

Minutes for Thursday, April 30, 2026

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

RES 26-0428 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.

The following legislation was now considered:

RESOLUTION 26-0429 approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Number 014, for the Muskingum County Water Department, as requested by Peggy Taylor, Office Manager.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Corsa	014-373-50414	\$1,473.82

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

RESOLUTION 26-0430 approve the award of bid to Saorsa Construction Ohio, Inc. in the amount of \$146,182.25 for the resurfacing & improvements of the Masonic Temple parking lot. As recommended by Mark J. Eicher, Muskingum County Engineer.
Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.
Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 26-0431 approve and authorize the execution of the Demolition Contract for the debris removal & work specifications for 285 Washington Street, Roseville between the Board of Muskingum County Commissioners and Spohn Excavating Inc. as recommended by the Muskingum County Blight Prevention. The contract amount is \$18,900.00.
Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.
Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 26-0432 approve the award of bid to Neff Paving LLC in the amount of \$156,531.17 for the resurfacing & improvements of the Health Department parking lot. As recommended by Mark J. Eicher, Muskingum County Engineer.
Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.
Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 26-0433 agree to sign change order "PCO -063 – Kitchen Equipment Shop Drawings" for the New Jail Project in the amount of \$3,442.12 (detail attached). This change order is classified as "Means & Methods" and therefore funded from Construction Manager's Contingency.
Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.
Roll call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

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Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2026 session.

Commissioner Prouty seconded.

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

Motion carried.

Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2026 session.

Commissioner Bell seconded.

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

Motion carried.

It was noted that WHIZ misquoted Commissioner Bell regarding the regulations of water and sewer rates.

Commissioner Prouty reported that he texted Mike Reiter, SEO Joint Solid Waste Director, Friday, asking him to contact Kade Haddox, County Administrator, regarding the disposal of the paint stored at the EMA facility.

The Commissioners reviewed the Budget Commission's ruling on Starlight's Levy adjustment request.

"On April 27, 2026, the Budget Commission voted to increase the millage of the 2007 continuous levy by 0.50 mills, for a total of 3.00 mills, effective with the 2026 tax year, collection in 2027. The Budget Commission also requests that the Board of Developmental Disabilities not place an additional levy on the ballot in 2026."

Commissioner Cameron reported that someone approached her at the Chamber Mixer with concerns over the representation of the Veteran's Services commercial.

The following met with the Commissioners regarding Benefit Preservation and International Sourcing:

- Frank Dosch, The Forker Company
- Pam Davis, Human Resources
- Mackenzie Hill, Benefits Specialist
- Kade Haddox, County Administrator
- Mike West, The Forker Company
- Deanna Lear, The Forker Company

After explanation and discussion, the following was considered:

RESOLUTION 26-0434 approve implementing the Benefit Preservation and International Sourcing Programs with MedBen, as presented by Pam Davis, HR; Mackenzie Hill, Benefits Specialist; and Frank Dosch of The Forker Company. The Programs will be implemented July 1, 2026.

Motion made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

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

Motion carried.

Also, presented during this meeting was a Virtual Urgent Care and Virtual Behavior Tele-Medicine program. There was much discussion, but the Commissioners would like to have more time to further discuss.

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Commissioner Cameron reported on the Family and Children First meeting Wednesday.

Kade reported that Mike Reiter, SEO Joint Solid Waste Director, emailed him the contact information for paint disposal.

Kade presented and the Commissioners discussed, the following for consideration:

RESOLUTION 26-0435 authorize Melissa J. Bell to sign on behalf of the Board of Muskingum County Commissioners the Ohio Power Company Contribution-In-Aid-Of-Construction Agreement for Electric Distribution Service at 424 Market Street.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Commissioner Bell reported that she talked with Lacey Harrier of Muskingum County Soil and Water regarding their pollinator garden. They are pleased with the way in which County Maintenance trimmed the garden, because they will be starting over with the garden program.

Don Madden, Projects Manager, met with the Commissioners and explained the misunderstanding with WHIZ regarding PUCO.

Commissioner Bell called WHIZ and explained that PUCO does NOT regulate County water and sewer rates.

