

**Minutes of
Jackson County Commissioners
April 6, 2021
6:00 PM**

Present: Commissioner Matt Reedy, Commissioner Bob Gillaspay & Commissioner Drew Markel

Commissioner Matt Reedy called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Silent Prayer observed.

Commissioner Gillaspay made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2021 Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Markel seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

Commissioner Markel made a motion to approve the Payroll of March 26, 2021 in the amount of \$440,130.30 along with Monthly Claims including electronic checks, in the amount of \$2,493,927.48. Commissioner Gillaspay seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

Reports from other Committees: None

Jerry Hounshel, on behalf of the Driftwood Township VFD asked for Commissioner approval to close certain streets within the town of Vallonia on Saturday June 5th 2021 from 9am to 12pm for the 3rd annual car show and concert. The following streets would be closed: Main street from Church St to Commerce St, Commerce St from St Rd 135 to Main St & Water St from St Louis Ave to Main St. Commissioner Gillaspay made a motion to approve the closures as presented. Commissioner Markel seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

A update for the Redevelopment Commission was presented for Commissioner review. Commissioner Markel made a motion to approve as presented. Commissioner Gillaspay seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

A Letter of Support has been requested by the Jackson County Fair Board for a grant application requesting new bleachers in turns 1 & 4 of the Grandstands. Commissioner Markel made a motion to approve the preparation of a letter of support. Commissioner Gillaspay seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

Wayne Burrell with Future Energy Solutions then appeared before Commissioners to discuss the possible interior lighting upgrade for the Jail. The audit was completed, per previous Commissioners approval, to see if the building would qualify. The audit results were presented and discussed with the Commissioners, focusing on the savings that could be seen by the county. After discussion, Commissioners tabled any decisions until next month, allowing the County Attorney time to review the contract.

JL Brewer then discussed with Commissioners the contract with HomeWave that the Work Release Center would like to have in place in regards to visitations. There are no plans to have in person visitations at the center. HomeWave is a company that sets up visits by phone, video or text for family communication. There is a cost for the inmates to use the system, with 30% of that coming back to the county. There is no cost to the county for this system or system maintenance. County Attorney Susan Bevers has reviewed the contract, which is for 3 years with 2 year renewals. Commissioner Markel made a motion to allow JL Brewer and two Advisory Board members to sign the HomeWave contract. Commissioner Gillaspay seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

Commissioners asked Brewer to present the Work Release Center Report and Commissary Report monthly to the Commissioners once the center is up and running. Commissioner Markel made a motion for Brewer to move forward with presenting the Commissary Ordinance 5, CB 4 to Council. Commissioner Gillaspay seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

Duane Davis then presented the 2020 Annual EMA Report to Commissioners. Davis also discussed the Hazard Mitigation Contract which hopefully can be signed at the next meeting, after County Attorney review. Davis stated that he would also like to start working on writing a cyber security grant.

The Astrophysics extended warranty that was on the agenda was tabled until the next meeting allowing County Attorney time to review.

Commissioners then discussed what County action should be taken with the Mask mandate being lifted by the Governor of Indiana effective April 6, 2021. The state mandate changed to 'strongly recommended'. Commissioner Reedy asked for a motion on masks for the county to be strongly encouraged, not required. Commissioner Markel asked if that was within the authority of Commissioners. Attorney Bevers stated that if the Health Officer declares a Health Emergency he can override the Commissioners decision. Commissioner Markel stated that the Jackson County Health Department put out a letter stating that Jackson County remains in a Public Health Emergency until April 30th. Commissioners discussed their 'interpretations' on this letter. Commissioner Markel stated that he does not want to 'overstep' the County Health Department and questioned whether Commissioners have any authority to change any mask procedures at this time, since the public letter from the Health Department stated a Health Emergency in affect until April 30th. After discussion, Commissioner Gillaspay made a motion to change county buildings to be 'masks are strongly encouraged not required' which follows the State of Indiana, allowing the signs to come off the entry doors. Commissioner Markel seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried. Commissioner Gillaspay then made a motion that the Jackson County EMS be required to follow Schneck Medical & ER guidelines. Commissioner Markel stated that the EMS Director has the authority to put requirements on his staff. Commissioner Reedy seconded. Two (2) yes votes, motion carried. One (1) no vote.

Commissioner Markel made a motion to retain Jerry Ault to the Solid Waste Board. Commissioner Gillaspay seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

Highway Superintendent, Jerry Ault, stated the the Highway Dept is more then just paving. He discussed with Commissioners the need for equipment updates. Discussion was held about possibly subcontracting out some projects, for example, grading and mow trim.

2021 Contract Paving bids will be opened at the April 20th, 2021 bids.

Auditor Hurt informed Commissioners that they have been provided with the March 2021 Fund Report, the April 2021 Meeting Room Calendar and a Letter from the DNR regarding the National Registry of Historical Places. All presented for their review.

Commissioner Gillaspay then performed the 1st reading of Ordinance 4, Commissioner Bill #3. This is a speed limit ordinance for County Road 975 East from Meadowbrook Dr to County Road 340 North. Commissioner Gillaspay made a motion to approve upon 1st reading. Commissioner Markel seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried. Commissioner Gillaspay then performed the 2nd reading of Ordinance 4, Commissioner Bill #3. Commissioner Gillaspay made a motion to approve upon 2nd reading, waving 3rd reading. Commissioner Markel seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

Commissioners then recessed until April 20, 2021.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 9:00 AM.

Signed this 20th day of April, 2021.

Matt Reedy

Drew Markel

Bob Gillaspay

Roger Hurt - attest