
REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HUNTINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA, MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2024

IN ATTENDANCE: Commissioner Tom Wall; Commissioner Terry Stoffel; Commissioner Rob Miller; Bridgett Burkhart, Office Manager; Auditor Jill Landrum; Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director; Phil Hibbert, Facilities Manager; Bob Garrett, County Attorney; Terry Miller, County Council; Troy Hostetler, Highway Superintendent; Dave Hacker, Upper Wabash River Basin Representative; Beka Lemons, HCPL; Maddie Jo Shultz; Daryl Shrock; Mike Thompson; Ilene Haluska, Indiana Plain Dealer; Eric Fry; Chris Parker; Franco Minoldo, NUP Media; Hank Miller; Erik Long, Elevate Huntington; Beth Johnson, USI Consultants; Ben Beer, USI Consultants; Thomas Fuller, EMA Deputy Director

The following people attended virtually using Zoom: Julia Surber, VS Engineering; and a few other people joined via Zoom, but were only identified by their phone number or 'Guest'

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES)

8/12/2024

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

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS)

8/28/2024

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

IN THE MATTER OF PAYROLL)

8/23/2024

Rob Miller made a motion to approve the Payroll Docket for August 23, 2024. Terry Stoffel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Semi-truck tires dumped on private property

Scott Husband, Huntington County Solid Waste District Director, spoke with the Commissioners and provided pictures of approximately 600 semi-truck tires being dumped illegally on private property near Warren, Indiana. He stated that Liberty Tire typically charges \$10.00 per tire for disposal, however, they agreed to take the tires for \$2,205.00. The Commissioners agreed by consensus to move forward with Liberty Tire disposing of the tires.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

O'Donnell Center Update

Phil Hibbert, Facilities Manager, gave an update on campus operations for the O'Donnell Center at Victory Noll. He stated that the campus signage is nearing completion. He will also be sealing the concrete ramp leading to the entrance at Door #1.

Phil also shared photos of two boilers that were replaced and asked that they be deemed surplus inventory. One will be scrapped, and one will be donated to help educate people on safety and emergency response to boiler issues. Terry Stoffel made a motion to deem both boilers as surplus inventory. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

An update was given regarding the number of participants that are involved in the Community Corrections Work Release Program that is housed at the O'Donnell Center. The average number of participants is approximately 13 to 17 at any given time.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Huntington City-Township Public Library Update

Beka Lemons, Library Director, provided an update on the library. She stated that they have approved a new Strategic Plan. An accessibility study will be done soon to make sure that the library and materials are accessible and if there are any areas in which they need to improve. Ms. Lemons also spoke about their marketing and communications and making the library a great place to work. Commissioner Miller asked that they make sure that the Pathfinder Services clients are considered in the accessibility study. Commissioner Terry Stoffel asked whether they had any problems with drug use in the library, and Ms. Lemons stated that there has not been an issue with that recently.

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Upper Wabash River Basin Commission

Dave Hacker, from the Upper Wabash River Basin Commission, spoke with the Commissioners about several topics. The first was regarding lighting on the historic Rangeline Road bridge. VS Engineering provided research that they had done on lighting of two historic bridges and the cost of each of those projects. They also estimated the permitting cost and utility coordination. No decision was made on this topic.

Mr. Hacker also spoke about an electrical power base in the Little River – there is potentially grant funding that would help with the clean-up. He will provide more details as they become available.

Mr. Hacker raised a concern about the regulation of water usage and water rights. This has become an issue in other parts of the state in which water is being used from different counties to supply large amounts of water in other counties. The Indiana Finance Authority is in the process of conducting the North Central Indiana Water Study that will include the Wabash Headwaters (Huntington County is included). The Commissioners stated that they are very aware of this issue and that Huntington County Economic Development (HCUED) is conducting a study that will help ensure that resources stay in Huntington County. Commissioner Wall stated that they will need to do an Ordinance to protect Huntington County's water rights.

IN THE MATTER OF PERMIT)

1850 Stults Road

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Application for Permit for Comcast Cable in the location of 1850 Stults Road in Huntington, Indiana. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Highway Department Update

Troy Hostetler, Highway Superintendent, spoke with the Commissioners regarding a pipe project on 900 South near the Dogwood Glen golf course. He stated that in order to place a larger pipe and fix the landscaping around it, they will need some additional funding. Commissioner Wall advised him to take the request to the Drainage Board.

Further discussion was had on the layout of the new fuel system at the Highway Department. The newly proposed layout will save money on the project.

Discussion was had regarding the Chip/Seal program. A policy will be put into place that will layout the calculations for labor/material for Huntington County residents who wish to chip/seal a portion of the road near their home. This process will include bringing the request to the Commissioners for approval. It was further decided that a refund of \$25,000.00 will be given to Mark and Dixie Hewitt who paid for a chip/seal project before this process was put in place.

The Commissioners spoke with Troy regarding the parking area near the employee entrance to the courthouse on Warren Street. Incarcerated people are brought through this entrance for court and the parking lot needs some attention. The Highway Department will build it up so that it is level and not a potential tripping hazard.

IN THE MATTER OF AGREEMENT)

Transworld Network, LLC.

Rob Miller made a motion to approve the First Amendment to the Agreement on the lease to Transworld Network, LLC for the property located at 1350 South Jefferson Street, Huntington, Indiana. Terry Stoffel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF REPORT)

Clerk of the Circuit Court Report

Bridgett Burkhart, Office Manager, presented the Clerk of the Circuit Court Report for the month ending 7/31/2024 as prepared by Shelley Septer, Clerk of Huntington Circuit/Superior Courts.

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

2025 Holidays

Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director presented a proposed 2025 Holiday Schedule. Commissioner Stoffel made a motion to approve the schedule with the addition of December 26, 2025 as a paid holiday for eligible county employees. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Insurance Plan Review – Rescheduled

Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director advised the commissioners that the Health and Wellness Plan Quarterly Review will be rescheduled to the September 9, 2024 meeting due to the IMG representative being under the weather.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Employee training

Commissioner Wall talked about the need to do an active shooter training at all county facilities. He also stated that he would like to have employees trained to administer Narcan – particularly the courthouse security personnel and the Highway Department personnel who will carry Narcan in their trucks once they are fully trained.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Huntington Area Transportation (HAT) Audit

Commissioner Terry Stoffel provided a recap of the annual audit meeting that he attended with the Huntington Area Transportation (HAT) administration. He stated that the new director will do monthly updates to the Commissioners.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Andrews Water Issue

Commissioner Tom Wall stated that he attended a meeting in which it was made known that the USDA has money set aside to aid in getting clean drinking water to Andrews, Indiana. He shared that this is now in the hands of the Andrews Town Council to approve.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Elevate Huntington Update

Erik Long, Elevate Huntington, shared the activities that he has been working on. He shared that he continues to meet with stakeholders and prioritize initiatives.

The Commissioners recessed at 10:39 a.m. for the Huntington County Redevelopment Commission Meeting.

The Commissioners went back into session at 11:15 a.m.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Box fan distribution

Thomas Fuller, EMA Deputy Director, spoke with the commissioners about providing support to the United Way and the Indiana Family Care Center in distributing box fans to residents due to the extreme temperatures that are expected in Huntington County.

IN THE MATTER OF CONTRACT)

LPA Consulting Contract – USI Consultants, Inc.

Rob Miller made a motion to approve the signing of the LPA Consulting Contract with USI Consultants, Inc. for bridge #702. This is a federal aid project receiving 80% funding and requiring a 20% match from the County. Terry Stoffel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT)

Rob Miller made a motion to adjourn at 11:24 a.m. Terry Stoffel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

[Signature page to follow]

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Tom Wall

Rob Miller

ATTEST:

Jill M. Landrum, Auditor

Terry Stoffel

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