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**REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HUNTINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA, MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Commissioner Rob Miller; Commissioner Tom Wall; Bridgett Burkhart, Office Manager; Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director; Auditor Jill Landrum; Phil Hibbert, Facilities Manager; Phil Zahm, Deputy Coroner; Ilene Haluska, Indiana Plain Dealer; Hank Miller; Chris Parker; Rick Fischer, Deco Illusions; Surveyor Jerry Meehan; Greg Ricker, Facilities Manager; Troy Hostetler, Highway Superintendent; Bob Jeffers, EMA Director; Thomas Fuller Deputy EMA Director; Terry Miller, County Council; Patrick Richardville, VS Engineering; Kim Hostetler, DCD Director; Mark Wickersham, HCUED; Erik Long, Elevate Huntington; Cynthia Wehr; Kathy Cron; John P. Michaels; Marc McMahon; Barry Howard; Marilyn Bradford

The following people attended virtually using Zoom: Terry Miller, County Council  
Several people joined via Zoom, but were only identified by their phone number or 'Guest'

Commissioner Terry Stoffel was absent.

**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES)  
9/23/2024**

Rob Miller made a motion to approve the Minutes from the September 23, 2024, meeting. Tom Wall seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS)  
10/9/2024**

Rob Miller made a motion to approve the Claim Docket for October 9, 2024. Tom Wall seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF PAYROLL)  
10/4/2024**

Rob Miller made a motion to approve the Payroll Docket for October 4, 2024. Tom Wall seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)  
Surplus Inventory – Coroner’s Office**

Deputy Coroner Phil Zahm spoke with the Commissioners regarding a request they received from North Carolina for body bags following Hurricane Helene. Mr. Zahm stated that Huntington County has a sufficient inventory of body bags consisting of bags that were given to the County during the COVID 19 pandemic and were not needed. He requested permission to send 60 body bags. Tom Wall made a motion to declare 60 body bags as surplus inventory and send them to North Carolina. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

Commissioner Wall expressed gratitude for all of the support efforts for hurricane relief that were organized by numerous residents and groups throughout Huntington County.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)  
Proposal for courthouse concrete repairs**

Rick Fischer, Deco Illusions, spoke with the Commissioners regarding some preventative maintenance and repairs to the concrete surrounding the courthouse that he thought could be done. The Commissioners asked Mr. Fischer to put together a quote that would include estimates for the work proposed.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)  
Solar Leases on GIS**

Chris Parker spoke with the Commissioners stating that following the last Commissioner meeting he purchased copies of the recorded leases for Solar Energy Systems from the Recorder’s Office. He again requested that the solar leases be added to the GIS as a layer. He stated that he is requesting a boundary map only and that would not be linked to property owner information. Mr. Parker also proposed that the Commissioners consider requiring a disclosure of solar leases by a seller of properties in Huntington County. Much discussion was had on this topic and Commissioner Miller stated that they would need to speak with the county attorney regarding a disclosure.

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**IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING)**

**6213 S 594 W Warren, Indiana**

The Public Hearing was opened at 9:33 a.m.

The following people were present during the hearing: Commissioner Tom Wall; Commissioner Rob Miller; Kim Hostetler, DCD Director; Bridgett Burkhart, Office Manager; Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director; Phil Hibbert, Facilities Manager; Ilene Haluska, Indiana Plain Dealer; Marilyn Bradford; Hank Miller; Chris Parker; Auditor Jill Landrum; Bob Jeffers, EMA Director; Thomas Fuller, Deputy EMA Director; Patrick Richardville, VS Engineering; Troy Hostetler, Highway Superintendent; Terry Miller, County Council; Surveyor Jerry Meehan

The Public Hearing was opened at 9:33 a.m.

Kim Hostetler, DCD Director, shared photos of the subject property with the Commissioners and asked if the owner was present at the Public Hearing. There was no owner or representative present. Hostetler stated that, at a minimum, the roof needs to be replaced, and the grass and debris removed and cleaned up. She stated that no one was present at the inspection, so they were not able to get inside to see the condition. She stated that Greg Ricker, Building Inspector, said the house didn't appear to be too bad when he looked in the windows. She noted that she had emailed the Auditor's office to find out if the property was set to go to tax sale since they are behind on taxes and there are sewer liens (she had not heard back by the time of the hearing). Hostetler's recommendation was to give them 60-days to complete the roof replacement and clean-up of the grass and debris. She stated that if no one shows up to the next public hearing, they will have a decision to make as to what to do with the property.

