

Minutes for Thursday, April 23, 2026

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

RES 26-0397 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 reported that Judge Cottrill was in this morning to report that he was pleased with the tours of the Perry and Licking County jails arranged by Eric Ratts of DLZ.

The following legislation was now considered:

RESOLUTION 26-0398 approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Number 130, for the Muskingum County Emergency Management Agency, as requested by Tiffany Beardsley, Administrative Assistant.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>
CORSA	130-461-504141	\$465.00

(The increase is to cover the renewal increase.)

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

RESOLUTION 26-0399 approve the line item transfer of monies within Fund Number 007 as requested by Tom Smith, Fiscal Supervisor, as follows:

LINE ITEM TRANSFER OF MONIES

<u>From Line Item</u>	<u>To Line Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
007-692-504007	007-692-504141	\$2,000.00
PA CONT REPAIRS	PA CORSA	

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

RESOLUTION 26-0400 approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Number 162, for the Muskingum County Center for Seniors, as requested by Kate Paul, Executive Director.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

<u>Decrease in Appropriations</u>	<u>Increase in Appropriations</u>	<u>Amount</u>
162-005-504140 Liability Insurance	162-010-504140 Liability Insurance	\$300.00
162-008-504140 Liability Insurance	162-010-504140 Liability Insurance	\$300.00
162-101-504140 Liability Insurance	162-010-504140 Liability Insurance	\$300.00

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

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RESOLUTION 26-0401 direct the Muskingum County Auditor to perform the CORSA Chargebacks to various Funds through an Agency Fund (220-000-415129) process for the departments listed as requested by the Board of Muskingum County Commissioners; AND authorize payment of the 2026/2027 CORSA premium total of \$692,346.00, as follows:

<u>Fund to be charged</u>	<u>Department Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
001-119-504141	Commissioners-General Fund	\$ 466,969.00
002-502-504141	Dog & Kennel	\$ 2,353.00
007-692-504141	Job & Family-Public Assistance	\$ 31,934.00
007-697-504141	Job & Family	\$ 1,108.00
008-103-504141	Auditor-Real Estate	\$ 3,374.00
009-368-504141	Engineer	\$ 48,444.00
013-372-504141	Sewer	\$ 11,105.00
014-373-504141	Water	\$ 17,474.00
018-694-504141	Starlight	\$ 35,420.00
020-585-504141	TB Clinic	\$ 2,899.00
021-695-504141	Children Services	\$ 28,101.00
021-698-504141	Avondale	\$ 8,590.00
057-103-504141	Auditor-GIS	\$ 1,104.00
069-692-504141	CSEA	\$ 12,540.00
118-122-504141	Clerk of Courts	\$ 1,279.00
130-461-504141	EMA	\$ 2,165.00
162-005-504141	Center for Seniors	\$ 2,081.67
162-008-504140	Center for Seniors	\$ 2,081.67
162-010-504140	Center for Seniors	\$ 4,829.00
162-101-504140	Center for Seniors	\$ 2,081.66
191-375-504141	CDBG-CHIP	\$ 494.00
851-384-511122	Soil & Water	\$ 4,270.00
901-398-511122	Port Authority	\$ 1,649.00

Motion made by Commissioner Prouty, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 26-0402 approve the increase in Appropriations within Fund Number 018 for the Muskingum County Board of Developmental Disabilities, as requested by Stephanie Neuhart, Business Manager, as follows:

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>
CORSA Liability Insurance	018-694-504141	\$2,425.00

Motion made by Commissioner Prouty, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

Motion carried.

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RESOLUTION 26-0403 approve and authorize the repayment of an ADVANCE of monies to Muskingum County Board of Developmental Disabilities Starlight Fund 018 from Funds 083 & 086 as requested by Stephanie Neuhart, Business Manager, as follows:

REPAYMENT OF ADVANCE OF FUNDS

<u>From Fund</u>	<u>To Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
083-694-510001 Special Ed. Grant IDEA FY24-25	018-000-414001 Starlight	\$35,542.48
086-694-510001 Early Childhood Ed Grant FY24-25	018-000-414001 Starlight	\$4,559.89

(To repay advances outstanding from 2024)

Motion made by Commissioner Prouty, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 26-0404 approve the increase in Appropriations within Fund Number 007 for Muskingum County Job & Family Services, as requested by Tom Smith, Fiscal Supervisor, as follows:

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PA Unemployment	007-692-502008	\$48.04

Motion made by Commissioner Prouty, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 26-0405 approve and authorize the signing of a change order for the Guardrail Project on various roads. This change order reflects the final contract amount based on final quantities approved and inspected. The final total for the project decreased from \$288,775.00 to \$273,026.50 for an overall decrease in the amount of \$13,748.50.

Motion made by Commissioner Prouty, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 26-0406 approve and authorize the signing of a change order for the pavement marking project on various roads. This change order reflects the final contract amount based on final quantities approved and inspected. The final total for the project decreased from \$137,255.50 to \$133,050.85 for an overall decrease in the amount of \$4,204.65.

Motion made by Commissioner Prouty, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 26-0407 approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Number 099, for the Muskingum County Court of Common Pleas Juvenile Division, as requested by Rachael Dille, Finance Officer.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Transfer Out	099-444-510002	\$40,000.00

Motion made by Commissioner Prouty, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.

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

Motion carried.

