# MINUTES
# JACKSON COUNTY COUNCIL
# March 19, 2025

Members Present: Councilman Brady Riley, Councilman Brian Thompson, Councilwoman Amanda Lowery, Councilman John Nolting, Councilwoman Jacqueline Jasinski.
The Lord's Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance were recited.
Councilman Riley called the meeting to order at 8:00AM.
Sheriff Rick Meyer performed the swearing in of the Council.
February 19, 2025, Meeting Minutes: Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes; Councilwoman Lowery seconded the motion. The motion passes with five (5) yes votes.

**NEW BUSINESS:**
Centerstone Update:

- Brittany Drawbaugh, Adult Team Manager: Introduced Jackson County Impact Report. Provides almost 55,000 services to more than 1,000 clients. They have been approved as a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC). Working to get more people in the door, getting them better and making sure they come back. Centerstone has done more hiring and extended their hours.
- 94 Jackson County residents were referred to Centerstone this past year: 48% of those were on Medicaid-assisted treatment. 77 of the 94 individuals actually went on to be in one of the recovery houses where we had a 79% completion rate for them. Last December, Lilly Endowment Inc. awarded a $3.4 million grant to the Jackson County Community Foundation to tackle mental health and substance use disorder. The grant provides for three recovery homes wherever they can find housing in Jackson County.
- Tammie Eppley, Grants Manager: 7 Counties in R-Corp (Rural Communities Opioid Response Program): Brown, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Lawrence, Owen and Scott. Looking for a therapist for Jackson-Jennings Community Corrections. They will be staffed at CC – paid from grant from them.
- Brooke Rahn, Crisis Coordinator: Stride Crisis Center & Mobile Crisis in Columbus which serves as an alternative to the hospital emergency department or jail. Over the past year, Columbus' Stride Center has served more than 1500 people, of which 78 were from Jackson County. Their average response time is 59 minutes, since they are coming from Columbus. Most referrals come law enforcement, schools, or their Centerstone office in Seymour. They coordinate ongoing care and provide follow-up to ensure that they are still in care. The primary issues identified are suicidal or homicidal thoughts, adult mental health and youth mental health. The Stride Center and Mobile Team are 24 X 7. They also have therapists and clinicians on call if needed. Stride Center employees: 4 day/2 night.

Tax Abatements:

- Dr. John Fye Family Medical Partners – Real Property: Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve; Councilwoman Jasinski seconded the motion. The motion passes with five (5) yes votes.
- Scott Teipen Tampico Grain – Real and Personal Property: Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve; Councilwoman Lowery seconded the motion. The motion passes with five (5) yes votes.

- J.R. Cummings, Brownstown Quality Tool & Automation – Personal Property: Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve; Councilwoman Jasinski seconded the motion. The motion passes with five (5) yes votes.
- J.R. Cummings, 2JWC Holdings, LLC – Real Property: Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve; Councilman Nolting seconded the motion. The motion passes with five (5) yes votes.
- Ben Thompson, B & A Thompson Grain Farm – Personal Property: Councilwoman Lowery made a motion to approve; Councilwoman Jasinski seconded the motion; Councilman Thompson abstained. The motion passes with four (4) yes votes; One (1) abstain.

Additional Appropriations – Ordinance #6 Council Bill #6: Requesting approval for more money than was appropriated in the annual budget:

- Local Roads and Streets – Other Services and Charges - $43,000; Total: $43,00.
- Jackson County General Fund – Personal Services - $892; Other Services and Charges - $15,000; Total $15,892.
- Local Health – Personal Services - $25,421; Supplies - $100,000; Other Services and Charges - $235,987; Capital Outlays - $332; Total: 361,740.
- Health Dept. – Supplies - $75,000; Other Services and Charges - $150,000; Total: $225,000.

These additionals are to match what was approved by the State.
Need to get Reedy involved when making budgets so the monies go into the appropriate fund.

- 1st Reading: Councilwoman Jansinski made a motion to approve; Councilman Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passes with five (5) yes votes.
- By Title Only – 2nd Reading: Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve; Councilman Nolting second the motion. The motion passes with five (5) yes votes.

Emergency Transfers – Resolution #3, Council Bill #7:
Transfer monies within the Health Department Budget of the County of Jackson, Indiana, for 2025.
From: Local Health – Harm Reduction Patient Support Specialist;
To: Local Health – Professional Services;
Amount: $85,000

From: Local Health – Seymour School Social Worker;
To: Local Health – Professional Services;
Amount: $75,000

1st Reading: Councilwoman Lowery made a motion to approve; Councilwoman Jansinski seconded the motion. The motion passes with five (5) yes votes.
Discussion:

