

**Minutes of  
Jackson County Commissioners  
August 15, 2023  
9:00 AM**

Present: Commissioner Drew Markel, Commissioner Matt Reedy & Commissioner Bob Gillaspay  
Absent: All present.

Commissioner Drew Markel 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 August 1, 2023, Regular Meeting.

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

Commissioner Gillaspay made a motion to approve the Payroll of August 11, 2023, in the amount of \$535,641.26 along with claims, in the amount of \$449,113.10. Commissioner Reedy seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

**Reports from other Committees:**

Commissioner Reedy thanked all who helped with the Wall of Healing that was present at the fairgrounds earlier this month.

Commissioner Markel stated that a notice of public hearing was received from IN American Water Co regarding dam removal. The hearing will be held on Sept 6<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

**New Business:**

Lyndsay Sarver with Healthy Jackson County appeared before Commissioners to provide an update on the Opioid settlement grant and the RCO/IRACS program. After discussion, Commissioner Reedy made a motion to approve the grant match of \$100,000 to assist with the grant process. Commissioner Gillaspay seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

The RCO/IRACS program has been postponed till January 2024 with certification in Dec 2023.

Ben Beatty also addressed Commissioners regarding various outreach efforts and invited all to attend upcoming events at Harmony Park and Crossroads Park in Seymour.

Highway Superintendent, Jerry Ault, discussed the purchase of new radios that was approved in 2023 with the expense intended to be in the GO Bond. However, the 2022 bond was approved without that expenditure. After discussion, Commissioner Reedy motioned to take the funds for the radios out of the bond if necessary. Commissioner Gillaspay seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried. This will be discussed with Council as well.

Ault then discussed the 100W road project. Due to the delay in repair, the estimated cost for the project has increased significantly. Ault stated that he will be discussing this issue with Council tomorrow at the regular meeting.

Ault then presented an agreement from the Jackson County Fair Board regarding Bridge 197. The agreement states that when bridge 197 is moved to the fairgrounds, all costs will be paid by the county. Commissioner Reedy made a motion to approve the agreement. Commissioner Gillaspay seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

Ault then discussed the county brine equipment. Ault would like to send this equipment to auction and purchase items that the county can use. Commissioners advised to investigate online auctions for municipalities as that may be a more profitable outlet than the county auction.

Ault then provided an updated Paser rating report and updated Commissioners on the progress of mowing and paving.

Keith Boling, along with Ron Higgins of the IN Dept of Veterans Affairs appeared before Commissioners to formally submit a letter of retirement from Keith Boling effective Dec 31, 2023. Boling wanted to announce this topic early as to leave time to post a job listing, obtain an employee and allow time for the State to complete required training of the veteran's officer. Commissioner Reedy made a motion to accept the retirement letter from Mr Boling. Commissioner Gillaspy seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried. Commissioner Reedy followed with a motion to post the job vacancy. Commissioner Gillaspy seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

Karla Hubbard, Health Dept administrator, then presented the PHEC contract for Lin Montgomery. After review, Commissioner Reedy made a motion to approve. Commissioner Gillaspy seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried. Hubbard then discussed a grant that the Health department would provide to Seymour High School and Middle School. The grant would be for \$97,778.48 and would be used to purchase vape detectors for the schools.

Max Brown and Bonnie Klakamp then appeared before Commissioners to discuss the ongoing issue of the easement granted to a farmer to use Brown's driveway and the unimproved platted street that is in Shieldstown that provides access to the field. In discussion, Mr. Brown stated that the county is landlocking the farm ground, not him. Commissioner Markel informed Mr. Brown that the Commissioners have stated their opinion in previous meetings to Mr. Brown on this issue and that their position has not changed – the county will not be improving the unimproved platted street in question. The court has ordered an easement, so therefore, the farmer can gain access to his land. The easement was granted by Judge Travis for a 24 ft wide prescriptive easement with 75% of the cost of maintaining the drive assessed to Mr. Brown and 25% of the cost of maintaining the drive assessed to the Mr. Tape. Commissioners and the County Attorney stated that Mr. Tape has been communicated with during this process. Commissioner Reedy then made a motion, instructing Attorney Bevers to send a letter to Mr. Tape addressing his request to purchase the road/street. The letter is to inform Mr. Tape that the county cannot convey the street to him. Commissioner Gillaspy seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

**Old Business: None**

**Miscellaneous Business:**

Sheriff Meyer presented the July 2023 Jail/Sheriff report.

Sheriff Meyer stated that employee Andy Wayman has retired.

Sheriff Meyer then presented 4 vehicle titles for Commissioners to release for the purchase of 3 new vehicles to be purchased from the 2022 GO Bond. The vehicles to be traded are:

2013 Dodge VIN 2C3CDXAG2DH677840

2013 Dodge VIN 2C4RDGEG7DR741366

2017 Chevy VIN 6G3NS5U24HL307824

2016 Chevy VIN 6G3NS5R34GL213166

Commissioner Reedy made a motion to allow trade in of these vehicles. Commissioner Gillaspy seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

Jeff Hubbard informed that the county is entertaining quotes for insurance. The renewal date is October 1, 2023.

Auditor Staci Eglen informed Commissioners that they were given the July 2023 Treasurer Report.

Attorney Susan Bevers stated that in September, it will be likely that a new Zoning ordinance will be presented.

Commissioners then recessed until September 5, 2023, at 9 AM.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 9:00 AM.

Signed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023.

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Matt Reedy

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Drew Markel

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Bob Gillaspay

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Staci L Eglan - attest