

**REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HUNTINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA, TUESDAY JANUARY 16, 2024**

IN ATTENDANCE: Commissioner Rob Miller; Commissioner Terry Stoffel; Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director; Bob Jeffers, EMA Director; Thomas Fuller, EMA Deputy Director; Jill Landrum, Auditor; Hank Miller; Ilene Haluska, Herald Press; Phil Hibbert, Facilities Manager; Bob Garrett, County Attorney; Joakim Abrahamsson, IT Director; Ed Farris, Purdue Extension; Vicki Pearson, Recorder; Mike Grant, Markle Fish and Game Club Park; Terry Miller, County Council; Tim Eckert, Veteran Services Officer; Ryan Kreider; Bridgett Burkhardt, Office Manager

The following people attended virtually through Zoom: Terry Miller, County Council; Patti Smith, Beam Longest Neff

Commissioner Tom Wall was absent.

Commissioner Miller called the Commissioners' meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES)

1/2/2024

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 2, 2024 Commissioner Meeting. Rob Miller seconded and the motion passed 2-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea and Rob Miller voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS)

1/18/2024

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Claim Docket for January 18, 2024. Terry Stoffel seconded and the motion passed 2-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea and Rob Miller voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF PAYROLL)

1/12/2024

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Payroll Docket for January 12, 2024. Terry Stoffel seconded and the motion passed 2-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea and Rob Miller voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

EMA Update

Bob Jeffers, EMA Director presented time sheets that need to be signed by the Commissioners for the EMA Performance Grant – Salary.

Bob also discussed two EMA vehicles that are surplus. They both need extensive repairs. The decals have been removed from them, and they would like to dispose of them. The Commissioners asked that Bob reach out to other departments in the County and see if any of them are in need of either vehicle. In the meantime, they would like to store the vehicles at the Highway Department.

Also discussed was the weather event in which EMA assisted in setting up warming shelters. With the help of United with Love and the Indiana Family Care Center's Op Shop, a temporary overnight shelter was opened for those in need. The Commissioners expressed their gratitude for assistance from these two organizations including Erin Diddion and Michelle Crone, as well as, everyone else who came together to provide these vital services to our community.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

911 Redundancy Line

Joakim Abrahamsson, IT Director spoke with the Commissioners regarding the need to install a 911 redundancy line out to the Dispatch Center at the O'Donnell Center. By consensus, the Commissioners agreed to move forward with Joakim's recommendation.

IN THE MATTER OF CONTRACT)

Purdue Cooperative Extension Service

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the contract between Huntington County and Purdue Cooperative Extension Service. Rob Miller seconded and the motion passed 2-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea and Rob Miller voting yea.

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Luncheon invitation

Ed Farris, Extension Director, invited the Commissioners to the Purdue Extension Community Luncheon to be held on February 1, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. at the Beacon Credit Union Heritage Hall.

IN THE MATTER OF REPORT)

2023 Wage Report (100R)

Auditor Jill Landrum spoke with the Commissioners regarding the 2023 wage report for county employees (100 R) that gets uploaded to Gateway. Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve submission of the report. Rob Miller seconded and the motion passed 2-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea and Rob Miller voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

User Fee

Troy Hostetler, Highway Superintendent, spoke with the Commissioners about the possibility of increasing the user fee for entities who purchase fuel from the Highway Department. Currently, the user fee is \$0.05/gallon. These funds are used to maintain the fuel system and for all of the testing, lining, and other items that are required for the operation of the fuel system. Also discussed was the removal of the underground storage tanks. Troy advised that he received a grant to pay for 50% of the cost of removal.

IN THE MATTER OF AGREEMENT)

2024 CCMG Application

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the agreement with Lochmueller Group for preparation and submission of the necessary supporting information for the 2024 Community Crossings Matching grant program application. Rob Miller seconded and the motion passed 2-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea and Rob Miller voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Highway Department Update

Troy Hostetler, Highway Superintendent, provided the 2024 Chip Seal Map for Huntington County. He also provided the Huntington County Highway 2024 Action Plan for the Commissioners review and the LiDAR PASER Ratings. Also presented was the Employee in Responsible Charge (ERC) Certification, and the LPA Design Certification for Non-National Highway System Projects.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Flower Fund

Recorder Vicki Pearson spoke with the Commissioners regarding the flower fund which is funded by the proceeds from the vending machines at the courthouse. Vicki stated that the county is not under contract with any vending company at this time.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Grant Request

Mike Grant, a representative of the Markle Fish and Game Club Park, spoke with the Commissioners regarding the Indiana Destination Development Grant that they have applied for. The original scope of their grant included ball diamonds, restrooms, and concessions. They would like to add the Markle Pool to the grant application and would include a pool house, slides and diving platforms. Rob Miller made a motion to commit \$20,000.00 from CEDIT – Project 6 for matching funds. Terry Stoffel seconded and the motion passed 2-0 with Rob Miller voting yea and Terry Stoffel voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Wabash Heritage Corridor Grant

Phil Hibbert, Facilities Manager, spoke with the Commissioners regarding the Wabash Heritage Corridor Grant. He stated that they will need a Letter of Commitment when they submit the application. There is a 20% match required of the county if awarded the grant.

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Also discussed was the use of road salt for county properties. Phil asked if they should be tracking the amount of salt they use from the Highway Department. It was determined that the usage does need to be tracked and the Highway Department will invoice the County to reimburse the MVH fund.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Veteran Services Officer Update

Tim Eckert, Veteran Services Officer, explained that the Veteran of the Year presentation that was scheduled for today would need to be postponed due to the health of the veteran receiving the award. It will be rescheduled for a later date.

Tim also presented his quarterly outreach statistics to the Commissioners.

IN THE MATTER OF CONTRACT)

Stop Loss Insurance

Rob Miller made a motion to approve the Stop Loss Insurance contract with Tokio Marine. Terry Stoffel seconded and the motion passed 2-0 with Rob Miller voting yea and Terry Stoffel voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Izaak Walton League

Ryan Kreider spoke with the Commissioners stating that he became aware that there were some concerns about the Izaak Walton League Shooting Range. He wanted to express his support of the gun range and stated that the state law in Indiana protects shooting ranges. The Commissioners shared that they have sought legal counsel to determine how to best address the concerns that have been shared with the Commissioners.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT)

Terry Stoffel made a motion to adjourn at 10:29 a.m. Rob Miller seconded and the motion passed 2-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea and Rob Miller voting yea.


Rob Miller


Tom Wall


Terry Stoffel

ATTEST:


Jill M. Landrum, Auditor

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