

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 Wednesday, September 09, 2026 Convenes at 9:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes September 2, 2026

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

Fund to Fund: W&S \$67,088.13 from 608.3608.580100 Transfers Out to 603.2603.422101 Transfers In

Fund to Fund: Engineer \$225,372.72 from 491.1300.580102 Bond Transfer to 036.2036.422101 Transfers In

9:30 Bid Opening - Surplus Maintenance

10:00 August Accounts & Fund Recap - Treasurer Sappington

10:15 Floodplain Violation Report & State of Ohio Manufactured Home Regulation Update - Planner LaVelle

10:45 Jim Michaels - 9/11 service

11:30 LUNCH

Agenda Items

W&S Extensions

Common Pleas transfer request \$3,989.40 into transcript line item 1145.53230

Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) - Prosecutor's Office

W&S Temporary Credit Card Increase

Surplus - EMS

Sheriff ORC 311.16 Report

DeBra-Kuempel Invoice 01577386 in the amount of \$333,900.00 to be paid with ARPA Funds

EMS Interviews

Budget Hearings

Surplus-Sheriff

Engineer- OPWC

-TRAVEL

Sheriff: Robert Goodrich; Autopsy Training, Cleveland OH; 09/20 - 09/23/26

Sheriff: Keith Wright; Firearms Trainer Course, Urbana OH; 10/13 - 10/16/26

ADJOURNMENT

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, absent; 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 2, 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 Commissioner Chmiel and seconded by Commissioner Adkins approving the Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes, including Fund to Fund: W&S \$67,088.13 from 608.3608.580100 Transfers Out to 603.2603.422101 Transfers In, Fund to Fund: Engineer \$225,372.72 from 491.1300.580102 Bond Transfer to 036.2036.422101 Transfers In and approving the payment of the required County Bills, which are included in the Auditor's Office INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 09/01/2026 To: 09/03/2026, INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 09/03/2026 To: 09/09/2026 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.

Bid Opening - Surplus Maintenance

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to acknowledge receipt of the following bids:

Ron Hawk - any axe \$15.00, any axe maul \$15.00, any brush axe \$15.00, & weed trimmer extension handle \$15.00

Jack Pepper - axe \$11.00, axe maul \$10.00, & weed trimmer extension handle \$11.00

Mike Biggins - weed trimmer extension handle \$20.00

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

Bid Award - Surplus Maintenance

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to award the following bids:

Ron Hawk - any axe \$15.00, any axe maul \$15.00, & any brush axe \$15.00

Jack Pepper - axe \$11.00, axe maul \$10.00

Mike Biggins - weed trimmer extension handle \$20.00

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

W&S Extensions

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel approve and authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the extension as requested by Mallory Clark for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is \$190.25 with payment due on 09/18/26 for \$94.11. 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 approve and authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the extension as requested by Ryan Forrest for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is \$109.08 with payment due on 09/10/26 for \$56.83. 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 approve and authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the extension as requested by Steven Harlan for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is \$127.49 with payment due on 09/22/26 for \$70.62. 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 approve and authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the extension as requested by Laura Plotner for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is \$155.23 with payment due on 09/10/26 for \$75.26. 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.

Common Pleas transfer request \$3,989.40 into transcript line item 1145.530230

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the Common Pleas transfer request of \$3,989.40 into transcript line item 1145.530230.

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

Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) - Prosecutor's Office

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to authorize Commissioner Eliason sign the pre-award Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) for the Prosecutor's Office.

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

W&S Temporary Credit Card Increase

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve a temporary credit card limit increase of \$10,000.00 for W&S to allow the purchase of cabinets & countertop from Menards for a laboratory renovation project.

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 the EMS Surplus for redistribution and disposal of any items no longer usable. See Surplus form on back of page 320.

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

Sheriff ORC 311.16 Report

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to acknowledge receipt of the Sheriff's report submitted pursuant to ORC section 311.16 receipts in the amount of \$17,381.26. See document on back of page 320.

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

DeBra-Kuempel Invoice 01577386 in the amount of \$333,900.00 to be paid with ARPA Funds

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve the DeBra-Kuempel Invoice 01577386 in the amount of \$333,900.00 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.

EMS Interviews

Administrator JoAnn Rockhold provided an update regarding the EMS Chief hiring process. Applications had been received from a number of candidates, including applicants from outside Ohio. Commissioners were provided the applications for review so that candidates could be selected for interviews. Commissioner Adkins advised that a September 15 application deadline had been established to allow additional applicants time to submit materials before interviews begin.

Budget Hearings

Administrator JoAnn Rockhold gave an update regarding the upcoming county budget process. Administrator Rockhold reported that the budget portal would open near the end of September and that departmental budget hearings would be scheduled during October. The earlier schedule is intended to allow sufficient time to address questions, make adjustments, and have the budget process substantially completed before December.

