

# Minutes for Thursday, March 19, 2026

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

**RES 26-0269** Meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. on the motion of Commissioner Cameron and the second of Commissioner Bell.

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

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

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

Chris Covic, President of Covic Connection, met with the Commissioners to discuss their cleaning process and function at the Health Department Building. Eric Watkins, Facilities Superintendent; Pam Davis, Human Resources and Robbie Frame, Housekeeping Supervisor, were also in attendance. The Commissioners made it clear to Mr. Covic that his team had done nothing wrong, he was just here today to help the Commissioners understand Covic's schedule and process at the Health Department.

Mr. Covic was asked to provide quotes for cleaning the Center for Seniors, EMA Offices, Evidence Center, Engineer's Office, Rehl Road and JDC-East Pike

Commissioner Prouty reported on his phone call with Randy Needham from USDA/FSA who returned the Commissioners' call Tuesday after Monday's session regarding his email about their office space in the Rural Services Building.

- Firstly, Mr. Needham addressed his email to Don Madden, who has not been a Commissioner for nearly 20 years
- The Commissioners did not appreciate the tone in the email
- We have a new Maintenance Superintendent and an aggressive Maintenance Department who is making strides in building maintenance
- Our Maintenance Superintendent sent the new Work Order Request Forms to all parties, with no response from FSA
- The County just recently (2025) completed renovations of outside landscaping at the building
- Items requested by FSA were already being addressed
- It was noted that Mr. Needham is in North Carolina working remotely, while the weather in Muskingum County this winter has been challenging, at best
- Commissioner Prouty reminded Mr. Needham of the termination clause in their lease and if they are not satisfied or the County is not moving fast enough for them, they are welcome to leave

There was further discussion regarding AEP/adjoining property owners and the moving and placement underground of current electric lines.

Commissioner Cameron shared that Kellie Brown, Superintendent, MCBDD, called her yesterday to update her on the work with school districts. Kellie expressed concerns with the cost to MCBDD and the probability of billing schools for speech services.

Kellie will be making an appointment to meet with the Commissioners to discuss.

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The following legislation was now considered:

**RESOLUTION 26-0270** approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Number 118, for the Muskingum County Common Pleas Court, as requested by, Wendy Sowers, Clerk of Courts.

**SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Insurance	118-122-502004	\$89,500.00

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

**RESOLUTION 26-0271** 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 Wendy Roush, Court Administrator.

<u>Name of Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Central Ohio Office Products	Signature Stamp	001-247-503001 (Supplies)	\$35.50

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

**RESOLUTION 26-0272** approve the appointment of Mark J. Eicher as the annual District 18 Ohio Public Works County Subcommittee appointment for the County Engineer to attend and vote on project priority for projects submitted for funding during 2026 and 2027.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

**RESOLUTION 26-0273** authorize Melissa J. Bell to sign on behalf of the Board of Muskingum County Commissioners the WSRLA Nomination for funding the following Water Main Extensions

1. Water Treatment Plant and Well Field
2. Sunflower Road and Getz Road
3. Northwest Water Treatment Plant, Well Field and Distribution
4. Powelson Area Water Extension

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

**RESOLUTION 26-0274** approve the fund to fund transfer of monies for the Muskingum County Treasurer's Office as requested by Todd Hixson, Treasurer, as follows:

**FUND TRANSFER OF MONIES**

<u>From Fund</u>	<u>To Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
015-104-504001	015-104-506001	\$5,500.00
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 26-0275** approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Number 001, for the Muskingum County Commissioners, as requested by Marcie Blackwood, Office Clerk.

**SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Image Building Reno	001-114-506044	\$200,000.00
Miller Farm Purchase	001-114-506040	\$147,241.99

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

**RESOLUTION 26-0276** authorize Sandy Post-Parker, Angie Janicki, Laiken Springer, and Laura Nestleroad to travel to Canton, Ohio to attend the Family Child Care Regulatory Compliance Rule Training, May 14, 2026. Requested by Laura Nestleroad, Public Assistance Administrator, MCJFS. **Estimated Cost**

Estimated mileage expense is \$129.05.

Lunch is \$160.00.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

**RESOLUTION 26-0277** approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Number 038, for the Muskingum County Commissioners, as requested by Ronald L. Welch, Prosecuting Attorney.

**SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Medicare	038-105-502001	\$30.00

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

**RESOLUTION 26-0278** appoint Lisa Hemmer to the Ohio Children's Trust Fund - Eastern Prevention Council to commence July 15, 2026 and end on July 15, 2028.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

**RESOLUTION 26-0279** accept and sign the Memorandum of understanding between the Muskingum County Commissioners & Village of Adamsville for Blighted Properties, requested by Chris Crook, Redevelopment Specialist.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

**RESOLUTION 26-0280** approve the payment of CAUV Forest Resource Specialist for Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District, May 1, 2026 – April 30, 2027. The invoice will be processed through the General Fund (001-902-507024) as an expense to the Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District in the amount of \$20,000. The Auditor will then reimburse the General Fund for this expense from the Real Estate Assessment Fund.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

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**RESOLUTION 26-0281** approve the payment of CAUV Forest Intern for Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District, April 14, 2026 – August 1, 2026. The invoice will be processed through the General Fund (001-902-507024) as an expense to the Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District in the amount of \$1,600. The Auditor will then reimburse the General Fund for this expense from the Real Estate Assessment Fund.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 26-0282** acknowledge the resignation of Susan A. Reese as Clerk to the Muskingum County Commissioners for the reason of retirement, to be effective May 15, 2026.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 26-0283** sign Domestic Relations Court Magistrate Services Child Support IV-D Contract as presented by Wendy Roush, Court Administrator, Domestic Relations Court.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 26-0284** approve the establishment of new fund, number 250, which does not require approval of the State Auditor's Office, and line items as requested by Kade Haddox, for the Muskingum County Commissioners.

