

**REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HUNTINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA, TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023**

IN ATTENDANCE: Commissioner Rob Miller; Commissioner Tom Wall; Commissioner Terry Stoffel; Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director; Phil Hibbert, Facilities Manager; Bob Garrett, Attorney; Cheryl Jarrett, Soil & Water Conservation District Office Manager; Kyle Lund, Soil & Water Conservation District; Kim Hostetler, DCD Director; Bob Jeffers, EMA Director; Thomas Fuller, Deputy EMA Director; Sheriff Chris Newton; Chief Deputy Chad Hammel; Ilene Huluska, Herald Press; Patti Smith, BLN; Greg Parker; Jill Landrum, Auditor; Terry Miller, County Council; Shelley Septer, Clerk of the Courts; Troy Hostetler, Highway Superintendent; Mike Grant, Markle Town Manager; Jon Gray, Markle Volunteer Fire Department; Rex Johnson, Bippus Volunteer Fire Department; Chris Karlin, Council on Aging; Heather Malone, Chief Probation Officer; Seth Kissinger, Financial Data Analyst; Laura Dillon, Norwood RSWD; Stephanie Popplewell, Norwood RSWD; Cathy Johnson, Norwood RSWD; A. Dee Hinesley, Norwood RSWD;

The following people attended virtually through Zoom: Reid Sealby, AES Clean Energy; Terry Miller, County Council; John DiDomizio, BLN; un-named guest

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES)

5/15/2023

Tom Wall made a motion to approve the Minutes from the May 15, 2023 Commissioner Meeting. Terry Stoffel seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Tom Wall voting yea, Terry Stoffel voting yea, and Rob Miller voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS)

5/31/2023

Tom Wall made a motion to approve the Claim Docket for May 31, 2023. Terry Stoffel seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Tom Wall voting yea, Terry Stoffel voting yea, and Rob Miller voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF PAYROLL)

5/19/2023

Tom Wall made a motion to approve the Payroll Docket for May 19, 2023. Terry Stoffel seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Tom Wall voting yea, Terry Stoffel voting yea, and Rob Miller voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Soil & Water Conservation District request

Kyle Lund and Cheryl Jarrett from the Huntington County Soil & Water Conservation District spoke with the Commissioners regarding an increase in the dues that are owed for operating funds due to the Upper Wabash River Basin Commission for the 2023 calendar year. They requested \$1,000.00 from the Commissioners to fulfill this commitment. Terry Stoffel made a motion to pay \$1,000.00 from Service Contracts 1000-36200-00000-0068. Tom Wall seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea, Tom Wall voting yea, and Rob Miller voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING)

5530 Goshen Rd. Huntington, Indiana

The Public Hearing was opened at 8:30 a.m.

The following people were present for the hearing: Commissioner Terry Stoffel; Commissioner Tom Wall; Commissioner Rob Miller; Kim Hostetler, DCD Director; Phil Hibbert, Facilities Manager; Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director; Bob Garrett, County Attorney; Ilene Huluska, Herald Press; Sheriff Chris Newton; Chief Deputy Chad Hammel; Bridgett Burkhardt, Office Manager

Kim Hostetler, DCD Director stated that the violations at 5530 Goshen Road have been corrected. Commissioner Stoffel stated he also pulled into the driveway at the property and everything looks good. Hostetler recommended they release the Order of Enforcement.

No further public comment was made.

The Public Hearing was closed at 8:32 a.m.

Terry Stoffel made a motion to release the Order of Enforcement. Tom Wall seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea, Tom Wall voting yea, and Rob Miller voting yea.

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IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING)

1600 Taylor St. Huntington, Indiana

The Public Hearing was opened at 8:46 a.m.

The following people were present for the hearing: Commissioner Terry Stoffel; Commissioner Tom Wall; Commissioner Rob Miller; Kim Hostetler, DCD Director; Phil Hibbert, Facilities Manager; Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director; Bob Garrett, Attorney; Ilene Huluska, Herald Press; Sheriff Chris Newton; Chief Deputy Chad Hammel; Bridgett Burkhardt, Office Manager

Kim Hostetler, DCD Director stated that the violations at 1600 E. Taylor Street had been corrected. She recommended they release the Notice of Enforcement. Hostetler noted that the property has been mowed and they received a tower report with no issues.

No further public comment was made.

The Public Hearing was closed at 8:47 a.m.

Terry Stoffel made a motion to release the Order of Enforcement. Tom Wall seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea, Tom Wall voting yea, and Rob Miller voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

4611 E. Station Rd. Roanoke, Indiana

Greg Parker came in on behalf of 4611 E. Station Road in Roanoke and asked to keep some of the buildings that are worth salvaging. He stated he should be closing on the property by the end of June. The Commissioners stated they will allow him to keep some of the buildings. Hostetler stated this was just an informal request and not a continuous Order.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Commissioner Sale

Commissioner Tom Wall stated that every property offered at the Commissioners' Sale was sold. He stated that Kim Hostetler and her staff did a great job of notifying property owners near these areas to let them know they would be offered at the sale.

IN THE MATTER OF AGREEMENT)

Data Sharing Agreement

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Data Sharing Agreement between Huntington County and AES Clean Energy. Tom Wall seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea, Tom Wall voting yea, and Rob Miller voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

EMA Update

Bob Jeffers, EMA Director introduced his new deputy, Thomas Fuller. He stated that Thomas has completed his CPR Instructor training and is ready to train Huntington County staff members. The Commissioners agreed by consensus to pay for the CPR Instructor Kit with ARPA funds. Terry Stoffel made a motion to pay the employee CPR training fees from the HR Training budget. Tom Wall seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea, Tom Wall voting yea, and Rob Miller voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Sheriff's Department Update

Sheriff Chris Newton gave an update on the office renovation at the jail. He also spoke with the Commissioners about funding sources for School Resource Officers, body and vehicle cameras for the Sheriff Deputies. The county grant writer, Aliza Tourkow, is searching for grants for these items.

Sheriff Newton stated that they currently have 8 federal inmates in the jail with more to come this week.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

LIT Supplemental

Auditor Jill Landrum stated that they county received \$1.8 million in supplemental funds. She stated that specific accounts/units will get their share. She also shared that the taxing software company offered to come in and do a demo for the Commissioners and/or any County Council members who would like to attend.

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IN THE MATTER OF INVOICE)

Cumulative Courthouse Funds

Tom Wall made a motion to approve the use of Cumulative Courthouse funds to pay an invoice to Rangeline Electric in the amount of \$9700.00. Terry Stoffel seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Tom Wall voting yea, Terry Stoffel voting yea, and Rob Miller voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF PERMIT)

1287 Waterworks Rd.

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Application for Permit for Comcast Cable for the location of 1287 Waterworks Road Huntington, Indiana. Tom Wall seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea, Tom Wall voting yea, and Rob Miller voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF PERMIT)

400 W between 900 S & 1000 S

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Application for Permit for Citizens Telephone for the location of 400 West between 900 South and 1000 South for fiber optic. Tom Wall seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea, Tom Wall voting yea, and Rob Miller voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

HR Update

Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director stated that there is a new employee portal for insurance and that everyone will receive instructions to help them navigate it.

IN THE MATTER OF BIDS)

Bridge #11

The Commissioners opened sealed bids at 10:01 a.m. for Bridge #11 (CR 700 South – east of CR 500 West). The following people were in attendance during the bid opening: Commissioner Rob Miller; Commissioner Tom Wall; Commissioner Terry Stoffel; Troy Hostetler, Highway Superintendent; Bob Garrett, County Attorney; Phil Hibbert, Facilities Manager; Jill Landrum, Auditor; Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director; Ilene Haluska, Herald Press; Patti Smith, BLN; Dan Kinder, Milestone; Bridgett Burkhart, Office Manager

Two bids were received:

- Milestone \$758,953.64
- R.L. McCoy \$765,965.70

Tom Wall made a motion to take the bids under advisement. Terry Stoffel seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Tom Wall voting yea, Terry Stoffel voting yea, and Rob Miller voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Surplus Inventory

