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**REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HUNTINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA, MONDAY, JULY 1, 2024**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Commissioner Terry Stoffel; Commissioner Rob Miller; Commissioner Tom Wall; Bridgett Burkhart, Office Manager; Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director; Phil Hibbert, Facilities Manager; Auditor Jill Landrum; Terry Miller, County Council; Ilene Haluska, Indiana Plain Dealer; Phillip Wink, DLZ; Bob Jeffers, EMA; Thomas Fuller, EMA; Sheriff Chris Newton; Patti Smith; Jay Smith; Hank Miller; Trena Roudebush, Geenex; Erik Long; Shelley Paschal; Alan Bowers; Gary Hitzeman; Gary Waters; Marilyn Bradford; Dennis Wall; Margo Breininger; Janet Gish; Darwin Garde; Kathy Cron; Stacy Wiley, Surveyor's Office; Sara Thronson; Rex Kline; Don Freiburger; Bob Bolen; Mike Thompson; Chris Parker; Stanna Clift

There were additional people in the hallway watching the meeting on a television monitor who may not have signed in.

The following people attended virtually using Zoom: Cynthia Wehr; Julia Surber, VS Engineering  
Additional people attended via Zoom, but were listed as 'Guest' or by their phone number.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES)  
6/12/2024 and 6/17/2024**

Rob Miller made a motion to approve the Minutes from the June 12, 2024 and June 17, 2024 meetings. Terry Stoffel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS)  
7/3/2024**

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Claim Docket for July 3, 2024. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF PAYROLL)  
6/28/2024**

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Payroll Docket for June 28, 2024. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF INVOICE)  
Edwin Scheerer Drain**

Stacy Wiley, Chief Deputy in the Surveyor's Office, presented an invoice from Kindler Landscaping LLC in the amount of \$901.00 for landscaping following work on the Edwin Scheerer Drain. On March 11, 2024, the Commissioners committed a sum in the amount of \$10,939.40 from CEDIT – Project 6 for this work. By consensus, the Commissioners approved payment of this invoice.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)  
Jail Expansion and Renovation**

Phillip Wink, DLZ presented the Certificate of Substantial Completion for the Huntington County Jail Expansion. Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve signing the document. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

Phillip also presented Pay App #36 (Final Retainage) in the amount of \$4,629.70. Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Pay App. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

Phillip stated that the 'As Builts' have been given to jail personnel and that both digital and print copies are available.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)  
EFIS on the exterior of the jail**

Sheriff Chris Newton discussed that there are several windows and the EFIS that need repair or replacement. They have researched several different options for the EFIS including brick and metal. Commissioner Wall stated that he prefers metal with insulation. No final decision was made at this time.

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### IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

#### **Community Group tours of the jail expansion/renovation**

Sheriff Newton shared that he recently gave tours of the jail facility to the Lime City Economic Development group, as well as Rotary. He stated that both groups were very impressed with the expansion and renovation of the facility and commented on how clean and well-kept it is.

### IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION)

#### **2024-10**

Rob Miller made a motion to adopt Resolution #2024-10: A Resolution adopting the Huntington County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Terry Stoffel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

### IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

#### **Solar Plans in other counties**

Commissioner Wall asked EMA Director Bob Jeffers, and Deputy Director Thomas Fuller to research plans for solar facilities that are already in place in different locations throughout the country so that information could be available to those chosen to serve in a solar energy advisory group.

### IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

#### **Building lease**

Bob Jeffers, EMA Director spoke with the Commissioners regarding the lease on the building located at 1401 S. Jefferson Street in Huntington where EMA stores their equipment. Bob stated that they have found nothing else available. Terry Stoffel made a motion to continue with the current lease on the property for the next year. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

### IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING)

#### **Moratorium on Solar Energy Systems**

The following people were present for the Public Hearing on the proposed solar moratorium: Commissioner Terry Stoffel; Commissioner Tom Wall; Commissioner Rob Miller; Bridgett Burkhart, Office Manager; Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director; Phil Hibbert, Facilities Manager; Auditor Jill Landrum; Terry Miller, County Council; Ilene Haluska, Indiana Plain Dealer; Patti Smith; Jay Smith; Hank Miller; Trena Roudebush, Geenex; Erik Long; Shelley Paschal; Alan Bowers; Gary Hitzeman; Gary Waters; Marilyn Bradford; Dennis Wall; Margo Breining; Janet Gish; Darwin Garde; Kathy Cron; Stacy Wiley, Surveyor's Office; Sara Thronson; Rex Kline; Don Freiburger; Bob Bolen; Mike Thompson; Chris Parker; Stanna Clift

There were additional people in the hallway watching the meeting on a television monitor who may not have signed in.

The Public Hearing was opened at 10:03 a.m.

Commissioner Tom Wall read the text of Ordinance #2024-08: An Ordinance for the adoption of a text amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) for Huntington County to place a moratorium on solar energy systems.

Commissioner Wall explained that the process in moving forward would include creating a solar energy advisory group that would consist of two individuals who are in favor of solar energy, two individuals who oppose, and a neutral third-party.

No further public comment was made.

The Public Hearing was closed at 10:12 a.m.

### IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE)

#### **#2024-08**

Rob Miller made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2024-08: An Ordinance for the adoption of a text amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) for Huntington County to place a moratorium on solar energy systems. Terry Stoffel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

### IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

#### **Employee Emergency Texting Service**

Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director spoke with the Commissioners regarding an add-on to the RAVE Emergency Notification system that would allow emergency information to be texted to employees of Huntington County. The Commissioners agreed through consensus to move forward with this service.

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**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)**

**Highway Department Update**

The Commissioners discussed the proposed fuel system upgrade for the Highway Department. The Commissioners would like to have a presentation done to cover the new system and what options are available for financing the project. They also had questions regarding the use of biodiesel in equipment.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)**

**Buyer's Order**

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the signing of the Buyer's Order from Crain Ford, Inc. for the purchase of a 2024 Ford Super Duty Truck for the Highway Department. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF INVOICE)**

**Early Pay Request**

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve an Early Pay Request in the amount of \$57,613.04 payable to Crain Ford, Inc. for the aforementioned truck. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)**

**O'Donnell Center – Surplus inventory**

Phil Hibbert, Facilities Manager, spoke with the Commissioners regarding surplus brackets that were left over from the communication tower construction. Phil has inquired about other uses for these brackets but learned that they aren't useful for any other projects. Rob Miller made a motion to deem the brackets as surplus inventory. Terry Stoffel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)**

**Pathfinder Services**

The Commissioners requested to speak with Danielle Tips, President and CEO of Pathfinder Services regarding a potential job opening for some of their clients. Ms. Tips stated that she would have her staff who handle employment for clients meet with County representatives to review the positions and how best things would fit for everyone. She stated that there may be some grant funds available if there are areas that would need to be modified.

The Commissioners also discussed the possibility of Pathfinder Services purchasing fuel for their vehicles from the Highway Department. This will be investigated further.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)**

**Social Media Contract**

Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director, spoke with the Commissioners about a proposed contract covering social media. Rob Miller made a motion to table the discussion for now. Terry Stoffel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)**

**Project Update – VS Engineering**

Julia Surber, VS Engineering, provided an update on several projects that VS Engineering is working on. She stated that the Tipton Street widening project is in progress.

The Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant work is underway. Meetings have been held with emergency responders and law enforcement, elected officials, and INDOT. The VS team is currently investigating the intersections that were identified as problematic by these groups.

The Trail Engineering Assessments are moving along. The Roanoke to Allen County line trail is ready for review. The Commissioners asked that Huntington Area Recreational Trails Association (HARTA) be invited to the meetings as well.

**IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT)**

Terry Stoffel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:38 a.m. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

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Tom Wall

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Rob Miller

ATTEST:

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Jill M. Landrum, Auditor

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Terry Stoffel

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HUNTINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA

*A signed copy of these approved minutes is available by request in the Huntington County Commissioners' office, 201 N. Jefferson St., Huntington, IN 46750.*