**Purpose of the Fund** The purpose of this fund is to account for engineering/design and construction costs associated with the renovation of the Common Pleas courtroom.

**Fund Number:** 250

**Fund Name:** Courtroom Renovation Fund

**Department:** 102

**Classification:** Capital Projects

**CFDA #:** n/a

The following revenue and expenditure line items will be created to reflect the activity of the fund as well as the corresponding appropriations:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Dept</u>	<u>Acct.</u>
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Revenues:

Transfers-In	250-000-414002
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Contributions	250-000-412002
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Federal Grants	250-000-409024
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Expenditures:

Engineering Costs	250-102-506053
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Construction Services	250-102-506031
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Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Motion carried.

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**RESOLUTION 26-0285** approve the fund to fund transfer of monies for the Muskingum County Commissioners, as requested by Kade Haddox, County Administrator, as follows:

**FUND TRANSFER OF MONIES**

<u>From Fund</u>	<u>To Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
001-999-510002 – Transfer-Out	250-000-414002 – Transfer-In	\$260,000.00

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

**RESOLUTION 26-0286** approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within fund number 250, for the Muskingum County Commissioners, as requested by Kade Haddox, County Administrator.

**Supplemental Appropriations:**

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
250-102-506053	Engineering Costs	\$260,000.00

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Brian Addis, APG Architects/Owner’s Representative and Kade Haddox, County Administrator, met with the Commissioners to discuss jail construction updates.

- The question has been raised about the possibility of a third dryer
  - If the dryer would be installed in the future, an additional exhaust would be needed
    - It was determined that it would be most cost effective to install the exhaust now while in the construction phase
      - All agreed
- A call was placed to Mayor Mason regarding the detention basin at the jail site and his request for funding for the NorthPoint and Military traffic light
  - The Mayor said \$175,000 is enough for him and we can tie into the storm drain across Dryden Road

Paul Masterson, representing “Friends of Secrest” met with the Commissioners to share updates on the Secrest renovation progress.

Kade Haddox, County Administrator, met with the Commissioners to update and discuss the Energy Efficiency Grant.

Don Madden, Projects Manager and Eric Reed, Port Authority Director, met with the Commissioners and requested the following:

**RESOLUTION 26-0287** declare an Executive Session at 10:33 a.m. for the purpose of discussing Real Estate. This session ended about 11:27 a.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

At 11:30 a.m. the Commissioners attended a Special Meeting of the Muskingum Land Reutilization Board (Landbank).

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The Commissioners discussed the delinquent taxes on 459 Main Street, Philo.

The Commissioners talked with Nick Ciolli from CCAO regarding DETAC funds.

- Can DETAC be used for 44 North Fourth Street renovations for Prosecutors collecting delinquent real estate taxes
  - Yes, ORC 321.261 and approval from the Tax Commissioner is not necessary
  - However, the Commissioners do not have much authority over DETAC
- Use of the Auditor's REA Fund would need approval from the Tax Commissioner

Commissioner Prouty reported that Maintenance will be selling their 1998 truck and purchasing a van for Rodney (new HVAC employee).

Stan Lucas, Sewer Department Manager, met with the Commissioners with concerns about additional charges for the work at 3508 West Pike. The following was then considered:

**RESOLUTION 26-0288** declare Emergency Sewer Repairs at 3508 West Pike. Repairs performed by RML Contracting, LLC in the amount of \$67,616.00. Motion made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Cameron. Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

Stan also discussed the Lakewood Sanitary Rehab with the Commissioners.

- Cost would be \$27,321.00
- Commissioners approved to proceed

Stan also presented the West Muskingum Athletic Boosters request to waive the tap fee for their Booster Hall on Highland Road. The following was then considered:

**RESOLUTION 26-0289** authorize the Muskingum County Sewer Department to waive sewer tap fees in the amount of \$4,850 for the West Muskingum Athletic Booster Hall located at 2170 Highland Road. Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell. Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

Updates on paving projects on Shinnick and Underwood.

The Commissioners signed MOU's presented by Kade Haddox, County Administrator, for the Arts Council and Dr. Gandolf—"Max's Fund".

Commissioner Bell reported that the Culbertson Road project has begun.

The Commissioners talked with Peya of edp regarding the Cass Township Solar Project.

- Emergency Action Plan
- Sidewalk from Trinway to Dresden

Commissioner Prouty moved to approve the minutes of the March 09, 2026 session. Commissioner Cameron seconded.

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

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Commissioner Bell moved to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2026 session. Commissioner Cameron seconded.

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

Motion carried.

Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2026 session. Commissioner Prouty seconded.

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

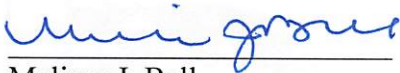
Motion carried.

Commissioner Bell contacted Coleen Thomas of Pinecrest Drive and reported that she had talked with the Engineer and he did not cut down her forsythia bushes. If Ms. Thomas has further complaints she will need to address with the County Engineer.

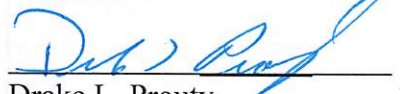
Kade reported that Erin Welch, Juvenile Magistrate, applied for Opioid Funding for State Truancy Mediator.

There were continued Opioid Funding Application discussions.

With no further business being before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:59 p.m. on the motion of Commissioner Bell and the second of Commissioner Cameron.



Melissa J. Bell



Drake L. Prouty

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Cindy S. Cameron