

**THE BOARD OF ATHENS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**, met in regular session, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, via Zoom video conferencing, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, and following Governor Mike DeWine's social distancing orders; with Lenny Eliason presiding, Charlie Adkins and Chris Chmiel in attendance.

**AGENDA**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to approve the following agenda:

**ATHENS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Meeting Agenda for January 26, 2021 - Convenes at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes from January 12th & January 19th, 2021

Approve Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes

Fund to Fund Transfers:

Commissioners / JFS - Veterans/ Denver White

\$1,871.10 from 110.560100 Comm. Other to 2571.422101 JFS Public Assistance

\$3,025.91 from 1100.560100 Comm. Other to 2571.422101 JFS Public Assistance

Commissioners / EMA

\$87,661.25 from 1194.580510 CL-CH Bond, to 2017.421101 Transfers In

\$16,000.00 from 1236.560000 Comm. Contingency, to 2540.421100 Advances In

EMA - Transfer

\$75,000.00 into EMA Fund 521

Engineer

\$87,171.71 from 1300.580102 Bond Transfer, into 2017.422101 Transfers In

**New Fund/Line Item Request**

EMPG-S - Ohio EMA

Receipts

Grants 540.2540.412500

Advances In 540.2540.421100

Advances Out 540.3540.590100

Expenditures

Equipment 540.3540.550100

Supplies 540.3540.540100

**Approve Bills**

09:30 EDC Annual Presentation - Mollie Fitzgerald

09:45 DJFS Dir. Jean Demosky

10:00 WDB Dir. Laurie McKnight

10:15 EMS Chief Rick Callebs

10:30 Natalie Wilson - Proposal for natural burial and conservation area

10:45 Roxanne Groff - Powhatan NGL Salt Mine Cavern Project, Monroe County (Letter of Support)

**~ AGENDA ITEMS**

Amended Certificate

Utility Permit(s) - Frontier (3)

Data Board Recommendations - Sheriff

Records Center Clerk

Planner

EMS Wages

Engineer - Letter of Intent

Public Defender Contracts

Landfill Gate

FreedomLinux Contract

Honda Generator

RPC Appointments

WATH radio schedule

Pacific Life Withdrawal

John Knouse Proclamation

SEORJ Contract with ACSD

**~ADJOURNMENT**

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins approving the minutes from January 12<sup>th</sup> and January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

**APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS, NEW LINE ITEMS REQUESTS/CHANGES**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins approving the Appropriations, Transfers, New Line Items Requests/Changes submitted and processed through the Auditor's Office by various Departments. Dated: January 26, 2021 - Budget Transfers and Amendments. Fund to Fund Transfers:

Commissioners / JFS - Veterans/ Denver White

\$1,871.10 from 110.560100 Comm. Other to 2571.422101 JFS Public Assistance

\$3,025.91 from 1100.560100 Comm. Other to 2571.422101 JFS Public Assistance

Commissioners / EMA

\$87,661.25 from 1194.580510 CL-CH Bond, to 2017.421101 Transfers In

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**New Fund/Line Item Request**

EMPG-S - Ohio EMA

Receipts

Grants 540.2540.412500

Advances In 540.2540.421100

Advances Out 540.3540.590100

Expenditures

Equipment 540.3540.550100

Supplies 540.3540.540100

(Copied to pages 54-55).

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

**BILLS**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins approving the payment of the required County Bills, which are included in the Auditor's Office INVOICE TRACKING REPORT - From: To: and the bills are hereby the same and authorize the County Auditor to issue warrants on the County Treasurer for payment in the same. Complete list of bills maintained in the Auditor's office.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

**EDC ANNUAL PRESENTATION - MOLLIE FITZGERALD**

Mollie Fitzgerald presented a 2020 Overview of activities and impact on the local economy .

The Athens County Economic Development Council's mission is to be a catalyst for quality jobs and progress in Athens County and throughout the region by creating a seamless network of economic development resources through partnerships with government, business, and nonprofit organizations.

Throughout 2020, the ACEDC has:

1. Assisted local businesses to grow and expand operations
2. Secured significant investments for economic development projects
3. Implemented educational programs that create understanding around the importance of economic development
5. Facilitated the creation of the Seaman's Downtown Redevelopment District
6. Continued efforts around broadband expansion in southeast Ohio
7. Engaged in critical site development work that will support business expansion and jobs
8. Supported talent retention efforts within the Athens community
9. Managed TIF and City/County Revolving Loan Fund programs
10. Administered the Athens County COVID-19 Small Business Relief Fund
11. Provided educational opportunities for entrepreneurs

Despite the economic implications of COVID-19, the ACEDC secured over \$4,000,000 from state and federal sources throughout 2020.