BT: Explain what you are transferring out of the personnel side to the personal services side.
KH: The One series in budgets is for actual people on site; and the Three series is for contracted positions. Last year 2024 that would have been in the wrong category. I turned in my budget, and the State approved that. After discussions, that's not really where that person should be; it should be in the other category. So that's a contracted position and should be in that other category.
BT: These contracted positions, they came in to play when this COVID grant money came in, correct?
KH: This is First Indiana funding that is appropriated from the legislature. So I have my regular general fund money, I have from First Indiana and that's additional funding that the legislature approved that in 2024 we got $560,00, and in 2025 we have $1,080,000. So we were tasked with going into the community to see what additional things we could do to help. So those two particular positions we found a social work for Seymour High School, and the other is contracted with Schneck and that is for the community health worker in the emergency department to have a recovery coach and community health worker and help with folks that come into emergency room that need other services besides what actually is going on in the emergency room. So that's two great partnerships and were thrilled to be able to provide that money for that.
BT: So these funds started a couple of years ago?
KH: Yes, in 2024. That's a new fund.
BT: What's the extent of the program – when does it expire (from the state)?
KH: I'll find out at the end of April when they do the new budget, how much we'll get for the net 2 years. It looks like it's going to fall somewhere between those two things. But once that money comes, it stays in our account, we carry over; it never gets sent back.
BT: What's the extent of the program, when does it expire (from the state)?
KH: I'll find out at the end of April when they do the new budget, how much we'll get for the next 2 years. It looks like it's going to fall somewhere between those two things. But once that money comes, it stays in our account, it's carry over; it never gets sent back.
BT: When these programs started and these positions came, I think we need to be very careful about using extra state monies, whether it's from a COVID grant or any kind of a fund source, it's not guaranteed longevity, and to pay a salary out of that, could end up being a problem because if that funding goes away, then it's very hard to say we don't need that person anymore. Now when its in professional services as a contract, then that's a little easier to understand. I know that the contract services sometimes end, and I think that's important to note that we have these positions that aren't guaranteed forever, because the money is not guaranteed forever.
KH: That's correct, but the money has also been given to us to increase services to better serve the community, so some of those we won't be able to do if we don't have additional staff.
BT: What we've got to watch here, from this side of the bench, is we've got to watch the money. I appreciate that you do a great job watching from the health side, but we got to watch is what's coming down the road and we got to, say, commit to this for a certain period of time and then all of sudden that's gone and we've got to scrounge around. There's a lot of things going on at the State this year. Many of you know about at the State House legislative wise, for example next year, more than likely we will have 0 growth. So our budget, whereas we have spent all these years preparing our annual budget for the county late summer, we have a growth quotient. And the growth quotient matches the growth of the economy, supposedly. We will have none

this year. We will have no growth. We always count on the growth to pay salary increases or additional needs; and if we set ourselves up for a bunch of additional needs in 3-5 years, and we continue with the State plan of 0 growth in our budget, we're going to get really pinched. We need to prepare.

Old Business:
Board Appointment – JRAC and Community Corrections Advisory Board. Jake Brown's positions to be filled by Jacqueline Jasinski. Councilwoman Lowery made motion to approve; Councilman Nolting seconded the motion. The motion passes with five (5) yes votes.

Misc:

- Jerry Ault, County Highway Superintendent: We got the Community Crossings grant for this year. 2016 – 2025 PASR Rates; 8.5 miles, short of goal, which is good; Preventive Maintenance Program:
    - Chip and Seal is the cheapest ($2/square yard) but it makes everyone mad.
    - Slurry Seal ($3/square yard) = $31,686/mile. You can close and open the road in 6-8 hours.
    - Micro-surface ($4/square yard) = $42,240/mile. This waterproofs the road. It seals the cracks and voids in the asphalt. It's like putting a canopy over the road and this is what we want to do. If a road rates at a 6 or 7, micro surfacing puts it at an 8 and it stays there for quite a while. Asphalt averages $86,000/mile. You can open the road an hour later. It also has a higher skid resistance than asphalt. Hendrick Co., Harrison Co., Jefferson County, and some counties up North are doing this. The plan is to do more micro-surface and that will eventually start replacing the contract asphalt. Councilman Thompson talked about, and is looking into, adjusting the tipping fee at the landfill to help pay for more micro-surfacing.
    - Right now, his staff is using comp. time when working over 40 hours. In 2026, he wants to start paying out overtime and will plan for that in the upcoming budget.
- Rick Meyer, Jackson County Sheriff: Monthly Report for February.
- Hans Eilbracht, Auditor: February 2025 Fund Balance Report; February 2025 Treasurer Report; RDC Report from Reedy Financial Group.

Councilwoman Lowery made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Nolting seconded. The motion passes with five (5) yes votes.

**MINUTES**
**JACKSON COUNTY COUNCIL**
**March 19, 2025**

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 16, at 8:00AM.

Signed this 16th day of April 2025.

Brian Thompson

Brett Turner

Michael Davidson

John Nolting

Jacquelyn Jasinski

Amanda Lowery

Brady Riley

Hans C. Eilbracht - attest