	10/01/26 - 09/30/27
Adam Terry	Adam Terry	Athens County Department of Job & Family Services	Child support enforcement agency	10/01/26 - 09/30/27
Lee McDaniel	Lee McDaniel	Athens County Department of Job & Family Services	Child support enforcement agency	10/01/26 - 09/30/27
Stephen Andrews	Stephen Andrews	Athens County Department of Job & Family Services	Child support enforcement agency	10/01/26 - 09/30/27
Michael Loney	Michael Loney	Athens County Department of Job & Family Services	Child support enforcement agency	10/01/26 - 09/30/27
Pragme Lee	Pragme Lee	LAUSD	Public Relations	10/01/26 - 09/30/27
Mary Ellen New	Mary Ellen New	LAUSD	Legal Services	10/01/26 - 09/30/27
Stephen Chase	Stephen Chase	Athens County Children Services	Legal Services	10/01/26 - 09/30/27
Wendy Shields	Wendy Shields	Athens County Children Services	Legal Services	10/01/26 - 09/30/27
Aditya Hans	Aditya Hans	Heckman Athens Perry Community Action	Legal Services	10/01/26 - 09/30/27
Brian Finch	Brian Finch	Integrated Services	Legal Services	10/01/26 - 09/30/27
Joe Plouffe	Joe Plouffe	The County Transit Center	Legal Services	10/01/26 - 09/30/27
Scott Black	Scott Black	County Department of Special Services (CASA)	Legal Services	10/01/26 - 09/30/27
Luigi Douglas	Luigi Douglas	Athens Mayor's Office	Legal Services	10/01/26 - 09/30/27
Gregory Schumacher	Gregory Schumacher	Gateway House	Legal Services	10/01/26 - 09/30/27
Hannah Taylor	Hannah Taylor	Community Member	Legal Services	10/01/26 - 09/30/27
Dr. Nicholas Pappas	Dr. Nicholas Pappas	Ohio University, College of Education	Legal Services	10/01/26 - 09/30/27
Adam Kappas	Adam Kappas	Normal College of Health & Human Services	Legal Services	10/01/26 - 09/30/27

VI. EFFECTIVE DATE

This memorandum of understanding is effective on the date that both signatories have executed this document, but not before October 1, 2026.

The parties, having read and understood the term of the memorandum do, by their respective signatures below, hereby agree to the terms and conditions thereof.

VII. NON-COLLUSION AND ACCEPTANCE

The undersigned attests, subject to the penalties for perjury, that they are the agreeing party, or that they are the representative, agent, member or officer of the agreeing party, that they have not, nor has any other member, employee, representative, agent or officer of the division, firm, company, corporation or partnership representative by they, directly or indirectly, to the best of their knowledge, entered into or offered to enter into any combination, collusion or agreement to receive or pay, and that they have not received or paid, any sum of money or other consideration for the execution of this agreement other than that which appears upon the face of the agreement.

VIII. SIGNATURES

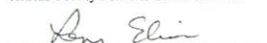
In Witness Whereof, ACDJFS and Board have, through duly authorized representatives, entered into this agreement. The parties having read and understand and agree to the foregoing terms of the Agreement by their respective signatures dated below.

Athens County Department of Job and Family Services


Tami Collins, Executive Director

Date 9/29/26

Athens County Board of Commissioners


Lenny Eliason, Commissioner

Date 9/29/26


Charlie Adkins, Commissioner

Date 9-29-26


Chris Chmiel, Commissioner

Date 9-29-26

Approved as to Form:


Keller J. Blackburn, Prosecuting Attorney

Date 9/29/26

W&S Trailer Purchase

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the quote from Chris' Trailer Shack in the amount of \$10,995.00 for a 2027 Delta 28TB.

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

EMS Chief Posting

Hiring process for the EMS Chief position and the need to begin scheduling interviews as the end of the year approaches. Commissioner Adkins expressed interest in interviewing all applicants for the position in order to hear their perspectives and obtain as much information as possible before making a selection. Administrator Rockhold reported that there are approximately four internal applicants and two external applicants, with the external applicants appearing to meet the necessary qualifications.

