

Minutes for Monday, February 02, 2026

Commissioners Present: Bell, Prouty, Cameron
Staff Present: Susan Reese

RES 26-0127 Meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. on the motion of Commissioner Cameron and the second of Commissioner Prouty.
Vote was Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the payment of bills, pending review.
Seconded by Commissioner Prouty.
Vote was Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

The following legislation was now considered:

RESOLUTION 26-0128 approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Number 064, for the Muskingum County Juvenile Court, as requested by Rachael Dille, Finance Officer.
SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Forever Dads	064-444-504426	\$6,000.00

FY 2026 Felony Delinquent Care and Custody Grant for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.
Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.
Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 26-0129 approve the payment of invoices incurred in 2025 with 2026 Funds payable to the following vendors for invoice(s) dated prior to encumbrances as requested by Tom Smith, Fiscal Supervisor MCJFS.

<u>Name of Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Kaesar & Blair Inc	Clock Plates Shipped in Dec 25	007-692-503001	\$107.20

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.
Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 26-0130 approve the payment of invoices incurred in 2025 with 2026 Funds payable to the following vendors for invoice(s) dated prior to encumbrances as requested by Stephanie Neuhart, Business Manager Muskingum County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

<u>Name of Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Muskingum Valley ESC	Speech Service (Sept 2025-Dec 2025)	\$33,283.44

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.
Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

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RESOLUTION 26-0131 approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Number 001, for the Muskingum Commissioners Office, as requested by Marcie Blackwood, Office Clerk.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Kubota Side by Side	001-115-506001	\$15,000.00

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 26-0132 approve the payment of invoices incurred in 2025 with 2026 Funds payable to the following vendors for invoice(s) dated prior to encumbrances as requested by Matthew J. Lutz, Muskingum County Sheriff.

<u>Name of Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Shannon Cullins	12/15/2025	12/15/2025	001-458-504007	\$300.00

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 25-0133 approve the amendment to the Muskingum County Water Rules to include rule 10.3.1C and 10.4.4

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Bell moved to approve the minutes of 01.08.2026. Commissioner Prouty seconded the motion.

Vote was Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the minutes of 01.12.2026. Commissioner Prouty seconded the motion.

Vote was Bell, abstain; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the minutes of 01.15.2026. Commissioner Prouty seconded the motion.

Vote was Bell, abstain; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Bell moved to approve the minutes of 01.22.2026. Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion.

Vote was Bell, aye; Prouty, abstain; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Bell moved to approve the minutes of 01.29.2026. Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion.

Vote was Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

Casey McVicker and Sam Zimmer from Guernsey-Muskingum Electric met with the Commissioners to present a check for their Capital Credit program.

Jeff Jadwin, EMA Director, met with the Commissioners to discuss FEMA's snow assistance. Financial assistance can be used for equipment, supplies and overtime. We will need townships

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and villages to cooperate with data. Amount of assistance available is population multiplied by \$4.86. Jeff also reported on State EMPG funding for 2026; \$67,041.

Commissioner Cameron reported on a Human Trafficking Event she attended last Thursday evening.

Lucretia Frame, Records Department Manager, met with the Commissioners with updates on the Records Department.

The Commissioners talked with Stan Lucas, Sewer Department Manager, regarding a customer with concerns on Lakewood Dr. The following was then considered:

RESOLUTION 26-0134 approve the one-time reimbursement of \$964.00 to Chaz and Jennifer Cosgrave; 3310 Lakewood Drive, Zanesville, OH 43701 for the following:

Stewart Plumbing \$675.00 Hydro jetting on main sewer line to remove obstruction

Enviro-Flow \$289.00 Residential large drain cleaning

Motion made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye.

Motion carried.

Stan also requested the following for consideration:

RESOLUTION 26-0135 authorize Jacob Batteiger, Richard Beach and Westley VanAllen to attend the OmniSite Training Course held February 3 and 4, 2026 at OmniSite, 203 W. Morris Street, Indianapolis, IN 43225.

Motion made by Commissioner Prouty, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye.

Motion carried.

He also requested the following for consideration:

RESOLUTION 26-0136 approve the purchase of a 2026 GMC Sierra from WMD Motors, Inc. with a utility bed by ACE Truck Equipment in the total amount of \$77,837.15 for the Muskingum County Sewer Department.

Motion made by Commissioner Prouty, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye.

Motion carried.

It was noted that last Thursday's Courtroom Renovations meeting was held in accordance with ORC 153.36.

