

Minutes for Thursday, September 03, 2026

Commissioners Present: Bell, Cameron
Staff Present: Kacey Stackhouse
Commissioner Prouty Absent

RES 26-0781 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, absent; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the payment of bills, pending review.
Seconded by Commissioner Bell.
Vote was Bell, aye; Prouty, absent; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

RES 26-0782 Commissioners moved to go into Executive Session at 9:52 a.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 10:40 a.m.
Motion made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Cameron.
Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, absent; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

The Commissioner Cameron & Bell left at 10:50 to attend a round table event for Ohio Pork, speaker Lieutenant Governor Candidate Rob McCouley at Weatherington Woods.

The Commissioner Cameron & Bell returned from their round table event at 12:53 pm.

RES 26-0783 Commissioners declare an Executive Session at 1:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing Economic Development Matter of the Muskingum County Commissioners. This session ended about 2:00 p.m.
Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.
Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, absent; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

Jeff Jadwin came in to give updates on the flooding and the donation center at the old Roseville Middle School.

The County Commissioners wanted to thank Rubicon at Newton Fire Department and Samaritans Purse at Rolling Plains Church for their services, to the flood victims of Muskingum County.

The following legislation was now considered:

RES 26-0784 hereby authorize Melissa J. Bell to sign on behalf of the Board of Muskingum County Commissioners the Nomination Form for the 2027 HSTS Grant as requested by Kyle Dunn, Director.
Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.
Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, absent; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

RES 26-0785 authorize Melissa J Bell to sign on behalf of the Board of Muskingum County Commissioners Pay Application Number Two and the OWDA Disbursement Request for the Boggs Rd Sanitary Sewer Improvements. This Pay Application is for \$117,455.70, Muskingum Site Services, LLC.

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Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Motion carried.

RES 26-0786 approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Number 001, for the Muskingum County Commissioners, as requested by Marcie Blackwood, Deputy Clerk.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
REA & Associates Inc.	001-102-504022	\$51,000.00

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Motion carried.

RES 26-0787 authorize Melissa J. Bell to sign Pay App #23 and the OWDA reimbursement form for the Licking View Sanitary Sewer Project. This Pay App is for \$54,673.37.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Motion carried.

RES 26-0788 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>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Amazon	12/11/2025	001-458-503001	\$254.96

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Motion carried.

RES 26-0789 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>
PUCO Railroad Project	130-461-506012	\$53,550.00

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Motion carried.

RES 26-0790 approve and authorize Muskingum County Floodplain department to waive the permit fees for the residents of Muskingum County within the FEMA Floodplain recently affected by the recent flood waters as requested Ray Mennega, Floodplain Administrator.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

Motion carried.

RES 26-0791 **WHEREAS**, R.C. 5535.08(A) provides that the Board of County Commissioners (hereinafter referred to as "the Commissioners") shall maintain its roads as designated in ORC Section 5535.01 and may, by agreement with the board of township trustees, contribute to the repair and maintenance of roads under the control of another; and,

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WHEREAS, on or about August 10, 2026, through August 17, 2026, several strong storms occurred in Muskingum County, damaging various township roads and culverts, throughout Muskingum County, Ohio; and,

WHEREAS, as a result of these storms, an emergency situation currently exists in the County in which impacted roads/culverts are in need of repair/replacement, or the impacted roads/culverts have been closed in their entirety in order to prevent injury and/or loss of life to the traveling public; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 5502.21, a board of county commissioners, as chief executive officers of a county, may declare that an emergency exists within its geographic territory due to the occurrence of a natural disaster; and,

WHEREAS, the Muskingum County Engineer's Office has advised the Commissioners in public session that the various township roads and culverts impacted by the storms that have occurred from August 10 to August 17, 2026, that are located in Muskingum County, constitute a real and present emergency situation that must be addressed immediately; and

WHEREAS, R.C. Sections 153.65 through 153.71 provide the statutory procedures necessary for contracting for professional design services for a public improvement project (which includes engineering); however, ORC Section 153.71(B) provides that ORC Sections 153.65 through 153.71 do not apply to any project determined in writing by the public authority head to be an emergency requiring immediate action; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to R.C. 307.86(A)(2), when there is actual physical disaster to structure, the Commissioners, by a unanimous vote of its members, may make a determination that a real and present emergency exists, thereby obviating the need to engage in competitive bidding for the work required; and

