
**REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HUNTINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA, MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024**

IN ATTENDANCE: Commissioner Terry Stoffel; Commissioner Rob Miller; Commissioner Tom Wall; Bridgett Burkhart, Office Manager; Phil Hibbert, Facilities Manager; Auditor Jill Landrum; Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director; Bob Jeffers, EMA Director; Thomas Fuller, Deputy EMA Director; Rex Kline; Hank Miller; Bob Garrett, County Attorney; Erik Long, Sand Strategies; Erika James; Alicia Symons, Environmental Health Specialist/Chief Sanitarian; Terry Miller, County Council; Chris Karlin, HAT Executive Director; Chad Hacker, Community Corrections; Seth Kissinger, Community Corrections

The following people attended virtually using Zoom: Treena Roudebush, Geenex; Franco Minoldo, NUP Media

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES)

7/1/2024

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Minutes from the July 1, 2024, meeting. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS)

7/3/2024

Rob Miller made a motion to approve the Claim Docket for July 17, 2024. Terry Stoffel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF PAYROLL)

7/12/2024

Rob Miller made a motion to approve the Payroll Docket for July 12, 2024. Terry Stoffel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

On-site sewer systems

Alicia Symons, Environmental Health Specialist/Chief Sanitarian, spoke with the Commissioners regarding the proposed ordinance for on-site sewer systems. She stated that she has worked with the State to ensure that the regulations meet their requirements.

IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE)

2024-09

Rob Miller made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-09: An Ordinance regulating the installation, construction maintenance and regulation of on-site sewage systems. Terry Stoffel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Convenience stores / gas station restrooms

Commissioner Wall asked if the restrooms and food prep areas at convenience stores and gas stations are inspected. Alicia Symons, Environmental Health Specialist/Chief Sanitarian, stated that Katrina from the Health Department takes care of that.

Alicia also discussed the Junk Ordinance and stated that some of the properties that they had been working on have been somewhat cleaned up. The Commissioners asked her to let them know which locations they are having issues with.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Resident Concern regarding Board Appointments

Hank Miller addressed the Commissioners stating that he had two concerns with their board appointments. He is concerned with a conflict of interest on the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals (PTABOA). Commissioner Wall stated that the county attorney had advised what steps needed to be taken for that particular instance.

Mr. Miller was also concerned with the material that is available at the Huntington Public Library.

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Mass texting notifications to the public

Thomas Fuller, EMA Deputy Director, presented a Customer Acceptance Form for the RAVE notification system to allow the County to send mass texts regarding public hearings, meetings, etc. This will not replace the emergency alerts – it is a separate list. Residents must subscribe to the alerts, but there is no cost for the service. The residents can opt out at any time if they wish to do so. The cost for this service for 12 months is \$1,000.00. Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve Commissioner Wall to sign the document. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Electric Fan Distribution

Bob Jeffers, EMA Director, spoke with the Commissioner about a request that they received from the United Way of Huntington County. United Way is applying for a grant to purchase electric fans through Duke Energy. They asked if EMA would partner with them to help distribute the fans. The Commissioners agreed by consensus to have EMA help in this endeavor.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Huntington Area Transportation – Vehicle Grant

Chris Karlin, Huntington Area Transportation Executive Director, presented a grant application from INDOT for a bus replacement in the amount of \$119,611.60. Federal funds - \$93,985.00. Local match - \$25,627.00. Terry Stoffel made a motion to accept the grant and have Commissioner Wall sign the application. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Huntington Area Transportation Letter to INDOT

Chris Karlin, Huntington Area Transportation Executive Director, advised the Commissioners that with the resignation of their Transportation Director, Lisa Harbuck would be stepping into that position in the interim. Mr. Karlin presented a letter to INDOT explaining the staff changes and that they did not expect any major changes to HAT services during the transition. Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve Commissioner Wall signing the letter to INDOT. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Huntington Area Transportation Audit

Chris Karlin, Huntington Area Transportation Executive Director advised that they need one commissioner to attend a meeting for their audit. The meeting will be held at the HAT office on August 21, 2024. Chris will send a schedule as soon as one is available.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Senior Expo

Commissioner Wall shared that he felt that the Senior Expo was well put together and well attended. He stated that everyone did a great job of putting this event together for Huntington County seniors.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Staffing Update

Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director discussed some staffing issues and the methods that are used for advertising job openings. Commissioner Wall asked if incentives could be given in an effort to attract more applicants. Bob Garrett, County Attorney stated that incentives are not an option.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Community Corrections Microgrant application

Chad Hacker and Seth Kissinger from Community Corrections spoke with the Commissioners regarding SCF Microgrants: Improving responses to the needs and behaviors of people on Community Supervision. They requested that the Commissioners sign a letter of support on behalf of the Huntington County Community Corrections. Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the letter of support. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Events at the O'Donnell Center at Victory Noll

Commissioner Wall shared that Leslie Rentschler, Executive Director of Community Corrections had reached out to the Commissioners for permission to have some onsite events at the O'Donnell Center for the participants. Commissioner Wall stated that the Commissioners are fine with them having those types of events and that they are good for morale. Mr. Hacker stated that this would just be for the participants, they are not inviting guests at this time.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Stations of the Cross

Commissioner Wall gave an update on the Stations of the Cross that were originally located on the O'Donnell Center campus and had been removed last fall by the caretakers of St. Felix. The stations have been restored and have now been installed on the St. Felix campus where they can be admired by visitors to that campus. He stated that they look great.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Highway Department Update

Troy Hostetler, Highway Superintendent spoke with the Commissioners about implementing a Gravel Road to Chip/Seal Conversion program. He provided guidelines and step-by-step instruction for the commissioners and the county attorney's review.

Troy shared that he and Commissioner Wall would be attending a road funding roundtable in Auburn on August 10, 2024.

Troy stated that they have a culvert pipe that measures 7' tall and 9' wide that is surplus. He stated that they would get approximately \$2400.00 if they scrap it, but he would like permission to put it on the website for bid with a minimum bid of \$2500.00. Rob Miller made a motion to deem the culvert pipe as surplus inventory and put it out for bid. Terry Stoffel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

Construction of a new home in Yakes Subdivision will be done where there is currently no county road. Troy stated that the resident is going to put in gravel for now (using County specifications). If there is future development in that area, Troy will get a cost to chip/seal the road. Per Bob Garrett, the County does not have to install or maintain the road if it is used only in a driveway capacity.

Discussion was had regarding replacement of the fuel system at the Highway Department. Troy will attend the July 22, 2024 County Council meeting to discuss financing options. Troy also stated that he researched using biodiesel in the equipment and found that it was not good for the engines. He recommends not using biodiesel for the vehicles and equipment at this time.

IN THE MATTER OF INVOICE)

Cumulative Courthouse Funds

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

- New Era Technologies \$55,000.00
- New Era Technologies \$24,665.00
- Deco Illusions, LLC \$23,900.00

Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Andrews Water Project

Commissioner Tom Wall shared that the Andrews Water Project is the #1 project on the SFY 2025 Project Priority List for the Indiana Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Loan Program.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Solar Advisory Group Application

Bridgett Burkhart, Office Manager, presented a sample application for the Solar Advisory Group for the Commissioners review. The Commissioners made minor changes to the application. Bridgett will send the revised application to the mediator for his review. The application will be available on the County's website and social media platforms.

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IN THE MATTER OF PERMIT)

100 East between 800 South and 700 South

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Application for Permit for Citizens Telephone in the location of CR 100 East between CR 800 South and CR 700 South. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF REPORT)

Clerk of the Circuit Court Report

Bridgett Burkhart, Office Manager, presented the Clerk of the Circuit Court Report for the month ending June 30, 2024, as prepared by Shelley Septer, Clerk of Huntington Circuit/Superior Courts.

IN THE MATTER OF RECESS)

The Commissioners went into recess at 10:23 a.m.

The Commissioners resumed session at 11:16 a.m.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Letter to Andrews Plan Commission

Kim Hostetler, DCD Director had provided a letter for the Commissioners to review pertaining to the Andrews Plan Commission regarding the Solar Moratorium – Andrews Plan Commission Docket #APC-24-002. The moratorium was tabled at the June 12, 2024 Plan Commission Meeting because they were not able to obtain 6 votes which is required for official action. The letter states that there is no way possible to obtain a different outcome due to the fact that Andrews does not have a second EJT member.

IN THE MATTER OF AGREEMENT)

Sand Strategies, LLC Media Agreement

Rob Miller made a motion to approve the Master Service Agreement with Sand Strategies LLC for social media services. Terry Stoffel seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT)

Terry Stoffel made a motion to adjourn at 11:24 a.m. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

Tom Wall

Rob Miller

ATTEST:

Jill M. Landrum, Auditor

Terry Stoffel

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