

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

Agenda

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

Athens County Board of County Commissioners

Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, September 15, 2026 Convenes at 9:30 a.m.

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes September 9, 2026

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

Fund to Fund: Common Pleas \$20,000.00 from 255.3255.560100 Other to 252.2252.417100 Other Revenue

Fund to Fund: Health Dept \$310,000.00 from 662.2662.580100 Transfer Out to 021.2021.422101 Transfer In

Fund to Fund: Comm \$900.00 from 001.1236.589000 Transfer Out to 571.2571.417100 Other Rev-Pub Assist

New Line Item: Comm

Expenditures: AND Title XX Contract 001.1194.530205

9:30 Ben Ziff- HAPCAP

10:00 Patrick McGarry - Grant Cycle

10:15 Pocket Park Nelsonville - Daniel Sherman

11:00 Tree Plant

11:30 LUNCH

Agenda Items

Amended Certificate

W&S Extensions (Ratify Commissioner Adkins Signature)

DJFS Retirees Resolutions

Surplus - 911

Engineer - Dump Truck Purchase

Surplus - PWS

ATCO -

Closing 13183 State Rt 13 Burr Oak Water District

~TRAVEL

Recorder: Jessica Markins; ORA Fall Continuing Education, Columbus OH; 09/16 - 09/17/26

Treasurer: Taylor Sappington & Nick Smith; CTAO Education & Learning, Columbus OH; 09/14/26

Sheriff: Keith Wright; Pistol Instructor Training, London OH; 10/04 - 10/09/26

ADJOURNMENT

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

Suspend the Rules

A motion was made by Mr. And seconded by Mr. To suspend the rules and declare an emergency and add the following to the agenda:

Travel: Commissioner Adkins; Sign paperwork for Engineer's New Dump Truck, Columbus OH; 09/18/26

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

Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to approve the minutes of September 9, 2026.

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

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

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason approving the Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes, including Fund to Fund: Common Pleas \$20,000.00 from 255.3255.560100 Other to 252.2252.417100 Other Revenue, Fund to Fund: Health Dept \$310,000.00 from 662.2662.580100 Transfer Out to 021.2021.422101 Transfer In, Fund to Fund: Comm \$900.00 from 001.1236.589000 Transfer Out to 571.2571.417100 Other Rev-Pub Assist, New Line Item: Comm Expenditures: AND Title XX Contract 001.1194.530205 and approving the payment of the required County Bills, which are included in the Auditor's Office INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: 09/08/2026 To: 09/10/2026 and the bills are hereby the same and authorize the County Auditor to issue warrants on the County Treasurer for payment in the same. Complete list of bills maintained in the Auditor's office.

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

Athens-Hocking Mobility Management Program - Ben Ziff

Ben Ziff of the Athens-Hocking Mobility Management Program addressed the Board regarding the program's local match request for the upcoming budget year. The program has historically received \$7,500 annually from the Athens County Commissioners and is requesting that the contribution be increased to \$15,000. Ben explained that transportation costs have continued to increase and that additional local support would reduce the need to subsidize Mobility Management with funds that could otherwise support Athens Public Transit, Athens On Demand, or the transit reserve.

The Board also received information regarding the transit reserve fund, which contains approximately \$380,000 shared between Athens and Hocking counties. Approximately \$100,000 is earmarked for the planned transit facility and another \$80,000 for vehicle local-match expenses, leaving approximately \$200,000 currently available. Ben emphasized the importance of maintaining an adequate reserve to address future transportation costs and avoid reductions in transit service.

Athens County Transit Facility - Carolyn Conley

Carolyn Conley provided an update on the proposed Athens County transit facility. Federal funding for the project was originally sought in 2022, and the program received its contract on August 21, 2026. The project includes slightly more than \$3.3 million in federal funding and requires approximately \$830,000 in local match. Carolyn noted that the Commissioners had previously committed \$165,000 toward the project's local match. The project is expected to be located adjacent to the existing transit facility on West State Street. Carolyn is awaiting a kickoff meeting with ODOT before a more definitive project schedule and funding timeline can be established.

DJFS Contract - Athens County Children Services

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to approve the DJFS Contract with Athens County Children Services:

Name of Organization	Athens County Children Services
Total \$ Value	\$27,177.63
Contract Period	07/01/2026 - 06/30/2027
Program Accts & Codes to be charged	Medicaid NET 850/510050
Billing Procedure	Submits Monthly Invoices, Payment made within 30 days.