This funding went directly to companies and businesses for infrastructure improvements and workforce needs required to facilitate job retention & creation.

Commissioner Adkins wanted to discuss the Membership funding level of the Economic Development Council. The Commissioners are currently at the highest level of funding.

**ACEDC MEMBERSHIP**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins approving the 2021 Athens County Economic Development Council (ACEDC) Membership in the amount of \$60,000.00.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

Commissioner Adkins also questioned the EDC's relationship with the Bailey's Trail, with Ms. Fitzgerald stating that they will continue to work with the Mayor of Chauncey supporting economic development in their community. Mr. Adkins also discussed the projected numbers being presented to the Commissioners by ORCA for this project, and feels they are inaccurate and wants to make sure they are correct before committing to the project. He stated he supports the project with real numbers and real facts before committing to funding through the pay for success model.

**DJFS DIR. JEAN DEMOSKY** - Updates  
COMMISSIONERS  
1-26-21  
ACDJFS

1. Updates
  - a. ALICE Training #1 complete: 2/3/21 9:30-11:30am
  - b. Strategic Planning Meeting last Friday
  - c. Visitors to OMJ Wednesday - Expecting high number of visitors.
  - d. Participating in In-Home Childcare Pilot for the State
  - e. Statewide CSS Workgroup SE Region Representative - She will represent the southeast region working towards improvements to the phone system.
  - f. Interviews for Caseworkers Underway

**WDB DIRECTOR LAURIE MCKNIGHT**

Discussed the possibility of relocating to the Innovation Center. Yearly rent : \$3,211 year, to be direct billed to the consortium. A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins authorizing the relocation and office arrangements of WDB Dir. Laurie McKnight to the Innovation Center, 340 W. State St., Athens. A County phone line can be installed through the wifi. The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

**AMENDED CERTIFICATE**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins acknowledging receipt of the Temporary Amended Certificate, dated January 26, 2021 prepared by Jill Thompson, Athens County Auditor. The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

**UTILITY PERMITS (3 Frontier)**

From: Frontier Communications Permit #21-323  
754 West Union St.  
Athens, Ohio 45701

We hereby request permission to install utility lines within public right-of-way limits.  
Location of work: CR26 13095 N. Peach Ridge Road , existing pedestal 1300-106A to customer location  
General Description of Work: Phone - from exist pedestal 1300-106A requires approx 35' bore to be placed in 1" subduct to reach west side of road then continues approx 600' to customer premise will be buried at minimum depth of 42" in right of way. Required to get service to new customer at this location.

Type of Installation: Underground (buried) line crossing road.  
Estimated Project Schedule: 01/14/2021 1 day to complete.  
Agreed to by: /s/Steve Kisling OSP Engineer  
Athens County Commissioners  
/s/ Charlie Adkins  
/s/ Chris Chmiel  
/s/ Lenny Eliason

From: Frontier Communications Permit #21-324  
754 West Union St.  
Athens, Ohio 45701

We hereby request permission to install utility lines within public right-of-way limits.  
Location of work: CR75 Coolville Ridge Rd.  
General Description of Work: Phone - Bore under rod from existing pedestal across to customer's property at 13960 Coolville Ridge.  
Type of Installation: Underground (buried) line crossing road.  
Estimated Project Schedule: 01/11/2021 1 day to complete.  
Agreed to by: /s/Steve Kisling OSP Engineer  
Athens County Commissioners  
/s/ Charlie Adkins  
/s/ Chris Chmiel  
/s/ Lenny Eliason

From: Frontier Communications Permit #21-325  
754 West Union St.  
Athens, Ohio 45701

We hereby request permission to install utility lines within public right-of-way limits.  
Location of work: CR25 Rock Riffle Road  
General Description of Work: Phone - Place one pole and aerial service wire as detailed on construction print sheet.  
Type of Installation: Overhead line parallel to road - utility pole installation.  
Estimated Project Schedule: Start Date: 01/18/2021 Completion Date: 02/05/2021  
Agreed to by: /s/Steve Kisling OSP Engineer  
Athens County Commissioners  
/s/ Charlie Adkins  
/s/ Chris Chmiel  
/s/ Lenny Eliason

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

**DATA BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins approving the following Server request by the Sheriff's Dept., as recommended by the Data Processing Board:

Captain Maynard asked for a recommendation to purchase a server for the Athens County Sheriff's office. A quote from NetData in the amount of \$7,606 was provided to members via email prior to the meeting. The Sheriff's office has been sharing a server with 9-1-1 that needs to be replaced. Captain Maynard explained that the Sheriff's office has a need for a stand alone server that this purchase should meet their needs for the foreseeable future.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

**COUNTY PLANNER POSITION - Job Description**

Discussion regarding the job description for the County Planner, language and qualification edits.

