

# Minutes for Thursday, October 09, 2025

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

8:00 a.m. The Commissioners attended the swearing in of Abby Bash as the new Humane Officer for Muskingum County.

**RES 25-0989** Meeting was called to order at 8:26 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.

Ron Welch, County Prosecutor, Kasi Stewart and Teresa Vickers met with the Commissioners to discuss the use of Opioid funds for mental rehabilitation services for inmates.

Prosecutor Welch is suggesting that the first year cost will be approximately \$200,000 and is asking to use Opioid Litigation funds the first year. They will apply for grant funding to help sustain the program for following years. But could be asking for additional funds depending on grant results.

Ron and Mary Ann Bucci came to deliver the Commissioners' Challenge Coins.

Commissioner Prouty reported that an initial estimate to repair HVAC at the Engineer's Office was approximately \$13,000. Advanced Heating and Cooling was able to repair for under \$500.

Stan Lucas, Sewer Department Manager; Don Madden, Projects Manager and Zach Forker, Assistant Projects Manager met with the Commissioners to report that they had received a Sewer RFI for National Road Business Park.

They also discussed their applications for AMLER Grants. Once the applications are completed, Commissioner Bell will forward a copy to Kevin DeWine, CBD Consultants.

Mike Reiter, Director of the SEO Joint Solid Waste District, met with the Commissioners to discuss the Morgan County yard waste facility. He estimates that only 10% of what is deposited at the facility, is actually residential yard waste. It was agreed for the Waste District to pay for the clean-up, then require a signed contract with the Morgan County Commissioners stating that the facility will be permanently closed and Morgan County will be responsible for securing the property.

Kyle Dunn, Community Development Director and Kade Haddox, County Administrator met with the Commissioners to discuss the ASHRAE Level II Energy Audit through the Ohio Department of Development; Lydia Mihalik, contact.

The Commissioners met with Eric Reed, Port Authority Director; Kade Haddox, County Administrator. Allison Binkley, Squire Patton Boggs, joined virtually to discuss General Fund contributions to Economic Development projects. Allison's legal opinion is as follows:

- County General Fund can contribute to Economic Development projects

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- This may not be current County policy, but there are no restrictions per ORC
- Bond rating would only be affected if contributions were reoccurring
- Allison will send a letter reflecting her legal opinion

The following legislation was now considered:

**RESOLUTION 25-0990** approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Number 001, for the Muskingum County Commissioners, as requested by Kacey Stackhouse, Deputy Clerk.

**SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Soldiers & Sailors	001-117-504395	\$275,000.00
Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.		
Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye.		Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 25-0991** approve and authorize the repayment of an ADVANCE of monies to Muskingum County Water Fund 014 from Fund 172 as requested by the Projects Department. The repayment of the ADVANCE will include \$64,008.67 for the repayment of money advanced to fund 172 and \$15,991.33 to be forgiven as an Advance of Funds.

**REPAYMENT OF ADVANCE OF FUNDS**

<u>From Fund</u>	<u>To Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
172-373-510001	014-000-414001	\$64,008.67

**FORGIVENESS OF ADVANCE OF FUNDS**

<u>From Fund</u>	<u>To Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
172	014	\$15,991.33

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

**RESOLUTION 25-0992** approve the line item transfer of monies within Fund Number 001 as requested by Kacey Stackhouse, Deputy Clerk, as follows:

**LINE ITEM TRANSFER OF MONIES**

<u>From Line Item</u>	<u>To Line Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
001-111-506001-Equip& Maint.	001-111-504017-License & Support	\$20,000.00
Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.		
Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye.		Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 25-0993** approve the line item transfer of monies within Fund Number 018 as requested by Stephanie Neuhart, Business Manager, MBDD, as follows:

**LINE ITEM TRANSFER OF MONIES**

<u>From Line Item</u>	<u>To Line Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
018-694-504001-Contract Serv	018-694-504388-Residential	\$43,740.00
018-694-503030-Computer Software	018-694-506002-Computer Hardware	\$ 2,500.00
Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.		
Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye.		Motion carried.