WHEREAS, the Muskingum County Engineer's Office has informed and advised the Commissioners that a real and present emergency exists and that an insufficient amount of time exists to address the emergency situation

currently existing in various townships in Muskingum County, if the Commissioners were to follow the statutory procedures outlined in R.C. 153.65 through 153.71 and R.C. 307.86; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners' and the County Engineer's continuing primary concern is the safety and well-being of the traveling public and the residents of, and visitors to, Muskingum County; and

WHEREAS, due to the emergency nature of the damage done to the roads and culverts in various townships throughout Muskingum County, Ohio, and due to the insufficient time to follow the statutory procedures outlined R.C. 307.86, the respective boards of township trustees shall enter into agreements with the Commissioners, pursuant to R.C. 5535.08 and R.C. 307.15, to utilize the Commissioners' authority to declare an emergency under R.C. 307.86(A)(2); and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners hereby authorize the Muskingum County Administrator to enter into those agreements on their behalf after the agreements have been executed by the Townships.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF MUSKINGUM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Section 1. That the Board of County Commissioners do hereby declare that a state of emergency exists in Muskingum County due to the storms that occurred on or about August 10, 2026 through August 17, 2026 and that we hereby invoke and declare those portions of the Ohio Revised Code which are applicable to the conditions and that have caused the issuance of this proclamation, to be in full force and effect in Muskingum County, Ohio, for the exercise of all necessary emergency authority for protection of the lives and property of

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the residents of Muskingum County, Ohio, and for the restoration of local government with a minimum of interruption.

Reference is hereby made to all appropriate laws, including, but not limited to Chapters 5502, 3750, and 307 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 2. That we further do hereby declare, based upon the advice and information provided by the Muskingum County Engineer's Office, that, due to the storms that occurred on or about on August 10, 2026 through August 17, 2026, various township roads and culverts located in Muskingum County, Ohio, as identified by the County Engineer, constitute a continuing real and present emergency, pursuant to ORC Sections 153.71(B) and 307.86(A)(2), and that these repair and replacement projects constitute an exception to the competitive bidding requirements of ORC Sections 153.65 through 153.71 and ORC Section 307.86.

Section 3. That the County Engineer's Office shall work with impacted townships in Muskingum County on abating this emergency regarding the repair/replacement of the impacted Township roads and culverts from the storm that occurred on or about August 10, 2026, through August 17, 2026.

Section 4. That the County Administrator is hereby authorized to enter into any agreements on behalf of the Commissioners as they relate to this declared emergency.

Section 5. 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 Bell.

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

RES 26-0792 hereby accept and sign the MOU between Brush Creek Township Trustees & Muskingum County Commissioners.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

RES 26-0793 approve the decrease & increase in Appropriations within Fund Number 162 for Muskingum County Center for Seniors, as follows:

<u>DECREASE APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>Amount</u>
162-004-503032	162-005-503032	
Equipment	Equipment	
\$10,000.00		
162-004-503032	162-008-503032	
Equipment	Equipment	
\$10,000.00		

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

RES 26-0794 RESOLVED, By the Board of County Commissioners of Muskingum County, Ohio, in accordance with the provisions of law has previously adopted a Tax Budget for the next succeeding fiscal year commencing January 1st, 2027, and WHEREAS, The Budget Commission of Muskingum County, Ohio, has certified its action thereon to this Board together with an estimate by the County Auditor of the rate of each tax

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necessary to be levied by this Board, and what part thereof is without, and what part within, the ten mill limitation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Board of County Commissioners of Muskingum County, Ohio, that the amounts and rates, as determined by the Budget Commission in its certification, be and the same are hereby accepted; and be it further