Surplus - Sheriff

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve and declare the Sheriff's Surplus and donate the vehicle to the Glouster Fire Department:

Description	Model #	Serial #
2007 Chevy Truck	Silverado K1500	1GCEK19C47Z631438

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

Engineer- OPWC

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the Engineer's OPWC project name ATH-CR48-7.89 Landslide Repair.

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:

Sheriff: Robert Goodrich; Autopsy Training, Cleveland OH; 09/20 - 09/23/26
 Sheriff: Keith Wright; Firearms Trainer Course, Urbana OH; 10/13 - 10/16/26

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

ATHENS COUNTY
13 W. Washington St.
Athens, Ohio 45701
sheriffsmith@athenssheriff.com



SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Phone: 740.593.6633
Fax: 740.593.3673
www.athenssheriff.com

Rodney Smith, Sheriff

County Property Declared Surplus

EMS

Experimental

Property Description
Twin XL bed frames x3 - broken

Model =

Serial #:

Join to bed frames x3

[illegible]

Elected Official Department Head Signature

8-26

1.

Address: 1, County Court Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 0NE

Date _____

(3) Redistribute Surplus Property

✓ (3) Destroy Surplus Property

Auction or Sale



BRYNNE MORRIS
Notary Public, State of Ohio
My Commission Expires
November 16, 2026

Rodney Smith, Sheriff

Brynn Morris
Notary Public

9/11 Service - Jim Michaels

Jim Michael, representing Judge McCarthy's office, presented plans for a 25th anniversary September 11 remembrance ceremony at the Athens County Courthouse. The brief ceremony is planned for the morning of September 11 and will include remarks from local officials, a County proclamation, and the ringing of the courthouse bell at 8:46 a.m. in remembrance of the attacks.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to approve a proclamation commemorating the 25th Anniversary of September 11, 2001:

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

WHEREAS, September 11, 2026, marks the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, a day that forever changed our nation; and

WHEREAS, we remember and honor the nearly 3,000 lives lost and recognize the courage and sacrifice of the firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical personnel, members of the Armed Forces, first responders, and ordinary citizens who responded with extraordinary bravery; and

WHEREAS, the Athens County Board of Commissioners encourages all citizens to honor the memory of those who lost their lives and to recognize the strength, unity, and resilience demonstrated by Americans in the days and years that followed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Athens County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes the **25th Anniversary of September 11, 2001**, and joins our community and nation in remembering those we lost, honoring those who served, and ensuring that we **Never Forget**.

Signed this 9th day of September 2026.

ATHENS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/Lenny Eliason, President

/s/Charlie Adkins, Commissioner

/s/Chris Chmiel, Commissioner

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

Treasurer Updates

Treasurer Sappington presented the August financial report, which reflected a 2.6% increase in second-half property tax collections and significant increases in delinquent real estate and mobile home tax collections. Treasurer Sappington credited proactive collection efforts, expanded use of payment plans, and improved office procedures, including the new cashiering system. Discussion also addressed outstanding delinquent taxes, foreclosure activity, and plans to continue aggressively addressing newer delinquencies before they become long-term uncollectible debt. The Board commended the Treasurer and staff for their collection efforts.

August Accounts & Fund Recap - Treasurer Sappington

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

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

Floodplain Violation Report - Planner LaVelle

Planner LaVelle updated the Commissioners regarding an outstanding floodplain violation involving a property in Hockingport, where a large accessory structure was constructed without the required floodplain development permit. Despite multiple notices and opportunities to provide required elevation or floodproofing documentation or appeal the determination, the property owner had not brought the property into compliance. Planner LaVelle explained that further enforcement would seek corrective action to ensure the structure meets applicable floodplain requirements or receives an appropriate variance.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to authorize Planner LaVelle to proceed with enforcement through the appropriate law director's office. See letter on back of page 322.

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

State of Ohio Manufactured Home Regulation Update - Planner LaVelle

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel to authorize Planner LaVelle to submit comments to the State of Ohio recommending the terminology change. Planner LaVelle would like to recommend changing the term 100-year floodplain to a community's flood hazard area. See document on back of page 322.

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.



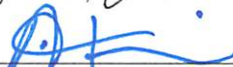
JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator



Alison Pierson, Clerk



Lenny Eliason, President



Charlie Adkins, Vice President



Chris Chmiel

Athens County Commissioners



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September 9, 2026

City of Athens Law Department
ATTN: Lisa Eliason, Law Director
8 E. Washington Street
Athens, OH 45701

RE: Floodplain Violation – 650 Riverfront Road, Hockingport – PIDS: L010010102300/L010010102200

Director Eliason,

The Athens County Board of Commissioners unanimously agreed to refer Athens County Floodplain Violation 25-011FP (L010010102300/L010010102200) to the City of Athens Law Department for appropriate legal action following discussion of the matter at the September 09, 2026, meeting of the Board.

The abovementioned property has been found to be in violation of the Athens County Flood Damage Reduction Regulations. These regulations have been adopted by the Athens County Board of Commissioners to prevent the loss of life and property related to flood hazards within Athens County. Adherence to, and enforcement of, these regulations is required for Athens County's continued participation and good-standing in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Section 6.3 of the Regulations state that failure to comply will be deemed "a strict liability offense, and shall constitute a fourth-degree misdemeanor for the first violation and a first-degree misdemeanor for any subsequent violations," explaining that "each day such violation continues shall be considered a separate offense." To protect Athens County residents from the health and safety dangers associated with severe flooding, and to ensure the County's good standing with the National Flood Insurance Program, the Athens County Board of Commissioners is referring this case to the City of Athens Law Department for appropriate action.

Sincerely,

JoAnn Rockhold
JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator

The Board of Athens County Commissioners is an Affirmative Action employer
and does not discriminate for reasons of race, gender, age, religion or disability.



DRAFT – NOT FOR FILING

4781-6-03.10 Stable foundations - division-approved alternative park installations.

(A) Stable foundations for used manufactured homes - general.

(1) Division -approved designs and details shall be acceptable alternatives for installations of used manufactured homes only for licensed manufactured housing parks or as otherwise specified in Chapter 4781-6 of the Administrative Code. Where an item is not mentioned specifically in one of these alternative designs, that installation item or element shall meet the state of Ohio manufactured home installation standards under Chapter 4781-6 of the Administrative Code. A foundation design method must be employed in its entirety. If an item or element is specified in the selected alternative design, that item or element or an equal or more stringent item or element shall be part of the installation. At the time of permit approval and prior to the installation, the alternative design must be selected and the authority having jurisdiction informed as to which installation foundation alternative design or method the installer seeks approval to use.

(2) These alternatives are not appropriate for use in areas located within a one-hundred-year flood plain.

(B) Alternate method 1 - existing manufactured home parks.

(C) Alternate method 2 - division park installation alternative foundation designs.

The division may approve and distribute alternative park installation foundation designs, including designs using runners, ribbons, or slabs that do not meet the requirements for a permanent foundation, when all of the following are met:

- (1) The complete installation foundation design has been reviewed and recommended for approval by the division;
- (2) The installation foundation design shall not take the manufactured home out of compliance with the MHCSS;
- (3) The installation foundation design shall provide protection to residents of manufactured housing that equals or exceeds the protection provided by the installation standards for used manufactured homes set forth in Chapter 4781-6 of the Administrative Code, except for frost depth requirements for ribbons, runners, and slabs;
- (4) The installation foundation design shall have broad applicability for use in a variety of locations throughout Ohio and provide for the MHCSS, Ohio design loads, various Ohio soil conditions, and other design conditions throughout Ohio. The installation foundation design shall clearly specify any conditions, limitations, or requirements, including site conditions specific to the designs;

DRAFT – NOT FOR FILING

4781-6-03.11 Division-approved alternative installation designs for used manufactured homes.

(A) General.

(1) Division-approved installation designs and details shall be acceptable alternatives for installations of used manufactured homes on private property or in manufactured home parks. Where an item is not mentioned specifically in a division -approved alternative design, that installation item or element shall meet the state of Ohio used manufactured home installation standards under Chapter 4781-6 of the Administrative Code. A foundation design method must be employed in its entirety. If an item or element is specified in the selected alternative design, that item or element or an equal or more stringent item or element shall be part of the installation. At the time of permit approval and prior to the installation, the alternative design must be selected and the authority having jurisdiction informed as to which installation foundation alternative design or method the installer seeks approval to use.

(2) In addition to the used manufactured home installation requirements of Chapter 4781. of the Revised Code, installations in a manufactured home park may have additional requirements pursuant to rule 4781-12-08 of the Administrative Code.

(3) Unless specifically indicated as appropriate for use within a one-hundred-year flood plain, these alternatives shall not be used in areas located within a one-hundred-year flood plain.

(B) Alternate method - division alternative foundation designs.

The division may approve and distribute alternative installation foundation designs when all of the following are met:

- (1) The complete installation foundation design has been reviewed and recommended for approval by the division;
- (2) The installation foundation design shall not take the manufactured home out of compliance with the federal manufactured home construction and safety standards (MHCSS);
- (3) The installation foundation design shall provide protection to residents of manufactured housing that equals or exceeds the protection provided by the used manufactured homes installation standards set forth in Chapter 4781-6 of the Administrative Code;
- (4) The installation foundation design shall have broad applicability for use in a variety of locations throughout Ohio and provide for the MHCSS, Ohio design loads, various Ohio soil conditions, and other design conditions throughout Ohio. The installation foundation design shall clearly specify any conditions, limitations, or requirements, including site conditions specific to the designs;