

**REGULAR SESSION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL
OF HUNTINGTON COUNTY INDIANA
FEBRUARY 24, 2025 MEETING MINUTES**

The Huntington County Council met in regular session on the 24th day of February 2025 in the G.A.R. Room, at the Huntington County Courthouse, Huntington, Indiana, at 7:00 P.M. for considering all business brought before it pursuant to notice given to the *Plain Dealer* on February 12, 2025.

Council Members Present: Kendall Mickley, Terry Miller, Shane Bickel, Jamie Hotchkiss, Keith Eller, John Stoeckley, and Brian Warpup.

Council President Kendall Mickley called the meeting to order. Brian Warpup gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 1: An opportunity for Public Comment has was offered; however, no one chose to speak.

ITEM 2: President Mickley asked for approval of the County Council minutes from the January 27, 2025 meeting. John Stoeckley made a motion to approve the minutes. Jamie Hotchkiss seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

ITEM 3: Huntington County Humane Society Executive Director Jenna Strick presented the 2024 Annual Report.

ITEM 4: Mark Wickersham appeared before Council to present Form SB-1/PP - Statement of Benefits Personal Property submitted by PHD, Inc. for consideration of tax abatement. The Tax Abatement Advisory Committee met previously to discuss the request. The committee gave PHD, Inc. a favorable recommendation for a 5-yr abatement with Year 1 (2025 payable 2026) getting 100%, Year 2 at 80%; Year 3 at 70%; Year 4 at 60%; and Year 5 at 50%.

Terry Miller made a motion to approve the tax abatement for PHD, Inc. as presented, along with Resolution 2025-02-24 - Resolution to Approve Statement of Benefits. Keith Eller seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

ITEM 5: Public Health Administrator Brian Trueblood requested Transfers of Appropriation totaling \$5,000.00 in the Health Department Fund 1159, as follows:

FROM:	1159.21408.00000.0610 Clinic Supplies	\$	2,500.00
	1159.22000.00000.0610 Vaccines	\$	2,500.00
TO:	1159.31110.00000.0610 Non-Contract Professionals	\$	5,000.00

John Stoeckley made a motion to approve the transfers. Keith Eller seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

ITEM 6: Auditor Jill Landrum presented a request on behalf of Facility Manager Greg Ricker for a Transfer of Appropriation for \$5,000.00 from the Courthouse Custodian's General Fund budget line 1000.35100.00000.0161 Utilities to 1000.35107.00000.0161 Utilities - Annex #2 Warren St.

Terry Miller made a motion to approve the transfer. Brian Warpup seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

ITEM 7: Data Financial Analyst Seth Kissinger presented a request on behalf of Community Corrections Director Leslie Rentschler for Transfers of Appropriation totaling \$44,859.06 in the Community Catalyst Grant Fund 8760, as follows:

FROM: 8760.12300.00000.0000 Insurance	\$	44,859.06
TO: 8760.12100.00000.0000 - Social Security	\$	17,098.23
8760.12200.00000.0000 - Retirement	\$	27,760.83

Shane Bickel made a motion to approve the transfers. Jamie Hotchkiss seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

ITEM 8: IT Director Joakim Abrahamsson and Facilities Manager Phil Hibbert presented information to Council about diesel fuel polishing for emergency generators. They discussed the cost to purchase the equipment versus paying a company to provide the services.

Council agreed by consensus to allow the purchase of diesel fuel polishing equipment to be used for all County-owned emergency generators. A request for an additional appropriation will be presented next month.

ITEM 9: There was discussion on the proposed changes to the 2025 Wage & Salary Ordinance for the Community Correction's Financial Data Analyst position. Per the approval of the Community Corrections Board, this position should be paid \$30.08 per hour.

ITEM 10: Terry Miller made a motion to open the 2025 Wage & Salary Ordinance. Brian Warpup seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

ITEM 11: Brian Warpup made a motion to change the 2025 Wage & Salary Ordinance to reflect a wage of \$30.08 per hour for the Community Correction's Financial Data Analyst, effective January 28, 2025. Terry Miller seconded and the motion passed 6-1. Keith Eller was in opposition.