LOS SAOP

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to ratify the Commissioners' Signatures on the Letter of Support for AMLER Funding for the Glouster Community Rehabilitation Project. See Letter of Support on back of page 339.

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

Baum Law Office Contract

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Baum Law Office Contract as presented by Administrator JoAnn Rockhold. Contract on file in the Commissioners' Office.

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

Juvenile Court request for transfer \$30,000.00 to line 1194.530950 Juvenile Court Legal Service

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Juvenile Court request for transfer \$30,000.00 to line 1194.530950 Juvenile Court Legal Service.

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

Juvenile Court request for transfer \$30,000.00 to line 1194.530951 Juvenile Court GAL

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Juvenile Court request for transfer \$30,000.00 to line 1194.530951 Juvenile Court GAL.

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

W&S - Water Pollution Loan Fund New Marshfield Phase 2

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Water Pollution Loan Fund Agreement for New Marshfield Phase 2 and authorizing Commissioner Eliason to sign any necessary related documentation.

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

LOS Canaanville Arts Center

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to ratify the Commissioners' Signature on the Letter of Support for the Canaanville Arts Center. See Letter of Support on back of page 340.

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

DJFS Lease Agreement

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Lease Agreement with Appalachian Literacy Arts & Storytelling Festival for October 3rd through October 4th, 2026. Document on file in the Commissioners' Office.

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

911 Pay Scale

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the following 911 Pay Scale for Intermittent Dispatchers. See document on back of page 340.

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

Athens County Commissioners



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September 24, 2026

Madison Trace
SAOP Executive Director
145 Columbus Road, Suite 201
Athens, Ohio 45701

Re: Letter of Support – Glouster Community Revitalization Project

Dear AMLER Review Committee:

The Athens County Board of Commissioners support the Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program's application for AMLER funding for the Glouster Community Revitalization Project.

GRO has spent years working to bring life back to downtown Glouster. We know firsthand that revitalization does not happen because of one renovated building, one new business, or one successful grant. It happens when investments begin to connect to one another, and when people have a reason to live, work, shop, gather, and stay in the community.

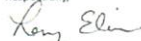
Glouster is a community with deep roots in Athens County's coal-mining history and one that continues to experience the economic effects of that decline. At the same time, significant work is underway to create a different future for the village through reinvestment in housing, downtown properties, recreation, and community infrastructure.

The proposed project will turn 2 vacant properties into 9 new housing units through the construction of 3 duplexes and 1 triplex. The sites were previously acquired from the Athens County Land Bank after condemned structures were removed, creating an opportunity to put formerly underused property back into productive community use.

Housing is an essential part of economic and community development. Communities need residents to support businesses, public spaces, schools, services, and future investment. Adding 9 households to Glouster will do more than address a housing need. It will strengthen the residential base around investments already being made in downtown Glouster and at Glouster Memorial Park.

The project also supports broader county planning priorities related to safe and affordable housing, responsible reuse of developed land, stronger small towns, transportation access, and effective use of existing infrastructure. It represents coordinated place-based investment needed in communities that have experienced long-term population and economic loss.

Respectfully,


Lenny Eliason, President


Charlie Adkins


Chris Chmiel

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Prosecutor's Subgrant Award Agreement FY2025 JAG

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Prosecutor's JAG Subgrant Award Agreement covering the period of January 1 through December 31, 2026.

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:

Auditor: Jill Davidson; CAAO Southeast District Meeting, Columbus OH; 10/09/26

911: Teresa Imler; Yearly Ohio EMA Conference, Westerville OH; 09/29/26

Comm/Juv: JoAnn Rockhold, Alison Pierson, Kelly Post, Alex Knippa, & Mackenzie Heller; Training with Baum Law Office, Lancaster OH; 10/01/26

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

Golf Cart Purchase Using DARE Funds - Sheriff Smith

Sheriff Smith presented a request to purchase a golf cart for the DARE and community outreach program. The purchase had been discussed and conditionally approved at a previous meeting, subject to confirmation from the Prosecutor's Office that the proposed funding source could legally be used for the purchase. Sheriff Smith reported that the necessary review had been completed and documentation from the Prosecutor's Office was available.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve and authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign for the Sheriff to purchase the Golf Cart using DARE Funds from Chris' Trailer Shack in the amount of \$6,575.00.

