

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 7, 2025

The regular monthly 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 July 7, 2025. Present were Commissioner Chad A. Blessinger and Commissioner Nick Hostetter. Commissioner Serice Stenftenagel was absent. Also present were County Auditor Sandra L. Morton, Highway Superintendent Donnie Lueken, Highway Engineer Levi Leffert, and County Attorney Gregory S. Schnarr. A quorum was declared present and the meeting was opened for business by President Blessinger. Meeting minutes from June 16, 2025, of the Commissioners had been previously distributed to the Commissioners and were approved as presented. The minutes were then signed. Incomes for the month June were as follows: Recorder \$20,401.02; Health Department \$25,533.69; Auditor \$20.00; Clerk \$29,305.09.

RE: CLERK'S REPORT

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

RE: TREASURER'S REPORT

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

RE: BLISS MCKNIGHT THANK YOU

A thank you note was received from Bliss McKnight to the Sheriff Department and Community Corrections staff for participating in risk management training on jail liability and driver's safety.

RE: HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

Dubois Dumpster Site Planning – Drawings are still in process for a salt storage building and expansion. When completed, the plans will be presented for approval.

Chip Seal Paving – The chip seal overlays have been completed. The crew is working on patching which should be completed by the middle of the week and then will start on new chip seal.

Touch a Truck – Hummingbird Day Care submitted a request for the department to participate in a "Touch a Truck" event on July 21, 2025. Lueken would like to send the sign truck to the two-hour event. The consensus was to approve participation in the event.

760 E Chip Seal Upgrade – There is still one individual that will not sign for a right-of-way on county Road 760 E to get that road upgraded to chip seal. The right-of-way is needed so the public doesn't park cars, build buildings, fences, mailboxes, or plant corn along the edge of the road for maintenance and safety reasons. Lueken provided information on previous projects where the project was paid by individuals and right-of-way was obtained by all individuals. Commissioner Blessinger will reach out to the requestor.

Holland Dumpster Site – The land where the Holland dumpster site is located has been sold. The department is looking for a new location in the area. The county has 6 months at the current location.

Dumpster Site Substitute – A full-time site attendant has quit and has been replaced by a substitute. Larry Betz stepped down from driving a trash truck several months ago and is now going to become a substitute attendant.

Very Hot Weather/Shorts – Several employees asked if they could wear shorts while working in the extreme heat. Auditor Morton will speak with Worker's Comp insurance and Lueken will check with OSHA. If those entities approve, then Lueken will develop a plan with standards set to be approved.

Gatorade – Lueken requested permission to purchase Gatorade mix to put in the coolers for the crews. The consensus was to approve the purchase using the budgeted safety line item.

Hill Park Drive Concern – A concern was received regarding rock washing off a neighbor's driveway onto the roadway and down to his drive. The neighbor's home and driveway are under construction. When complete, the plan is to concrete the drive. The neighbor did put up silt fencing but it has not held the runoff. Lueken will continue to work with the landowners informally.

RE: DILAPIDATED BUILDING UPDATE - SLOTTEN PROPERTY

Commissioner Blessinger and County Attorney Schnarr provided an update on the Violation of Ordinance 2018-02 located at 5398 E Main Street, Dubois, Indiana owned by Robert Slotten. On May 5, 2025, Slotten was ordered proceed with the contract for removal of the building beginning on May 25, 2025, with a completion date of June 15, 2025; with the understanding the proposed fine of \$1,200 would be stayed pending further review hearing. At the further review hearing on June 16, 2025, the Board issued a fine in the amount of \$500 to be paid in full within 30 days to the Dubois County Auditor's Office. Slotten was provided up to and including July 2, 2025, to bring the property into compliance with the Dubois County Municipal Code to include but not limited to the following remedial actions: demolition and removal of the dilapidated portions of the building located at the address.

Health Department Environmental Specialist Christina Pierini and Administrative Director Shawn Werner provided testimony that no progress has been made to date. Robert Slotten failed to appear for the status

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hearing. A discussion was held on preparing a scope of work to solicit quotes/bids for the remediation of the property to include the demolition and removal of the structure, to fill in and/or level out the ground.

A motion was made to fine Mr. Slotten \$1,000 to be paid in full within 30 days of the hearing (July 7, 2025) at the Dubois County Auditor's Office. This is in addition to the \$500 previously issued on June 16, 2025.

Authorized County officials to proceed with preparing a scope of work to solicit quotes/bids for the remediation of the property to include the demolition and removal of the structure in question, to fill in and/or level out the ground where the structure is located. The motion was duly seconded and carried.

RE: H.E.L.P. OWNER OCCUPIED REHABILITATION – PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Blessinger opened a public hearing for the Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program H.E.L.P. - Owner Occupied Rehabilitation program as previously advertised. Jenny Matheis, Indiana 15 Regional Planning, discussed the proposed change to increase the allotment per home from \$15,000 to \$20,000 in grant funds. The City of Jasper has expressed their support for the change. No public comment was received. The public hearing was closed.

After the public hearing, it was determined the need exists to increase the allotment per home. A motion was made to increase the total allotment per home from \$15,000 to \$20,000, was duly seconded, and carried.

RE: SUMMER OF RECOVERY 2025 TOUR

Commissioner Blessinger provided details for the Summer of Recovery 2025 Tour event to be held at the Jasper Riverwalk on July 12, 2025. The event is a family-friendly pro-social event with live music, speakers, a DJ, and opportunities for people to connect with local recovery-related resources sponsored by the Indiana Family & Social Services Administration Division of Mental Health and Addiction.

RE: GIS LIMITED USE AGREEMENT

Auditor Morton presented a Limited Use Agreement signed by the engineering firm Lochmueller Group, requesting the Dubois County Emergency Service Layers, County Bridge Inventory, Culvert Inventory, and Survey Section Corners, and Parcel Layers for a Road Study in the County. The Lochmueller Group is restricted to using the requested GIS layer for this project only. A motion was made to approve the agreement as presented, was duly seconded, and carried.

RE: COURTHOUSE WEATHERVANE

Commissioner Blessinger reported the County Museum is interested in taking the weathervane that was removed from atop the Courthouse bell tower during a storm. A motion was made to declare the weathervane as surplus and will be donated to the Dubois County Museum. The motion was duly seconded and carried.

RE: SURPLUS ITEMS

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

Probation	1 Acer Aspire V5 Laptop
	1 Laserjet M209 dw Printer
Assessor	7 HP ProDesk 400 G6 Desktops
Superior Court	1 Dell Latitude 7480 with Docking Station

A motion was made to declare the items surplus, was duly seconded, and carried.

RE: H.E.L.P. OWNER OCCUPIED REHABILITATION – BID OPENING

It being 9:00 a.m., the time set to accept bids for the Owner Occupied Rehabilitation projects, the following bids were received, opened and read aloud:

Huntingburg Mechanical-

Electrical at 161 E. 37th St, Jasper \$16,500

HVAC at 401 E. 6th St, Jasper \$10,650

Electrical at 1113 Vogel Avenue Huntingburg, \$15,750

Electrical at 1705 Main Street Ferdinand \$17,500

T&T Roofing

Roofing at 2525 Birk Drive Jasper, \$8,530

Roofing at 986 E Jasper-Dubois Road \$12,745

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The bids were taken under advisement and will be awarded at the next meeting on July 21, 2025. A discussion was held on how to attract more contractors to bid on the projects. To date, the program has approximately \$500,000 remaining.

RE: 2026 PAY SCHEDULE – REVISED

Auditor Morton provided a revised pay schedule for 2026 due to a payroll deposit date on June 19, 2026, which is a federal holiday not observed by the County. The revised pay schedule will have a deposit date of June 18, 2026. A motion was made to approve the revised pay schedule, was duly seconded, and carried.

RE: UNSAFE BUILDING – O’CONNELL PROPERTY

Commissioner Blessinger provided an update on the recommendations made on an unsafe building owned by Jean O’Connell located at 381 W Haysville Road, Jasper, IN 47546 in Harbison Township. On June 17, 2025, the following options were made to the owner to be in compliance with the County Ordinances 2018-2 and 2019-01:

- Register inoperable vehicles or remove them and provide registrations or receipts from a salvage yard/sale.
- Bring the building to a safe condition by either remodeling or demolishing it.
- Remove junk and debris.
- Maintain the grass.

Property owner Jean O’Connell was in attendance and provided the following update:

- The grass has been mowed.
- She has been seeking quotes to remove the building but only had one to date but is expecting another.
- She had three of the vehicles and scrap items removed but did not have a receipt.
- She would like to retain ownership of the property.

Health Department Administrative Director Shawn Werner, Environmental Specialist Christina Pierini, and Solid Waste Management District Director Carla Striegel-Winner were in attendance and discussed the requirements needed to comply with the County Ordinance.

A motion was made for the following action items to be completed by Ms. O’Connell and appear at the next Commissioner meeting on July 21, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.

- Bring proof of vehicle registration for all vehicles remaining on the property.
- Provide an accepted bid with a timeline for the building demolition.
- Provide a list of the removed vehicles/scrap items with the name of the individual and where the items were taken.

RE: VACATION OF TOWN OF CUZCO ALLEY – PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE 2025-06

It being 9:30 a.m., a public hearing to vacate an alley in the Town of Cuzco was held as advertised. Phil Buehler, Brosmer Land Surveying and Engineering, representing landowner Larry W. Sullivan, presented a Petition to vacate part of a 10-foot public alley lying north of Lots 6, 7, and 8 in the Town of Cuzco, Dubois County, Indiana. Ordinance 2025-06 was presented. A motion was made to approve Ordinance 2025-06, was duly seconded, and carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-06

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF DUBOIS COUNTY, INDIANA
VACATING PART OF DEDICATED ALLEYWAY IN
THE PLAT OF THE TOWN OF CUZCO, INDIANA**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF DUBOIS COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

SECTION 1. It is the finding of this Board, after a public hearing which commenced on July 7, 2025, that adequate reason exists for the vacation of a certain portion of the following undeveloped alley located in the Plat of the Town of Cuzco, Dubois County, Indiana, to-wit:

PART OF 10-FOOT ALLEY

All of the 10-foot alley lying north of Lots 6, 7 and 8 of the Town of Cuzco, Dubois County, Indiana, being more completely described as follows:

Beginning at the northwest corner of Lot 6 of the Town of Cuzco, Dubois County, Indiana;
thence East a distance of 150 feet to the northeast corner of Lot 8 of the Town of Cuzco;
thence North a distance of 10 feet;

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thence West a distance of 150 feet;
thence South a distance of 10 feet to the **point of beginning** of the herein described tract.
Containing **0.034 acre** more or less.

This Board further finds as follows:

- (a) That proper notice has been given by publication of said hearing and notice by certified mail to the abutting landowner ROBERT RALPH SCHABER was given.
- (b) That the described portions of the dedicated alley have never been developed, but are currently in yards or private use areas, and in wooded areas, are of no essential public purpose, are not necessary for access, ingress or egress with respect to any property contiguous thereto, are not necessary for the growth or orderly development of the immediate neighborhood, and vacation would not hinder access to any church, school or public building or place.
- (c) That developed adjacent lots are all served by direct access to other developed public streets.
- (d) That the adjacent property owner has petitioned for the vacation of said alley.
- (e) That there are no known utilities existing along said dedicated alley.
- (f) That the vacation of said dedicated alley will not diminish the value of any other real estate located in the vicinity thereof.
- (g) That no reason exists for the continued existence of said alley and the same should now be vacated.

SECTION 2. That the portions of said dedicated alley, as herein described shall be and are hereby vacated, subject however to a continuing perpetual easement as to any public utilities which are now located within the boundaries thereof.

SECTION 3. That legal title in and to said real estate shall be and is hereby vested in and divided equally between each respective adjacent property owner, to-wit: LARRY W. SULLIVAN.

SECTION 4. The Auditor of Dubois County, Indiana from and after the passage of this ordinance is hereby directed to furnish a copy of this ordinance to the Dubois County Auditor's Office and the Dubois County Recorder's Office for filing and/or recording in their respective offices.

SECTION 5. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. Within 30 days after the adoption of this ordinance any aggrieved person may appeal the adoption of this ordinance in the Circuit Court of Dubois County, Indiana.

SECTION 7. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption.

DULY PASSED ADOPTED, this 7th day of July, 2025 by the Board of Commissioners of Dubois County, Indiana.

RE: 2026 BUDGET – AMBULANCE SERVICES

EMS Coordinator Ryan Young appeared to discuss the EMS Ambulance Services program and presented the 2026 budget request in the amount of \$594,473. This request does not include the hospital subsidy which still needs to be added. The consensus was to support the 2026 budget request and forward it to the County Council.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Highway Engineer Levi Leffert presented the following report of Highway projects:

Paving Projects –

- E&B has completed paving at 75 North & 820 E (25-03) and at Countrywood Estates Subdivision (25-04). Change orders for both projects have been prepared, both of which are a decrease in price due to underruns on HMA quantities. The change orders presented for approval are: 25-03 which is a decrease of \$2,935.95 and 25-04 which is a decrease of \$3,985.07. A motion was made to approve the change orders, was duly seconded, and carried.
- C&R started paving at 540 E and 1150 S last week (25-06) and should be complete today. They plan to pave Dubois Road Northeast, Borden Hill Road and 900 E (25-07) this week weather permitting.
- The remaining paving projects, including CCMG, will be completed by Calcar Paving around the September – October timeframe.

300 N Box Culvert – The box culvert has been completed and the roadway is back open to traffic. The asphalt will be placed later this fall after settlement.

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Club Road Box Culvert – The road was closed on June 30 to begin work on a 12’ x 8’ concrete box culvert that will be replacing a metal culvert. This is anticipated to be a 4-5 week closure depending on weather and/or any unforeseen issues. They are hoping to reopen before school starts.

Lady Bridge #78 Update – Meeting with American Structurepoint next week to go over preliminary plans and estimate construction costs. They are planning for the design to be completed this fall with construction next spring/summer.

1025 S Stream Crossing near Holland Road East – An aluminum plate box culvert and bridge ere both options previously considered to replace this steam crossing. Both options were previously ruled out due to an approximate cost of \$100,000+. This stream crossing can be replaced in-house with a similar concrete crossing at an estimated cost of \$30,000 to \$35,000. Leffert recommended replacing the crossing due to undermines and is in poor condition. A discussion on possibly moving the roadway to eliminate the stream crossing was held. The item was tabled for further review.

850 W Stream Crossing in Cass Township – This road is currently closed due to unsafe roadway conditions at the existing concrete stream crossing. Leffert recommended replacing this with a concrete crossing this year. This work will be performed in-house and is estimated to cost \$20,000 - \$23,000. A motion was made to approve proceeding with the request, pending funding by the County Council, was duly seconded, and carried.

Industrial Park Road Speed Limit Request – Leffert performed a speed study on Industrial Park Road after the County received a request to consider lowering the speed from 45 mph to 35 mph. He obtained traffic data, performed a speed study, and analyzed various sections of Industrial Park Road. Based on the speed study, Leffert does not recommend lowering the speed from 45mph to 35 mph. He recommended keeping the speed limit at 45 mph. Commissioner Blessinger will inform the Town of Ferdinand.

Crossvine Solar Project – Soil boring for the project are ongoing. Leffert plans to meet with AES in the near future to discuss the schedule, expectations, communication and road use agreements.

Employee in Responsible Charge (ERC) Certification – Leffert has obtained the Basic ERC and Bridge ERC certifications and will now be the primary ERC for Dubois County.

RE: HEALTH INSURANCE – NEAR SITE CLINIC

Human Resources Generalist Markie Rhodes introduced Kenley Lintzenich and Lauren Michel to discuss the Deaconess Clinic at Work, a non-profit provider of “on-site” and “near-site” clinic services in the tri-state. These types of clinics exist inside or near a business which have a Nurse Practitioner available to address illness, injury, and wellness. Deaconess is opening a near site clinic in Jasper hopefully on December 1, 2025. The fixed cost to the County is \$42.11 per employee per month. The clinic will operate 40 hours per week with an on-call nurse and a telehealth option. Employees would need to schedule appointments and would have access to all Deaconess Clinic locations. There is no cost to the employee for the visit or for any drugs dispensed.

RE: HEALTH INSURANCE

Wellness Plan

Human Resources Generalist Rhodes presented the Wellness Committee recommendations for 2026 as follows:

- Remove the Purdue Extension office location for monthly wellness goal checks.
- Lunch and Learns will not be held in the months of January or December.
- On-Site Health Screenings will be held in June 2026.
- Change the window for health screens completed by a provider to be from October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026.
- Change the screening BMI standard to 18.5-29.9 or waist circumference for men <40 & women <35
- Change the screening Cholesterol standard to <210
- Change the Reasonable Alternatives to include the dietician and remove Fit Fuel.
- Remove the requirement to attend a Screening Result Session to be reviewed at a quarterly wellness check.
- Require spouses on the insurance plan to participate in a wellness screening and meet 3 of the 5 screening standards or be subject to reasonable alternatives. To earn the wellness discount on premium and deductible, both the covered employee and spouse must both participate and earn the discount. Only the employee will be subject to the wellness goal checks quarterly.

No action will be taken on the recommendations until the meeting on August 4, 2025.

Medical Employee Premiums, Deductibles, and Out of Pocket Maximum

Human Resources Generalist Rhodes and Max Bawel, Houchens Insurance Group, presented the following options to increase the employee premiums, deductibles and maximum out-of-pocket expenses for 2026:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposal #1</u>	<u>Proposal #2</u>
<u>Wellness Premiums (Monthly)</u>			
Employee Only	\$ 38.26	\$ 40.00	\$ 55.00
Employee & Spouse	\$ 73.64	\$ 80.00	\$ 95.00
Employee & Children	\$ 65.54	\$ 70.00	\$ 85.00
Family	\$109.04	\$115.00	\$150.00

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Non-Wellness Premiums (Monthly)

Employee Only	\$ 54.66	\$ 65.00	\$110.00
Employee & Spouse	\$105.20	\$120.00	\$190.00
Employee & Children	\$ 93.62	\$105.00	\$170.00
Family	\$155.78	\$180.00	\$300.00

Wellness Deductible

Individual	\$500	\$ 750	\$1,000
Family	\$750	\$1,250	\$2,000

Non-Wellness Deductible

Individual	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000
Family	\$1,500	\$2,500	\$4,000

Wellness Maximum Out of Pocket

Individual	\$1,250	\$1,500	\$2,000
Family	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$4,000

Non-Wellness Maximum Out of Pocket

Individual	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$4,000
Family	\$3,500	\$5,000	\$8,000

No action will be taken on the recommendations until the meeting on August 4, 2025.

Prescription/Pharmacy Changes

Human Resources Generalist Rhodes and Max Bawel, Houchens Insurance Group, presented the following options for Prescription/pharmacy changes for 2026:

Current Coverage

Tier 1	Generic	\$5
Tier 2	Preferred Brand	20% Co-Pay
Tier 3	Non Preferred Brand	40% Co-Pay
Tier 4	Specialty	20% (Tier 1) Co-Pay 50% (Tier 2) Co-Pay
Individual Deductible	\$2,000	
Family Deductible	\$4,000	

Proposal 1

Tier 1	Generic	\$5
Tier 2	Preferred Brand	30% Co-Pay
Tier 3	Non-Preferred Brand	50% Co-Pay
Tier 4	Specialty	40% (Tier 1) Co-Pay 50% (Tier 2) Co-Pay
Individual Deductible	\$4,000	
Family Deductible	\$8,000	

Proposal 2

Tier 1	Generic	\$5
Tier 2	Preferred Brand	30% Co-Pay
Tier 3	Non-Preferred Brand	50% Co-Pay
Tier 4	Specialty	Not Available
Individual Deductible	\$3,000	
Family Deductible	\$6,000	

No action will be taken on the recommendations until the meeting on August 4, 2025.

RX Protect Savings Projection

Human Resources Generalist Rhodes and Max Bawel, Houchens Insurance Group, presented the following report on the RX Protect program from February – April 2025:

Plan Costs	\$97,996.41
Net Savings Opportunity	\$36,039.57

The County plan paid for brand name high-cost medications that tend to offer no generic option. Thirty-seven unique, and combination of, medications stand out as significant savings opportunities through the RX Protect program. RX Protect could have saved the net savings opportunity for the plan if the employee would have chosen to participate. A discussion was held to try to encourage employees to participate in the RX Protect program.

Year-to-Date Plan Costs

Human Resources Generalist Rhodes and Max Bawel, Houchens Insurance Group, presented the following Year-To-Date plan costs for November 1, 2024, through April 30, 2025:

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Net Medical and Prescription Claims Cost to date	\$1,949,245.86
Total Fixed Costs to date	\$ 602,278.08
Average Monthly Enrollment	216 Employees
Average Cost of Benefits per Employee per Month	\$ 1,968.77
Estimated Annual Cost per Employee	\$ 23,625.24
Estimated Cost of Benefit per Work Hour	\$ 11.36

The County will change the Specific Insurance carrier from HINES to Unified Care Connect beginning with the new plan year beginning on either November 1, 2025, or January 1, 2026. Bawel will reach out to UGS to determine the best start date.

RE: 2026 COUNTY MAXIMUM LEVY

Auditor Morton explained the County maximum levy growth quotient effects for property tax levies first due and payable in 2026. The growth quotient for calendar year 2026 is 4.00% which is estimated to raise \$365,041 in new property tax money.

RE: ST. ANTHONY WATER UTILITIES RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENT

County Attorney Schnarr presented a Right-of-Way Easement for St. Anthony Water Utilities, Inc. in Jackson Township adjacent to Fairground Road. A motion was made to approve the Right-of-Way Easement Agreement, was duly seconded, and carried.

RE: COUNTY CONTRACTS - HEA 1641

County Attorney Schnarr discussed new requirements for county contracts made in House Enrolled Act 1641 Section 12 effective July 1, 2025. A county employee may not take action on a county contract unless permitted by a county ordinance. This section does not apply to a county officer. Schnarr will work on an Ordinance to cover certain county positions.

RE: WINDOWS 11

Auditor Morton reported the Windows 11 rollout on the county computers is almost complete and has come in under budget projections.

RE: FUTURE MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, July 21, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioner/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex.