

SECOND REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FEBRUARY 18, 2025

The second regular meeting of the Dubois County Commissioners was held in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex in Jasper, Indiana, beginning at 8:00 a.m. (EST) on February 18, 2025. Present were Commissioners Chad A. Blessinger, and Serice Stenftenagel. Commissioner Nick Hostetter was absent. Also present were County Auditor Sandra L. Morton, County Attorney Gregory Schnarr, Highway Superintendent Donnie Lueken and Highway Engineer Brent Wendholt. A quorum was declared present, and the meeting was opened for business by President Blessinger.

Minutes from February 3, 2025, meeting of the Board of Commissioners were approved as presented. Claims against the County were examined and those found to be just, due and owing were allowed and those found to be not due and owing were disallowed, all as more fully set forth in the Claims and Allowance Docket of the County.

RE: CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's monthly report for January 2025 was reviewed and accepted as presented.

RE: TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's monthly report for January 2025 was reviewed and accepted as presented.

RE: SERVICE AWARD

A 10-year service award was presented to Jolea Layton, an employee in the Prosecutor's office.

RE: SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

The United States will celebrate the Semiquincentennial of its founding on July 4, 2026, marking the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The Dubois County Historical Society was approached by the Indiana Semiquincentennial Commission to head Dubois County's involvement. The Historical Society is looking to form a group of 15 to 20 members to help involve all Hoosiers/Americans in the celebration.

RE: HUMAN RESOURCES – EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN ADDENDUM EXHIBIT A

Human Resources Generalist Markie Rhodes presented an Addendum to the Dubois County Employee Benefit Plan effective January 1, 2025. Exhibit A was presented noting the elected/appointed positions deemed eligible for coverage on the Dubois County Employee Benefit Plan, as follows:

SECOND REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FEBRUARY 18, 2025

DUBOIS COUNTY EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN						
ADDENDUM (Exhibit A)						
				ELIGIBLE	ELIGIBLE	ELIGIBLE
			PAID THRU	FOR	FOR	FOR
POSITION	ELECTED	APPOINTED	PAYROLL	HEALTH INS	LIFE INS	PERF
Prosecutor	X		YES STIPEND	NO	YES	NO
Prosecutor Chief Deputy		X	YES STIPEND	NO	YES	NO
Prosecutor Deputy IV-D		X	Y	Y	Y	Y
Circuit Court Judge	X		N	N	Y	N
Superior Court Judge	X		N	N	Y	N
Assessor	X		Y	Y	Y	Y
Auditor	X		Y	Y	Y	Y
Clerk	X		Y	Y	Y	Y
Commissioners - 3	X		Y	Y	Y	Y
Coroner	X		Y	Y	Y	Y
Council - 7	X		Y	Y	Y	Y
Recorder	X		Y	Y	Y	Y
Sheriff	X		Y	Y	Y	Y
Surveyor	X		Y	Y	Y	Y
Treasurer	X		Y	Y	Y	Y
Ambulance Director		X	Y	N	N	N
Custodian		X	Y	Y	Y	Y
Health Officer		X	Y	Y	Y	Y
Highway Clerk		X	Y	Y	Y	Y
Highway Engineer		X	Y	Y	Y	Y
Highway Superintendent		X	Y	Y	Y	Y
Attorney		X	Y	N	Y	Y
Veterans Service Officer		X	Y	N	N	N
Park & Rec Board		X	Y	N	N	N
Health Board		X	Y	N	N	N
PTABOA		X	Y	N	N	N

A motion was made to approve the Addendum (Exhibit A) as presented, was duly seconded and carried 2-0.

RE: HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Highway Superintendent Donnie Lueken presented the following report of Highway projects:

Weed Board – The Treasurer’s office will not be adding additional flyers in the property tax statement envelopes for 2025. The Weed Board had previously included informational flyers about noxious weeds in the tax statements but will now find other avenues to inform the public.

Dumpsters – The department has used the 36 dumpsters received last spring and will use parts from older boxes to repair others with bottoms rusted out. The department will have approximately 12 boxes to declare surplus/junk and may need to order 12-20 new boxes this year.

Road Usage Requests –

Ireland St. Patrick’s Day Parade - Ireland St. Patrick’s Day Celebration, Inc. submitted a request for permission to use certain roads in the Town of Ireland during the annual St. Patrick’s Day parade to be held on Sunday, March 16, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. The parade will begin on CR 500 West at the intersection of Church Avenue and move south across SR 56 to Clay Street, then travel west to Grant Street, turn north until Center Street, head west until James Street, travel north across CR 250 North across SR 56 through Walnut Street and into the church parking lot. As in the past, the Ireland St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee will use county signage during the event. A motion was made to approve the request as submitted, was duly seconded, and carried 2-0.

