

**REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HUNTINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023**

IN ATTENDANCE: Commissioner Rob Miller; Commissioner Terry Stoffel; Commissioner Tom Wall; Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director; Phil Hibbert, Facilities Manager; Bob Garrett, County Attorney; Jill Landrum, Auditor; Tim Allen, Dispatch Director; Chad Hacker, Restorative Residential Supervisor; Terry Miller, County Council; Chief Deputy Chad Hammel; Sheriff Chris Newton; Jan Williams, Youth Services Bureau Executive Director; Kris Scherer, Ilene Haluska, Herald Press; Sister Jenny Howard; Troy Hostetler, Highway Superintendent; Hank Miller; Beth Johnson, USI Consultants; Bridgett Burkhart, Office Manager

The following people attended virtually through Zoom: DesaRae Nickell; Tim Scherer

The Huntington County Building Corporation held their annual meeting in the Commissioners' Office at 8:30 a.m. with Tom Smith, Tony Johnson, and Bob Garrett attending.

Commissioner Miller called the Commissioners' meeting to order at 8:53 a.m.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES)
11/27/2023**

Tom Wall made a motion to approve the Minutes of the November 27, 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)
12/13/2023**

Tom Wall made a motion to approve the Claim Docket for December 13, 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)
12/1/2023**

Tom Wall made a motion to approve the Payroll Docket for December 1, 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)
Parking ramp at the courthouse**

The Commissioners discussed a quote that was provided to seal the parking area on the ramp on the Warren Street side of the courthouse. The Commissioners decided to wait until spring and revisit this topic at that time.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)
Huntington County Public Safety Dispatch Update**

Tim Allen, Dispatch Director, provided the following updates to the Commissioners:

- Dispatch is in the process of switching the high priority notification system from Hiplink to Rapid Notify. This is a Motorola product and included in the lease agreement at no extra cost – saving approximately \$6,000/year.
- In the past, Huntington County has used 'Code Red' for access to the federal alert program, IPAWS. This is the best system for doing a mass notification for an emergency event. It allows a message to be sent to ALL cell phones and land lines in a chosen area on a map.
- Dispatch is changing the 911 provider from AT&T to INDigital.

Also discussed, Tim shared that they are currently down two dispatchers which makes it difficult to cover shifts. Tim asked the Commissioners for permission for the dispatchers to carry over more than 40-hours of PTO.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)
Permission to accept donation**

Chad Hacker, Restorative Residential Supervisor, requested permission for Community Corrections to accept a donation of approximately \$200-\$250 from the Joy Pleasers Clown Ministry. Tom Wall made a motion to accept the donation. Terry Stoffel seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Tom Wall voting yea, Terry Stoffel voting yea, and Rob Miller voting yea.

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

LACE Grant Applicants

Jan Williams, Youth Services Bureau Executive Director, presented a list of the LACE Grant applicants that were approved in 2023 for implementation in 2024.

IN THE MATTER OF PERMIT)

2095 N. Rangeline Road

Tom Wall made a motion to approve the Application for Permit for Jumpstart Communications in the location of 2095 N. Rangeline Road in Huntington County. 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)

Roanoke Parking Lot

Bridgett Burkhart, Office Manager presented the final pay application for the municipal parking lot in Roanoke. The work has been completed. Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the final payment. 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 ORDINANCE

2023-17

Tom Wall made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-17: An Ordinance to adopt a Capital Improvement Plan for 2024-2026 pursuant to IC 6-3.6-6-9.5. 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)

Economic Development Update

Mark Wickersham, Executive Director of Huntington County United Economic Development, provided an overview of 2023 and the economic growth impact on Huntington County. Mark stated that he is looking at potentially doing a job fair event at the courthouse in the future.

IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAMATION)

Lucky Racer

The Commissioners proclaimed that February 2024 to be 'Lucky Racer Month'. Kris Scherer, Founder/Director of Lucky Racer and 2024 National Captivating Ambassador explained that Lucky Racer provides scholarship opportunities for skilled junior and adult snow skiers and racers from diverse backgrounds to ignite their inner strength, growth, and faith within themselves and the sport of skiing.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Introduction of Sr. Jenny Howard

Sister Jenny Howard, Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, introduced herself to the Commissioners. She is a main contact now for the sisters at Victory Noll. Sister Jenny wanted to clarify any miscommunication regarding that the Stations of the Cross that were formerly located at the Victory Noll campus. The Stations of the Cross have been removed and gifted to Saint Felix Catholic Center. They will be completely refurbished and then placed where the public will be able to enjoy them on the St. Felix campus. Phil Hibbert, Facilities Manager, stated that he would be glad to introduce the Sisters to those doing the refurbishing and provide them with status updates on this project.

Sister Jenny also stated that the campus grounds look great and Phil and Alden are doing a great job.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Sheriff's Department Update

Sheriff Chris Newton gave the Commissioners an update on the federal inmates being housed at the Huntington County Jail. He stated that the goal for 2024 is to earn \$1.3 million in revenue for housing those inmates. Sheriff Newton intends to use the federal inmate income to purchase equipment for the department.

Sheriff Newton stated that the School Resource Officer (SRO) has completed the SRP training and is ready to go.

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Also discussed was potential new inmate mail procedure which would entail the mail being scanned in and emailed to the inmates. This would help to keep drugs that are potentially sent through the mail out of the jail. Sheriff Newton stated that correspondence from attorney would be dealt with in the same manner as they are now. There is ongoing research into this topic.

Sheriff Newton discussed Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests. The Sheriff has a policy that he would like to have the attorney review.

IN THE MATTER OF CONTRACT)

Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Action Plan

Tom Wall made a motion to approve the contract letter with VS Engineering on the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Action Plan. 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 RESOLUTION)

2023-18

Tom Wall made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-18: A Resolution establishing the intent to conduct a Commissioners' Sale to sell Tax Sale Certificate for property that is severely delinquent in payment of property taxes. 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 AGREEMENT)

SRI Tax Sale Services

Tom Wall made a motion to approve the Commissioners Certificate Sale Services Addendum to the SRI Tax Sale Services Agreement. 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)

Minimum bids for Tax Sale

Tom Wall made a motion to set the minimum bid for the Commissioner Sale at \$50.00. 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 RESOLUTION)

2023-19

Tom Wall made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-19: A Resolution to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the Fort Wayne Housing Authority to participate in the Hoosier Homes Program. 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 AGREEMENT)

Fort Wayne Housing Authority

Tom Wall made a motion to approve the Cooperative Agreement with the Fort Wayne Housing in regard to the Hoosier Home Program. 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 CONTRACT)

Trail Engineering Assessment – Huntington to Roanoke

Tom Wall made a motion to approve the contract with VS Engineering in regard to the Huntington to Roanoke Trail Engineering Assessment. 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 CONTRACT)

Trail Engineering Assessment – Huntington to Andrews

Tom Wall made a motion to approve the contract with VS Engineering in regard to the Huntington to Andrews Trail Engineering Assessment. Terry Stoffel seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Tom Wall voting yea, Terry Stoffel voting yea, and Rob Miller voting yea.

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IN THE MATTER OF CONTRACT)

Trail Engineering Assessment – Roanoke to Allen County Line

Tom Wall made a motion to approve the contract with VS Engineering in regard to the Roanoke to Huntington County/Allen County Line Trail Engineering Assessment. 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 REPORT)

Treasurer’s Report

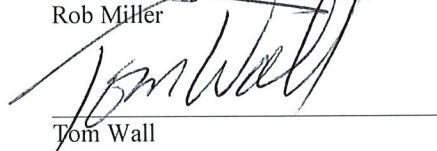
Bridgett Burkhart, Office Manager, presented the County Treasurer’s Monthly Report for the month ending 11/30/2023 as prepared by Brenda Hamilton, County Treasurer.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT)

Tom Wall made a motion to adjourn at 11:10 a.m. Terry Stoffel seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Tom Wall voting yea, Terry Stoffel voting yea, and Rob Miller voting yea.



Rob Miller



Tom Wall



Terry Stoffel

ATTEST:


Jill M. Landrum, Auditor

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