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to post the County Planner job position once qualifications are finalized. Range of Salary \$55,000 - \$65,000.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

**RECORDS CENTER CLERK**

Discussion regarding open position. An in-house employee has expressed interested in the position. The Clerk will get this information to the Commissioners for them to review before addressing later today.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION - Employment of Public Employee**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to enter into executive session at 11:44 with Clerk JoAnn Rockhold to discuss the employment of a public employee.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

**RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to return to regular session at 11:59.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

**RECORDS CENTER CLERK Offer of Position**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to offer the position of Records Center Clerk to Chelsie McKee. Rate of Pay: \$20.00 hour. Start Date: February 3, 2021. The Records Center Clerk position will report to the Commissioner's Clerk.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

**AUTHORIZE CLERK to Find Part Time Planner's Office Clerk**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins authorizing the Clerk to hire a part time individual to cover the Planner's Office during the transition.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

**ENGINEER LETTER OF INTENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins approving the following letter of intent for the County Engineer:

Sima Merick  
Executive Director  
Ohio Emergency Management Agency  
2855 West Dublin Granville Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43235-2206

Dear Sima:

The Athens County Engineer's Office intends to request supplemental financial assistance for damage caused by flooding during March 20-22, May 18-23, and June 3-10, 2020 rain events, from the State Disaster Relief Program.

We have designated Jeff Maiden, Athens County Engineer to be the contact person for Athens County in all matters pertaining to this request. This individual will ensure that all required information is sent to the Ohio Emergency Management Agency within the required time frames and may be reached at (740) 593-5514 and by email [atjmaiden@athensoh.org](mailto:atjmaiden@athensoh.org).

The required site lists and photos are enclosed.

/s/ Lenny Eliason, President

/s/ Chris Chmiel, Vice President

/s/ Charlie Adkins

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

**PUBLIC DEFENDER CONTRACTS - ADDENDUM**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins approving the Public Defender Addendums. The Clerk stated that the State will no longer be signing off on them.

**ADDENDUMS**

The parties herein, being Athens County, herein after referred to as County, and the the Villages of Albany, Amesville, Buchtel, Chauncey, Coolville, Glouster, Jacksonville & Trimble; and the cities of Athens and Nelsonville, previously entered into an agreement on the 1st day of

July, 2020, , provision of legal counsel to indigent defendants. The parties, pursuant to Paragraph 5 of that agreement, hereby mutually extend the agreement to provide legal representation for indigent person from December 31, 2020, through June 30, 2021. All the terms of the agreement signed between the parties of July 1, 2020, shall remain in full force and effect and are incorporated herein. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto set their hands, the day and year first above written. The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

#### 691 LANDFILL GATES (Removal and Replacements)

Maintenance Supv. Jeff Gabriel discussed the removal of the old gates at the 691 Landfill, and replacing with new gates presenting the following quote from Todd Byrd, J&W Welding Service LLC:

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins approving the following quote:

Fabrication and installation of new gates at the old landfill on SR 691 and CR 4. The estimate includes removal of the old gates and the excavation work for the holes to be drilled for new post. The gate on CR4 will include a 10' section of railing on both sides of the gate to discourage them from driving around the gate and the one on 691 will have new posts set and be tied back to the existing guard rail.

Gate on 691- \$2200.00

Gate on CR 4- \$2820.00 (includes 10' railing on each side)

- The cost includes materials to fabricate and install the new gates, removal of the old gates, excavation of new holes, OUPS call
- The gates will be made from 2" sch40 steel pipe, with 4" sch40 pipe for the post set in the ground with concrete and lock boxes for each gate.
- The gates will be a double swinging style similar to what's there now.

Estimate for the 2nd gate on CR4. Fabricate and install. The gate will be the same as the one we previously sent to you yesterday, with 10' railing on each side and lock box.

