

# Minutes for Thursday, March 05, 2026

Commissioners Present: Bell, Cameron  
Commissioner Prouty was absent.  
Staff Present: Susan Reese

The Commissioners attended a Landbank meeting at the Welcome Center at 8:00 a.m. Then attended the Mental Health and Recovery Services Legislative Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. at the Welcome Center

**RES 26-0222** Meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. on the motion of Commissioner Cameron and the second of Commissioner Bell.

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

Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the payment of bills, pending review.  
Seconded by Commissioner Bell seconded.

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

It was noted that the Commissioners received a request from TID for \$4,000. This is their first request since 2023.

The following legislation was now considered:

**RESOLUTION 26-0223** approve the fund to fund transfer of monies for the Muskingum County Sheriff's Office as requested by Matthew J. Lutz, Sheriff as follows:

**FUND TRANSFER OF MONIES**

<u>From Fund</u>	<u>To Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
031-458-510001	001-000-414001	\$25,000.00
Recovery Ohio Drug Interdiction	General Fund	

Motion made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

**RESOLUTION 26-0224** authorize Melissa J. Bell to sign the Final Exhibits for OWDA for the Norwich Valley-Pidcock Road Water Main Extension. This exhibit will allow OWDA to close the loan for the project and establish an amortization schedule.

Motion made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

**RESOLUTION 26-0225** a request for payment of the county's mandated share of the Income Maintenance programs for the fiscal year of 2026 was requested to be paid for the period of July 01, 2025 through June 30, 2026, in the amount of \$63,434.50 has been submitted by the Muskingum County Department of Job and Family Services, Fiscal Supervisor, Tom Smith, as follows:

**FUND TO FUND TRANSFER**

<u>From Transfer Out</u>	<u>To Transfer In</u>	<u>Amount</u>
001-999-510004	007-000-414002	\$63,434.50

Motion made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

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## RESOLUTION 26-0226

WHEREAS, a request for payment to the County's flexible spending account for the period of January 01, 2026 through March 31, 2026, in the amount of \$150,000.00 has been submitted by the Muskingum County Department of Job and Family Services, Fiscal Supervisor, Tom Smith, and

WHEREAS, the transfer of funds in said amount, \$150,000.00 is now requested as follows:

### FUND TO FUND TRANSFER

<u>From Transfer Out</u>	<u>To Transfer In</u>	<u>Amount</u>
001-999-510013 JFS Flex Support	069-000-414002 CSE Transfer-In	\$150,000.00

NOW THEREFORE BE IT, RESOLVED, that this Board of County Commissioners does hereby approve the transfer of funds into Fund 069 in the amount of \$150,000.00 for Muskingum County Department of Job and Family Services as listed above.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 26-0227** 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.

<u>Name of Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
ZMC Chamber of Commerce	2026 Annual Membership Fee	007-692-502013	\$240.00

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 26-0228** authorize the signing of the title sheet for the water main extension to Dozer Ridge water project, as requested by Don Madden, Projects Manager.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 26-0229** 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.

<u>Name of Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Wise Processing Services	December 2025 Processing Services	069-692-504029	\$150.00

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 26-0230** authorize Melissa J. Bell to sign on behalf of the Board of Muskingum County Commissioners the Ohio Deferred Comp ROTH 457 Option Employer Adoption form, as requested by Pam Davis, Human Resources.

This form is required by Ohio Deferred Comp to add the ROTH option and begin offering employees the option to invest with post-tax contributions via a ROTH 457.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Motion carried.

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**RESOLUTION 26-0231** reappoint Pam Kirst to the Muskingum County Library System Board of Trustees with a term to commence April 18, 2026 and end on April 17, 2030. Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.  
Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, absent; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 26-0232** agree to sign pay application GMP 014 for the New Jail Project in the amount of \$4,632,309.87. Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.  
Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, absent; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

Mark Eicher, County Engineer, has reported that the Roseville Bridge will be bid late March and construction will begin this summer. Part of the delay was corresponding with Columbia Gas and a gas line that needed moved.

The Commissioners met virtually with Peya from EDP regarding Cass Township solar updates.

- PILOT payments
  - According to Peya, \$9,000 is for 20mgw or greater, which we would not qualify for
- First Responder training
- Community Benefits Program Agreement
- Time frame; begin construction early 2027

Stan Lucas, Sewer Department Manager, met with the Commissioners to report that while working on Ellen Drive, a resident had sewer water back up in their basement. The Commissioners confirmed that the County will cover clean-up costs.

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

Eric Reed, Port Authority Director; Don Madden, Projects Manager; Zack Forker, Assistant Projects Manager and Kade Haddox, County Administrator, met with the Commissioners to discuss Congressional Project Requests.

Brian Addis, APG Architects/Owner's Representative and Kade Haddox, County Administrator met to update the Commissioners on jail construction progress. Brian also updated the Commissioners on the progress of the Center for Seniors retaining wall. Kade reported that early August is the anticipated occupy date for 44 North Fourth Street.

Jamie McConnell, Muskingum County 4-H Educator met with the Commissioners, along with the following 4-H representatives:

- Koby Bradley
- Maddy McConnell
- Kylie Bradley
- Laney McConnell
- Braylie Burkey

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Ron Welch, Prosecutor; Mark Zanghi, Assistant Prosecutor and Kade Haddox, County Administrator met with the Commissioners to discuss covering the cost of the 44 North Fourth Street building to house Prosecutors and staff collecting delinquent real estate taxes. There was discussion regarding the use of DETAC funds for this project.

Ron advised the Commissioners that the Prosecutor's Office will be sending letters to taxpayers who are delinquent on their real estate taxes.

Again, the Commissioners offered assistance in preparing the letters. The question was raised...what is the next step after letters are sent and no payment is received.

In response to an email from Andy Roberts, the following was considered:

**RESOLUTION 26-0233** appoint Brent Gates, Brian McPeak and Dan Robison to the Muskingum County Planning Commission with a term to commence immediately and end on March 26, 2029.

Motion made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

After receiving a request for a letter of support for the South Zanesville Water Project, the Commissioners placed a call to Joe Miller for further information.

The following was considered after receiving an email from Stacey Fredrix, East Regional Child Abuse Prevention Coordinator:

**RESOLUTION 26-0234** appoint Charles Rice to the Eastern Regional Child Abuse prevention Council Board of OCTF with a term to commence immediately and end on March 05, 2027.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

With no further business being before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:49 p.m. on the motion of Commissioner Bell and the second of Commissioner Cameron.

  
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Melissa J. Bell

ABSENT  
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Drake L. Prouty

  
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Cindy S. Cameron