
**REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HUNTINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA, MONDAY APRIL 22, 2024**

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; Ilene Haluska, Herald Press; Deborah Luzier, GRW; Mark Wickersham, HCUED; Terry Miller, County Council; Dawn Harvey; Todd Smith; Tim Eckert, Veteran Services Officer; Troy Hostetler, Highway Superintendent; Chad Hacker, Restorative Residential Living Supervisor; Seth Kissinger, Financial and Data Systems Analyst; Treena Roudebush, Geenex Solar LLC; Bridgett Burkhart, Office Manager

Approximately 138 people attended the meeting to voice their concerns over potential industrial solar projects in Huntington County. Sign-in sheets are available to view in the Commissioners' Office.

The following people attended virtually using Zoom: Numerous people attended virtually during the solar project discussion portion of the meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES)

4/8/2024

Rob Miller made a motion to approve the Minutes from the April 8, 2024 meeting. Terry Stoffel seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Rob Miller voting yea, Terry Stoffel voting yea, and Tom Wall voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS)

4/24/2024

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Claim Docket for April 24, 2024. Rob Miller seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea, Rob Miller voting yea, and Tom Wall voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF PAYROLL)

4/19/2024

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Payroll Docket for April 19, 2024. Rob Miller seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea, Rob Miller voting yea, and Tom Wall voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Industrial Solar Discussion

The Commissioners opened the floor to residents that wanted to share their concerns about potential industrial solar farms in Huntington County. After everyone who wanted to speak was given the floor, the consensus of those in attendance was that they would like amendments made to the Ordinance in the form of setbacks, barriers, etc. The Commissioners stated that they would seek advice from the land-use attorney to determine next steps. They would like to 'pause' the solar projects until more research can be done.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING

Unified Development Ordinance

The following people were present for the Public Hearing for the adoption of a Unified Development Ordinance: Commissioner Terry Stoffel; Commissioner Tom Wall; Commissioner Rob Miller; Deborah Luzier, GRW; Jill Landrum, Auditor; Bob Garrett, County Attorney; Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director; Phil Hibbert, Facilities Manager; Ilene Haluska, Herald Press; Todd Smith; Dawn Harvey; Treena Roudebush, Geenex Solar LLC; Terry Miller, County Council; Bridgett Burkhart, Office Manager

The Public Hearing was opened at 10:23 a.m.

Deborah Luzier, GRW shared the work that GRW had completed (Phase 1) on the Unified Development Ordinance in which the Zoning Ordinance and the Subdivision Ordinance are brought together. This is a more efficient approach for all of the land use regulations. It contains shared definitions to eliminate conflicting terms and is easy to manage and update when necessary.

No further public comment was made.

The Public Hearing was closed at 10:33 a.m.

**REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HUNTINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA, MONDAY APRIL 22, 2024**

IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE)

2024-04

Terry Stoffel made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-04: An Ordinance for the consideration and adoption of a Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to consolidate and amend the Zoning and Subdivision Control Ordinance for Huntington County. Rob Miller seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea, Rob Miller voting yea, and Tom Wall voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Unified Development Ordinance – Phase 2

Rob Miller made a motion to proceed with the Phase 2 of the UDO process – not to exceed \$30,000.00. Phase 2 will reformat, reorganize, and maximize user-friendliness. Terry Stoffel seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Rob Miller voting yea, Terry Stoffel voting yea, and Tom Wall voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING

5033 N 320 W

The following people were present for the Public Hearing for 5033 North 320 West: Commissioner Terry Stoffel; Commissioner Tom Wall; Commissioner Rob Miller; Jill Landrum, Auditor; Bob Garrett, County Attorney; Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director; Phil Hibbert, Facilities Manager; Ilene Haluska, Herald Press; Todd Smith; Dawn Harvey; Treena Roudebush, Geenex Solar LLC; Terry Miller, County Council; Bridgett Burkhart, Office Manager

Kim Hostetler, DCD Director joined the hearing via speakerphone.

The Public Hearing was opened at 10:37 a.m.

This property is under an Order of Enforcement. Property owner Dawn Harvey provided some background information on the property, as well as, possible plans for the property. Commissioner Miller shared that this process is complaint-driven. Todd Smith, a nearby neighbor, shared his concern about the property. He stated that he is concerned about children becoming curious and potentially getting hurt on the property.

No further public comment was made.