-gate will be made from 2"sch40 pipe with 4"sch40 post in concrete

-excavation of new holes, OUPS call

-The gate will be a double swinging style

2nd gate for CR 4- \$2820.00(includes 10' railing on each side) Total of \$7,840. 00

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

#### HONDA GENERATOR

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to surplus a Honda EM5000S Generator to the Health Department to use as a back up for Covid-19 vaccines.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

#### FREEDOMLINX CONTRACT

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins approving the contract with FreedomLinX as follows:

Service Level Agreement for Managed IT Services

Provider of Service FREEDOM LINX LLC

Type of Service IT Help Desk, Monthly Offsite Server Backups, Endpoint Security, Firewall and Data Network Support, Phone System Support, General IT Support, Patches and Updates.

Service Period 01/01/2021 through 12/31/2023

Terms: 1. To contract FreedomLinX LLC for the above listed services for the duration of 36 months. Pay to FreedomLinX LLC the sum of \$3,300.00 on the 15th day of each month during the duration of this contract, commencing with a payment of \$3,300.00 no later than 1/15/2021.

Copy of agreement on file in Commissioners Office. (Copied to page 56).

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

#### REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins approving the re-appointments of Gary Gooseman, Steve Pierson and Warren Jeffers as follows:

\* *Steve Pierson*: Re-Appointed to the Athens County Regional Planning Commission, as a voting member, representing the Townships.

TERM: Begin April 1, 2021 and end March 31, 2024.

\* *Gary Gooseman*, Mayor Amesville: Re-Appointed to the Athens County Regional Planning Commission as a voting member, representing the Villages. TERM: Begin April 1, 2021 and end March 31, 2024.

\* *Warren Jeffers*: Re-Appointed to the Athens County Regional Planning Commission, as a voting member, representing the County.

TERM: Begin April 1, 2021 and end March 31, 2024.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

#### WATH RADIO SCHEDULE

Third Wednesday of each Month - 9:00 a.m. To be done remotely.

Mr. Eliason: February; Mr. Chmiel March; Mr. Eliason April; Mr. Chmiel May

#### PACIFIC LIFE WITHDRAWAL

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins approving the Pacific Life Withdrawal request for Nancy Stotts.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

#### SEORJ CONTRACT WITH AC Sheriff Dept. Transport

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins approving and authorizing the Sheriff to enter into the following Contract:

Athens On-Demand Transit

Purchase of Service Contract: Transportation Services

This contract made and entered into on the 15th day of January 2021, by the Athens County Sheriff's Office (hereinafter thereafter referred to as "Client" ) and Hocking Athens Perry Community Action Athens On-Demand Transit, a provider of transportation services (hereinafter thereafter referred to as "Vendor" ). The following are the terms of the contract:

1. PURCHASE OF SERVICES: Subject to terms and conditions set forth in this contract and any attached exhibits (such exhibits are deemed to be part of this contract as fully as if set forth herein), Athens County Sheriff's Office agrees to purchase for and the Vendor agrees to furnish to, eligible individuals those specific transportation services detailed in this agreement.
  2. CONTRACT PERIOD: This contract will be effective from January 19th, 2021 through December 31st, 2021 inclusive, unless otherwise terminated.
  3. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS: Total value of services not to exceed \$3,000. Copy on file in Commissioner's Office.
- The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

#### **EMS CHIEF RICK CALLEBS - MISC. ITEMS**

##### **EMS - Resignation Josh Price**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to accept the resignation of part time employee, Josh Price, effective immediately.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

Chief Callebs discussed the Labor Contract with the IAFF Local#5126 and formally bring to the Board and stated the minor revision added to the contract language, ( regarding any employee court payments received, that payments be turned into the EMS Clerk, will be submitted to the Auditor and Treasurer). The Union had no issue with this and has signed the signature page of the Contract.

Also, the MOU regarding Administrative Leave with pay due to Covid-19, the Union signed their part of the agreement as well. Chief Callebs submitted both to the Board of Commissioners for signatures.

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins approving the above mentioned Labor Contract and MOU as submitted for formal approval and signatures. Copies on file in Commissioner's Office.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

Chief Callebs stated he has been having discussions with Captain Aaron Maynard, Representatives of the 317 Board and Hopewell Health Center. They have been discussing the possibility of initiating a non emergency mental health assistance program. Monday-Friday, 8:00 - 4:00 type of schedule, where a Paramedic and a licensed mental health counselor respond to non emergency requests in the Community to get them to the level of care that is needed. It does not replace law enforcement or EMS response in Emergency situations. The Grant funding was approved for Hopewell to move ahead with 100% funding of the Program for wages, benefits, and training of personnel. He is asking the Board to give him the authority to move forward with the details.

##### **EMS - NON EMERGENCY MENTAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins authorizing Chief Callebs to move forward with this program and return to the Board at a later date with additional details.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

##### **EMS WAGES**

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel authorizing Chief Callebs to move forward with the non-bargaining unit staff wages at a 2.75% increase.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

Also discussed was Holiday pay for non bargaining unit staff as well.

##### **EMS NON BARGAINING UNIT / PART TIME STAFF HOLIDAY PAY**

A motion was made by Mr. Adkins and seconded by Mr. Chmiel granting and offering Holiday pay for the non bargaining unit / part time staff , who apply for these shifts.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

#### **PROPOSAL FOR NATURAL BURIAL AND CONSERVATION AREA - Natalie Wilson, Donna Baker, Cheryl Cesta, Brian Blair**

A presentation by the above mentioned individuals regarding the topic of a Natural Burial and Conservation Area.

There's a growing demand in our community for both the conservation of natural areas and a final resting place for loved ones using environmentally-sound natural methods. The Athens Natural Burial and Conservation Area is a collaborative effort between local spiritual and conservation organizations to meet these needs. Our hope is to create a unique preserve by incorporating the concepts of a natural area, a recreational and educational destination, a place for solitude, and a refuge for area residents and their loved ones to be laid to rest.

Natural burial is a method of interment that allows the body to be organically recycled into the earth without the use of toxic embalming fluids and concrete vaults. All burials in the US were natural until the Civil War when soldiers' bodies were embalmed for transportation home. There are still natural graves in public and private cemeteries throughout

the country. In Ohio, natural burial is legal and calls for the body to be prepared without chemical preservatives and placed in a biodegradable coffin or shroud. Natural burial is a deeply meaningful, cost effective and environmentally sound way for families to care for their dead and honor them in perpetuity.

Natural burial provides a number of environmental benefits to the community such as conservation of natural resources, preservation/restoration of habitat, reduction of carbon emissions and protection of worker health. There are also economical benefits to families, by providing a cost-effective alternative to conventional burial. In addition, the spiritual benefits, such as inviting families graveside to view and participate in the burial process, create deeply meaningful rituals that promote healing and an opportunity for emotional connection with one another, with nature, and with the cycle of life.

A group of community members with a deep interest in natural burial options within the Athens area, many of whom are part of local religious/spiritual organizations. The Athens Conservancy, a land conservation organization, is involved as is the Athens Nature Center initiative whose mission is to promote sustainable connections between people and nature by engaging the community in nature education, conservation, citizen science, and ecotourism.

There are a variety of options for long term operation, maintenance and care of the land and facilities. Funding for natural burial areas could be generated by burial fees and donations from family members of the deceased. Startup costs could be obtained through Founders' Fees, a one-time, prepaid incentive for anyone who would like to reserve a plot. We also anticipate applying for grants and beginning an endowment for perpetual stewardship of the land. An additional Nature Center could be funded and operated as a separate entity, utilizing the same preserve for its programming and outdoor activities.

They have visited county property near Chauncey, off of Sand Run, CR 13, and feel it is well suited for this venture.

The Commissioners would like to see them come up with a plan for development costs and return to discuss further at a later date with more specific ideas.

#### **JOHN KNOUSE PROCLAMATION**

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins adopting the following Proclamation honoring John Knouse:

#### **BOARD OF ATHENS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the Athens County Commissioners desire to honor John Knouse, for his years of contributions to Athens County, and;

WHEREAS, John Knouse was a founding member of the Athens Conservancy, Friends of Strouds Run and Athens Trails;

WHEREAS, John Knouse provided countless volunteer hours towards establishing several local nature preserves including the Blair, Skunk Run and the Plains Preserves, the Riddle State Nature Preserve and 13 miles of the Athens-Belpre Rail Trail.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Athens County Commissioners, offer our wholehearted appreciation for John Knouse, for his vision and his 24 years of outstanding service and recognize the long lasting impact his work has had on Athens County.

Signed this 26th day of January, 2021

/s/ Lenny Eliason, President

Attested: JoAnn Rockhold, Clerk

/s/ Chris Chmiel, Vice President

/s/ Charlie Adkins

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

#### **ROXANNE GROFF - POWHATAN NGL SALT MINE CAVERN PROJECT, MONROE COUNTY (LETTER OF SUPPORT)**

A letter of support was requested from the Commissioners for a comment letter to ODNR regarding the storing of a natural gas liquid in salt caverns, along the Ohio River about 54 miles Marietta.

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to write and submit the following letter to ODNR by the February 6<sup>th</sup> submittal date.

February 4, 2021

Director Mary Mertz

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management,

2045 Morse Road, Building F-2,

Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693

15 South Court St.  
Athens, Ohio 45701

RE: UIC Well Applications Powhatan Salt Company LLC Salt-1 Salt-2 and Salt-3

Dear Director Mertz:

The Powhatan Salt Company LLC permit should not be granted without a public hearing.

The storage caverns will initially be used to produce brine from the Salina formation 6,000 feet below the surface. The brine will be piped under the Ohio River to Natrium, VIN, to a chemical plant, which produces chlorine from brine.

To create these storage caverns, Powhatan Salt Company would inject millions of gallons of freshwater underground at high pressures to carve out cavities in the salt. Powhatan would withdraw approximately 1,928,000 gallons of freshwater each day from the Ohio River to carve out the first cavern.

More caverns could be constructed to increase storage capacity, which could require withdrawal of approximately 380,200,000 gallons of freshwater.

The application does not disclose that, as Powhatan Salt Co. LLC and its sister company Mountaineer NGL Storage LLC have stated in numerous news stories, they have actually intended to use the caverns for the storage of natural gas liquids like ethane, propane, butanes and possibly hydrogen extracted from tracking.

This use not only creates additional explosive and contamination hazards but also supports proliferation of tracking and its climate impacts and increases the massive amount of toxic, radioactive waste generated by this industrial process.

Ohio Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class 3 permitting does not require modification of the permit even if this drastic change of use occurs. Any change in use should be reviewed the way a new permit is viewed including public comment.

We are requesting a public hearing based on the significant health, environmental, and safety concerns of this project to allow for input from the citizen's of the region.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lenny Eliason, President

/s/ Chris Chmiel

/s/ Charlie Adkins

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.

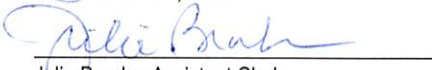
#### ADJOURN

A motion was made by Mr. Chmiel and seconded by Mr. Adkins to adjourn the above meeting.

The roll being called upon for adoption, the vote resulted as follows: Mr. Eliason, yea; Mr. Adkins, yea; Mr. Chmiel, yea.



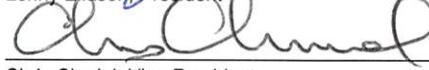
JoAnn Rockhold, Clerk



Julie Brooks, Assistant Clerk



Lenny Eliason, President



Chris Chmiel, Vice-President



Charlie Adkins



Fund To Fund Transfer  
Request Form

REV. FF1-2010

From Fund 1100 General  
Number Name  
To Fund 2571 JFS Public Assistance  
Number Name

Commissioners Madison 1/22/21  
Agency or Department Requested By Date

Reason for Transfer: Reimbursement for Veterans expenses General Bldg

RECEIVED

JAN 22 2021  
Jill Thompson  
Athens County Auditor

Please process a Fund to Fund Transfer in the amount of \$ 1,871.10

From 1100 560100 Commissioners Other  
Expended Line-Item Line-Item Name  
To 2571 422101 JFS Public Assistance  
Available Line-Item Line-Item Name

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## AUDITOR &amp; COMMISSIONERS USE ONLY

Athens County Commissioners Approval Needed? YES ☒ NO ☐

Request has been Approved ☒ Denied ☐ Tabled ☐

Approval Signatures

Auditor's Office [Signature] 1-22-2021  
Date

Commissioners Office [Signature] 1-26-21  
Date

SUBMIT THIS FORM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE

P-5

Fund To Fund Transfer  
Request Form

REV. FF1-2010

From Fund 1100 General  
Number Name  
To Fund 2571 JFS Public Assistance  
Number Name

Commissioners Madison 1/22/21  
Agency or Department Requested By Date

Reason for Transfer: Veteran's office billing

Please process a Fund to Fund Transfer in the amount of \$ 3,025.91

From 1100 560100 Commissioners Other  
Expended Line-Item Line-Item Name  
To 2571 422101 JFS Public Assistance  
Available Line-Item Line-Item Name

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## AUDITOR &amp; COMMISSIONERS USE ONLY

Athens County Commissioners Approval Needed? YES ☐ NO ☐

Request has been Approved ☐ Denied ☐ Tabled ☐

Approval Signatures

Auditor's Office \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioners Office \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

SUBMIT THIS FORM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE

P-5

Fund To Fund Transfer  
Request Form

REV. FF1-2010

From Fund 1194 General  
Number Name  
To Fund 2017 Trans In  
Number Name

Commissioners Stephanie Morris 1/26/2021  
Agency or Department Requested By Date

Reason for Transfer: To cover building bond

Please process a Fund to Fund Transfer in the amount of \$ 87,661.25

From 1194 580510 CL-CH Bond  
Expended Line-Item Line-Item Name  
To 2017 422101 Trans In  
Available Line-Item Line-Item Name

Authorized Signature [Signature] 1/26/21  
Date

## AUDITOR &amp; COMMISSIONERS USE ONLY

Athens County Commissioners Approval Needed? YES ☐ NO ☐

Request has been Approved ☒ Denied ☐ Tabled ☐

Approval Signatures

Auditor's Office [Signature] 1-26-2021  
Date

Commissioners Office [Signature] 1-26-21  
Date

SUBMIT THIS FORM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE

P-5







## FREEDOMLINK LLC

10000 E. 10000 E. 10000 E. 10000 E. 10000 E.

Provider of Service  
FREEDOMLINK LLC

## Type of Service

IT Help Desk, Monthly Offsite Server Backups, Endpoint Security, Firewall and Data Network Support, Phone System Support, General IT Support, Patches and Updates

## Service Period

1/1/2021 through 12/31/2021

## Performance

In order to provide optimal first level support service to all personnel and to ensure accurate trouble tracking and resolution, all issues must be reported to FreedomLink via phone, text, or email as soon as possible.

This contract for Information Technology Services between Athens County (hereafter referred to as the Client) and FreedomLink LLC is made and entered into on \_\_\_\_\_.

Client owns or has legal control of all IT equipment, including network routers and switches, computers and peripherals, wireless access points, patching systems, PBX systems, and all other technology based equipment not specifically mentioned herein. FreedomLink LLC will provide services to maintain and repair all technology based equipment and provide IT support for all employees of the Client.

Client desires that the Equipment be maintained in good working order. Such maintenance services include periodic inspections, routine, scheduled repairs and replacement of parts as needed; and emergency repairs made whenever any of the Equipment breaks down unexpectedly.

FreedomLink LLC is the business of providing general IT support and maintenance, and hereby undertakes to provide the following maintenance services to the Client:

## First level problem determination where

1. All problems will be documented.
2. Problems will be resolved or escalated with the manufacturer or software developer, and then implemented.
3. Problems will be monitored and tracked.
4. Users will be notified of commitment times and any problems that occur in meeting the established commitment.

## Critical/Major Outages

- Defined as any Internal network or hardware failure that causes greater than 50% of users to be unable to perform their assigned work duties. FreedomLink is not responsible for carrier outages such as cable or telephone companies. FreedomLink will isolate and refer carrier outages to the respective carrier.
- Contact by technician within 15 minutes of notification, Technician Notification Window or TNRW (contact may be telephone, text, or email)
- Technician will begin investigation/repair/travel to site within 4 hours of notification, Technician Assignment Window or TAW
- 10% Service Credit for failure to meet the 15 minute TNRW (Because of the short time to respond, clock will not start for Critical Outages until Customer has called the support number of 740-363-0450 and either spoken to, or left a message with FreedomLink. Email, text, and Web notification will not start the clock.)
- 25% Service Credit for failure to meet the 4 hour TAW

## Medium

- Contact by technician within 1 hour of notification
- Technician will begin investigation/repair/travel within 24 hours of notification
- 5% Service Credit for failure to meet the 1 hour TNRW
- 10% Service Credit for failure to meet the 24 hour TAW

## Low

- Contact by technician within 24 hours of notification
- Technician will begin investigation/repair within 5 business days of notification
- 5% Service Credit for failure to meet the 24 hour TNRW
- 10% Service Credit for failure to meet the 5 day TAW

## Reporting

FreedomLink will provide reports to Client's staff containing information on actual performance achieved, compared to service levels agreed on, upon request. Information will be provided on both open and closed requests.

## Modifications

This agreement may be amended at any time with mutual consent of both parties.

## Terms

In consideration of services provided by FreedomLink LLC, the Client agrees as follows:

1. To contract FreedomLink LLC for the above listed services for the duration of 36 months. Pay to FreedomLink LLC the sum of \$ 3300 on the 15th day of each month during the duration of this contract, commencing with a payment of \$ 3300 no later than 1/15/2021.
2. To pay to FreedomLink LLC for each repair actually performed by FreedomLink LLC the price for said repair of actual equipment costs.
3. To purchase from or provide to FreedomLink LLC such parts, supplies, and other materials as may be necessary and reasonable in order to maintain the Equipment in good working order. It is understood that the success and

5. Problem resolution will be documented and available in report status.
6. Monthly reports will be provided.

## A single point of contact for

1. Orders for new equipment.
2. Equipment moves, adds, and changes (Equipment includes personal computers, telephones, data switches, routers, firewalls, or other IT hardware).
3. Services such as data entry, PBX programming changes, employee setup (new/old), new computer user IDs and passwords, voice mail, PBX lines, VPN user access, file server connections, reports, and application program problems and requests.
4. Deploying and managing endpoint users within the organization. Includes endpoint security, Domain Access, VPN Access, and access to other organization resources.
5. Equipment Lifecycle and IT hardware resource planning.

## Ongoing Maintenance through

1. Monthly offsite backups and storage of the backups for on-site servers.
2. Quarterly updates/patches to Firewall, Routers, Data network, and Phone System.
3. Monthly updates/patches to maintained PCs and Servers
4. General IT end user support
5. End user management, PAM, Domain, VPN accounts, etc.
6. Monthly deployment of updates and patches of Windows Operation System of all endpoint users.
7. Ongoing Endpoint Security, Management of Antivirus, Antispyware, Content Filtering, and physical hardware control as requested by the customer.
8. Continuous alerts and notification of security issues/risks as they become known, along with resolution of the same.
9. Hardware repair and support for all hardware purchased through FreedomLink, including but not limited to: PCs, PBX System and Phones, Firewall, Data Switches, WPAAs, Servers.

## Reliability

Services will be provided between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Observed Holidays are New Years Day, Labor Day, Fourth of July, Memorial Day, Thanksgiving and the day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. All incidents must be reported by entering a ticket at [support.freedomlink.com](http://support.freedomlink.com), submitting a service request at the [freedomlink.com](http://freedomlink.com) website under the support tab, or by calling 614-417-1304. This provides an initial paper trail to track all service requests to ensure quick resolution of all service issues.

## Response Time

All service requests will be processed in the order that we receive them, following the prioritization matrix below. Times listed are guaranteed times, not expected times. Every effort will be made to exceed the response times listed below. Failure to meet these response times will result in a service credit. All service windows will be calculated during normal business hours of M-F, 8-5. The Outage Clock, for purposes of service credit, stops at 5 PM and restarts at 8 AM M-F, and for weekends stops at 5 PM Friday and restarts Monday at 8 AM. For Holidays the Outage Clock stops at 5 PM the business day previous to the Holiday, and restarts at 8 AM the first business day following the Holiday. Service credit will be the specified below percentage of the current contracted monthly charge. Work requested to be done outside normal business hours will be charged at the premium rate of \$50/hr, except for Major Outages. Major Outages will be coordinated with the customer to resolve as soon as possible with no additional charges.

satisfactory performance of any maintenance service or repair performed by FreedomLink LLC depends upon the quality of materials used. Therefore, Client shall be fully responsible for any failure or dissatisfaction arising from any service or repair that is done using materials not purchased from FreedomLink LLC. It is further understood that FreedomLink LLC only warrants and covers the costs for repairs of equipment purchased from FreedomLink LLC. All other equipment will be serviced with best effort, but any repairs to such equipment may result in additional charges.

4. Client shall permit FreedomLink LLC to have remote access to Client's network via VPN for the duration of this contract to allow FreedomLink LLC to fulfill the terms of this agreement. All VPN access shall be logged within the firewall for accountability. Access shall be revoked upon termination of this contract. FreedomLink LLC shall provide Administrative access to all accounts and hardware owned by the client.

5. Invoices for monthly maintenance and repair fees, itemizing all goods and services billed, shall be submitted by FreedomLink LLC to Client no later than the 1st day of each month during the term of this contract. Client shall pay each invoice within 15 days of its due date. Contract will automatically renew for an additional 12 months at the current rates unless modified by a superseding contract, or either party provides a written notice 30 days prior to expiration their intent to cancel or modify this contract. Client may terminate this contract if FreedomLink LLC repeatedly fails to meet the obligations listed herein, over a three-month sequential time period, by providing written notice to terminate the contract on a specified date to FreedomLink LLC, at least 30 days prior to the intended date of termination. Any dispute or cause of legal action that may arise from either party's performance under this Contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of Ohio and applicable federal law. Any litigation arising from this Contract shall be filed and tried in Pickaway County.

Both parties whose signatures appear below hereby warrant that they are fully authorized and entitled to enter into this agreement, and do so to agree on the dates written below by affixing their signatures below.

## FreedomLink Representative

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Customer Representative

Name: La. P. [Signature]  
Signature: [Signature]  
Date: 1/27/21

Approved as to form:

[Signature] 1/28/21  
Athens County Prosecutor Date