

Minutes for Monday, March 23, 2026

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

RES 26-0290 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 26-0291 approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Number 002 & 098, for the Muskingum County Commissioners, as requested by, Matthew J Lutz, Sheriff.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Dog & Kennel-Salaries	002-502-501002	\$20,000.00
Dog & Kennel-Medicare	002-502-502001	\$300.00
Dog & Kennel-PERS	002-502-502003	\$2,700.00
CCW Fund-Salaries	098-458-501002	\$15,000.00
CCW Fund-Medicare	098-458-502001	\$200.00
CCW Fund-PERS	098-458-502003	\$2,200.00
CCW Fund-Insurance	098-458-502004	\$8,600.00

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

RESOLUTION 26-0292 approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Number 001 & 010, 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>
Muskingum County Agricultural Society	001-902-507020	\$12,000.00
Botvin Prevention Training Intern	010-458-504001	\$10,000.00

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

RESOLUTION 26-0293 accept & sign IV-D Contract between the Muskingum County Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA) and Muskingum County Prosecutor's Office as presented by Daniel Brenneman, Director of Muskingum County Job & Family Services.

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

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RESOLUTION 26-0294 accept the specification, plans and authorize the advertisement for Asphalt Emulsion 2026 for the Muskingum County Engineer. Advertisement will posted on the County Website March 24 -April 09. Bids will be opened at 8:15 am Thursday, April 09, 2026.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

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

RESOLUTION 26-0295 accept the specification, plans and authorize the advertisement for Resurfacing and Parking Lot Improvements 2026 for the Muskingum County Engineer. Advertisement will posted on the County Website March 24 -April 09. Bids will be opened at 8:30 am Thursday, April 09, 2026.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

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

RESOLUTION 26-0296 Whereas Ohio Revised Code §321.261 establishes the prosecuting attorney's delinquent tax and assessment collection fund, for the purpose of the collection of delinquent real property, personal property, and manufactured and mobile home taxes and assessments, including proceedings related to the foreclosure of the state's lien for such taxes against such property; and

Whereas Ohio Revised Code §5705.15 authorizes a board of county commissioners, in the manner provided by Ohio Revised Code §5705.16, to transfer from one fund to another any public funds under its supervision; and

Whereas Ohio Revised Code §5705.16 authorizes a board of county commissioners to adopt a resolution declaring the necessity for the transfer of funds authorized by Ohio Revised Code §5705.15, and to submit a petition to the tax commissioner requesting the approval of the transfer of funds when the petition (A) states sufficient facts; (B) that there are good reasons, or that a necessity exists, for the transfer; and (C) no injury will result from the transfer of such funds; and

Whereas the Ohio Attorney General has opined that money in a county delinquent tax and assessment fund established pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §321.261 may be transferred from that fund, pursuant to the provisions of Ohio Revised Code §5705.15 and Ohio Revised Code §5705.16, upon a resolution of the board of county commissioners declaring the necessity for the transfer of the funds and that no injury will result and upon the approval of the tax commissioner (1999 Ohio Op. Att'y Gen. No. 054, 1994 Ohio Op. Att'y Gen. No. 94-015 approved and followed); and

Whereas on or about April 14, 2025, this board of county commissioners purchased the real estate located at 44 N. 4th Street, Zanesville, Ohio, for the sole purpose of providing office space to accommodate the prosecutor's office staff required for the collection of delinquent real estate taxes and assessments; and

Whereas this board of county commissioners reserved \$300,000.00 in the 2026 county operating budget for the renovation of the county office building located at 44 N. 4th Street, Zanesville, to accommodate prosecutor's office staff required for the collection of delinquent real estate taxes and assessments; and

Whereas the cost of the proposed building renovations determined by the project architect was estimated at \$474,320.00 and the lowest and best competitive bid submitted for the building renovation project was \$491,580.00; and

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Whereas there is an unexpected shortfall of \$191,580.00 between the amount of money budgeted by the commissioners for the building renovation project and the lowest and best competitive bid submitted by the general contractor to be selected for the building renovation project; and

Whereas the Muskingum County Prosecuting Attorney has determined there is sufficient money in the prosecutor's office delinquent tax and assessment fund to cover the unexpected shortfall of \$191,580.00, and that no injury will result from the transfer of \$191,580.00 to the county general fund (001) for use in partially funding the cost of the building renovation project.