Phil Hibbert, Facilities Manager spoke with the Commissioners about a surplus of chairs that were left at Victory Noll. We do not need the chairs. Tom Wall made a motion to classify these chairs as surplus inventory. Terry Stoffel seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Tom Wall voting yea, Terry Stoffel voting yea, and Rob Miller voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Salt Truck Location

Phil Hibbert, Facilities Manager, stated that he received confirmation that the salt truck used at the O'Donnell Center could be stored off-site in order to keep it out of the elements.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Town of Markle

Mike Grant, Markle Town Manager, spoke with the Commissioners requesting \$30,000.00 in CREDIT funds to help pay for marketing of the downtown area and bring business to Markle. He stated that they have been researching and applying for funding through READI Grants, the Governor's Initiative, and Main Street programs. Terry Stoffel made a motion to commit \$30,000.00 to be paid from CREDIT Project 4. Tom Wall seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea, Tom Wall voting yea, and Rob Miller voting yea.

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Volunteer Fire Departments

Jon Gray, Markle Volunteer Fire Department, and Rex Johnson, Bippus Fire Department spoke with the Commissioners on behalf of the Huntington County Fire Chiefs Association. They spoke about the difficulty of getting and retaining volunteer firefighters and first responders. They would like to provide an incentive of some type to help with retention and recruitment. The Commissioners are fully in support of this idea and will look into what can be done.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Poll Worker pay

Shelley Septer, Clerk of the Courts, spoke with the Commissioners regarding the need to increase the pay for poll workers during elections. She provided IC 3-6-6-25 Compensation for election workers is fixed by the County Executive/Commissioners along with a list of current rates that are paid and the proposed increase:

Position	Current Pay	Proposed increase	Notes
Inspector	\$130.00	\$190.00	Hours worked 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Judge	\$100.00	\$150.00	Hours worked 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Clerk	\$100.00	\$150.00	Hours worked 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Travel Board	\$70.00	\$100.00	Travels to nursing home and residences
Early Voting	\$90.00	\$125.00	
Satellite	\$90.00	\$125.00	
Absentee Ballot Counters	\$50.00	\$100.00	
Meals	\$10.00	\$20.00	
Training	\$10.00	\$20.00	
IT	\$1,250.00	\$1,750.00	
Equipment Movers	\$500.00	\$800.00	

Tom Wall made a motion to adjust the rates for each position with the exception of IT - due to a conflict of interest. Terry Stoffel seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Tom Wall voting yea, Terry Stoffel voting yea, and Rob Miller voting yea.

Terry Stoffel made a motion to adjust the rate for the IT position. Rob Miller seconded and the motion passed 2-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea, Rob Miller voting yea, and Tom Wall abstaining.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Council on Aging Budget Request

Chris Karlin, Executive Director of the Huntington County Council on Aging presented his 2024 budget request in the amount of \$20,000.00. By consensus, the commissioners agreed to take the request under advisement.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Community Corrections Grant Application

Heather Malone, Chief Probation Officer and Seth Kissinger, Financial Data Analyst, presented a grant application for Community Corrections. Terry Stoffel made a motion to move forward with the grant application. Tom Wall seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea, Tom Wall voting yea, and Rob Miller voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Norwood Regional Water & Sewer District

Representatives from the Norwood Regional Water & Sewer District requested \$120,000.00 in funding to replace the water meters, software, and cover installation of the meters. There would be approximately 190 meters total. Terry Stoffel made a motion to allocate \$120,000.00 from ARPA funds. The Commissioners requested to see the quotes for the installation of the meters. Tom Wall seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea, Tom Wall voting yea, and Rob Miller voting yea.

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Broadband Update

John DiDomizio, BLN, gave an update on the broadband project. He stated that Citizens is expanding into the Mount Etna area which was previously un-served. He will continue to watch for grant opportunities.

The Commissioners recessed at 11:55 a.m.

Absent
Rob Miller

Tom Wall
Tom Wall

Terry Stoffel
Terry Stoffel

ATTEST:

Jill M. Landrum
Jill M. Landrum

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