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 Bid & WPCLF HSTS Replacement Project Soil Evaluation & STS Design Bid

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to award the bids as presented by Patrick McGarry. See back of page 340 for Bid Awards for the WPCLF HSTS Replacement Project Bid & WPCLF HSTS Replacement Project Soil Evaluation & STS Design Bid.

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

Glouster Parcel Update - Planner LaVelle

Planner LaVelle provided an update regarding a property in Glouster adjacent to the County Records Center. The Village of Glouster had previously contacted the County regarding the possibility of leasing or purchasing property in the area for additional parking. After reviewing records from the Recorder's Office and the County parcel information, Planner LaVelle determined that the parcel the Village appears to be interested in is not owned by Athens County and remains privately owned.

Planner LaVelle explained that the current property owners had previously conveyed another tract but appear to have retained ownership of the parcel adjacent to the Village's existing graveled property. Although the owners reportedly believed they no longer owned the parcel, the available property records indicate otherwise. The parcel also has delinquent property taxes. Commissioners discussed possible options for the Village to acquire the property, including working directly with the current owners on a property transfer and addressing the outstanding taxes through the Treasurer's Office. The possibility of pursuing the property through the Land Bank and foreclosure process was also discussed, although that process would likely take considerably longer. Planner LaVelle will respond to the Village explaining the ownership findings and recommend that Village officials work with the property owners and Treasurer's Office regarding acquisition and the outstanding taxes. No formal action was taken.

Log Jam Update - Planner LaVelle

Planner LaVelle provided an update regarding the log jam in the Hocking River near the Currier Street bike path bridge. A contractor has inspected the site and is preparing an estimate and proposed scope of work for removing the accumulated logs and solid waste. ODOT and the Emergency Management Agency also recently inspected the area using a drone. Photographs from the inspection were shared with the Commissioners. Two kayaks visible within the debris were identified as unoccupied rental kayaks that had escaped from a canoe livery in Logan.

The anticipated cleanup would involve removing the accumulated logs and debris, separating solid waste from the woody material, and using the City's wellhead area as a staging location. Planner LaVelle reported that preliminary discussions with the contractor indicate that the project is expected to exceed the \$75,000 threshold and would therefore require a sealed competitive bidding process. Andy Stone had also expressed interest in assisting with the project, and Planner LaVelle indicated that additional

Athens County Commissioners



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Chris Chmiel
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Lenny Eliason, MPA
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September 25, 2026

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AMLER Review Committee
Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization Program
Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mineral Resources Management
2045 Morse Road, Building H-2
Columbus, Ohio 43229

Re: Letter of support for the Canaanville Arts Center's application, From Coal to Clay: Revitalizing the Canaanville Mine as a Community Arts Campus

Members of the review committee,

The Athens County Board of Commissioners supports the Canaanville Arts Center's application to the Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization program. The Center occupies the surviving 1907 building of the Canaanville coal mine at 8773 Mine Road in Canaan Township, a site listed in the Abandoned Mine Land Inventory, and has operated a gallery, artist residencies, community events and an annual holiday art market there since 2025.

The project would bring the historic building up to code for public and professional programs, add a studio building with five studios and a teaching room, build a covered kiln complex for electric, soda and wood firing, and upgrade utilities and site access. With these facilities the Center can run its education program year-round, host visiting artists, and organize community festivals around kiln firings, creating permanent jobs and drawing visitors to Athens County.

The project fits priorities the county shares across Appalachian Ohio: education, workforce development, placemaking and heritage-based tourism through the reuse of a coal-era site. It also builds on the state's own reclamation work on the adjoining mine land.

The Board respectfully encourages a favorable review of the application.

Sincerely,

Lenny Eliason, President

Charlie Adkins

Chris Chmiel

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WPCLF HSTS Replacement Project Bids

Project Information:

Brenda Kasler
316 Railroad St
Nelsonville, OH 45764

Hugh Call
17196 Diamond Brick Rd
Nelsonville, OH 45764

Contractor	Price
E&J Hilltop Acres	\$6,800
Southeastern Excavating, LLC	\$18,400
Affordable Concrete Pumping & Services	\$17,160
JC Excavating	\$13,000

Above are responsible and approved bids this office received for this project that was posted on September 15, 2026. This office recommends awarding this project to the lowest complete bid, E&J Hilltop Acres.