Now, therefore, it is resolved by the Board of County Commissioners, Muskingum County, Ohio, that pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §5705.16, the board determines that sufficient facts exist creating a reason and/or a necessity for the transfer of \$191,580.00 from the prosecutor's office delinquent tax and assessment fund to the county general fund (001), and that no injury will result from the transfer of said funds. Said funds will be used solely for the purpose of partially financing the renovation of the county office building located at 44 N. 4th Street, Zanesville, Ohio, to accommodate prosecutor's office staff required for the collection of delinquent real estate taxes and assessments.

The clerk of this board is directed to certify a copy of this resolution to the Muskingum County Prosecuting Attorney. The prosecuting attorney shall forward a copy of this resolution to the Ohio Tax Commissioner for review and approval.

It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with the law.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

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

Motion carried.

There was continued discussion regarding AEP's plans to move and bury electric lines, with adjacent property owners.

Chris Crook, Redevelopment Specialist, met with the Commissioners to give updates on the following projects:

- Trinway demolition quotes
- 459 Main Street, Philo

Commissioner Bell reported on the CCAO Board of Directors Retreat she attended last week.

- \$12.5 million SNAP Benefits which is half of 2025
 - Muskingum County's reduction will be \$394,221
 - Muskingum County will receive \$226,486
 - So, the shortfall will be \$167,735
- HB371
 - Would make all elected officials reporters for child abuse and neglect
- HB635
 - Addresses Youth Services visitation
- HB139
 - Fire hydrant bill
- Property Tax

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Commissioner Prouty reported that the Engineer's Office has purchased two new boom mowers. The Engineer expressed his appreciation to the Commissioners in helping modernize his fleet.

Commissioner Prouty reported that he talked with South Zanesville Fire Chief, Russell Taylor, regarding a fire at 1321 S. Westwood Drive, which has resulted in a partial burnout of the structure. It has been turned over to Chris Crook as a blighted property. A call was placed to Treasurer Todd Hixson regarding the real estate taxes on this property being past due. Todd said that the owner had been on a payment contract, but has broken that contract by not making payments.

Dominique Proctor, Mike King and Curtis McNichols met with the Commissioners to discuss a Gus Macker Tournament in July of 2027 at the OUZ/Zane State/YMCA Campus.

- To date they have raised \$16,000 in sponsorships
 - Muskingum Community Foundation will be managing the funds
- There will be future fundraisers
 - April 22 Buffalo Wild Wings
 - May Chipotle
 - June Applebees
- Estimates 400 teams to participate
- Referees must be registered

It was noted that the Board of Elections has received a \$10,000 Grant to meet directives from the Secretary of State.

Gary Moore, Electrician; Michael Baisden, Ohio Construction Licensing Board; Jason Baughman, Muskingum County Building Department; Jeremy Ball, Electrician and Jacob Ball, Electrician met with the Commissioners to discuss the requirement of electricians for commercial builds to be registered electricians, They would also like to see this requirement for residential, as well. Resolutions would have to be in place to enforce.

Jeff Stankunas, Legal Counsel, called the Commissioners and the following was considered:

RESOLUTION 26-0297 declare an Executive Session at 11:03 a.m. for the purpose of discussing Pending Litigation of the Muskingum County Commissioners. This session ended about 11:26 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.
Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

Mark Zanghi, Assistant Prosecutor, met with the Commissioners and voiced the need for a "Victim's Room" within the new courtroom renovation. He expressed concern from his office that they were not included in the design talks.

There was discussion regarding the S. Westwood Drive property fire and delinquent taxes, as well as, nuisance probability.

There was continued discussion regarding the handling of letters to delinquent real estate owners.

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Commissioner Bell reported that she was told by Eric Watkins, Facilities Superintendent, that the latest storm has caused a tree to fall from a neighboring property onto the old dog pound property off Newark Road. Who's responsibility is it to remove the tree?...the tree owner or property owner. Pam will do some research.

There was brief discussion regarding Erin Welch's second Opioid application. This one is for her proposed "Drug Free Club".

Commissioner Bell left session at 11:45 a.m. to attend the SEO Joint Solid Waste Policy Committee Meeting in Caldwell.

Commissioners Prouty and Cameron resumed session at 1:00 p.m.

The Commissioners were presented with mowing quotes for several County-owned properties. Quotes were received from Lawler; Hartman; Lemmon and CP.

The Commissioners were asked to choose a topic for the annual CORSA HR Training for 2026. They chose "The Evolution of Social Media in the Workplace". Pam will schedule the training for a time in July.

With no further business being before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:05 p.m. on the motion of Commissioner Cameron and the second of Commissioner Prouty.



Melissa J. Bell



Drake L. Prouty

Cindy S. Cameron