
**REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HUNTINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024**

IN ATTENDANCE: Commissioner Rob Miller, Commissioner Terry Stoffel; Bridgett Burkhart, Office Manager; Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director; Auditor Jill Landrum; Phil Hibbert, Facilities Manager; Bob Garrett, County Attorney; Bob Jeffers, EMA Director; Thomas Fuller, Deputy EMA Director; Joakim Abrahamsson, IT Director; Dr. Matt Pflieger, Public Health Officer; Brittany Rekenberger, Place of Grace; Jan Williams, Youth Services Bureau; Michelle Crone, Youth Services Bureau; Terry Miller, County Council; Troy Hostetler, Highway Superintendent; Keith Eller, County Council; Mark Wickersham, HCUED; Ilene Haluska, Indiana Plain Dealer; John P. Michaels; Darwin Garde; Don Freiburger; Amber Rensberger; Hank Miller; Marilyn Bradford; Alan Bowers; Sandie Graf; Jim Lyons; George Bachnivsky; Tim Allen, Dispatch Director; Aliza Tourkow, Tourkow Consulting; Michelle Bunker, IMG

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

Commissioner Tom Wall was absent.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES)

11/4/2024

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Minutes from the November 4, 2024, meeting. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS)

11/20/2024

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Claim Docket for November 20, 2024. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF PAYROLL)

11/18/2024

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Payroll Docket for November 18, 2024. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF AGREEMENT)

Ricoh Master Maintenance and Sale Agreement

Joakim Abrahamsson, IT Director, presented an Agreement with Ricoh for the lease of printers for county departments. Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the agreement. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Opioid Settlement Fund Update

Dr. Matt Pflieger, Public Health Officer, provided an overview of how the Opioid Settlement Funds have been distributed throughout Huntington County. He stated that they were able to provide \$162,000 in grants in 2024 to non-profit organizations helping with the opioid crisis. Dr. Pflieger shared that the overdose rate has dropped significantly in Huntington County and the State of Indiana overall.

Brittany Renkenberger from the Place of Grace explained how the funds have helped with their organization and their ability to open a men's home. Jan Williams and Michelle Crone spoke about the funds that were granted to the Youth Services Bureau and how they were used.

IN THE MATTER OF LEASE)

1401 S. Jefferson Street – Huntington, Indiana

Bob Jeffers, EMA Director, presented the annual lease for the property located at 1401 South Jefferson Street in Huntington, Indiana. Director Jeffers stated that he researched other properties of similar size, and this location was by far the most reasonable. Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the lease. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

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IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE)

2024-13

Terry Stoffel made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2024-13: Huntington County Emergency Management and Emergency Preparedness Program: General Provisions and Definitions. Rob Miller second, and the motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Damage Assessment Course

Thomas Fuller, Deputy EMA Director provided an update regarding a Damage Assessment course that was held in Huntington County. This course was designed to help ensure that things are in order in the event that Huntington County would need to apply for State or Federal disaster funding.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Solar Advisory Group Update

George Bachnivsky provided an update on the progress regarding revision of the solar energy systems ordinance. He stated that both groups (in favor of and in opposition to) solar energy have met with the mediator separately and the next step is to meet with both groups at the same time.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Letter of Commitment – Bridge 89

Troy Hostetler, Highway Superintendent presented a Letter of Commitment for the replacement of Bridge 89. This letter is required for the FY 2030 Federal Funding Application. Terry Stoffel made a motion to sign the Letter of Commitment. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Highway Department Update

Troy Hostetler, Highway Superintendent, provided a map and spreadsheet of the gravel roads in Huntington County. He stated that they have 5 miles committed to be converted to chip/seal in 2025. Troy also shared that they are in the process of running Vialytics to compile a plan for the chip/seal program for 2025.

Troy also spoke with the Commissioners about a 56"x84"x26' pipe that they have in surplus, and Commissioner Stoffel asked Troy to hold onto it as the Drainage Board may need it for a farm crossing on a drainage project.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Public Safety Dispatch Update

Tim Allen, Director of Huntington County Public Safety Dispatch provided an update on the progress of switching 911 providers from AT&T to INdigital. Tim also shared that the MEVO portable phone kits have been delivered and testing is planned before the end of the year. The MEVO kits allow Dispatch to take calls from nearly anywhere if necessary.

Tim also discussed that Motorola will be sunsetting both the Motorola telephone (ECW) and radio systems (7500) over the next couple of years and they have begun gathering information and options for their replacement.

Tim requested that Dispatchers be allowed to carryover an additional five (5) days of PTO into 2025. This is due to being short-staffed throughout the year, along with training new dispatchers making it difficult for dispatchers to use their PTO. Terry Stoffel made a motion to allow Dispatch to carry over five (5) additional days, however, they must use it by March 31, 2025. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Memorandum of Understanding

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Huntington County and Huntington County Community Corrections. This MOU allows Community Corrections to contribute \$10,000 toward 2024 utility services for the Residential Work Release program at the O'Donnell Center at Victory Noll. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

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IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Huntington County United Economic Development

Mark Wickersham, Executive Director of HCUED shared an energy overview report that he has completed. He also provided draft documents for the upcoming 2025 contract between Huntington County and HCUED.

IN THE MATTER OF REPORT)

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Report

Aliza Tourkow, Tourkow Consulting, provided an update on the American Rescue Plan Act funds. These funds must be expended or obligated by 12/31/2024. She presented the APRA Priority Spending Plan, Version 13 for the Commissioners review/approval. Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Priority Spending Plan – Version 13. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF PERMIT)

72 East 300 North Huntington, Indiana

Terry Stoffel made a motion to approve the Application for Permit for Duke Energy in the location of 72 E 300 N in Huntington, Indiana. Rob Miller seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with a 2-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION)

Quarterly Health Insurance Update

Michelle Bunker, Senior Vice President/Agency Partner with IMG provided a quarterly update on the County’s health insurance plan.

The Commissioners recessed at 11:16 a.m.

These Minutes were approved on Monday, December 2, 2024. A signed physical copy of this document is available by request in the Commissioners’ Office located at 201 North Jefferson Street.