All bids reflected the abandonment of the existing STS, connecting to the public sewer, including the cost of equipment, materials, site work, grading, seeding and strawing, and permits fees.

Both of these properties will be 100% funded through the Ohio EPA WPCLF.

Carl Ortmann, MD
Health Commissioner
Jack Pepper, REHS
Administrator



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

Athens County 9-1-1 Intermittent Dispatcher Pay Scale

Step	Time in Position	Rate	Increase
Step 1 - Entry	Hire/Start	\$22.50/hr	—
Step 2 - Training Completion	4 months	\$23.25/hr	+\$0.75
Step 3 - One-Year (\$1000) bonus	12 months	\$24.00/hr	+\$0.75

Requirements for each increase

Starting Rate - \$22.50

- Newly hired intermittent dispatcher
- completes initial orientation
- Enters the 9-1-1 training program

4-Month Training Completion - \$23.25

Employee must:

- complete required dispatcher training
- Demonstrate proficiency in call-taking and radio operations
- Complete required EMD/Fire/LE training applicable to the position
- Complete required testing/evaluations
- Meet attendance and performance expectations
- Be released from training by the supervisor/director

One-Year Increase - \$24.00 + \$1,000 one-year bonus

Employee must:

- complete one year of service
- Maintain required certifications/continuing education
- Meet performance expectations
- Maintain satisfactory attendance
- Demonstrate independent operation of assigned dispatcher duties
- Receive a satisfactory annual evaluation

Intermittent will remain at step 3 until hired full-time and will join the Bargaining Agreement at Step 2.

Intermittent will receive an increase in cost of living after one year of service in line with the bargaining unit at the beginning of each calendar year.

WPCLF HSTS Replacement Project Soil Evaluation & STS Design Bids

Project Information:

Dan Hartlett
15985 Main St.
Millfield, OH 45761

Mary Richmond
18218 St Rt 13
Glouster, OH 45761

Contractor	Price
Flowers Septic System Design, Inc.	\$3600

Above is the responsible and approved bid this office received for this project that was posted on September 10, 2026. This office recommends awarding this project to the lowest complete bid, Flowers Septic System Design, Inc.

All bids reflected a complete site and soil evaluation to determine the size of a replacement septic system for the above addresses.

Both of these properties will be 100% funded.

Carl Ortmann, MD
Health Commissioner
Jack Pepper, REHS
Administrator



278 W Union Street
Athens, OH 45701
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athenspublichealth.org

information would be obtained regarding potential local involvement.

Planner LaVelle reported having contacted Watco, the railroad company operating the active rail line adjacent to the affected riverbank, regarding possible participation in the project. The log jam has been diverting river flow toward the railroad embankment, and recent conditions have increased concerns about erosion. Planner LaVelle had previously provided the railroad with information regarding the situation and, following additional erosion observed after recent high water, contacted Watco dispatch to alert the company. Watco indicated that a crew would inspect the area.

Planner LaVelle also reported that the County has submitted a Section 208 request to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers seeking assistance with the project. The application remains under review. The potential federal assistance could help address both debris removal and longer-term measures intended to reduce the likelihood of future log jams, including possible improvements to better direct river flow and debris.

Because of concern about leaving the existing log jam in place while awaiting a decision on federal assistance, discussion moving forward with a local cleanup effort while continuing to pursue the Army Corps project for longer-term improvements. It was noted that the City is willing to assist with the project and that similar river-clearing work has been locally funded in the past.

Commissioner Eliason directed Planner LaVelle to continue discussions with Andy Stone and prepare bid specifications for the log jam removal project. Planner LaVelle will return to the Board with additional information regarding the proposed scope, estimated cost, funding options, and bidding process. See documents on back of page 341.

