

**MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS/COUNCIL
MARCH 6, 2023
9:00 A.M.**

The following Fountain County Commissioners were present at the meeting: Brenda Hardy, Andrew Hall and Tim Shumaker.

The following Fountain County Council members were present at the meeting: Dudley Cruca, Tom Booe, Dale White, Kelly Carlson, Denise Crowder and Jim McKee. Jeff Fishero was on zoom.

Brenda Hardy called the meeting to order for the Commissioners. Dudley Cruca called the Council meeting to order.

COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC COMMENT – Dawn Vale

She stated that the City of Covington has plans to widen and pave 13th Street. However, there are five houses beyond this point on a dead end that utilizes 13th Street. She is asking the county to consider paving and widening the county’s portion at the end of the street. The county had recently put in a new culvert.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Andrew Hall and seconded by Tim Shumaker to approve the minutes of the joint meeting with the Commissioners and Council on February 13 and the minutes of the Commissioners meeting on February 21, 2023 as presented. Vote: 3-0

CLAIMS 1- 197 (\$187,560.58), Unpublished Claims and Payroll Claims

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Andrew Hall to approve all Claims. Vote: 3-0

Review and Acknowledge Treasurer’s Bank Reconciliation & Monthly Comparison Report

A motion was made by Andrew Hall and seconded by Tim Shumaker to acknowledge the Treasurer’s Bank Reconciliation for February, 2023 and the Monthly Fund Comparison Report. Vote: 3-0

RESOLUTION 2023-4 – Resolution Approving Amended American Rescue Plan

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Andrew Hall to approve Resolution 2022-4 Approving the Amended American Rescue Plan Vote: 3-0

BEAM LONGEST & NEFF – John Beery

John Beery gave a presentation on a comprehensive plan for the County. Jim McKee handed out information to the Council and Commissioners. He said a comprehensive plan should first be approved by the Plan Commission and then the Commissioners.

John Beery stated that they will probably following the OCRA format for our plan. Committees should be formed to get input from the citizens of Fountain County with representation from all areas of Fountain County. It will be a plan for future growth and capital projects. It should identify our needs and goals for Fountain County. It is a plan document only and not law. The fee should not exceed \$55,000 as per the agreement.

The comprehensive plan should be updated/reviewed every 5 years. It is needed so that the County can apply for federal grants.

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson to move forward with the Comprehensive plan. Dale White seconded the motion. Vote: 6-0-1
(Tom Booe abstained)

FOUNTAIN TRUST COMPANY – Corporate Cash Management

A motion was made by Andrew Hall and seconded by Tim Shumaker to execute the agreement with the Fountain Trust Company for online access for the Sheriff/Jail Accounts. Vote: 3-0

PUBLIC HEARING – 10:00 a.m.

Economic Revitalization Area

Public Hearing was Opened at 10:04 a.m.

Public Comment:

Jeff Fruits-Newtown Feed Service questioned who was paying the property taxes. Colin Snow of Crossroads Solar stated that the landowner would pay the property taxes but that Crossroads would be paying the personal property taxes on all equipment put onto the land for solar for the life of the project.

Bill Stonecipher had questions on the assessed value of the farm ground. It will not change his assessment. The farm ground will increase from \$1500 to \$1900 p/acre for 2023 pay 2024 as per the State. The ground that the solar project sets on will increase from \$3,000 per acre to \$13,000 per acre.

It was explained how the taxes would decrease due to the increased Assessed Valuation (AV). The abatement will last for 10 years. The landowner contract will follow the land.

Crossroads will pay the public utility tax. Chris Wheeler, attorney representing Crossroads addressed the question on eminent domain and Duke Energy. She stated that Duke Energy is only buying the product.

A question was asked if the electricity would stay in the area. Chris Wheeler explained that customers of Duke Energy would be getting some but not all. She gave a scenario of how it is broken down. A consumer may get electricity from several different sources. The sources being nuclear, solar or coal. Solar is the cheapest form of energy. She also stated that electricity is down in Indiana. We need more sources. She gave the numbers in support of the shortage.

Phil Crowder asked what chemicals the panels were made of. They are made from windshield glass, aluminum, copper and steel. There is no hazardous material.

Carol Owens asked about the property value. Crossroads or a representative for the company will put the property back in good usable fashion when done. There is also a bond in place with the contract for this purpose.

Public Hearing Closed at 10:46 a.m.

COUNCIL

Resolution 2023-3 A Confirmatory Resolution for the Establishment of An Economic Revitalization Area

A motion was made by Dudley Cruea and seconded by Tom Booe to approve Resolution 2023-3 A Confirmatory Resolution for the Establishment of an Economic Revitalization Area. Vote: 5-2

Roll Call: D. Cruea Y; T. Booe Y; D. White Y; K. Carlson Y; D. Crowder N; J. McKee N and J. Fishero Y

Resolution 2023-5 – Resolution Approving Real and Personal Property Tax Abatement Upon Application by Crossroads Solar, LLC.

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Dudley Cruea to approve Resolution 2023-5 A Resolution Approving Real and Personal Property Tax Abatement Upon Application by Crossroads Solar, LLC. Vote: 6-1

Roll Call: D. Cruea Y; T. Booe Y; D. White Y; K. Carlson Y; D. Crowder Y; J. McKee N and J. Fishero Y

Agreement For Economic Development Between Fountain County, Indiana and Crossroads Solar LLC

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Dale White to approve the Agreement for Economic Development between Fountain County, Indiana and Crossroads Solar LLC. Vote: 7-0

Roll Call: D. Cruea Y; T. Booe Y; D. White Y; K. Carlson Y; D. Crowder Y; J. McKee Y and J. Fishero Y

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Andrew Hall to approve the Agreement for Economic Development between Fountain County, Indiana and Crossroads Solar LLC. Vote: 2-0

MINUTES

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Kelly Carlson to approve the minutes of the Joint meeting with the Commissioners and Council on February 13, 2023 as presented. Vote: 7-0

Review & Acknowledge Clerk’s Monthly Report for January 2023

A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Tom Booe to acknowledge the Clerk’s Monthly Report for January 2023. Vote: 7-0

Review and Acknowledge Treasurer’s Bank Reconciliation & Monthly Comparison Report

A motion was made by Dale White and seconded by Kelly Carlson to acknowledge the Treasurer’s Bank Reconciliation for February, 2023 and the Monthly Fund Comparison Report. Vote: 7-0

Report of Collections – as submitted

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Jim McKee to acknowledge the Report of Collections for the Clerk, Health Dept, Recorder and Sheriff for the month of January 2023. Vote: 7-0

TRANSFER REQUEST

Auditor

From:	1000-0002-33000	Postage	
To:	1000-0002-33900	Dues	\$115.68

Recorder

From:	1000-0004-22000	Office Supplies	
To:	1000-0004-33900	Dues	\$ 5.31

This amount is needed to cover the shortfall that was appropriated for dues.

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Denise Crowder to approve the above transfers. Vote: 7-0

AMBULANCE – Flooring Estimates

The lowest estimate was from Patton Furniture and Carpet in the amount of \$12,914.

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Denise Crowder to pay for the flooring from the Council budget – building repairs. **Vote: 7-0**

COUNTY HIGHWAY - Enterprise Lease

We have almost exhausted our credit balance on the truck leases. There is enough to pay the February invoice and part of the March. Discussion was heard on the leases. Tim Shumaker will have someone from Enterprise at the next Council meeting on April 10th to review. The Auditor was directed to pay the remainder of the March invoice from the Council budget out of the equipment line item.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

AMBULANCE – Garth Kagels

The parking lot at the EMS building needs to be sealed. He received an estimate from Hesler Paving in the amount of \$13,200. Also, some of the pole lights need replaced. He has asked Brandon Ricketts for an estimate. He received notification that Ford has cancelled the order for the chassis on the remount. They will be going with the Chevy Silverado 4500 chassis. The time frame should be the same as before along with the price. So far, they have not cancelled the order for the 2 new ambulances. There was 10 EMT's that passed their exams. He still have two EMTs out but has hired a new paramedic.

HIGHWAY – Jason Lewis

Jason informed the Council of the upcoming Auction on April 1. Matthew Perry will be conducting the auction. His crews are cleaning up debris from the storm that hit the area on Friday. He will start the chip and seal in May/June.

HEALTH – Jenny Eads

She thanked the Council for the raises. The new team is working well together and invited everyone to stop by the department.

**THE NEXT COMMISSIONER MEETING WILL BE
MARCH 20, 2023 AT 9:00 A.M.**

**THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE
APRIL 10, 2023 AT 9:00 A.M.**

A motion was made by Andrew Hall and seconded by Tim Shumaker to close the Commissioner's portion of the meeting. Vote: 3-0

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Dale White to adjourn the Council meeting. Vote: 7-0

COMMISSIONER

ATTEST

COUNCIL

Colleen Chambers
ATTEST

Dwight Cuen
Tom W. Gooe
Dale A. White
Kelly L. Carlson
Denise Currier
James D. Keller
Jay L. Lewis