

## REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HUNTINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA, MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Commissioner Rob Miller; Commissioner Tom Wall; Phil Hibbert, Facilities Manager; Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director; Jill Landrum, Auditor; Terry Miller, County Council; Sheriff Chris Newton; Chief Deputy Chad Hammel; Troy Hostetler, Highway Superintendent; Chris Karlin, Council on Aging/HAT; Eric Garber, Council on Aging/HAT; Adrian Halverstadt, Attorney; Sarah Mustard-Heil, Attorney; Nancy Thomas; Bridgett Burkhart, Office Manager

The following people attending virtually through Zoom: Laura Dillon

Commissioner Terry Stoffel was absent.

Commissioner Miller called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m.

### IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES)

4/17/2023

Tom Wall made a motion to approve the Minutes from the April 17, 2023 meeting. Rob Miller seconded and the motion passed 2-0 with Tom Wall voting yea and Rob Miller voting yea.

### IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS)

5/3/2023

Tom Wall made a motion to approve the Claim Docket for May 3, 2023. Rob Miller seconded and the motion passed 2-0 with Tom Wall voting yea and Rob Miller voting yea.

### IN THE MATTER OF PAYROLL)

4/21/2023

Tom Wall made a motion to approve the Payroll Docket for April 21, 2023. Rob Miller seconded and the motion passed 2-0 with Tom Wall voting yea and Rob Miller voting yea.

### IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

#### CIT Grant Application

Chief Deputy Hammel spoke with the Commissioners regarding Critical Incident Training (CIT). Huntington City Police received a grant for this training and asked the Sheriff's Department to attend as well. This is a certified 40-hour training in which officers will learn different tactics and strategies for dealing with people who may be experiencing mental health issues. There will be three (3) classes offered this year. The Sheriff's Department would like to send 4-5 deputies per class. The training would count as their duty assignment for that week. In order to compensate for those deputies being gone, they will need to pay other officers overtime to cover the vacancies. A federal grant will reimburse the County for overtime, so there will be no burden on the county's general fund. Tom Wall made a motion to approve the grant application. Rob Miller seconded and the motion passed 2-0 with Tom Wall voting yea and Rob Miller voting yea.

### IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

#### Jail Administrative Area Renovation

Sheriff Chris Newton gave the Commissioners an update on the renovation of the administrative space at the jail following EMA and Dispatch moving to the O'Donnell Center campus. By consensus, the Commissioners agreed to these updates:

- Remodel of upstairs - where Dispatch and EMA were previously located: Added a wall in that area – it will now be storage, a conference room, Sheriff's Office, Chief Deputy's Office, and IT.
- Added lighting to the stairwell from second floor to main lobby. The four new stairway lights will encompass security lighting in the event of a power outage.
- They will be removing the two walls in the administrative area that separate the Sheriff's office and the admin area in an effort to make the area larger to accommodate files, etc.
- Later in the summer, they will be removing a couple more walls, second floor training area that are currently unused. They will be utilizing this area as a workout/exercise room for staff.

Commissioner Wall stated that he toured the facility last week and was very impressed with all of the progress. Everything was very clean and well-kept. It was a great job done by all involved. This is now a safe place for those incarcerated, and the employees have a safe place to work.

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**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)**

**School Resource Officers**

Sheriff Newton stated that he had talked to County Council members Kendall Mickley and Terry Miller about the need for additional School Resource Officers. He stated that the County needs to be part of the solution. He discussed the possibility of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Huntington County, Huntington City, and Huntington County Community School Corporation. Commissioner Wall and Commissioner Miller both stated that the Commissioners are fully committed to helping with the SRO program. They suggested that our grant writer, Aliza Tourkow, could research to see if there are any funding opportunities that may be available to the County.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)**

**Cameras for Sheriff's Department**

Sheriff Newton spoke with the Commissioners regarding the need for more/better cameras including body cameras and vehicle cameras. It will cost approximately \$126,000.00 for the equipment that they need. The Commissioners also suggested that the grant writer research if there are any funding opportunities for this type of equipment.

Also discussed was a 'Flock System'. This is a system that uses license plate reading cameras to provide 24/7 monitoring to assist police officers with locating/tracking individuals. They would put cameras in specific locations. This type of system is being used in communities around Huntington County such as Bluffton, Indiana.

**IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION)**

**#2023-03**

Tom Wall made a motion to adopt Resolution #2023-03 – A Resolution authorizing the filing of a CY2024 application for a grant under Section 5311/5339 of the Federal Transit Act. Rob Miller seconded and the motion passed 2-0 with Tom Wall voting yea and Rob Miller voting yea.

**IN THE MATTER OF REPORT)**

**HAT Quarter 1 Reports**

Eric Garber, Huntington Area Transportation (HAT) Manager, submitted the Quarter 1 Rural Transit Operating Data Report. Eric also submitted the 2023 CARES Operating Report. Tom Wall made a motion to approve both reports. Rob Miller seconded and the motion passed 2-0 with Tom Wall voting yea and Rob Miller voting yea.

**IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION)**

**#2023-04**

Tom Wall made a motion to adopt Resolution #2023-04 – A Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Huntington to accept the transfer of a certain unimproved real property (known as Vacant Lot East of 237 W. McKeever Street, Andrews, Indiana) to a political subdivision. Rob Miller seconded and the motion passed 2-0 with Tom Wall voting yea and Rob Miller voting yea.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)**

**Highway Department Update**

Troy Hostetler, Highway Superintendent shared that IMI reached out to him regarding closing Lime Kiln Road. They have purchased all of the property along this road. The Commissioners want to make sure that they are not using it as a heavy truck entrance.

Troy also shared that he sent a letter to the landowners regarding work on 800 North. This information was also shared on the Highway Department's Facebook page.

Also discussed was the underground storage tanks located at the Highway. They are still researching funding options.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)**

**Trails**

The Commissioners discussed the topic of trails and the possibility of expanding and connecting trails in Huntington County. Commissioner Wall stated that they need to make sure that the Town of Andrews does not get bypassed if trails are developed in that area of the county.

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**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)**

**Virtual Meeting Policy**

The Commissioners discussed having a policy set for virtual meetings. We will follow up with the attorney to see how that policy needs to read.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)**

**Adjust rates for cumulative funds**

The Commissioners and County Council have agreed to lower the Cumulative Bridge rate and increase the Cumulative Courthouse rate. They have asked that Attorney Andrew Boxberger of Carson LLP take care of crafting the Resolution and other legal matters that need to be put in place.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)**

**Property owner request**

Nancy Thomas spoke with the Commissioners about a small parcel of land that is owned by the Commissioners and is adjacent to her property. She stated that she would like to acquire that parcel so that she can keep it mowed and looking nice. This parcel is located on 900 North. The Commissioners shared that they would keep the property for future right-of-way purposes, but they will ensure that it's maintained and looks nice.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)**

**CEDIT Grant Award**

In response to the Town of Roanoke's request for CEDIT funds on April 17, 2023, Tom Wall made a motion to grant the town \$30,000.00 from CEDIT – Project 4 for their marketing and website purposes. Rob Miller seconded and the motion passed 2-0 with Tom Wall voting yea, and Rob Miller voting yea.


**IN THE MATTER OF REPORT)**

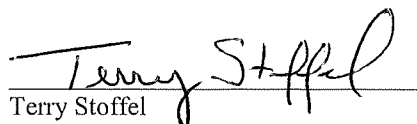
**Clerk's Report**

Bridgett Burkhart, Office Manager presented the Clerk of the Circuit Court's report for the month ending March 31, 2023 as prepared by Shelley Septer, Clerk of Huntington Circuit/Superior Courts.

The Commissioners recessed at 11:18 a.m.

  
Rob Miller

  
Tom Wall

  
Terry Stoffel

ATTEST:

  
Jill McLandrum

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HUNTINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA