
**REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HUNTINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA, MONDAY, MAY 5, 2025**

IN ATTENDANCE: Commissioner Rob Miller; Commissioner Tom Wall; Commissioner Terry Stoffel; Bridgett Burkhardt, Highway Superintendent; Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director; Gretchen Lenfestey, Office Manager; Phil Hibbert, Director of County Facilities; Kim Hostetler, DCD Director; Greg Ricker, Building Inspector; Jessica Huscher, Executive Director Council on Aging; Auditor Jill Landrum; Attorney, Chris Nusbaum, Carson LLP; Terry Miller, County Council; Ilene Haluska, Indiana Plain Dealer; Don Freiburger; Alan Bowers; John Michaels; Vic Leonard; Marilyn Bradford; Hank Miller; Sandie Graf; Mike Thompson

The meeting was live streamed via YouTube.

Commissioner Miller called the May 5, 2025, Commissioner Meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES)

4/21/2025

Tom Wall made a motion to approve the Minutes from the April 21, 2025, meeting. Terry Stoffel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS)

5/7/2025

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Claim Docket for May 7, 2025. Tom Wall seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF PAYROLL)

5/2/2025

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Payroll Docket for May 2, 2025. Tom Wall seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION)

2025-10

Tom Wall made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-10: A Resolution for Proposed transfer of tax sale certificates to nonprofit entities pursuant to Indiana code 6-1.1-24-17. This will be presented for adoption at a public hearing on Monday, May 19, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. Terry Stoffel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF AGREEMENT)

Second Amendment to TWN Lease Agreement

Tom Wall made a motion to approve the Second Amendment to the TWN Lease Agreement. Terry Stoffel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF CONTRACT)

Updated Sheriff's Salary Contract

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the updates that were made to the 2025 Sheriff's Salary Contract. Tom Wall seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF INVOICE)

Early Pay – Invoice

Tom Wall made a motion to early pay invoice Full Service Mechanical LLC in the amount of \$33,995.00. Terry Stoffel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF INVOICE)

Cumulative Courthouse Funds

Terry Stoffel made a motion to pay an invoice from Young Electric in the amount of \$529.00 from Cumulative Courthouse funds. Tom Wall seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Soil from Michel-Young Drain

There was considerable discussion about the Michel-Young drain. Work will be performed on this drain and depending on the option that is decided upon (drain tile or open drain), there could be a considerable amount of soil available. Mr. Michel does not want to spread dirt on his farm, so the commissioners deliberated on whether they wanted to accept it for use at the closed county landfill, noting that the quantity is approximately 17,500 cubic yards. They also weighed the costs and benefits to determine if the county could make practical use of the material. There was no decision made, just discussion at this time.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Travel Authorization

Vicki Pearson, County Recorder, requested permission to attend Fidlar – Software Vendor Symposium in Davenport, Iowa. Tom Wall made a motion to approve the request. Terry Stoffel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

OCRA Owner-Occupied Rehab Grant

Matt Brinkman, Executive Director of Region 3-A, provided an overview of the OCRA Owner-Occupied Rehab Grant and updated the Commissioners on the progress of the applications that had been received. He also announced his resignation from the position. Sandra Tamez, the new Executive Director of Region 3-A, was present as well. She spoke with the Commissioners about her previous experience with Region 3-A and expressed enthusiasm about stepping into her new role.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

OCRA Owner-Occupied Rehab Grant

The OCRA Grant Scoring Committee consisting of Commissioner Tom Wall; Terry Miller, Eric Long, Elevate Huntington; Don Freiburger; Mike Thompson met during the Commissioner meeting to review proposals for administration of the OOR grant. One proposal was received – from Region 3-A. Discussion was had regarding the work history between Huntington County and Region 3-A which has always had a very favorable outcome.

Terry Stoffel made a motion to accept the proposal from Region 3-A. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed with a 2-0 vote. Tom Wall recused himself stating a conflict of interest due to serving on the Region 3-A Board of Directors.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING)

4565 & 4539 E. Station Rd. Roanoke

The following people were present for the Public Hearing for the property located at 4565 & 4539 E. Station Road Roanoke, Indiana: Commissioner Rob Miller; Commissioner Tom Wall; Commissioner Terry Stoffel; Bridgett Burkhart, Highway Superintendent; Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director; Gretchen Lenfestey, Office Manager; Phil Hibbert, Director of County Facilities; Kim Hostetler, DCD Director; Greg Ricker, Building Inspector; Auditor Jill Landrum; Attorney, Chris Nusbaum, Carson LLP; Jessica Huscher, Executive Director Council on Aging; Terry Miller, County Council; Ilene Haluska, Indiana Plain Dealer; Don Freiburger; Alan Bowers; John Michaels; Vic Leonard; Marilyn Bradford; Hank Miller; Sandie Graf; Mike Thompson

The Public Hearing was opened at 9:30 a.m.

Kim Hostetler, DCD Director, provided an overview of the complaint and the unsafe order affecting both properties. Alicia Symons from the Health Department reported that the current septic system is unusable and a new system cannot be installed due to the property being located within a floodplain. Property owner Jesse Perez stated that alterations made by a neighboring property owner have caused water runoff and septic system issues on his land. Commissioner Rob Miller emphasized the need for a functioning septic system. Attorney Chris Nusbaum noted that the situation may involve an ongoing dispute between the two parties.

The Public Hearing was closed at 9:49 a.m.

The Commissioners have requested the attendance of the Health Department and Greg Parker at the next meeting. Additionally, Jesse Perez is required to present a plan to address the issues for the Commissioners' review.

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

8121 N 894 W Bippus

Kim Hostetler, DCD Director, and Greg Ricker, Building Inspector, provided an overview of the property following a complaint received by the Department of Community Development (DCD). In response, the standard complaint procedure was initiated. The property owners chose to appear before the Commissioners to express their views and concerns regarding the situation. Vic Leonard stated that the Commissioners had knowingly sold the property despite it being uninhabitable. She presented photographs and claimed the property is, in fact, safe. Upon receiving the deed, she and the co-owner visited each relevant department at the courthouse to determine the requirements for rehabilitating the home. She also expressed frustration, stating that they have received conflicting information and felt harassed throughout the process.

Commissioner Rob Miller clarified that properties sold through Commissioner or Tax Sales are sold under a “buyer beware” policy. He emphasized that it is the responsibility of the buyer to thoroughly research a property before purchasing it. Tom Wall made a motion that stated that a licensed structural engineer must evaluate the property to determine whether it is structurally sound. The property owners must submit a written plan outlining how they intend to address the issues. The owners must allow Greg Ricker, Building Inspector, to conduct a formal inspection of the property. Terry Stoffel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF AGREEMENT)

2026 Grant Application

Jessica Huscher, Huntington Area of Transportation presented the Commissioners with the 2026 Grant Application. This includes the 2026 Pass Through Agreement, as well as the Capital Equipment Agreement. Tom Wall made a motion to approve the Agreement’s. Terry Stoffel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

10:42 Tom Wall leaves the meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF RECESS)

Rob Miller made a motion to recess until the next meeting of the Huntington County Commissioners on Monday, May 19, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. Terry Stoffel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

These Minutes were approved on Monday, May 19, 2025. A signed physical copy of this document is available by request in the Commissioners’ Office located at 201 North Jefferson Street. Huntington, Indiana