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RESOLUTION 26-0408 agree to sign change order “PCO -059 – Hose Reel Faucets” for the New Jail Project in the amount of \$3,518.37 (detail attached). This change order is classified as “Owner Requested” and therefore funded from Owner’s Contingency.
 Motion made by Commissioner Prouty, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.
 Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 26-0409 agree to sign change order “PCO -050 – Bulletin 10” for the New Jail Project in the amount of \$3,416.77 (detail attached). This change order is classified as “Owner Requested” and therefore funded from Owner’s Contingency.
 Motion made by Commissioner Prouty, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.
 Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 26-0410 approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within fund number 001, for the Muskingum County Commissioners, as requested by Kade Haddox, County Administrator.

Supplemental Appropriations:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
001-114-506044	Image Building Remodel	\$50,000.00

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

RESOLUTION 26-0411 approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Number 113, for the Muskingum County Auditor’s Office, as requested by Stephanie Spencer, Chief Administrator.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

<u>Department</u>	<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Engineer Dept	113-368-504072	\$171,933.68
	State FEMA Reimb to Dept	
Maintenance Dept	113-368-504072	\$4,664.01
	State FEMA Reimb to Dept	
Sewer Dept	113-368-504072	\$4,020.49
	State FEMA Reimb to Dept	

(To account for state disaster recovery funds, that will be reimbursed for departmental costs associated with the winter storm that occurred in January 2026.)

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

RESOLUTION 26-0412 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>
Charles Ritter Co.	10/30/2025	001-458-503001	\$464.70
Sirchie Acquisition Co.	11/25/2025	001-458-503001	\$34.41

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

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The Commissioners noted their appreciation of all County departments that responded, reported and documented damages and costs from the January 25-26 snow event, for the State Recovery Fund. The Commissioners were disappointed in the townships and villages that didn't respond. A big thank you to Jeff Jadwin, EMA Director, and his staff for coordinating and assisting in this task.

Eric Reed, Port Authority Director, met with the Commissioners to have them sign Amendments to Enterprise Zone Agreements from 2016 and 2019 due to a name change with Mattingly. The Amendments are effective April 1, 2026.

Commissioner Cameron reported that she attended the MVESC Board meeting at which they recognized the County for their support of their new venture with childcare at the Little Farmers' Day Care. They reported that to date, they have cut their budget by \$1.5 million.

The Commissioners met with Brad Melsheimer of Modern Glass to discuss the frustrations with the timeframe of the Courthouse window replacements, jail windows, Health Department windows and security entrance door.

Brad understood the frustration, apologized and said they would begin Courthouse window replacement May 4. They will work weekends at no extra cost and use their own manlift.

Commissioner Bell reported that Muskingum County has received \$230,000 in demolition grants for the Landbank through Ohio Department of Development, Demo and Site Revitalization Program. This will be used for two properties in Zanesville and one in Norwich.

Kade Haddox, County Administrator, reported that Senator Husted's DC Office, called to report that Muskingum County's project has been selected to go onto the Appropriations Commission with the full amount requested. We should know the result by the end of June or first of July.

The Commissioners discussed a quote from Jeff Stankunas, legal representative through CORSA, regarding ARPA funding of Heroes Landing.

The Commissioners placed a call to Jason Baughman, Chief Building Official, to talk about fee schedules for counties, villages and municipalities under the Mid-East Building Department's jurisdiction.

RESOLUTION 26-0413 open bids for Dozer Ridge Water Main Extension.

Motion made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 26-0414 take bids under advisement for Dozer Ridge Water Main Extension.

Motion made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

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

Motion carried.

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The Commissioners returned a call to Anissa Hutton of Adamsville Road who has concerns with a culvert she paid the County Engineer to install. She believes it was not installed properly. Gary Williams of the Engineer's Office will make contact with Ms. Hutton.

Russ Edgington, Park District Director and Phil Valentine of ODOT met with the Commissioners to discuss the SR666 proposal. Russ has concerns that the contract does not state "the Park District has the right to build a trail on their own property". Phil stated that issue has been resolved.

Russ also reported that the issue with the East Fultonham railroad lawsuit has been resolved. It was noted that the Park District board is appointed by Probate Court.

There was discussion regarding the paint cans that Maintenance has stored at the EMA property. How will it be disposed of?.....Solid Waste?

Commissioner Prouty reported talking with Danny Brenneman and Tom Smith from MCJFS regarding building improvements, upgrades and remodel debt.

RESOLUTION 26-0415 moved to go into Executive Session at 12:45 p.m. to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official of Muskingum County. This session ended approximately 1:20 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

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

Commissioner Prouty moved to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2026 session.

Commissioner Bell seconded.

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

Shawn Digits, reporter for The Times Recorder, met with the Commissioners to discuss water and sewer rate increases.

The Commissioners listened to an "Ax Ohio Tax" Livestream.

Commissioner Prouty presented quotes for concrete pads, grade and compaction of existing stone at the EMA site. All agreed to proceed.

Commissioner Prouty discussed with the Board the possibility of purchasing metal dumpsters for cardboard recycling. Discussion will continue.

Commissioner Bell presented entries for the "Muskingum County Flag" contest she has received to date.


Kade talked with Brad Melsheimer of Modern Glass who confirmed the starting date of May 4 for the Courthouse windows.

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With no further business being before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:10 p.m. on the motion of Commissioner Cameron and the second of Commissioner Prouty.


Melissa J. Bell


Drake L. Prouty


Cindy S. Cameron