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**RESOLUTION 25-0994** approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Number 001, for the Muskingum County Commissioners, as requested by Kacey Stackhouse, Deputy Clerk.

**SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Image Building Renovations	001-114-506044	\$25,000.00

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

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

**RESOLUTION 25-0995** approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Number 001, for the Muskingum County Commissioners, as requested by Kacey Stackhouse, Deputy Clerk.

**SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Contract Services	001-115-504001	\$105,000.00

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

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

**RESOLUTION 25-0996** agree to sign pay application GMP 009 for the New Jail Project in the amount of \$3,829,533.25.

Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.

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

The Commissioners left to attend the Mid-East Annual Advisory Meeting and lunch.

Commissioner Bell reported an email she received from Howard Feldstein of the Ohio Attorney General's Office forwarding an email regarding the investigation into the heat exhaustion death of K-9 Officer Cooper. Commissioner Bell replied to Mr. Feldstein's email after forwarding it to Sheriff Lutz.

Commissioner Bell also reported an email from Emma Tobin of the Ohio EPA, Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance. The email was to confirm EPA had received the design loan nomination for the Vista View Sewer Rehabilitation project, with an award date of May 2026.

The Commissioners would like to set up a meeting with the Sheriff, ZPD and Prosecutor to meet the new Humane Officer, Abby Bash.

Commissioner Prouty reported that he drove to Newton Township to look at Bush Run Road that the Commissioners had a complaint about earlier in the week.

Commissioner Prouty also reported that he talked with the Mayor of Dresden regarding Ames Drive; \$25,000 in materials.

Brian Addis, APG Architects and Kade Haddox, County Administrator, met with the Commissioners to share jail updates. The following was then considered:

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**RESOLUTION 25-0997** accept and sign the Easement and Right of Way between the Board of Muskingum County Commissioners and American Electric Power at the new jail site situated in the City of Zanesville, Muskingum County, Ohio and being Lot 362, 363, 361 and being part of Lots 272-275 and 345-354 of the Plat of Brighton, Plat Book 2, Page 105, as described in Official Records Volume 3194 Pages 824-829 of the Muskingum County Recorder's Office (Auditor's Parcel #82-28-03-18-000, 82-28-03-20-000, 82-28-03-000 and 82-27-01-04-000). Motion made by Commissioner Cameron, seconded by Commissioner Prouty.  
Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

The Commissioners left to attend a meeting with the Center for Seniors Executive Board.

The Commissioners returned at 3:17 p.m. and met with Don Madden, Zach Forker, Projects Department; Eric Reed, Port Authority Director; Mark Zanghi, Assistant Prosecutor and Kade Haddox, County Administrator. The group had reviewed and scored the RFQ's for water and sewer projects in the northwest part of the County. All nine applicants were interviewed and scored. The following was then presented and considered:

**RESOLUTION 25-0998** accept the recommendation of Burgess and Nipel for Request of Qualifications for water and sewer projects in the Northwest part of the County. Motion made by Commissioner Prouty, seconded by Commissioner Bell.  
Roll Call: Bell, aye; Prouty, aye; Cameron, aye. Motion carried.

The Commissioners received and reviewed the September 2025 Auditor's Financial Reports.

**RESOLUTION 25-0999** approve the Supplemental Appropriation of Funds within Fund Number 001 for the purchase of a printer/plotter for the Muskingum County Engineer's Office, for the Muskingum County Commissioners, as requested by Kacey Stackhouse, Deputy Clerk.

**SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Account Code</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Transfer Out	001-999-510002	\$13,810.00


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

With no further business being before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m. on the motion of Commissioner Cameron and the second of Commissioner Bell.

The Commissioners then attended the Planning Commission meeting.

  
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Melissa J. Bell

  
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Drake L. Prouty

  
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Cindy S. Cameron