

# Minutes for Monday, March 16, 2026

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

**RES 26-0256** Meeting was called to order at 8:00 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 Commissioners received and reviewed the February 2026 Financials from the County Auditor.

Commissioner Bell reported on her meeting at the CCAO Advisory Council last Friday.

There will be a virtual CCAO meeting, Thursday, April 2; 10am regarding aggregation merger.

**RESOLUTION 26-0257** moved to go into Executive Session at 8:15 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 9:01 a.m.  
Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.  
Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 26-0258** approve three day Unpaid Administrative Leave as Disciplinary Action for Domnic Roberts, Muskingum County Maintenance;  
Tuesday, March 17; Wednesday, March 18 and Thursday, March 19.  
Motion made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.  
Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 26-0267** approve three day Unpaid Administrative Leave as Disciplinary Action for Ethan Fuller, Muskingum County Maintenance;  
Tuesday, March 17; Wednesday, March 18 and Thursday, March 19.  
Motion made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.  
Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

Jerry Miller and Rodney Crooks, Muskingum County Fair board members met with the Commissioners to share recent changes and updates with the Fair board.

- Several Board Members have recently resigned
- There are new officers in place:
  - Jerry Miller, President
  - Rodney Crooks, Vice President
  - Gail Deitrick, Treasurer
  - Mike Boysel, Secretary

They have interviewed nine potential board members to replace those that have resigned. They also shared a new lineup for fair week.

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- There will be no concert this year
  - They reported having a significant loss each of the past three years on the concert
- The Fairboard is also planning a summer rodeo for May 23
- All agreed that the Veteran's Complex needs to be better utilized for public rentals
  - Better promotion and customer service
- Their Maintenance employee also resigned
  - They just hired a new Maintenance employee
- There was discussion regarding their loan at Community Bank and the County's previous inclusion of Fairboard debt into bond refinancing
- Jerry informed the Commissioners of invoices from AEP to repair a transformer by the horse barn and an invoice from Gutridge for fire suppression by the Veteran's building
- Commissioner Prouty expressed his concern with the fire hydrant closer to Pine Street, that does not work...must be fixed

A call was placed to Coleen Thomas regarding her concern with the Engineer's Office trimming along her property on Pinecrest Drive. There was no answer, a message was left.

Don Madden, Projects Manager and Kade Haddox, County Administrator met with the Commissioners to discuss the Congressional Directed Spending applications.

Coleen Thomas returned the Commissioners' call. Her concern is that the Engineer's office mowed off forsythia bushes on her property. The Commissioners will reach out to Mark Eicher, Engineer, for a resolution to the concern.

Kade presented the following for consideration:

**RESOLUTION 26-0259** approve the professional service contract for "Muskingum County Courthouse Partial Renovation Project" (See Attached) for \$242,000.00 plus reimbursable expenses. DLZ will also utilize the services of RTM Consultants for code consulting with an estimated fee of \$5,000.00, pending Assistant Prosecutor Mark Zanghi's approval.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 26-0260** agree to sign change order "PCO -055 – Roof Drain Pans and Pipeing for the New Jail Project in the amount of \$17,390.48. This change order is classified as "Owner Requested" and therefore funded from Owner's Contingency.

Motion made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

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

Motion carried.

Kade presented Modern Glass' proposal to install a door in the hall by Courthouse security.

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The following legislation was now considered:

**RESOLUTION 26-0261** approve the increase in Appropriations within Fund Number 037 for the Muskingum County Local Emergency Planning Committee as requested by Tiffany Beardsley, Administrative Assistant, as follows:

**INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Contract Services	037-461-511100	\$20,000.00

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 26-0262** authorize Melissa J. Bell to sign on behalf of the Board of Muskingum County Commissioners to accept the GOWBI Program Year 2026 and 2027 Sub-Grant Agreement. Requested by Julie Metzger, Workforce Administrator Ohio Means Jobs.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 26-0263** approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Number 184, for the Muskingum County Commissioners, as requested by Kyle Dunn, Community Development Director.

**SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Employee Salaries	184-375-501002	\$25,000.00
Medicare	184-375-502001	\$300.00
PERS	184-375-502003	\$3,000.00

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 26-0264** approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Number 191, for the Muskingum County Commissioners, as requested by Kyle Dunn, Community Development Director.

**SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Insurance	191-375-502004	\$75.00
Medicare	191-375-502001	\$150.00
PERS	191-375-502003	\$1500.00

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 26-0265** approve the line item transfer of monies within Fund Number 001 as requested by Todd Hixson, Muskingum County Treasurer, as follows:

**LINE ITEM TRANSFER OF MONIES**

<u>From Line Item</u>	<u>To Line Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
001-104-504001	001-104-506001	\$7,050.00
Contract Services	Equipment & Maintenance	

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Motion carried.

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**RESOLUTION 25-0266** approve the payment of invoices incurred in 2023 with 2024 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>
Gabriel Brothers	FAET Work Clothes	007-692-504027	\$137.92

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

The Commissioners left for lunch to attend the SEO Joint Solid Waste meeting in Caldwell.

Pam Davis, Human Resources, met with the Commissioners to discuss posting two Maintenance positions and the pay range for those positions.

The Commissioners would like to be involved in the interviews for these positions.

The Commissioners had discussion regarding the Health Department's counter-offer for repairs and storage at the EMA/Recycling facility.

Commissioner Prouty reported that he and Chris Crook, Redevelopment Specialist, attended the Monroe Township Trustee meeting regarding assistance with blighted properties. Also, regarding concerns with Castor Road. The Trustees have been in contact with Mark Eicher, Engineer who will help them early spring.

Commissioner Prouty also reported that he has had two more complaints regarding Harrison Township roads. He will be meeting with them Wednesday.

Commissioner Cameron noted that the County is in the process of replacing the American Flags at County facilities.

The Commissioners completed Michelle Sowers', Office Clerk, 90 day probationary evaluation.

The Commissioners received a phone call from Don Madden and Zack Forker, Projects Department. Don received an email from Congressman Balderson's office regarding Fultonham's submission for funding for Storm Sewer Reconstruction from the Congressional Directed spending.

Chad Hutchins, Water Department Supervisor, asked about getting a credit card for the Field Supervisor. He was referred to Stephanie Spencer, Chief Administrator.

There was continued discussion regarding Fair board changes and updates.

The following was then considered:

**RESOLUTION 26-0268** authorize and approve payment of AEP and Gutridge invoices for services at the Muskingum County Fairgrounds.

Motion made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

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A call was placed to Jerry Miller to let him know of the Commissioners' decision. Commissioner Prouty emphasized his concern with the fire hydrant that is not working...need results.

The Commissioners received an email that was originally sent to Don Madden, regarding "some issues that need immediate attention" at the USDA/FSA Office in the Rural Services Building. A call was placed to Randy Needham, the sender of the email. There was no answer and a message was left.


The Clerk will provide a copy of the current USDA/FSA lease to each Commissioner.


Commissioner Bell reported that she attended the Health Department/Township Spring meeting last Thursday evening. There was good attendance.

Commissioner Bell also reported on the Center for Seniors AAA9 meeting that she attended Friday morning.

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

  
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Melissa J. Bell

  
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Drake L. Prouty

  
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Cindy S. Cameron