Request for Letter - William Morgan

William Morgan had concerns regarding contractor and subcontractor practices associated with the Sunset Chapter Project being managed by HAPCAP, including compliance with tax, worker classification, and prevailing wage requirements. HAPCAP Glen Crippen explained that the project had previously been bid unsuccessfully three times before proceeding through a design-build negotiation and stated that contractors are required to comply with applicable Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements, with compliance monitored through certified payroll reports and employee interviews. Mr. Morgan requested that the Board consider sending HAPCAP a letter encouraging appropriate contractor standards and compliance requirements. Commissioner Eliason requested that a draft letter be submitted for review and consideration before taking any action. HAPCAP Glen Crippen also reported that the project is currently anticipated to be ready for occupancy in late fall.

Grant Discussion - 911/EMS

EMS Assist Chief Randy Crossen Jr provided an update regarding an application for the Ohio Department of Health Rural EMS and Dispatch Grant Program to support emergency communications improvements for Athens County EMS and 911 operations. The proposed grant would seek funding for an automatic dispatch system, five MARCS alerting/toner boxes for EMS, and approximately 12 MARCS base-station radios for volunteer fire departments. The automatic dispatch system is expected to improve efficiency by allowing dispatchers to initiate an emergency response while remaining on the telephone with a 911 caller.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve submission of a letter of support for the grant application. See back of page 341 for Letter of Support.

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

EMS Part-Time EMT Emmalee Bausum Resignation

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to accept the resignation of part-time EMT Emmalee Bausum effective September 28, 2026.

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

EMS Part-Time Paramedic Position

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve Josh Crihfield as a Part-Time Paramedic with a rate of pay \$20.72/hr.

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

Athens County Commissioners



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Alison Pieson
Clerk
apieson@athensohio.org
Telephone (740) 592-3302

September 29, 2026

Ohio Department of Health
Rural EMS and Dispatch Grant Program

Dear Grant Review Committee:

Athens County is requesting funding to modernize critical EMS and 9-1-1 communications technology that connects our emergency communications center with the fire and EMS agencies serving our rural communities. The proposed project will upgrade EMS paging capabilities and integrate those improvements with enhanced Ohio Multi-Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS) capabilities to improve interoperability, reliability, and communication among EMS, fire, law enforcement, emergency management, and mutual-aid agencies.

The project will also enhance technology within the Athens County 9-1-1 Center through transcription and translation capabilities and automated quality assurance tools for Emergency Medical Dispatch and Fire Service calls. These technologies will improve telecommunicators' ability to capture and communicate critical information, assist callers with language barriers, identify training opportunities, and support consistent compliance with established emergency dispatch protocols.

These improvements are particularly important to Athens County as a rural community that relies on multiple fire and EMS agencies, including departments with significant volunteer staffing. Reliable emergency communications are essential when resources are limited, agencies are geographically dispersed, and multiple organizations must work together during an emergency.

The proposed project also builds upon the County's significant investment in emergency communications infrastructure. Athens County recently completed a new 9-1-1 and Emergency Management facility designed to provide resilient emergency communications, continuity of operations, redundant systems, emergency power, and long-term support for the County's emergency response system. The requested grant funding will build upon that infrastructure by

providing the technology necessary to strengthen further the connection between the 9-1-1 center and the emergency responders serving our communities.

The Athens County Board of Commissioners recognizes that effective emergency response begins with the initial 9-1-1 call and continues through dispatch, responder notification, radio communications, and the delivery of emergency medical and fire services. Strengthening each part of this process will help improve the reliability and coordination of emergency services throughout Athens County.

The project will provide measurable benefits including improved EMS paging, enhanced MARCS interoperability, improved communication of emergency information, transcription and translation capabilities, automated quality assurance for EMD and Fire Service calls, improved identification of training needs, and stronger support for our rural EMS and fire service partners.

The County's investment in this project is intended to provide a sustainable, long-term improvement to the emergency response system. By bringing together modern paging, interoperable radio communications, advanced 9-1-1 technology, translation and transcription, and quality assurance capabilities, Athens County will be better positioned to support its emergency responders and provide reliable emergency services to residents and visitors.

The Athens County Board of Commissioners is committed to supporting the continued modernization of our emergency services and recognizes the importance of providing our 9-1-1 telecommunicators, EMS providers, firefighters, law enforcement personnel, and emergency management staff with reliable technology and communications systems.

