

Minutes for Monday, March 09, 2026

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

RES 26-0235 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.

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

The following legislation was now considered:

RESOLUTION 26-0236 approve and authorize the ADVANCE of Funds from County General Fund 001 to Fund for Muskingum County Community Development, as requested by Kyle Dunn, Community Development Director, as follows:

ADVANCE OF MONIES

<u>From Fund</u>	<u>To Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
001-990-50100	177-000-414001	\$25,000.00
001-990-50100	184-000-414001	\$25,000.00

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

RESOLUTION 26-0237 authorize Melissa J. Bell to sign on behalf of the Muskingum County Board of Commissioners, the 2026 Benefit Management Agreement-Exhibit A & MultiPlan Joinder Agreement with Medical Benefits Administrators, Inc., as requested by Pam Davis, Human Resources.
Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.
Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 26-0238 approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Number 021, for Muskingum County Adult & Child Protective Services, as requested by Candy Emmert, Executive Director.

INCREASE IN APPROPRIATION

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Social Services- Contractual Expenses	021-695-504166	\$130,000.00
Social Services -Equip & Maintenance	021-695-506001	\$25,000.00
Avondale-Contract Services	021-698-504001	\$100,000.00

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

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RESOLUTION 26-0239 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 Kelly J. Cottrill, Judge Muskingum County Court of Common Pleas.

<u>Name of Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Line Item #</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Forensic Diagnostic Center	Travel Expense for Evaluation	001-240-504002	\$135.00

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

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

RESOLUTION 26-0240 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 Rachael Dille, Finance Manager.

<u>Name of Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Account #</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Muskingum County Juvenile Court	Restitution Program Nov-Dec 2025	064-444-504178	\$90.08

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

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

RESOLUTION 26-0241 approve and authorize a financial grant for the Ohio State University Extension in the amount of One Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand, Eight Hundred Fifty Dollars, (\$196,850.00) from the Board of Muskingum County Commissioners from line item 001-581-504304 – Agricultural Extension.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

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

RESOLUTION 26-0242 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, Sheriff.

<u>Name of Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
AED One-Stop Shop, LLC	08/29/2025	106-458-503001	\$1,586.00
Sunrise Do-It Center	12/09/2025	001-458-503001	\$2.99

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

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

RESOLUTION 26-0243 approve contribution in the amount of \$4,000 to the TID fund to be paid from 001-902-507029.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

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

Commissioner Prouty reported that Jerry Miller of the Fairboard called him Sunday night requesting a meeting with the Commissioners.

Kade Haddox, County Administrator, met with the Commissioners with updates on the following projects:

- AEP
- 44 North Fourth Street renovations
- Juvenile Court renovations

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Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2026 session.

Commissioner Prouty seconded.

Vote was: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Bell moved to approve the minutes of the March 02, 2026 session.

Commissioner Prouty seconded.

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

Motion carried.

The Commissioners received an email from Melanie Kish, Mayor of the Village of Gratiot. The Village of Gratiot is requesting a letter of recommendation from the Commissioners in support of their pursuit of funding for a public sewage project. Funding for the initial survey has been granted from the State of Ohio's CDBG program and a letter to U.S. Representative Troy Balderson would be attached to their application for further capital funding. The Commissioners placed a call to Mayor Kish asking some questions, then completed and forwarded a letter of recommendation.

Pam Davis, Human Resources and Eric Watkins, Facilities Superintendent, met with the Commissioners and requested the following:

RESOLUTION 26-0244 moved to go into Executive Session at 9:25 a.m. to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official of Muskingum County Maintenance. This session ended approximately 10:05 a.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Prouty, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Motion carried.

The Commissioners; Kade Haddox, County Administrator and Andy Roberts, GIS Director, met with the following virtually regarding Congressional Directed Funding for NorthPointe/SR146:

Ben Turin, OMEGA

Mark Eicher, Engineer

Don Mason, COZ Mayor

Eric Reed, Port Authority Director

Amy Young, Port Authority Administrator

Heather Gilbert, ODOT

Chip Saunders, COZ

Kade presented the following for consideration:

RESOLUTION 26-0245 Melissa J. Bell to sign on behalf of the Board of Muskingum County Commissioners the AEP Easement and ROW .

Motion made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

Motion carried.

Edward and Jessica Hale met with the Commissioners regarding Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month. The Commissioners presented a Proclamation declaring March Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month in Muskingum County.

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Chris Crook, Redevelopment Specialist, met with the Commissioners to update them on the blighted property on Old River Road.

The Commissioners adjourned for lunch then went to Maysville High School to tour their facilities.

2:30 p.m. The Commissioners met with Eric Ratts, DLZ; Judge Kelly Cottrill; Judge Gerald Anderson and Kade Haddox, County Administrator to discuss and review Courtroom Renovations. Mr. Ratts reminded the group of ORC 153.36 – DLZ is not offering legal opinions or advice.

Mr. Ratts emphasized how important construction logistics will be in the success of this project; parking, staging area, material storage, security access, work hours, etc.

It was noted that both the Clerk of Courts and County Court will be contributing \$250,000 each to this project.

Pam Davis, Human Resources and Eric Watkins, Facilities Superintendent, met with the Commissioners and requested the following:

RESOLUTION 26-0246 moved to go into Executive Session at 3:22 p.m. to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official of Muskingum County Maintenance. This session ended approximately 3:40 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

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

Motion carried.

Corey Hamilton, Health Commissioner and Ann Hollingsworth, Community Engagement and Development, ZMCHD, met with the Commissioners to discuss several topics.

- Storage at EMA/Recycling
 - The Commissioners proposed \$24,000 towards the repairs of the buildings and \$500 per month with a five year contract
 - Corey will present to her Board
- Restrooms at the Health Department
 - Used by clients and homeless
 - After a recent incident of someone defecating on the restroom floor and tracking to the lobby, Maintenance wanted to close the restroom until it could be cleaned
 - Corey argued that was not acceptable because cleaning crew doesn't come until 5pm
 - Whose responsibility is it to clean in this situation?... County Maintenance? HD staff?
- Homeless sleeping in and around the building
 - Ann asked if the HD could have time to work with individuals to find housing, before they are removed by law enforcement
 - Commissioner Prouty asked them to be respectful of other offices in the building
 - He also voiced his concern with safety and emphasized the need to always be aware of the surroundings

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The Commissioners responded to a message from Dana Matz of the Chamber regarding the Commissioners' proposal of 7% Administrative Fee for the collection of Lodging Tax. Dana said they would accept the 7% if the Commissioners' staff would take responsibility for contacting delinquents and consider implementing online pay. The Commissioners responded by saying they would not be contacting delinquencies and are not prepared to take on electronic payments.

Kade Haddox, County Administrator, presented the following for the Commissioners' consideration:

RESOLUTION 26-0247 authorize Melissa J. Bell to sign on behalf of the Board of Muskingum County Commissioners the Terracon Proposal for Geotechnical Engineering Services for the Muskingum County Sheriff's Building Slip at 1370 Adamsville Road, in the amount of \$22,900.

Motion made by Commissioner Prouty, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

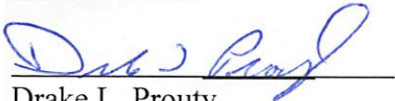
Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye.

Motion carried.

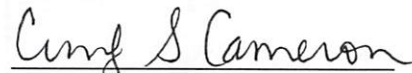
With no further business being before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m. on the motion of Commissioner Prouty and the second of Commissioner Bell.



Melissa J. Bell



Drake L. Prouty



Cindy S. Cameron