No other public comment was made.

The Public Hearing was closed at 9:36 a.m.

Rob Miller made a motion to uphold the Order with the 60-day timeframe. Tom Wall seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)**

**McPherron Drain**

Surveyor Jerry Meehan provided the Commissioners with an update on the McPherron Drain located in Roanoke, Indiana. He stated that he spoke with Roanoke Town Council on September 25, 2024, and they agreed to contribute 25% of the total cost for work that is required to be done on the drain. Rob Miller made a motion to contribute 25% of the total cost from CEDIT Project 4. Tom Wall seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)**

**Safe Streets for All Grant**

Patrick Richardville, Project Engineer from VS Engineering, provided an overview of the Safe Streets for All Grant and presented a copy of the Safety Action Plan. Patrick and Troy Hostetler, Highway Superintendent spoke with the Commissioners regarding potential grant funding that may be available for a project on CR 100 North. By consensus, the Commissioners agreed to moved ahead and prepare the grant application.

**IN THE MATTER OF AGREEMENT)**

**Small Structure #608 Agreement**

Rob Miller made a motion to approve the agreement with USI Consultants, Inc. for Huntington County Small Structure #608, carrying CR 750 West over Nieman Creek. Tom Wall seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)**

**Resident request**

Troy Hostetler, Highway Superintendent, stated that he received a request from a resident who is tiling his field in the area of 600 East and 400 North and is requesting help with the cost. He stated that the water stands on the road near the intersection in periods of heavy rain. After discussion, the Commissioners decided to table this request for now and research the watershed and ditches/drains in the area.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)**

**EMA Grant applications**

Bob Jeffers, EMA Director and Thomas Fuller, Deputy Director presented five (5) grant applications to the Commissioners for permission to submit:

- FFY 2025 (HMEP) LEPC Tabletop Exercise                      \$3500.00

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- FFY 2025 (HMEP) Commodity Flow Study \$19,500.00
- EMA Performance Grant – Salary Reimbursement \$41,694.82
- SHSP 2024 – Dispatch Pelican Radio Box \$150,000.00
- SHSP 2024 – Tornado Sirens \$150,000.00

Rob Miller made a motion to approve all five (5) grant applications. Tom Wall seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)**

**Huntington County Preparedness**

The Commissioners asked Director Jeffers if Huntington County is prepared for severe weather or other types of emergencies or disasters, and he stated that Huntington County is ready. All of the disaster plans are updated and ready to go. The Commissioners also thanked EMA for all of their help with organizing the hurricane relief efforts throughout the county.

The Commissioner Meeting was paused at 10:00 a.m. for a meeting of the Huntington County Redevelopment Commission. The RDC Meeting concluded at 10:40 a.m. and the Commissioner Meeting resumed.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)**

**Affidavit of Completion**

Bridgett Burkhart, Office Manager presented an Affidavit of Completion prepared by attorneys at Barnes and Thornburg for the Huntington County Jail Addition Project as required in the Trust Indenture. Rob Miller made a motion to approve signing the affidavit. Tom Wall seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)**

**Limited Warranty Deed**

Bridgett Burkhart, Office Manager, presented a Limited Warranty Deed prepared by Bob Garrett for the Place of Grace, Inc. for Parcel ID #35-05-23-200-2087.700-005. Rob Miller made a motion to approve signing of the document. Tom Wall seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF INVOICE)**

**Cumulative Courthouse Funds**

Rob Miller made a motion to approve payment of the Deco Illusions, LLC invoice in the amount of \$20,225.00 for ceiling and crown molding restoration in the rotunda and the Jefferson Street entrance of the courthouse. Tom Wall seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

**IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)**

**Meal Allowance for Travel**

Rob Miller made a motion to approve a one-time increase in daily meal allowance for Joakim Abrahamsson due to higher cost of meals in the area of the conference. Tom Wall seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

The Commissioners recessed at 11:01 a.m.

**These Minutes were approved on Monday, October 21, 2024. A signed physical copy of this document is available by request in the Commissioners' Office located at 201 North Jefferson Street.**