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S UIVINLARY OF AMOUNTS REQUIRED FROM GENERAL PROPERTY TAX APPROVED BY BUDGET COMMISSION, AND COUNTY AUDITOR'S ES TEVIA FED TAX RATES				
FUND	Amount Approved by Budget Commission Inside 10 Mill Limitation Column I	Amount to be Derived from Levies Outside 10 Mill Limitation Column II	Estimate of Tax Rate to be Levied	
			Inside 10 Mill	Outside 10 Mill
			in	IV
General Fund	\$5,873,921.76		2.15	
TB Levy 05N		\$718,022.72		0.40
Starlight 07N		\$6,577,422.56		3.00
Children Services 06N		\$3,590,233.71		2.00
Sheriff 94N		5639,932.28		0.50
Starlight 94N		\$2,559,262.29		2.00
Senior 23N		\$1,164,767.89		0.50
Senior 02N		5864.735.91		0.50
TOTAL	55,873,921.76	\$16,114,377.367	2.157	8.90
SCHEDULE B				
LEVIES OUTSIDE 10 MILL LIMITATION, EXCLUS IVE OF DEBTLEVIES				
FUND			Maximum Rate Authorized to Be levied	County Auditor's Estimate of Tax Rate Yield of Levy
GENERAL FUND:				
Current Expense Levy authorized by voters on				
not to exceed years / Expires TY:			Last Collection Yr:	
SPECIAL FUNDS:				
Levy authorized by voters on 11/5/2024 TB Levy 05N			0.40	\$718,022.72
not to exceed 5 years / Expires TY: 2029 Last Collection Yr: 2030				
Levy authorized by voters on 11/6/2007 Starlight 07N			3.00	\$6,577,422.56
not to exceed Con't years Expires: - Last Collection Yr: -				
Levy authorized by voters on 11/4/2025 Children Services 06N			2.00	\$3,590,233.71
not to exceed 10 years / Expires TY: 2035 Last Collection Yr: 2036				
Levy authorized by voters on 11-1994 Sheriff 94N			0.50	\$639,932.28
not to exceed Con't years / Expires TY: - Last Collection Yr: -				
Levy authorized by voters on 11-1994 Starlight 94N			2.00	\$2,559,262.29
not to exceed Con't years Expires: - Last Collection Yr: -				
Levy authorized by voters on 5/5/2026 Senior 02N			0.50	\$864,735.91
5 years Expires: 2031 Last Collection Yr: 2032				
Levy authorized by voters on 11/7/2023 Senior 23N			0.50	\$1,164,767.89
5 years / Expires: 2027 Last Collection Yr: 2028				
TOTAL			8.90	\$16,114,377.36

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RES 26-0795 accept and sign the Contract for Administrative Services for PY2025 Community Housing Impact & Preservation Program (CHIP), between Muskingum County and Ohio Regional Development Corporation, as presented by Kyle Dunn, Community Development Director.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

RES 26-0796 approve the line item transfer of monies within Fund Number 007 as requested by Jane Hunkins, Fiscal Officer, as follows:

LINE ITEM TRANSFER OF MONIES

<u>From Line Item</u>	<u>To Line Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
007-692-501002	007-692-504019	\$18,500.00
PA Salaries	Musk FCFC	

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

RES 26-0797 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 Jane Hunkins, Fiscal Officer.

<u>Name of Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Musk Co Adult/Child Protective Services	APS Operating exp for 10-12/2025	007-692-504172	\$37,868.08

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

RES 26-0798 WHEREAS, the County, obtained title to the real property located at 753 Putnam Avenue, Zanesville, Muskingum County, Ohio (Auditor Parcel Nos. 81-16-01-06-000 and 81-16-01-07-000) by a criminal forfeiture in Muskingum County Common Pleas Court Case No. CR2021-0263 (*State of Ohio vs. Christian M. Black*); and

WHEREAS, a Board of County Commissioners, pursuant to Section 307.10(B) of the Revised Code of the State of Ohio, may by resolution, transfer title to real property belonging to the County and not needed for public use, to a county land reutilization corporation; and

WHEREAS, this Board of County Commissioners has determined that the real property located at 753 Putnam Avenue, Zanesville, Muskingum County, Ohio (Auditor Parcel Nos. 81-16-01-06-000 and 81-16-01-07-000) is not needed for public use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board of County Commissioners, Muskingum County, Ohio, does hereby authorize the transfer in fee simple the real property located at 753 Putnam Avenue, Zanesville, Muskingum County, Ohio (Auditor Parcel Nos. 81-16-01-06-000 and 81-16-01-07-000) to the Muskingum County Land Reutilization Corporation. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Muskingum County Prosecuting Attorney shall prepare the deed of conveyance and other documents as might be necessary for the transfer of title for the real property, and that Melissa J. Bell, in her capacity as president of this Board shall be authorized to execute said documents on behalf of the Board.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Bell.

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

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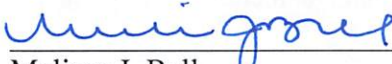
Commissioner Cameron moved to approve the minutes of August 27, 2026, session.

Commissioner Bell seconded.

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

Motion carried.

With no further business being before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:20 p.m. on the motion of Commissioner Cameron and the second of Commissioner Bell.


Melissa J. Bell

ABSENT
Drake L. Prouty


Cindy S. Cameron