Because this proposed project will strengthen rural EMS communications, improve interoperability, support emergency dispatch quality, and enhance the ability of Athens County's emergency responders to serve our residents, the Athens County Board of Commissioners strongly supports this request for funding through the Ohio Department of Health Rural EMS and Dispatch Grant Program.

Sincerely,

ATHENS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Lenny Elison
Lenny Elison, President

Charlie Adkins
Charlie Adkins

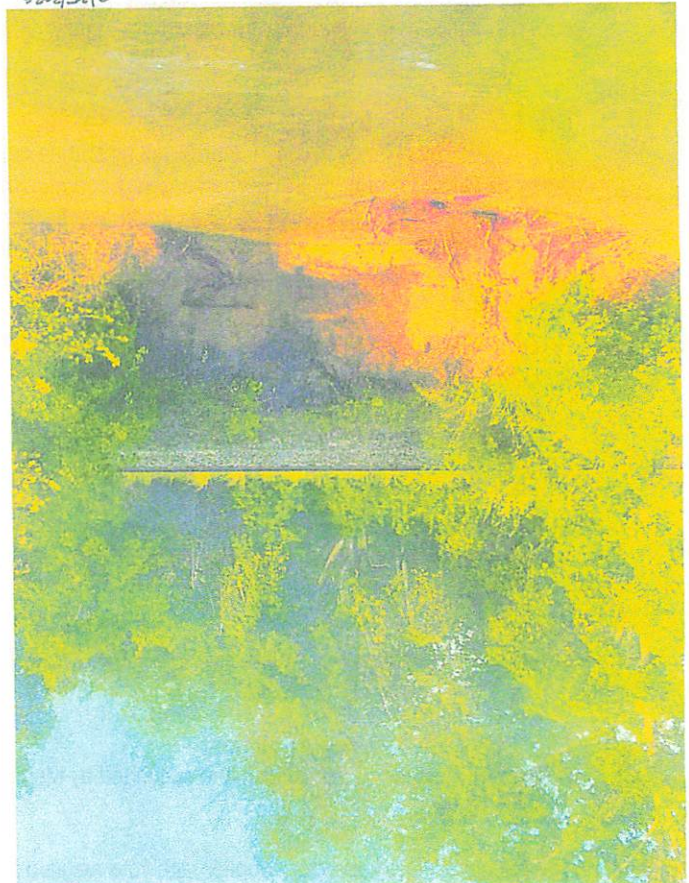
Chris Chmiel
Chris Chmiel

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9/29/2026

9/29/2026



W&S Weekly Updates - Supt. Oscar Carson

Supt. Carson provided an update regarding ongoing Water and Sewer operations, repairs, and capital projects. He reported that work on the control panel at the lift station was expected to be completed that day. One new pump was already at the plant awaiting installation, an additional pump had been ordered, and three new mating flanges were ordered so that all three pumps could be returned to service. He also discussed obtaining pricing for blacktop repairs in areas affected by previous water leaks and sewer work. Supt. Carson also reported plans to obtain updated signage for the Water and Sewer billing office and the entrance near Jackson Drive to make the facility easier for customers to locate. Pricing will be provided to the Board once available.

Capacity of the existing wastewater treatment system as the County prepares for the eventual addition of the New Marshfield sewer system and other development. Supt. Carson reported that the treatment plant is designed for approximately 900,000 gallons per day and permitted for approximately 600,000 gallons per day, while normal daily flows generally range from approximately 150,000 to 200,000 gallons. New Marshfield is expected to add approximately 47,000 gallons per day, and he indicated that the existing plant should have sufficient capacity for that additional flow as well as anticipated apartment development. He also discussed the capacity of the associated pump station and recent efforts to reduce infiltration and inflow from a nearby trailer park. Supt. Carson reported that unused sewer laterals and cleanouts had been capped and that the improvement appeared to reduce excess flows during the most recent significant rainfall event.

Road conditions associated with the New Marshfield sewer construction were also discussed. Because additional construction remains to be completed in areas that have already been disturbed, Commissioner Adkins did not recommend immediately proceeding with permanent blacktop restoration. Instead, the possibility of using a fog seal or similar dust-control treatment on gravel roads was discussed. DLZ Gary Silcott will obtain pricing and additional information before returning to the Board.

