Minutes of
Jackson County Commissioners
April 7, 2026
9:00 AM

Present: Commissioner Drew Storey, Commissioner Drew Markel, and Commissioner Andrew Stauffer
Absent: None

There was a brief delay in the start of the meeting due to a livestreaming issue; therefore, the Board of Commissioners was not able to livestream this meeting. An audio recording is available upon request from the Jackson County Auditor's office.

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 March 3, 2026, regular meeting minutes, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).

Payroll and Claims

- Payroll dated March 6, 2026, in the amount of $617,283.00 was approved. Motion by Storey, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).
- Payroll dated March 20, 2026, in the amount of $594,045.50 was approved. Motion by Storey, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).
- Payroll dated April 3, 2026, in the amount of $594,326.14, was approved. Motion by Storey, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).
- Claims dated April 7, 2026, in the amount of $3,897,968.89, were approved. Motion by Storey, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).

Reports from other committees: None

New Business:
Jerry Hounshel- Street Closure for Annual Driftwood Fire Dept. Car Show and Concert
Request to close the following streets in the Town of Vallonia on Friday, June 5, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. for the annual Driftwood Township Volunteer Fire Department Car Show and Concert:

- Main Street from Church Street to Commerce Street (2 blocks)
- Commerce Street from State Road 135 to Main Street (1 block)
- Water Street from St. Louis Avenue to Main Street (1 block)

No residence or businesses will be landlocked as a result of the street closings.
Motion to grant permission was made by Storey, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).

Erik Hackman- Maintenance-Sullivan Concrete Coating Contract and Quotes from Astrophysics Inc.

- Presented four quotes from Astrophysics Inc. for service or replacement of the Baggage X-ray machine located in the Judicial Center:
    - Repair only to the existing machine for the voltage regulator -$3,833.96
    - One-year extended warranty/service contract for existing machine- $8,408.00
    - Turnkey replacement of existing machine with included one-year warranty- $38,000.00
    - Turnkey replacement of existing machine with extended five-year warranty- $61,895.00

The machine went down on March 3, 2026, and needs repair to the voltage regulator. When Erik contacted the vendor to get a quote for the repair, he was informed that the extended warranty for the machine, which must be renewed each year, had expired. It was also acknowledged that the machine has been in service for eight years and is nearing the end of its ten-year life span. After reaching ten years, no extended warranty service would be offered, and the machine would become increasingly difficult to service and that replacement would be recommended. The Commissioners discussed all four quotes and concluded that future investigation is required to determine a strategy for the aging equipment.
Stauffer requested that the vendor be inquired as to whether parts could be purchased independently for the repair of the voltage regulator and perform the repair in-house, as there is currently no warranty to be void and the prospect of extending the warranty in the future was not economically reasonable to the board.
Motion to approve repairs to the Judicial Center x-ray equipment not to exceed $3,833.96 was made by Storey, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).

- Presented contract from Sullivan Concrete Coating. EMA is needing to move the radio room from the basement to the second floor of the Judicial Center. Before the move takes place the damaged and aging flooring in the area needs to be removed and replaced.

Sullivan Concrete Coating provided a similar service in the basement of the Judicial Center. The results exceeded everyone's expectations for quality, low maintenance durability, and aesthetic appearance.
Funding for this project is available in the County Cumulative Capital Development - Custodian Building Repair budget
Motion was made by Storey to execute the contract and seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).

Toby Ortman-Requesting Authorization for State Surplus Purchases
Presented an authorization letter to be signed by the Commissioners to grant him authority to purchase or otherwise acquire items from state surplus.
Motion was made by Storey to execute the authorization and sign the letter, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).

Kendal Wildey-Columbus Christian School -Open Enrollment Banner for Brownstown Campus
Requesting permission to hang a banner on the courthouse fence facing Main Street to advertise open enrollment of the Columbus Christian School's Brownstown Campus. The sign was displayed for the Commissioners to approve. The previous guidelines for hanging banners on the fence were discussed. County Attorney Susan Bevers provided details on the current standard for the length of time a banner may be displayed, which is two weeks prior to an event and must be removed no later than one week after the event has ended and the activity is coordinated through the facilities department. The school was wishing to have the banner displayed now through the end of summer. The Commissioners advised that the school display the sign now for a period not to exceed three weeks and then coordinate with Erik Hackman in Facilities to arrange future times throughout the summer to display the banner for a time span not exceeding three weeks at a time.
Motion to grant Columbus Christian School limited permission to place an open enrollment banner on the courthouse fence, consistent with existing guidelines, was made by Storey, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).

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Miko McRoy-Friends of Medora Covered Bridge- 15th Anniversary meal
Requested permission to use the Medora Covered Bridge for the Friends of Medora Covered Bridges 15th anniversary meal scheduled for the first weekend of August. A certificate of liability insurance for the Friends of Medora Covered Bridge was presented to the Auditor.
Motion granting permission for use of the Medora Covered Bridge was made by Storey, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried unanimously (3 yes votes).