ITEM 12: Terry Miller made a motion to close the 2025 Wage & Salary Ordinance. Brian Warpup seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

ITEM 13: The following Encumbrances were presented for Council's Approval:

DRUG COURT ENCUMBRANCES - 2024 PROBLEM SOLVING GRANT

9678.22600.00000.0000	Incentives - Walmart/First Fed CC	\$	0.91
9678.22600.00000.0000	Incentives - Walmart/First Fed CC	\$	150.00
9678.22600.00000.0000	Incentives - JJ'S BP First Fed	\$	150.00
9678.22600.00000.0000	Incentives - Walmart/First Fed CC	\$	200.00
9678.22600.00000.0000	Incentives - Walmart/First Fed CC	\$	100.00
9678.22600.00000.0000	Incentives - Walmart/First Fed CC	\$	50.00
9678.22600.00000.0000	Incentives - Walgreens/First Fed CC	\$	300.00
	TOTAL:	\$	950.91

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ENCUMBRANCES - 2024 IDOC GRANT

9316.36200.00000.9612	Service Contracts - Redwood Toxicology	\$	587.00
9316.36200.00000.9612	Service Contracts - Redwood Toxicology	\$	376.42
	TOTAL:	\$	963.42

Brian Warpup made a motion to approve the Encumbrances. John Stoeckley seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

ITEM 14: NEW/OLD BUSINESS:

Council President Kendall Mickley gave a presentation called "Government Funding 101" that he had prepared to help newer Council members and the Community members present, to understand how the government funding works.

ITEM 15: REPORTS & ORGANIZATION OF COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES for 2025:

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE - Terry Miller & Brian Warpup - There are currently 11 work-release residents on campus. There was discussion at the last board meeting regarding wage changes for employees.

SOLID WASTE - Brian Warpup reported that there are plans to keep the West Park recycling facility open with some expansion in the works. They are also working to resolve the gate issues, and to set a new schedule.

3-A REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT - John Stoeckley reported that the first meeting of 2025 will be March 20, 2025.

JOB CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE - Keith Eller, John Stoeckley, & Brian Warpup - Business was discussed earlier in the Council meeting.

LOCAL ANTI-DRUG COALITION EFFORT (L.A.C.E.)/EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM - Shane Bickel reported that they had a collaborative meeting.

LIME CITY DEVELOPMENT - Terry Miller reported that there was a meeting on Jan 31st, and things are looking up.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - Keith Eller reported that EMA is working on 2 grants. They have also shared warming shelter information on social media.

PLAN COMMISSION - Terry Miller reported that the first meeting will be March 12, 2025.

C.E.D.I.T. ADVISORY - Jamie Hotchkiss will contact Mark Wickersham to get meeting schedule and information.

HCUED - Kendall Mickley - There are two (2) new members on the board. Nick Alwine, President of FCI Construction, replaced Jeff Souder as a member at-large. Jeremy Rufener, President of Rufener Financial Advisors, replaced Steve Buzzard as the appointed representative for the Town of Warren.

ABCD (Above & Beyond the Call of Duty) - Keith Eller - Nothing to report.

TAX ABATEMENT REVIEW - John Stoeckley - Business was discussed earlier in the Council meeting.

WHARMM - Jamie Hotchkiss reported that the next meeting will be April 23, 2025.

COMMISSIONERS HEALTH INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Keith Eller - We ended 2024 with a YTD vs MAX at 78.1%.

EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL - Jamie Hotchkiss reported that he reached out to Carla at Parkview and they had a MS Teams meeting earlier in the day. Parkview has added a 4th ambulance. Also overdoses are up, but less Narcan is being administered.

HCPSD COMMITTEE - Kendall Mickley - No meeting to report on.

INTERNAL CONTROLS COMMITTEE - Kendall Mickley & Jill Landrum - Jill attended training in February.

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (RDC) - Terry Miller & John Stoeckley - No meeting to report on.

MARKLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC) - Brian Warpup reported that they met the previous week to establish area targeting.

ITEM 16: Keith Eller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jamie Hotchkiss seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

ADOPTED THIS 24th DAY OF MARCH 2025:

KENDALL MICKLEY

KEITH ELLER

TERRY MILLER

JOHN STOECKLEY

SHANE BICKEL

BRIAN WARPUP

JAMIE HOTCHKISS

ATTEST:

JILL M. LANDRUM, AUDITOR