Stewart/Guysville sanitary sewer project and a separate wastewater treatment facility being contemplated in the Canaanville area in connection with private development. Commissioner Eliason questioned whether it would be financially and operationally preferable to construct and ultimately operate two separate treatment facilities located relatively close to one another or explore a combined system. DLZ Gary Silcott confirmed that planning and design for the Stewart/Guysville project is currently being financed through an Ohio Water Development Authority design loan, with repayment beginning approximately one year after the loan was obtained. Only a portion of the available design funding has been spent to date.

Several alternatives were discussed, including constructing a separate treatment plant for Stewart/Guysville or conveying wastewater by force main to a facility associated with the Canaanville development. Based on preliminary calculations using recent construction pricing, a force main connecting the areas could cost approximately \$1.5 million, in addition to treatment facility costs. Commissioners emphasized the need to compare the alternatives carefully before committing additional design funds. Discussion also included the possibility of coordinating with the private developer (Brent Hayes) regarding plant capacity, property, construction funding, and a potential developer agreement.

Commissioner Eliason expressed concern about committing the Sewer District to additional debt and infrastructure before determining the project's financial feasibility, staffing requirements, long-term operating costs, and available funding. DLZ Gary Silcott noted that the County is working with RCAP on potential construction funding and the possibility of incorporating the design financing into a larger construction funding package containing grant assistance. Commissioner Eliason also discussed the likelihood that residents benefiting from the proposed sewer system would eventually need to contribute toward project costs and emphasized that residents should understand the financial implications before the County proceeds substantially further. The possibility of holding public meetings with affected residents was discussed.

The Board further discussed whether operating multiple wastewater plants would require additional Water and Sewer personnel. Commissioner Eliason requested a more complete analysis of staffing and Ohio EPA operator requirements, including how those requirements may change depending on the size and permitted flow of each facility. DLZ Gary Silcott explained that operator requirements can vary based on gallons treated per day and the classification of the treatment facility. Supt. Carson emphasized that the County must understand not only construction costs but also the personnel, equipment, sludge handling, transportation, and regulatory obligations associated with operating additional facilities.

The Board agreed that additional information should be gathered before determining how to proceed with the Stewart/Guysville and Canaanville projects. Supt. Carson will obtain more definitive information regarding Ohio EPA requirements, projected staffing, treatment capacity, operating costs, and the comparative costs of the available alternatives. Commissioner Adkins also requested increased coordination with the private developer so that the County can participate in the design process if it is ultimately expected to assume ownership and operation of the facility.

Deteriorated Sanitary Sewer Manhole

Supt. Carson discussed the deteriorated sanitary sewer manhole near Subway in The Plains. A previous estimate to completely replace the manhole was approximately \$70,000. As an alternative, Advanced Rehabilitation Technology proposed relining the existing manhole with a spray-applied liner for \$7,120. He explained that the liner is commonly used to rehabilitate deteriorated manholes and carries a 50-year guarantee, providing a substantially less expensive alternative to full replacement. The existing casting at the top of the manhole will need to be replaced before the lining work is completed so the entire structure can be properly sealed.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the manhole rehabilitation project in the amount of \$7,120.00 from Advanced Rehabilitation Technology.

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

The Plains Fire Department Water Tap

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve installing a water tap at The Plains Fire Department.

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

Demonstration Project Additional Equipment Install

Supt. Carson updated the Board regarding a demonstration project involving equipment installed near the wastewater treatment plant's discharge to the Hocking River. The individual conducting the project requested permission to install an additional unit near the plant's UV channel to make the equipment easier to demonstrate and observe. Supt. Carson reported that the installation would be at no cost to the County and would not interfere with plant operations.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the additional equipment installation at no cost to the county.

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

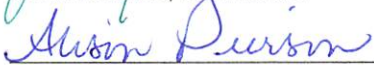
Adjourn

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.



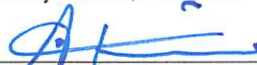
JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator



Alison Pierson, Clerk



Lenny Eliason, President



Charlie Adkins, Vice-President



Chris Chmiel