Irish Trot 5K – Ireland St. Patrick’s Day Celebration, Inc. submitted a request for permission to close certain roads involving the Irish Trot 5K to be held on Saturday, March 15, 2025, from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. The route will begin at the intersection of CR 500 W and Clay Street, near the Ireland Elementary School south parking lot. Participants will continue to CR 500 W, then to CR 150 N, then onto Wheatland Drive, to Ladino W, and head back to CR 150 N and finally to CR 500 W. The roads could be open to residents needing access. The Jasper Police Department will assist. A motion was made to approve the request as submitted, was duly seconded, and carried 2-0.

Crack Sealing – The Department finished crack sealing on Monday, February 10, 2025. Lueken explained why Dura-patching was not used on potholes until AE-90 oil was received.

SECOND REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FEBRUARY 18, 2025

Garage Door – An overhead garage door malfunctioned causing it not to open all the way and was hit by a trash truck. A quote was received from Dubois County Garage Doors to put in a new door and raise the tracks to the ceiling at a cost of \$7,165.15. The consensus was to proceed.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER’S REPORT

Highway Engineer Brent Wendholt presented the following report of Highway projects:

INDOT Unofficial Detour (St. Rd. 164) - INDOT intends to close St. Rd. 164 in Celestine to replace a pipe that has failed. Since they are closing the State Highway, they understand that local traffic will find a route around this closure utilizing our county roads. After speaking with them, it was decided to designate Del Harlandire Street, St. Mary’s Street, and New Orleans Street (all South of S.R. 164) as the route much of the local traffic will use. The closure will take place during the week of March 24, 2025, which is also the school’s spring break. A motion was made to approve the unofficial detour MOU, was duly seconded, and carried 2-0.

County Truck #214 (Quad-Axle Dump Truck) – The highway mechanic received quotes to replace Truck #215 from 4 different suppliers using Sourcewell quotes. This will be funded from the Cum Cap fund. Wendholt requested approval so the truck can be in for this year’s build timeframe.

Sternberg International	\$181,228.94
Ruxer Ford (Autocar) (could not provide Sourcewell pricing)	\$247,020.33
Palmer – Kenworth of Evansville	\$255,353.76
Boyd Truck Sales (Western Star)	\$235,874.00

Wendholt recommended purchasing from Sternberg International, in the amount of \$181,228.94. A motion was made to approve the quote from Sternberg International, pending additional MVH funding approval by the County Council, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

Additional Appropriation – Wendholt requested permission to seek an additional appropriation in the amount of \$290,000.00 from the MHV fund. Consensus was for Wendholt to proceed with the request for funding.

2026-2029 Countywide Bridge Inspection Contract – Wendholt presented a contract from SJCA, Inc. in the amount of \$596,562.63 for the county-wide bridge inspections. The county will be responsible for 20% using Cum Bridge funds. 80% is federally funded. A motion was made to approve the consulting document for bridge inspections, was duly seconded, and carried 2-0.

RE: COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Commissioner Blessinger opened discussion on the County Comprehensive Plan Request for Proposal distributed at the previous meeting. The RFP states the Comprehensive Plan will serve as the guiding policy for the County for a 10-year period. After discussion, it was changed to a 5-year period. The project timeframe dates in the document will also be adjusted. A motion was made to approve the Request for Proposal document after changing the dates and time frame as discussed. The motion was duly seconded and carried 2-0.

County Attorney Schnarr will assist Commissioner Blessinger with the process of advertising the document.

RE: COUNTY PHONE ISSUES

Auditor Morton discussed phone service issues occurring with the current County phone carrier Lingo. 911 Communications Director Stuart Wilson was also in attendance to discuss issues at the 911 Communication Center. Candi Mehringer and Riley Rumfelt of Matrix Integration were present to discuss a quote provided for Matrix Integration to take over the carrier services. The Service Activation Form will move the carrier services from Lingo to the MiConnection services from Matrix Integration. The contract term will be for 60 months. The monthly recurring charges will be \$655.50. The non-recurring charges will be \$700 for installation and porting of the DID phone numbers. Auditor Morton will notify Lingo of the desire to terminate services.

A motion was made to approve the Service Activation Form with Matrix Integration, was duly seconded and carried 2-0.

RE: INDIANA 15 REGIONAL PLANNING

Nathan Held, Director of Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission, provided an update on funding sources and projects of the Commission.

The Commissioners commended Planning Commission employee Jenny Matheis for her work on the Owner Occupied Rehabilitation and Tri-Cap Child Care programs that she has been coordinating for the County through the OCRA - H.E.L.P. program.

RE: COUNTY COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

Sheriff Administrative Assistant Kenya Harris appeared to follow-up on the discussion to hire an IT position to assist the department heads with computer issues in preparation of Auditor Morton’s term ending in 2026. 911 Communications Director Stuart Wilson also discussed the needs for the County. Matrix Integration

SECOND REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FEBRUARY 18, 2025

could assist with a transition, if needed. Auditor Morton suggested the discussion should be held during future budget preparations.

