Minutes of
Jackson County Commissioners
March 3, 2026
9:00 AM

Present: Commissioner Drew Storey, Commissioner Drew Markel, and Commissioner Andrew Stauffer

Absent: None

Commissioner Markel called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of silence.

Approval of Minutes

Storey made a motion to approve February 17, 2026, regular meeting minutes, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).

Payroll and Claims

- Payroll dated March 3, 2026, in the amount of $596,436.87 was approved. Motion by Storey, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).

- Claims dated March 3, 2026, in the amount of $4,669,281.96, were approved. Motion by Storey, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).

Reports from other committees: None

New Business:

Jerry Ault- Contract Paving – Bid Opening
Highway Superintendent Jerry Ault presented the contract paving bids. Grand totals were announced as follows:

- All-Star Paving – $1,757,534.25
- Dave O'Mara – $1,688,580.00
- Milestone Paving – $2,096,627.80
- Libs Paving – $1,944,965.50

Bids will be reviewed in detail by the Highway Department, with a recommendation to be presented at a future meeting. Motion to take the paving bids under advisement was made by Storey, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).

Hope Cissna - Primary Election Polling Locations
Hope Cissna, Clerk, presented the 2026 Primary Election polling locations. All locations remain the same as prior elections, with the exception that Saturday early voting hours will no longer be offered due to facility availability. Motion to approve the polling locations as presented was made by Storey, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).

JL Brewer - Community Corrections Peer Recovery Contracts
Director J.L. Brewer presented independent contractor agreements for peer recovery specialists Bernard Joseph Madden III and Brooke Lane, which has been funded through a federal grant administered by the Office of Support Services since 2020. The grant increased from $160,000 to $170,000 for 2026, allowing pay increases to these individuals. J.L. has been unable to provide these peer specialists with an increase until now.

Motion to approve the independent contractor agreements was made by Storey, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).

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Vehicle Purchase
Brewer requested approval to purchase a new Dodge Durango (V8) using previously Council approved GO Bond funds, in the amount of $48,000. A 2018 Dodge Durango currently owned will replace a 2012 Dodge Charger with mechanical issues. Equipment will be transferred from the current Durango to the new one. This new vehicle purchase will be for the field officer who is currently in the 2018 Dodge Durango.
Motion to approve the purchase of vehicles and execute the purchase agreement was made by Storey, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).

DOC Grant Support Letter
Brewer requested approval of a support letter for the annual Department of Correction Community Corrections grant.
Motion to approve and execute the support letter was made by Storey, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).

Dan Banks - Juvenile Home

Dan Banks presented a recommendation from the Juvenile Home Board of Directors to close the facility. Stating that board's decision was based on these factors: the regulatory burden is immense & finances are complex, liability and risk has increased due to the behavior of the kids, declining relevance to Jackson County residents, and his upcoming retirement leaving them unable to fill his shoes. Commissioner Stauffer provided additional context supporting the closure. DCS will decide the date of closure. The staff has agreed to stay until then. Those employees wanting to stay employed with Jackson County have reached out to Jeff Hubbard, and he is working to find them other positions.
Motion to wind down operations and close the Juvenile Home was made by Stauffer, seconded by Storey. Motion carried (3 yes votes).
The Board of Commissioners thanked Dan for his 31 years of service and dedication to the Juvenile Home!

Old Business: None

Miscellaneous Business:

Daulton Anderson- Jackson County Building Commissioner
Presented a 2026 lawn care and treatment estimate from A+ Plus Outdoor Services covering the Courthouse, Judicial Center, Veterans Office, and Sheriff's Department. The contract includes 28 mows and four treatment rounds for a total of $32,600.
Motion to approve the lawn care contract was made by Storey, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).

Jerry Ault – Highway Superintendent
Commissioner Storey presented a General Engineering Services Agreement with Butler, Fairman, and Seufert for on-call engineering services as needed. We have not had a County Engineer for some time, and he believes this will be a very beneficial service for us to have.
Storey made a motion to approve the agreement pending attorney review, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).

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Sheriff – Rick Meyer
Provided an update on jail healthcare accreditation through the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC). The jail received provisional accreditation, with full review scheduled for June 30, 2026. Currently only 15-20% of jails nationwide and only two Indiana counties currently hold this accreditation.

Jeff Hubbard – Human Resources
Commissioner Storey reached out to him requesting a list of all the boards, who the board presidents are, and their meeting schedules. Jeff provided a comprehensive list of these to the Commissioners.

- Lynn Howard with the Vernon Township Board mentioned to Jeff that they have two members currently serving on their board that have not been officially appointed. These members are Toby Ortman and Vaughn Eisenhower. Jeff requested they be appointed, with Toby replacing Dez Densford and Vaughn replacing Steve Murphy.

A motion to appoint Vaughn Eisenhower (term ending 2028) and Toby Ortman (term ending 2029) was made by Storey, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).

Melissa Gray – Auditor
Presented the February 2026 Fund Report. Also noted the Annual Financial Report (AFR) has been submitted.

Susan Bevers – County Attorney
No formal report.

General Remarks:
Commissioners noted Commissioner Storey's birthday.

Additional Information:
Dan Davis provided updates on Community Foundation of Jackson County:

- Spoke about the newly established Debi & Dennis Wayman Family Endowment to support the Canine Control Center. Dennis has served on the Community Foundation Board for 19 years and is a big supporter of community and the foundation. The first grant is to be paid the last of March/first of April 2027. These funds will be directed to the Auditor's Office.
- Updates on the progress on Centerstone Level 2 and Level 3 recovery homes funded by opioid settlement dollars.

Adjournment:

Due to spring break schedules, the March 17, 2026, meeting will be canceled.

Commissioners then recessed until April 7, 2026, at 9:00 AM.

Commissioner Markel made a motion to adjourn.

Signed this 7th day of April 2026.

Andrew Stauffer

Drew Markel

Drew Storey

Melissa Gray-Attest