
**REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HUNTINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA, MONDAY MAY 6, 2024**

IN ATTENDANCE: Commissioner Rob Miller; Commissioner Terry Stoffel; Commissioner Tom Wall; Bob Garrett, County Attorney; Hank Miller; Treena Roudebush, Geenex; Stanna Clift; Heather Malone, Chief Probation Officer; Judge Jennifer Newton; Judge Davin Smith; Terry Miller, County Council; Jill Landrum, Auditor; Katy Hudson, Humane Society; Ilene Haluska, Indiana Plain Dealer; Patti Smith, BLN; Joakim Abrahamsson, IT Director; Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director; Phil Hibbert, Facilities Manager; Shelly Snyder, Bowen Center; Courtney Bonbrake; Mike Thompson; Vicki Pearson, Recorder; Bob Bolen; Jerry Meehan, Surveyor; Chris Karlin, Huntington Area Transport (HAT); Sheriff Chris Newton; Bridgett Burkhart, Office Manager

The following people attended virtually using Zoom: Julia Surber, VS Engineering

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES)

4/22/2024 & 4/29/2024

Rob Miller made a motion to approve the Minutes from the April 22, 2024 and the April 29, 2024 meetings. 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)

5/8/2024

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Claim Docket for May 8, 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)

5/3/2024

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Payroll Docket for May 3, 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)

Discussion with Judge Newton

Judge Jennifer Newton and Judge Davin Smith spoke with the Commissioners about an occurrence at the March 25, 2024 Commissioners' Meeting in which they felt Heather Malone, Chief Probation Officer, was treated poorly when she brought a courtesy copy of a Travel Authorization to the Commissioners for some of their staff to attend the ALL RISE National Drug Court Conference in Anaheim, California from 5/21/24-5/25/24. Judge Newton stated that travel for court employees is approved by the judge, not the Commissioners. The Commissioners recognize that this falls under the judicial branch per Indiana Code.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Humane Society Update

Katy Hudson, Huntington County Humane Society, gave an update on Animal Control and the Humane Society. She stated that between January and April, there were approximately 100 calls from the County alone – not including calls within the City of Huntington. She also shared that they now have the highest number of cases they have prosecuted (approximately 10). Katy stated that they have good partnerships with local law enforcement. The spay/neuter program is really making a difference. Commissioner Wall stated that they are doing a phenomenal job. He is concerned about space at the shelter and has spoken with Region 3A to be on the lookout for grants that may be able to help.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Mass Text Notification

Joakim Abrahamsson, IT Director, spoke with the Commissioners regarding mass texting options for the County. These would be informational texts only (meeting dates, etc.), not emergency alerts. Joakim stated that this must be a voluntary program in which people would have to subscribe to receive the messages. The cost to the County would be approximately \$1,500 per year for the service. By consensus, the Commissioners agreed to move forward with this program.

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

IT Travel Authorization

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Travel Authorization for Alex Smith, PC Technician, to attend the Introduction to Microsoft Configuration Manager Conference in New York City, New York from August 25, 2024 to August 30, 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)

IT Travel Authorization

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Travel Authorization for Joakim Abrahamsson, IT Director, to attend the VMWare Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada from August 25, 2024 to August 29, 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)

Recorder Travel Authorization

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Travel Authorization for Vicki Pearson, Recorder, to attend the Software Vendor Educational Symposium in Davenport, Iowa from May 20, 2024 to May 22, 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)

Need for childcare in Huntington County

Courtney Bonbrake spoke with the Commissioners about the need for quality, licensed, childcare in Huntington County. She stated that there is currently a shortage of approximately 960 seats.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Samuel Gesaman Drain

Surveyor Jerry Meehan spoke with the Commissioners regarding the Samuel Gesaman Drain. He stated that this has been a problem for a long time. He has received one estimate so far for the repair which came in at approximately \$30,000.00. They would also need cross pipes and to restore the landscape where the repair is being done. Rob Miller made a motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 to be paid from CEDIT Project 6. 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 REPORT)

Huntington Area Transportation Quarterly Report

Chris Karlin, Huntington Area Transportation (HAT) Director, presented the 5311 INDOT Quarterly Report. Rob Miller made a motion to approve the report. 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 DISCUSSION)

Huntington Area Transportation (HAT) Update

Chris Karlin, Huntington Area Transportation (HAT) Director, stated that they are making a lot of changes to the transportation that they offer to residents. He stated that they have had an increase of nearly 1,000 riders from last year to this year. Even with the increased ridership, they have not had to turn down any riders. The Commissioners asked Mr. Karlin to remind Tim Eckert, Veteran Services Officer, that transportation for veterans is at no cost to them.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

O'Donnell Center Landscaping Update

In an effort to restore the landscape and lawn area at the O'Donnell Center at Victory Noll following the construction of the communications tower, Commissioner Tom Wall would like to make a donation of topsoil and the use of his personal skid steer to help with this project. Rob Miller made a motion to accept the donation of the topsoil and use of the machine. Terry Stoffel seconded, and the motion passed 2-0 with Rob Miller voting yea and Terry Stoffel voting yea. Commissioner Wall abstained.

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IN THE MATTER OF REPORT)

Huntington County Sheriff’s Department Annual Report

Sheriff Chris Newton shared the 2023 Annual Report which contained the 2023 Annual Statistics for the Sheriff’s Office. This information included items such as funds/fees collected, Commissary-funded vehicles and equipment, detective investigations, K-9 Deployment Summary, Disaster Team/Traffic Unit, Transport Team, and Courthouse Security statistics, and much more. Sheriff Newton stated that they have been able to keep the number of inmates down due to alternative sentencing. He also spoke about the Inmate Advocate and the programs she has been able to facilitate. She assists inmates with placement to recovery homes, finding local resources for housing, food, clothing, and employment opportunities. These efforts are for the benefit of reducing recidivism.

IN THE MATTER OF INVOICE)

Cumulative Courthouse Funds

Terry Stoffel made a motion to pay the following invoice using Cumulative Courthouse Funds:

- Full Service Mechanical
 - Invoice #24M-0087 \$303.57

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)

6969 W 200 N Andrews, IN 46702

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Application for Permit for Transworld Network Corp. (TWN) for the location of 6969 West 200 North Andrews, Indiana. 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 REPORT)

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Bridgett Burkhart, Office Manager, presented the Clerk of the Circuit Court Report for the month ending March 31, 2024 as prepared by Shelley Septer, Clerk of Huntington Circuit/Superior Courts.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT)

Terry Stoffel made a motion to adjourn at 10:23 a.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 Huntington County Commissioners’ Office at 201 N. Jefferson St. or by calling (260) 358-4822.