RE: SWMD VEHICLE UPDATE

SWMD Director Carla Striegel-Winner discussed the issues with district vehicles. The 2000 Ford Ranger was involved in an accident due to no fault of our own. The vehicle needs to be towed to Indianapolis per the other driver's insurance. A motion was made to permit Auditor Morton and SWMD Director Striegel-Winner to act on behalf of the County in dealing with the Ford Ranger, was duly seconded, and carried 2-0.

Striegel-Winner requested permission to start the search for a new vehicle to replace the 2000 Ford Ranger. She also needs to replace the 2002 Isuzu box truck. At the Solid Waste Management District Board meeting, it was recommended to look for a box truck in the \$30,000 - \$35,000 price range. The consensus was to support the needs of the district by searching for two vehicles and present any findings at a future meeting.

RE: TEMPORARY REMOTE WORK POLICY

Commissioner Blessinger opened discussion on possible changes to the Employee Policy Handbook Section 3.18 Temporary Remote Work Policy as prepared by the HR Generalist Markie Rhodes which was tabled at the previous meeting for further review.

The current handbook policy will remain in effect with no changes made at this time.

RE: 911 ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Per the Commissioner meeting minutes from April 3, 1989, the Board of Commissioners established the make-up of the 911 Advisory Board with 9 members from the following:

1. A County Commissioner
2. A County Council member
3. The County Sheriff or a representative
4. A representative from the City of Jasper
5. A representative from the City of Huntingburg
6. A representative from the Town of Birdseye
7. A representative from the town of Ferdinand
8. A representative from the Town of Holland
9. A member at large representing the Volunteer Fire Departments of unincorporated town, Emergency Medical Service and Civil Defense.

A motion was made to allow the 911 Advisory Board to increase its membership to include one member from the Emergency Management Agency and one member from the Emergency Medical Services, if they choose to do so. The motion was duly seconded and carried 2-0.

RE: 2026 PAY PERIODS AND HOLIDAY CLOSING SCHEDULES

Auditor Morton presented the 2026 Pay Periods and Holiday Closing Schedules for approval. A motion was made to approve the 2026 Pay Period Schedule as presented, was duly seconded, and carried 2-0. Following discussion, the name "Good Friday" will be changed to "Spring Holiday" on the Courthouse Holiday Closing Schedule. A motion was made to approve the schedule with the name change, was duly seconded, and carried 2-0.

RE: SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Auditor Morton presented the following list of equipment to be declared surplus:

Ambulance	3 – Zoll Defibrillator Batteries
Prosecutor	2 – Office Chairs 3 – Surface Tablets
Human Resources	2 – I Pads
Custodian	1 - Cleaning Cart

Computers from the following departments:

Clerk	1- Desktop – Dell Reg Model: D11S and Service Tag: 6CLJHV2
	1- Laptop – serial number: 5CB1368DJ6

Auditor - 7- Desktops with the following serial numbers: MXL9343D60, MXL9343D5Q, MXL9343D76, MXL9343D7H, MXL9343D5M, MXL9343D7B, MXL9343D75

Treasurer - 6- Desktops with the following serial numbers: MXL9343D70, MXL9343D5V, MXL9343D7D, MXL9343D5Z, MXL9343D5T, MXL9343D6M

SECOND REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FEBRUARY 18, 2025

Small Claims - 4- Desktops with the following serial numbers: MXL148478Z, MXL1171CSR, MXL11654GH, MXL11654PJ

Emergency Management -

HP UHS IPS Computer Display	Z27S
Dell Latitude 3590 Laptop	D3T68T2
Dell Latitude 3590 Laptop	8SW68T5
Dell Latitude 3590 Laptop	FRWG8T2
Dell Latitude 3590 Laptop	7NWX8T2
Dell Latitude 3590 Laptop	7KQG8T2
Dell Latitude 3590 Laptop	GRWG8T2
Dell Optiplex 3070 Desktop	5H7Z9Z2
HP Z230 Tower Workstation	2UA5491P6Q
HP Z240 Tower Workstation	2UA71924QT
HP Mobile Printer	H470
Compaq Speakers	D19160ACVH602Y
ICOM F5061D VHF 50W Mobile Radio	3114308
ICOM F5061D VHF 50W Mobile Radio	3108630
EF Johnson 53 SL 800 MHz Mobile	5377H1510T93611
EF Johnson 53 SL 800 MHz Base	5377H3208T69337
EF Johnson 53 SL 800 MHz Base	5377H3008T69009
EF 800 MHz Mobile w/ Control Head	5378H2811C12067

A motion was made to declare all items listed as surplus except the iPads, was duly seconded, and carried 2-0.

RE: ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Auditor Morton presented the 2024 County Annual Financial Report for review.

RE: COURTHOUSE HVAC TEMPERATURE CONTROL SYSTEM

The Courthouse HVAC Temperature Control System project funding will be determined at the next County Council meeting.

RE: FUTURE MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioner/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex.