

**REGULAR SESSION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL  
OF HUNTINGTON COUNTY INDIANA  
JULY 22, 2024 MEETING MINUTES**

The Huntington County Council met in regular session on the 22nd day of July 2024 in the G.A.R. Room, at the Huntington County Courthouse, Huntington, Indiana, at 7:00 P.M. for considering all business brought before it pursuant to notice given to the Huntington Herald-Press on July 11, 2024.

Council Members Present: Kendall Mickley, Terry Miller, Shane Bickel, Peyton Miller, Keith Eller, John Stoeckley, and Brian Warpup.

Council President Kendall Mickley called the meeting to order. Terry Miller gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A PUBLIC HEARING was held to consider Resolution 2024-07-22 - Waiver of Non-Compliance for Commodity Blenders for their Real Property Tax Abatement. Mark Wickersham, the HCUED Director, spoke in support of the Waiver of Non-Compliance. He mentioned that the Tax Abatement Committee met previously to review submitted CF-1s, and recognized that Commodity Blenders surpassed their originally estimated cost, and they also created more jobs than originally estimated. The company continues to grow, and they are preparing to add a second shift. They are also supporting community groups such as 4-H auction, Outstanding Ag Student program, and sponsorship of a youth basketball team in Warren. They have also offered grants to local fire departments, and they are involved in the Warren Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Wickersham also indicated that while Commodity Blenders overlooked the filing of the CF-1 for Real Property, their delay in filing did not substantially impact the county's process of property tax certification with the State of Indiana. Therefore, the committee recommended approval. Council member and committee member John Stoeckley also noted that the personal property filing for Commodity Blenders was submitted on time. Council member Brian Warpup noted that he resides in the Warren area and mentioned that the company appears to be reputable, and they are locally involved. The Public Hearing was closed.

ITEM 1: President Kendall Mickley asked for approval of the County Council minutes from the June 24, 2024 meeting. Keith Eller made a motion to approve the minutes. Brian Warpup seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

ITEM 2: Resolution 2024-07-22 - WAIVER OF NON-COMPLIANCE for Commodity Blender's Real Property tax abatement was presented for adoption. Brian Warpup made a motion to adopt the Resolution. John Stoeckley seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

ITEM 3: Zach Sand, President of Sand Strategies LLC, along with Erik Long, the Program Director for Elevate Huntington County; and Alex Downard appeared to provide program details for implementing economic development growth initiatives.

ITEM 4: Doyle Krieg, the Council's appointee to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission, provided a committee report prior to the Council meeting. His report indicated that for the six month period of January through June 2024, there have been 21 license renewals; 6 new licenses issued; 4 transfers; and 2 violations.

ITEM 5: Highway Superintendent Troy Hostetler requested a Transfer of Appropriation of \$336.00 from MVH Fund (non-restricted) budget line 1176.11015.00000.0531 - Foreman to 1176.12650.00000.0531 - Certification Pay.

Terry Miller made a motion to approve the transfer. Peyton Miller seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

ITEM 6: Troy also requested an Additional Appropriation totaling \$250,000.00 in the following MVH (Unrestricted) Fund 1176, as follows:

1176.22100.00000.0533 - Unleaded Fuel	\$	130,000.00
1176.22101.00000.0533 - Diesel Fuel	\$	120,000.00

John Stoeckley made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation. Keith Eller seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

ITEM 7: Troy also requested an Additional Appropriation of \$175,000.00 in the Motor Vehicle Highway budget line 1176.49100.00000.0533 - Misc. Road Equipment.

Brian Warpup made a motion to approve the transfer. Terry Miller seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

ITEM 8: Troy also requested an Additional Appropriation request of \$250,000.00 for Cum Bridge Fund 1135 budget line 1135.36200.00000.0000 - Service Contracts.

Keith Eller made a motion to approve the transfer. John Stoeckley seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

\* **ADDITIONAL CONVERSATION** - Troy discussed options for replacing the county's fuel tanks. He said that the Indiana Bond Bank will finance up to 25 years @ 5% with a 25% buy-in fee. Crossroads Bank in Wabash is offering 4% for a term of 7 years. Troy mentioned that there is \$1.00 per gallon savings for those on the fuel plan, and that the fuel fee will be increased from \$0.05/gallon to \$0.50/gallon to help offset the cost of the project, and future maintenance.

Troy also mentioned that he was aware that the mayor had inquired about the use of biodiesel, but after talking with other mechanics, they determined that it is not a suitable option for the highway trucks.

Auditor Jill Landrum inquired about the grant from IDEM that Troy mentioned at the June meeting, that would pay for half of the cost of the removal of the old tanks. Troy said that he would need to submit the paperwork to the contractor that says the new tanks have been approved, and the contractor will work with IDEM to get reimbursed. Auditor Landrum also inquired about the possibility of another grant that Troy mentioned previously that would pay for approximately 30% of the cost for putting the new tanks in, because that would need to be determined in order to know the total amount to be financed. Troy said he would find out the total cost before they put the new tanks in and he is working on getting the numbers. Troy also said that it would probably be Spring before the project could even start.

ITEM 9: Chief Probation Officer Heather Malone was unable to attend so Auditor Jill Landrum presented a request for a transfer of \$406.88 from the department's County General budget line 1000.12000.00000.0274 - Overtime to 1000.11500.00000.0274 - Administrator.

Terry Miller made a motion to approve the transfer. Peyton Miller seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

ITEM 10: Auditor Landrum also presented a request on behalf of JDAI Coordinator & Chief Probation Officer Heather Malone for Grant Appropriations totaling \$94,636.00 for the FY 2024/2025 JDAI Fund, as follows:

9661.11111.00000.9653 - Coordinator	\$	39,950.00
9661.12100.00000.9653 - Social Security	\$	3,057.00
9661.12200.00000.9653 - Retirement	\$	5,673.00
9661.21100.00000.9653 - Office Supplies	\$	600.00
9661.21411.00000.9653 - Food	\$	7,050.00
9661.21500.00000.9653 - Supplies	\$	4,000.00
9661.22600.00000.9653 - Probation Incentives	\$	2,700.00
9661.32500.00000.9653 - Travel Expenses	\$	5,540.00
9661.31100.00000.9653 - Contracts/Professionals	\$	15,900.00
9661.39500.00000.9653 - Subscriptions & Dues	\$	2,726.00
9661.36202.00000.9653 - Misc Services	\$	7,440.00
TOTAL:	\$	94,636.00

Shane Bickel made a motion to approve the transfer. Brian Warpup seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

ITEM 11: Seth Kissinger, the Financial Data Analyst for Community Corrections, presented a request for Transfers of Appropriation for Fund 9316 (IDOC), as follows:

FROM: 9316.11111.00000.9632 Coordinator	\$	3,554.11
9316.12300.00000.9632 Insurance	\$	16,219.00
9316.12000.00000.9632 Overtime	\$	27,354.44
Total	\$	47,127.55
TO: 9316.21100.00000.9362 Office Supplies	\$	2,010.00
9316.21420.00000.9632 Cleaning Supplies	\$	5,554.11
9316.21500.00000.9632 Supplies	\$	16,719.00
9316.21900.00000.9632 Drug Test Supplies	\$	2,990.00
9316.27500.00000.9632 Material	\$	3,000.00
9316.36200.00000.9632 Service Contracts	\$	16,854.44
	\$	47,127.55

Shane Bickel made a motion to approve the transfer. Terry Miller seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

ITEM 12: Dispatch Director Tim Allen was unable to attend so Council President Kendall Mickley spoke on his behalf for the Transfer of Appropriation request of \$50,000 from the PSAP Fund budget line 4020.11625.00000.0000 - Dispatcher to 4020.11170.00000.0000 - Supervisor.