RESOLUTION 26-0137 declare an Executive Session at 9:42 a.m. for the purpose of discussing Matters required to be kept confidential of Muskingum County Children Services.

This session ended about 9:58 a.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Prouty, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye.

Motion carried.

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RESOLUTION 26-0138 declare an Executive Session at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of discussing an Economic Development Matter of the Muskingum County Commissioners. This session ended about 10:40 a.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

Bryn Stepp of Senator Husted's Office checked in with the Commissioners to see if the Commissioners have anything to share or are in need of anything from Senator Husted.

Jacob Gates, Falls Township Fire Department, met with the Commissioners who presented the Fire Department with a check in the amount of \$11,000 for two dive ensembles. The funding came from the LATCF Grant.

The Commissioners discussed the Kessler Sign invoice for signs at the Rural Services Building. There was an additional \$800 on the invoice. When Kessler was asked about the extra charge, they explained it was for permit procurement and engineering.

Don Madden, Projects Manager, requested consideration of the following:

RESOLUTION 26-0139 authorize Melissa J Bell to sign on behalf of the Board of Muskingum County Commissioners Change Order Number Five for the Maysville Regional Water project. Change Order Five is a \$159.00 deduct for the final adjusting change order for quantities used within the project.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

Roll Call: Bell, aye; Cameron, aye; Prouty, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 26-0140 authorize Melissa J. Bell to sign Change Order Number 8 for the Licking View Sanitary Sewer Project. Change Order Number 8 is a Balancing Change Order that would be a \$244,889.42 reduction for the Licking View Sanitary Sewer.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

Roll Call: Bell, aye; Cameron, aye; Prouty, aye. Motion carried.

Todd Fitz, Fiscal Officer, Juvenile Court, continued a conversation with the Commissioners regarding a vehicle for a client. There is concern with liability. Todd will contact Mark Zanghi, Assistant Prosecutor.

Chris Crook, Redevelopment Specialist, met with the Commissioners to update them on current projects.

The Commissioners adjourned for lunch to resume session at 1:00 p.m.

Eric Watkins, Facilities Superintendent, met with the Commissioners and the following was considered:

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RESOLUTION 26-0141 moved to go into Executive Session at 1:08 p.m. to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official of Muskingum County. This session ended approximately 1:40 p.m. Motion made Commissioner Prouty, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye.

Motion carried.

Chris Crook, Redevelopment Specialist, reported on Trinway and Willis Drive properties. Mark Zanghi, Assistant Prosecutor, also joined the meeting to discuss the Philo property.

There was continued discussion among the Board regarding Brave Beginnings.

The Commissioners responded via email to Mrs. Tilley regarding her email about a concern with Muskingum County Children Services.

There was discussion regarding the Engineer's equipment needs. It was agreed to give him \$2 million, as reimbursable, to purchase the needed equipment. A call was placed to Mark Eicher, County Engineer, to explain this to him and emphasize that the funds are to be used exclusively for equipment.

After some discussion and clarification, the following was considered:

RESOLUTION 26-0142 appoint Board Members to the Muskingum TB and Respiratory Clinic as follows, as requested by Shannon Bell, Executive Director:

Patty Tysinger: Renewal Term – January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026

Ann Combs: Term – January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2027

Motion made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye.

Motion carried.

The Commissioners returned calls to Patricia Young and Susan Cullins, leaving messages, in regard to their concerns with no longer having the ability to pay their real estate taxes at The Community Bank.

The Commissioners explained that it was fiscal decision to change the depository for the County. The decision was not taken lightly, considering many factors, with the responsible use of taxpayer dollars being top priority.

Taxes can now be paid many ways;

- *At the Treasurer's Office

- *Online

- *By dropping them off outside of the Commissioners' Office in a secure dropbox (Fourth Street)

- *In a dropbox in Courthouse Security

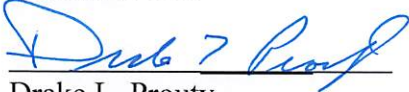
- *You can even call the Commissioners' office and we will meet you at your car and deliver your payment to the Treasurer's Office

Commissioner Prouty presented a vehicle (2021 Chevy Tahoe) from WMD Motors for consideration as a Commissioners' vehicle. This vehicle will also be available to Landbank and other County offices as needed. All agreed to the purchase with funding having been included in the 2026 budget.

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With no further business being before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:51 p.m. on the motion of Commissioner Cameron and the second of Commissioner Prouty.

Melissa J. Bell



Drake L. Prouty



Cindy S. Cameron