The Public Hearing was closed at 10:57 a.m.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Order of Enforcement – 5033 N 320 W

Terry Stoffel made a motion to allow the property owners of this location until August 1, 2024 to have the house demolished. The motion included the option for the property owners to keep the foundation if they wish to do so, however, the basement windows must be sealed up. Rob Miller seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea, Rob Miller voting yea, and Tom Wall voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Site Selection Award

Mark Wickersham, Executive Director of HCUED, shared that Huntington County was the recipient of a Site Selection Award. Site Selection Magazine annually ranks the 520 small market economic development programs throughout the U.S. This is the 8th time in recent years Huntington County has made the Top 100 Nationally and 2023 was our highest ranking at 16th in the nation, putting us in the top 3% of the best small market efforts in the Nation. Recognizing that our program is a team effort, it couldn't happen without the collaboration among the County, City, HCUED and local employers.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Project Warren

Mark Wickersham, Executive Director of Huntington County United Economic Development, presented "Project Warren" to the Commissioners for their consideration. "Project Warren" is considering investing \$13,550,000.00 to acquire and redevelop the former Golfo di Napoli property, creating 23 new jobs with an average wage over \$30 per hour. The Company has requested consideration for incentives from the County. Using the approach we have over the years, the project would

**REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HUNTINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA, MONDAY APRIL 22, 2024**

justify a grant of CEDIT from the County in the amount of \$130,000. The Commissioners are willing to help if everyone is collaborating and approved a grant of \$120,000 contingent upon the Town of Warren offering \$10,000 and the IEDC offering an offer acceptable to the company. Additionally, no funds are to be disbursed until after the delinquent property taxes are paid in full. Commissioner Wall also wants to be sure the jobs being promised are on the company's payroll, not contract or temp workers.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Early Childhood Advocate

Terry Miller, County Council, spoke with the Commissioners regarding affordable, safe, childcare in Huntington County. He is partnering with Courtney Bonbrake, an Early Childhood Advocate. Courtney was on the agenda to participate in this discussion, however, the meeting was running behind and she was unable to stay. Courtney will be on the agenda for the May 6, 2024 Commissioners meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Veteran Services Officer Update

Tim Eckert, Veteran Services Officer gave an update on his outreach statistics for 2024 Quarter 1. He also gave a list of the Veterans from Huntington County that have passed away during this quarter.

Also discussed was the Veteran of the Quarter. Tim stated that the Veteran that was chosen for the first quarter of the year is not well enough to come to the courthouse to receive his award. The Commissioners asked Tim to see if the Veteran would like to have a Commissioner present the award to him at his home. Tim stated that he would do so and report back to the Commissioners.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Highway Department Update

Troy Hostetler, Highway Superintendent, gave an update on the Highway Department including that there have been two Requests for Proposal (RFP) posted for the federal aid bridge projects. He stated that he is also currently working on bids for the Community Crossings Matching Grant.

Troy also shared that they have been working with their new software programs SoftWorks and Vialytics. He also discussed the staffing situation. The Commissioners gave Troy permission to advertise to hire for one position.

IN THE MATTER OF AGREEMENT)

Tek84 Intercept Whole Body Scanner

Chad Hacker, Residential Living Supervisor and Seth Kissinger, Financial and Data Systems Analyst presented an annual service agreement for the Tek84 Intercept Body Scanner that is used in the Community Corrections facility. The agreement is in the amount of \$10,900.00 and will come from the Community Corrections budget. Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the agreement. Rob Miller seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea, Rob Miller voting yea, and Tom Wall voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Solar Discussion

Treana Roudebush, Geenex Solar LLC Community Relations Director, explained the Paddlefish project and shared the view of the solar companies on the proposed solar projects in Huntington County.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Summary Plan Description

By consensus, the Commissioners approved the Summary Plan Description which is the master document showing is covered under the health insurance and dental insurance plans.

**REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HUNTINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA, MONDAY APRIL 22, 2024**

**IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION)
2024-05**

Rob Miller made a motion to adopt Resolution #2024-05: Huntington County is partnering with the City of Huntington, Town of Markle, Town of Roanoke, Town of Warren, and Town of Andrews for participation in the Stellar Pathways program creating the Huntington County region.

**IN THE MATTER OF INVOICE)
Cumulative Courthouse Funds**

Rob Miller made a motion to pay the following invoices from Cumulative Courthouse funds:

Accent Interiors Inc.:

- Invoice #3821 \$606.53
- Invoice #3819 \$1,300.80
- Invoice #3848 \$118.95

Terry Stoffel seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Rob Miller voting yea, Terry Stoffel voting yea, and Tom Wall voting yea.

**IN THE MATTER OF PERMIT)
Heartland REMC – WO240196**

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Application for Permit for Heartland REMC for the location of CR 400 West between 1000 South and 1100 South. Rob Miller seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea, Rob Miller voting yea, and Tom Wall voting yea.

**IN THE MATTER OF PERMIT)
Heartland REMC – WO240179**

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Application for Permit for Heartland REMC for the location of CR 1000 South between 600 West and 300 West. Rob Miller seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea, Rob Miller voting yea, and Tom Wall voting yea.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT)

Terry Stoffel made a motion to adjourn at 12:19 p.m. Rob Miller seconded and the motion passed 3-0 with Terry Stoffel voting yea, Rob Miller voting yea, and Tom Wall voting yea.

Tom Wall

Rob Miller

ATTEST:

Jill M. Landrum, Auditor

Terry Stoffel

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HUNTINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA**

A signed copy of these approved minutes is available by request in the Commissioners’ Office at the County Courthouse, 201 N. Jefferson St., Huntington, IN 46750.