Terry Miller made a motion to approve the transfer. Brian Warpup seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

ITEM 13: There was discussion about the change needed to correct the 2024 Wage & Salary Ordinance for the new County Clerk Stipend. Council adopted a change at the June Council meeting to give the Clerk a new stipend of \$1200 due to the new legislation. They voted to pay the stipend by increasing the Clerk's per diem (May/November) paid from budget line 1000.11250.00000.0104 from \$1200 per year (\$600 in May & \$600 in November) to \$2400 per year (\$1200 in May & \$1200 in November), in election years. It was later determined that the new stipend should be paid separately, so the Auditor set up a new budget line 1000.12655.00000.0104 for Specialty Pay. The request was also amended for the amount of the Specialty Pay to be \$2400 for 2024, payable as \$1200 for the May election and \$1200 for the November election.

- ITEM 14: Keith Eller made a motion to open the 2024 Wage & Salary Ordinance. Peyton Miller seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.
- ITEM 15: Keith Eller made a motion to make the changes as presented for the Clerk's new Stipend. John Stoeckley seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.
- ITEM 16: Peyton Miller made a motion to close the 2024 Wage & Salary Ordinance. Terry Miller seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.
- ITEM 17: Huntington County resident Hank Miller addressed Council regarding his concerns with Committee appointees and also recording and transmitting the Council meetings.
- ITEM 18: NEW/OLD BUSINESS: There was no new or old business discussed.
- ITEM 19: REPORTS & ORGANIZATION OF COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES:

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE - Terry Miller & Brian Warpup - Terry Miller reported that there are currently 14 in Work Release, and they have a capacity of 42. They are in search of someone to fill a vacant Supervisor position.

SOLID WASTE - Peyton Miller reported that discussion still exists concerning plans for the West Park facility and whether it will be moved to the landfill location. They have until October 31st to renew contract.

3-A REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT - John Stoeckley - The next meeting will be in September.

JOB CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE - Keith Eller, John Stoeckley, & Brian Warpup - Everything has been resolved with the new clerk stipend at this meeting.

LOCAL ANTI-DRUG COALITION EFFORT (L.A.C.E.)/EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM - Shane Bickel indicated that they would have another meeting in a week and a half.

LIME CITY DEVELOPMENT - Terry Miller - No meeting was held.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - Keith Eller reported that EMA has been getting a lot of publicity including presence at the 4-H fair, local fireworks, and working with the volunteer fire departments. Shane Bickel shared a story vouching for their speedy response.

PLAN COMMISSION - Terry Miller - There was no July meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for August 14th.

C.E.D.I.T. ADVISORY - Peyton Miller - No meeting was held.

HCUED - Kendall Mickley shared the mid-year report that was presented at their July meeting. They have an average of 10 active projects per year.

ABCD (Above & Beyond the Call of Duty) - Keith Eller - Nothing to report.

TAX ABATEMENT REVIEW - John Stoeckley - The Wavier of Non-Compliance was passed at this meeting.

WHARMM - Peyton Miller - nothing to report.

COMMISSIONERS HEALTH INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Keith Eller - Nothing to report.

EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL - Peyton Miller - The next meeting is scheduled for August 8th.

HCPD COMMITTEE - Kendall Mickley reported that they met to review the 2025 budget request.

INTERNAL CONTROLS COMMITTEE - Kendall Mickley & Jill Landrum- Jill reported that the State Board of Accounts is still working on the 2023 Audit.

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (RDC) - Terry Miller & John Stoeckley - The annual RDC meeting was held in July to review the TIF districts and revenues.

ITEM 20: ADJOURNMENT - Terry Miller made a motion at 7:55pm to adjourn the meeting. Keith Eller seconded and the motion passed 7-0.

ADOPTED THIS 12th DAY OF AUGUST 2024:

*Attended via Zoom*

KENDALL MICKLEY

*Keith Eller*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KEITH ELLER

*Attended via Zoom*

TERRY MILLER

*John Stoeckley*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN STOECKLEY

SHANE BICKEL

*Brian Warpup*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
BRIAN WARPUP

PEYTON MILLER

ATTEST:

*Jill M. Landrum*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JILL M. LANDRUM, AUDITOR