Full Contract on file in the Commissioners Office.

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

DJFS Retiree Resolution - Kim Hobbs

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to approve the resolution recognizing Kim Hobbs for her service with DJFS:

RESOLUTION HONORING KIM HOBBS UPON RETIREMENT

WHEREAS, Kim Hobbs began dedicated service with the Athens County Department of Job and Family Services on September 1, 1994; and

WHEREAS, Kim Hobbs has faithfully served thousands of Athens County residents; and

WHEREAS, after 32 years of dedicated public service, Kim Hobbs will retire effective September 30, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Athens County Commissioners do hereby recognize and commend Kim Hobbs for years of faithful and dedicated service to the citizens of Athens County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our sincere appreciation for loyalty in public service and wish continued happiness, good health, and success in retirement.

Signed this 15th day of September 2026:

/s/Lenny Eliason, President

/s/Charlie Adkins

/s/Chris Chmiel

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

DJFS Retiree Resolution - Kelly Neal

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to approve the resolution recognizing Kelly Neal for her service with DJFS:

RESOLUTION HONORING KELLY NEAL UPON RETIREMENT

WHEREAS, Kelly Neal began dedicated service with the Athens County Department of Job and Family Services on April 10, 2000; and

WHEREAS, Kelly Neal has faithfully served thousands of Athens County residents; and

WHEREAS, after 26 years of dedicated public service, Kelly Neal will retire effective October 31, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Athens County Commissioners do hereby recognize and commend Kelly Neal for years of faithful and dedicated service to the citizens of Athens County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our sincere appreciation for loyalty in public service and wish continued happiness, good health, and success in retirement.

Signed this 15th day of September 2026:

/s/Lenny Eliason, President

/s/Charlie Adkins

/s/Chris Chmiel

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

DJFS PRC Plan Revisions - Jason Terry

Social Services Dir. Jason Terry proposed revisions to the agency's Prevention, Retention and Contingency (PRC) Plan. The revisions remove requirements that applicants provide an eviction notice before receiving rental assistance or a utility shutoff/disconnection notice before receiving utility assistance. Jason explained that removing these requirements would allow assistance to be provided proactively rather than requiring households to wait until an eviction or utility disconnection is imminent.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to approve the PRC Plan Revisions as provided.

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

DJFS PRC Program Footwear Assistance

Social Services Dir. Jason Terry provided an update on a new footwear assistance PRC program for TANF-eligible children ages 4 through 18. The program began September 1 and provides approved applicants with up to \$200 for footwear, including shoes, boots, sandals, slippers, and socks. Jason reported that approximately 135 vouchers had already been issued, with approximately another 100 applications awaiting processing. The program is scheduled to continue through September 30.

DJFS Senior Emergency Assistance Fund

Assist. Dir. Lisa Radford reported on the recently established Senior Emergency Assistance Fund, for which the Commissioners had provided \$100,000. The program opened September 1 and was closed September 9 after receiving 173 applications, substantially exceeding the number of households that available funding could support. Lisa reported that approximately 90% of the requests involved home repairs, with other requests involving household cleaning, furniture, appliances, and utility expenses. Adult Protective Services staff are reviewing applications to determine whether applicants may qualify for other programs or community resources. Commissioner Adkins discussed whether a future funding round could use a lottery or similar selection process rather than strictly first-come, first-served in order to provide a more equitable opportunity for seniors who may learn about the program later. JFS is also exploring additional grants and resources that could potentially support the program.

DJFS Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA)

Social Services Dir. Jason Terry provided its monthly operational update. During August, two legal secretaries processed approximately 200 legal referrals, with 46 hearings scheduled for future dates. CSEA collected \$386,027 during August and approximately \$3.1 million during federal fiscal year 2026 through August for Athens County children. Jason also reported that payments under the agency's 4D contracts were current through June, with approximately \$37,821.50 paid to participating vendors for that month.

Commissioner Adkins asked how services performed through the Prosecutor's Office under the 4D contract are coordinated and monitored following a staffing change. Jason explained that its legal secretaries schedule hearings through the court and use a secure shared system with the Prosecutor's Office to exchange schedules, case notes, and hearing preparation information. Jason reported that the new process has been working well.