Michael Reynolds-Permission to close Co. Rd. 425 S. June 20-21 for Motor Cross Race
Requesting permission to close Co. Rd. 425 S in Medora over Father's Day weekend. The goal of the event is to bring back an annual motocross race after 13 years. The road closure is requested so that race participants may safely cross from their staging area to the racecourse on the other side. The event is expected to bring in 4,000 people. The Commissioners and County Attorney addressed several safety concerns. It was recommended that the Race Promoter take the following actions:

- Have participants read and sign a waiver in regard to the potential hazards and safety regarding crossing the roadway.
- Communicate with the County Highway and EMA for guidance for crossing the roadway and putting up barricades during the road closure.
- Contact the Jackson County Visitor Center for help advertising the event and arranging accommodations for out-of-town guests of the event.

Motion was made by Storey to grant permission to close Co. Rd. 425 S. June 20-21, subject to safety coordination, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).

Old Business: None

Miscellaneous Business:
Daulton Anderson- Jackson County Building Commissioner

- Provided update to Commissioners that funding concerns over the mowing contract have been resolved pending additional appropriation.

Jerry Ault – Highway Superintendent

- Presented contract paving bid tabulations for the purpose of awarding bids.

All Star Paving
Presented the lowest bids for projects 1-4, 1-5, and 1-6 for a total bid of $105,178.15 for all three projects.
Dave O'Mara
Presented the lowest bids for the remaining projects for a total bid of $1,583,401.85 for those 20 projects.
Storey made a motion to award bids to the lowest bidders, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).

- Provided an update on flood recovery and clean-up process. The department has not yet received a response from FEMA.

- Storey presented two quotes from Vialytics for a roadway asset management system.

The system would assist the Highway Department with unbiased PACER ratings using AI technology, greatly improving accuracy and consistency. It would also streamline the work order process for repairs and assisting in sign inventory. It will also aid in gathering necessary information that INDOT requires for the county to apply for official detour expenses reimbursement, improving the likelihood of claims being rewarded.

Both quotes will include a $4,750 one-time service fee for Onboarding, Training, and Hardware.

- 3-year service agreement gross total per year $41,182.80
- 5-year service agreement gross total per year $38,121.00

Storey recommended the 3-year agreement, Council has been informed and fund is available in the GO Bond. Motion to approve 3-year agreement with Vialytics was made by Markel, seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).

Sheriff – Rick Meyer

- Requested authorization to purchase. Zack Elliot, a certified K-9 officer, has been hired. The department he comes from has offered the K-9 dog and the opportunity to purchase a K-9 equipped vehicle.

Motion to approve the acquisition was made by Storey and seconded by Stauffer. Motion carried (3 yes votes).

Jeff Hubbard – Human Resources

- Provided an update on Juvenile Home. It is now vacant, repairs are being made, and future use will need to be evaluated.

Melissa Gray – Auditor

- Presented the February 2026 Treasurer's Report and March 2026 Fund Report.
- Presented for signature the title for 2012 Dodge Charger to execute trade-in by Community Corrections approved at previous meeting.
- Gave an update on Freedom Firework's Easter Egg Hunt hosted on the Courthouse lawn.
- Jackson County RDC April Reporting Requirements. Annual report on TIF balances.
- Updates to HSA contribution procedure were made as of the April 3, 2026, pay period.
  - All payments will now be made by direct deposit through payroll.
  - Employees will now be able to see the county pay portion on their paystub.
  - Deposit will be made on the first pay period of each month instead of the first pay period of each quarter.
- Proposed amendment to the Capital Asset Ordinance-Ordinance No. 2 Commissioners Bill No. 2
  - Amendment necessary to outline the Department's responsibilities of maintaining and reporting inventory for the onboarding of Inventory Management system.
  - Addition of a statement that the useful life of an asset may be extended by repair or maintenance, by GAAP and SBOA guidance.
  - Addition of a provision for reporting Controllable Assets below the capitalization threshold of $5,000 and define a Controllable Asset.

Commissioners requested that changes be made to Section 3 that specifically states, "Department Heads", be changed to "Departments" to eliminate any confusion around department heads being able to designate inventory related duties to members of the department head's staff.

Susan Bevers – County Attorney

No formal report.

Additional Remarks:

Steve Meyer

Steve wanted to address the Commissioners and the county and thank everyone who helped to save his life on February 3, 2026, when he went into cardiac arrest in front of the Courthouse prior to that morning's Commissioners meeting. He said it is a miracle that he is alive and doing well just eight weeks later. He also remarked that it was the courthouse being equipped with an AED and individuals who knew how to use the device. He added that it is now his mission that people have AEDs because they save lives. It saved his life. Markel informed Steve that the company that provides our AED equipment has a Life Saver Award program, and they would like to recognize everyone who was there that day and assisted Steve by providing a free AED to donate to a place of their choosing. Steve apologized for delaying the February 3rd meeting. A round of applause was given.

Adjournment:

The Commissioners then recessed until April 21, 2026, at 9:00 AM.

Commissioner Markel made a motion to adjourn.

Signed this 21st day of April 2026.

Andrew Stauffer

Drew Markel

Drew Storey

Melissa Gray-Attest