

Minutes for Monday, March 2, 2026

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

The Commissioners met with State Auditors at 8:00 a.m. in a non-public meeting to discuss 2025 Audit Entrance.

RES 26-0215 Meeting was called to order at 8:39 a.m. on the motion of Commissioner Bell and the second of Commissioner Prouty.

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

Commissioner Bell 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 gathered to discuss Nuisance Properties being handled by the Prosecutor's Office.

Chris Crook, Redevelopment Specialist
Mark Zanghi, Assistant Prosecutor
Lane Dailey, Assistant Prosecutor
Samantha Wantz, MC Health Department
Matt Menner, MC Health Department
Adam Dickerson, MC Health Department
Kade Haddox, County Administrator
Andy Roberts, GIS Director

- The Prosecutor's Office suggested we make an agreement with the Health Department in handling Nuisance Abatements for solid waste
- Who would initiate action?
- Must be consistency in enforcement
- A shared complaint log between the Health Department and County would be helpful

There will be continued discussion.

The following legislation was now considered:

RESOLUTION 26-0216 Whereas, the County of Muskingum seeks to repair and/or replace failing home sewage treatment systems; and

Whereas, the County of Muskingum intends to apply to the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) for the repair and/or replacement of failing home sewage treatment systems; and

Whereas, the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund requires the government authority to pass legislation for application of a loan and the execution of a WPCLF assistance agreement; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the County of Muskingum, Ohio:

SECTION 1. That Melissa J. Bell be and is hereby authorized to apply for a WPCLF assistance agreement, sign all documents for and enter into a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for the repair and/or replacement of failing home sewage treatment systems on behalf of the County of Muskingum, Ohio.

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SECTION 2. That is resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

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

RESOLUTION 26-0217 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>
Jack Worstall & Sons Inc	09/03/2025 Materials & Labor	\$492.69

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

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

RESOLUTION 26-0218 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 Chad Tyson, Director of Business.

<u>Name of Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
South East Area Transit	Auto Repairs	\$273.83

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

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

Commissioner Bell reported that she will not be attending the TID meeting on Wednesday.

There was discussion regarding the Electrical/HVAC Maintenance interviews last week. The following was then considered:

RESOLUTION 26-0219 approve the employment of Rodney Abrams as Electrical/HVAC Maintenance Technician for the Muskingum County Maintenance Department, contingent upon passage of the pre-employment assessments. Starting hourly wage will be \$31.25 with evaluation after 180 day probationary period.

Motion made by Commissioner Prouty, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

The Commissioners would like to call the other two applicants personally.

The Commissioners returned a call to Pastor Ed Swartz of TruLight Ministries. There was discussion regarding how his ministry works and where the homeless are housed and cared for. Pastor Swartz says that the homeless are always chaperoned and if law enforcement is called, they are banned from returning to the shelter.

The Commissioners addressed a letter from Marva Jean Nezbeth regarding her concerns with operations at the Maple Avenue Highrise.

The Commissioners placed a call to Beth Prati, Housing Manager with ZMHA, to inform her of the letter. A copy of the letter was also sent to Ms. Prati.

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Commissioner Prouty reported on an incident at the jail over the weekend. Employees of the Maintenance Department came in and cleaned up.

10:40 a.m. The Commissioners left to attend “A Day in the Life of a Social Worker” at OUZ.

The Commissioners returned at approximately 12:50 p.m.

There was discussion regarding “Congressionally Directed Spending”.

Chad Hutchins, Water Department Manager, met with the Commissioners to discuss the purchase of a new dump truck for the department. Chad has gotten three estimates and has the money in his budget to cover the cost. The Commissioners approved the purchase.

The Commissioners discussed Health Department storage at the EMA/Recycling campus. All agreed that an MOU will be needed when terms are determined.

There was discussion regarding FSA’s request for upgrades to their office space in the Rural Services Building.

Shannon Bell, Executive Director of the Rambo Memorial Health Clinic, met with the Commissioners to update and invite them to their Annual meeting tentatively set for April 16 at Zanesville County Club.

Kade Haddox, County Administrator, brought the Performance Report #1 for the Muskingum County Local Jail Project – MUSK-001, DRC-25J074 for Commissioner Bell to sign.

Kade also reported that AEP will be installing two new poles that will light the new parking lots.

Don Madden, Projects Manager and Mark Zanghi, Assistant Prosecutor met with the Commissioners and requested the following:

RESOLUTION 26-0220 declare an Executive Session at 3:03 p.m. for the purpose of discussing Real Estate Matters. This session ended about 3:40 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Prouty, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 26-0221 WHEREAS this Board of County Commissioners entered into an Option Agreement to Purchase Real Property on or about April 3, 2025 (RES 25-0378), for the purchase of Auditor Tax Parcel Nos. 10-04-07-09-000 (76.2 acres), 10-04-06-01-009 (19.746 acres) and 10-04-07-13-001 (3.11 acres) located on Raiders Road, Cass Township, Muskingum County, Ohio.

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NOW, THEREFORE, this Board of County Commissioners hereby authorizes exercising the option to purchase Auditor Tax Parcel Nos. 10-04-07-09-000 (76.2 acres), 10-04-06-01-009 (19.746 acres) and 10-04-07-13-001 (3.11 acres) located on Raiders Road, Cass Township, Muskingum County, Ohio.

The Muskingum County Prosecutor's Office is hereby requested to facilitate the closing of the purchase of the properties as soon as possible.

Motion made by Commissioner Prouty, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Motion carried.

Commissioner Bell moved to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2026 session.

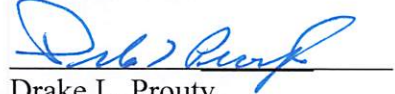
Commissioner Prouty seconded.

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

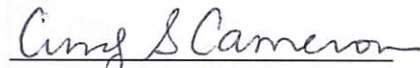
With no further business being before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:12 p.m. p.m. on the motion of Commissioner Bell and the second of Commissioner Prouty.



Melissa J. Bell



Drake L. Prouty



Cindy S. Cameron