DJFS Letter to Community

Social Services Dir. Jason Terry then discussed ongoing staffing shortages and increased customer wait times within eligibility services. The agency had issued a letter to the community apologizing for longer wait times. Jason reported that JFS is operating with 13 eligibility caseworkers, approximately 10 fewer than previous staffing levels. The staffing shortage has contributed to significant increases in pending electronic documents and telephone calls. Jason reported approximately 2,300 pending SNAP/TANF documents and 1,600 pending medical documents, compared with approximately 500 documents in the queues when the agency was fully staffed. Jason emphasized that current employees are working diligently but that customers are experiencing longer processing and telephone wait times. The agency is beginning to discuss possible internal reorganization to place limited staff resources where they are most needed.

Amended Certificate

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason acknowledging receipt of the Amended Certificate for Athens County Commissioners., dated September 15, 2026 prepared by Jill Davidson, Athens County Auditor.

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

W&S Extensions

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason ratifying Commissioner Adkins Signature authorizing an Extension as requested by Rita Howland for monies owed the Athens County Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service, the total amount due is \$115.47 with \$63.22 to be paid 09/14/26. 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, absent; Mr. Adkins, yea.

Surplus - 911

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to approve declaring the listed property surplus and redistributing the items as presented:

Description

2 Dispatch Desks/Consoles and cabling for parts 4 Cabinets

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

Engineer - Dump Truck Purchase

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to approve the Engineer Purchase of a 2014 Dump Truck Freightliner 1FVAG5CY0EHFR3907 in the amount of \$65,000.00 from FYDA Freightliner Columbus, Inc.

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

Surplus - PWS

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to approve declaring the listed property surplus and destroy the items as presented:

Description

Old Desk Tag#0335-000011

Refrigerator

2 Chairs

Cabinets and countertop in the lab area

Rolling 2 tier table

Rolling flat table

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

Twin Oaks Invoice for ATCO Building

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to approve the Twin Oaks invoice (blower motor) for the ATCO Building in the amount of \$1,284.83.

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

Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) - Patrick McGarry

Patrick McGarry provided an application for Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) funding for on-site septic systems for the 2027 funding cycle, with funding anticipated to become available in late 2027 and extend into 2028. The County will apply for the maximum available amount of \$150,000. The funding would be used to assist low-income property owners with the repair or replacement of failing on-site septic systems.

The proposed funding will focus primarily on the Stewart/Guysville and Torch areas, with Patrick noting that a number of septic-related complaints have recently been received from the Torch area.

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to approve and authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign the application for the 2027 WPCLF funding cycle in the amount of \$150,000.00.

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

Closing 13183 St Rte 13 Burr Oak Water District

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Eliason to authorize Commissioner Eliason to sign all necessary closing documents for the closing of the property at 13183 St Rte 13 for Burr Oak Water District.

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

Travel

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

Recorder: Jessica Markins; ORA Fall Continuing Education, Columbus OH; 09/16 - 09/17/26

Treasurer: Taylor Sappington & Nick Smith; CTAO Education & Learning, Columbus OH; 09/14/26

Sheriff: Keith Wright; Pistol Instructor Training, London OH; 10/04 - 10/09/26

Comm: Charlie Adkins; FYDA Freightliner, Columbus OH; 09/18/26

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

Pocket Park Nelsonville - Daniel Sherman

Nelsonville City Council representatives (Daniel Sherman and Sue Powell) regarding the proposed public gathering/pocket park concept associated with the County-owned property in Nelsonville. The Daniel & Sue expressed opposition to dividing the property for the proposed park, citing concerns about the potential impact on parking, accessibility, visibility, and the County's ability to sell the building, and encouraged the Commissioners to prioritize attracting a business to the property. They also discussed ongoing litigation concerning the governing authority of the City of Nelsonville and requested that the County delay action on any proposal involving the City until the matter is resolved. Commissioner Eliason clarified that no agreement had been made to sell any portion of the property and that any interested party would first need to submit a proposal for the Board's consideration.

Tree Planting

The Board participated in a Heritage Tree planting ceremony as part of the America 250-Ohio celebration commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States. Through America 250-Ohio's Heritage Trees: Planting History program, a white oak tree is being planted in each of Ohio's 88 counties.

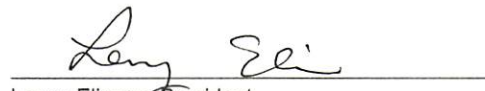
Adjourn

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

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



JoAnn Rockhold, Administrator

Alison Pierson, Clerk

Lenny Eliason, President

Charlie Adkins, Vice-President

ABSENT

Chris Chmiel