

MINUTES
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
May 6, 2024
9:00 A.M.

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

MINUTES

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to approve the minutes of the Commissioner's meeting on April 15, 2024.
Vote: 2-0

CLAIMS 1-197 (\$601,741.10), Unpublished Claims and Payroll Claims

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to approve all claims.
Vote: 2-0

Report of Collections – as submitted

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to acknowledge the Report of Collections for the Ambulance, Clerk, and Sheriff for April 2024.
Vote: 2-0

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

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to acknowledge the Treasurer's Bank Reconciliation for April, 2024 and the Monthly Fund Comparison Report.
Vote: 2-0

Grubb Lane Subdivision – Recorded Plat 1 & 2

Acceptance of the roads for the Grubb Lane Subdivision

Roger Azar explained that this is the subdivision being built by Jim Ratcliff off of Stringtown Road at Grubb Lane. The roads will be 20 feet wide. They will have asphalt, ditches and gravel shoulders, along with 6 inches of impacted sub-base. This lane has been on the county records but has not been maintained by the County.

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to accept the roads of the Grubb Lane Subdivision (Oak Ridge Subdivision) into the county road system.

White Oak – 239 feet

Red Oak – 1,476 feet

Burr Oak- 223 feet

Vote: 2-0

Interlocal Agreement for E-911

The Commissioners stated that they plan to renegotiate every 2 years on the contract with Warren County. Fountain County paid approximately \$741,000 for 2023. Warren County reimbursed Fountain \$325,000.

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Emergency Communications Department for May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025. The contract will be signed once received back from Warren County Commissioners.
Vote: 2-0

Ordinance for Establishment of the Fountain County Drainage Board

Ordinance was introduced at the last Commissioner meeting on April 15, 2024. The Board will consist of two citizens with drainage knowledge and

one commissioner. Commissioners wish to strike paragraph #5 in regards to the stipend at this time so that they can determine an amount for mileage and the amount of travel involved.

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to approve Ordinance 2024-1 An Ordinance for Establishment of the Fountain County Drainage Board.
Vote: 2-0

Resolution 2024-8 – Resolution of the County Commissioners Authorizing the Execution & Submission of Agreement with the INDOT & Addressing Related Matter.

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to approve Resolution 2024-8 giving Highway Supervisor, Jason Lewis the authority to execute and submit agreements with INDOT and addressing related matters.
Vote: 2-0

DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORTS

County Highway – Jason Lewis

Jason Lewis introduced Jacob Isenburg and Ben Dispennett of HWC. Jason would like to enter into a contract with them for on call services. Jason will furnish a copy of the contract to the Commissioners for review. Jason also stated that the bids for the CCMG grant will be June 3, 2024.

Ambulance – Garth Kagels

Garth shared that the ambulances would not be available until July. He does not know what the holdup is at this time but will be contacting the company to find out why. He is also looking into a vending machine for the medical supplies to help with inventory control. This may cut down on overstocking of the trucks with medical supplies. He is working on a presentation for the Commissioners.

Landfill – Roger Azar

The landfill was recently rolled and it was too wet in some areas. They will need to re-seed some of those areas. IDEM recently inspected the landfill and minor things were found and Greg Robison is working on fixing those things to become compliant. All in all, things are going well at the landfill.

Covington-Veegersburg Library Appointment

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to appoint Sandra Frey to the Covington-Veegersburg Library Board (term May 7th, 2024 to December 31, 2024).
Vote: 2-0

Annual Report of the Congressional School Fund to the Secretary of Education

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to approve the annual report for May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024. Vote: 2-0

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS

Plan Commission 1000-0079-33250	Consulting Fees	\$25,000.00
MVH Restricted 1173-0000-10308	Laborers	\$9,500.00
1173-0000-44945	Co Match Grant	\$500,000.00
Cum Bridge 1135-0000-10306	Bridge Crew	\$3,500.00

1135-0000-10207	Asst Supervisor	\$15,500.00
MVH		
1176-0530-10104	Supervisor	\$9,000.00
1176-0531-10308	Laborers	\$89,030.00
1176-0533-10208	Shop Foreman	\$2,500.00
1176-0533-10309	Mechanics	\$6,000.00

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to approve the additional request and send it on to the Council for approval.
Vote: 2-0

TRANSFER

Cut a check for County Match on the Bridge Inspection Grant

From: 1138-0000-44215 Bridge #202
To: 9125-0000-44945 Co Match for Grant

A motion was made by Brenda Hardy and seconded by Tim Shumaker to approve the Auditor to cut a check for the transfer of money for the County Match on the Bridge Inspection Grant.
Vote: 2-0

ARPA Plan

Discussion was heard on the update of the ARP Plan. We have approximately \$486,661 that needs to be put into our plan by December 31, 2024. Kent Minnette stated that the ARP Committee needs to meet to determine what to use these dollars for.

Brenda Hardy made a motion and Tim Shumaker seconded the motion to update the plan.
Vote: 2-0

Public Comment:

Carol Owens

Carol had questions about the road on Grubb Lane. She was not sure the roads were wide enough. She was assured that they were. The developer will be building the roads. She also inquired about the additional for the consultant and who was the consultant. Colleen answered and said the consultant was Roger Azar. She asked Jason Lewis how many laborers he had and he answered with 16.

Bill Brewer – 200 S Wabash Township

He owns 320 acres and it is his ground. He stated that there was a lot of misinformation. He talked about CRP-Reserve Ground. Farmers are getting paid to not farm some of their ground. The grain surplus is being exported. Tax dollars are being spent to not farm due to a surplus of grain. He also stated that he has talked with the project manager of Hexagon and the first solar panel probably would not be set for 5 years. He is not touching his wooded acres just a portion of the tillable acres. He said the tax abatements are needed to get dollars flowing into the county. Also, a surety bond will be issued to make sure that the ground is put back like it was before the solar farm was erected.

Cindy Bushue

Cindy stated that she will have solar on all four sides of her property. She does not want to live like that. She is worried about health issues, property values and air quality even with the setbacks and barriers.

Dane Maltzberger

He stated that he presented a report to the Council as a rebuttal to the EDA. He said our current zoning came into effect in August 2021 and HB 1348 came into play on January 1, 2022. He said you must move land from agriculture to commercial. It must be reclassified as per DLGF.

Kelly Carlson

When the property is reclassified from \$2200 an acre to \$13,000, who is responsible for the difference of the assessed value on the property tax? Kent said it depends on the private contract between the owner and the solar company. Bill Brewer said it was the solar company.

Mark Phillippo – His sons are both employed in Lafayette. They cannot come to the meetings to ask questions and be informed. He would like to make a formal request for the meetings to be changed to evening meetings.

Dudley Cruca - Kelly Carlson requested to have a joint meeting on May 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Brenda will have to get in touch with about 6 vendors to see if they can come in the evening. The Auditor will have to give 48 to 72 hours' notice.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE MONDAY,
May 20, 2024
AT 9:00 A.M.**

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to close the meeting.
Vote: 2-0





ATTEST