Commissioner Prouty left to meet Jordan Skates, ODNR Real Estate, at the Rural Dale Cemetery, along with township trustees, to discuss the slippage in the cemetery.

The Commissioners hosted an Administrative Professional Lunch for their staff.

Commissioner Prouty reported on the meeting on Rural Dale cemetery. There will be a meeting with ODNR, Engineer, State EMA and Township Trustees. It was determined that ODNR Chief and Representative Adam Holmes need to be involved in the decisions that need to be made for the cemetery. A meeting will be scheduled.

The Commissioners hosted lunch for their staff in honor of Administrative Professionals' Day.

It was determined that ODNR Chief and Representative Adam Holmes need to be involved in the decisions that need to be made for the cemetery. A meeting will be scheduled.

The Commissioners left to attend a Port Authority meeting at 1:00 at the Welcome Center. They returned approximately 1:50 p.m.

Ethan Zucal and Craig Butler with the Muskingum Watershed met with the Commissioners to discuss the history and future of the Watershed program.

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RESOLUTION 26-0436 moved to go into Executive Session at 2:45 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 3:24 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

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

RESOLUTION 26-0437 approve two day Unpaid Administrative Leave as Disciplinary Action for Ethan Fuller, Muskingum County Maintenance; Tuesday, May 5; Wednesday, May 6.

Motion made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

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

Commissioner Prouty reported that he has received complaints for the lack of mosquito spraying in the Dresden/Trinway area of Cass Township. Commissioner Prouty called Cory Hamilton, Health Commissioner, who explained that it is hard to find someone to do this. She will follow-up with a schedule for spraying.

The following was then considered:

RESOLUTION 26-0438 accept and sign Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Muskingum County Commissioners, 401 Main Street, Zanesville, Ohio 43701 and the Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department, 205 North 7th Street, Zanesville, Ohio 43701.

ZMCHD will lease space in a building located at the Muskingum County Emergency Management Agency from the County for the purpose of storing certain equipment owned by the ZMCHD.

Motion made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

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

RESOLUTION 26-0439 accept and sign Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Muskingum County Commissioners, 401 Main Street, Zanesville, Ohio 43701 and Zanesville-Muskingum County Chamber of Commerce, 205 N. 5th Street, Zanesville, Ohio 43701 to amend the Lodging Tax Regulations, originally established on December 11, 2003 and February 2, 2009 and as further described on the attached as follows:

After receipt of the monthly lodging tax from all vendors, the Board will pay to the Chamber the balance of the revenue after deducting an amount equal to the sum of seven percent (7%) of the revenue, as the estimated real and actual costs of administering the lodging tax fee, as defined in the agreement dated August 6, 1981, between the Chamber and the Board.

All other terms and conditions of the Lodging Tax Regulations shall remain in full force and effect.

Amendment to be effective for June 1, 2026 lodging taxes paid in July, 2026.

Motion made by Commissioner Prouty, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

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Commissioner Prouty reported a meeting of the Dresden Board of Public Affairs at the Village Municipal Building; May 7; 6pm.

Kade Haddox, County Administrator, updated the Commissioners on the progress of the AEP electric line pole removal and line burial.

Kade also reported on the Southern Ohio Hospital Tax Pilot Program/Rural Ohio Hospital District....waiting on Federal approval.

Commissioner Bell, on behalf of the Board, responded to Carolyn Gardner who has concerns with the number of deer that have been hit and died. Either the Sheriff or Engineer's Office then moves the deer from the roadway and leaves it on their lawns.

She was advised to contact ODNR Wildlife to express her concerns and hopefully find a solution. As the Engineer's office has no jurisdiction to remove them anymore.

Commissioner Bell reported that Tracey Ballas of Muskingum County United Way contacted her about UWMPM Hot Dog Eating Contests to be held:

Maysville Schools – May 13 @ 1:45 p.m.

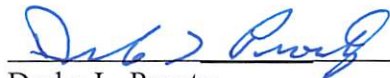
Franklin Local Schools – May 14 @ 1:30 p.m.

Zanesville City Schools – May 19 @ 1:30 p.m.

With no further business being before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:24 p.m. on the motion of Commissioner Prouty and the second of Commissioner Bell.



Melissa J. Bell



Drake L. Prouty



Cindy S. Cameron