

43

MINUTES
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 15, 2024
9:00 A.M.

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

MINUTES

A motion was made by Andrew Hall and seconded by Tim Shumaker to approve the minutes of the Commissioner's meeting of April 1, 2024.

Vote: 3-0

CLAIMS 1-156 (\$221,513.04) and Payroll Claims

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Andrew Hall to approve all claims.

Vote: 3-0

Report of Collections – as submitted

A motion was made by Andrew Hall and seconded by Tim Shumaker to acknowledge the Report of Collections for the Ambulance, Clerk, Health Department, Recorder and Sheriff for March 2024.

Vote: 3-0

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

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Andrew Hall to acknowledge the Treasurer's Bank Reconciliation for February, 2024 and the Monthly Fund Comparison Report.

Vote: 3-0

Review and Acknowledge the Clerk's Monthly Report

A motion was made by Andrew Hall and seconded by Tim Shumaker to acknowledge the Clerk's Monthly Report for March 2024.

Vote: 3-0

Wabash River Blueway/Fountain County Park Assessment – Dale White

Dale White stated that in 2023 the Community Foundation received money and spent \$50,000 on Park Assessment and \$50,000 partnered with Warren County. Dale is asking for a letter of support due to the application needing to be submitted by April 30.

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Andrew Hall to issue a letter of support for the Wabash River Blueway/Fountain County Park Assessment.

Vote 3-0

Additional Request

CREDIT – Commissioners

1112-0068-33250 Consulting Fees \$45,000.00

Co General – Commissioners

1000-0068-44901 Capital Outlay \$500,000.00

Co General - Ambulance

1000-0301-22000 Office Supplies \$5,600.00
1000-0301-33650 Equipment & Repair \$15,000.00

A motion was made by Andrew Hall and seconded by Tim Shumaker to approve the additional request and send it onto the Council for approval.

Vote: 3-0

Community Action Board Appointment

A motion was made by Brenda Hardy and seconded by Andrew Hall to appoint Tim Shumaker to the Community Action Board of Directors. He will be replacing Andrew Hall.

(Tim Shumaker abstained)

Introduction of Ordinance for Establishment of the Fountain County Drainage Board

Kent Minnette stated that there has been no drainage board or surveyor for several years. He stated the board can either be 5 people (1 Commissioner and 4 citizens) or 3 (1 Commissioner and 2 citizens). The members have to receive at least mileage reimbursement. Roger Azar will be a nonvoting member of the drainage board. Tim Shumaker will talk to citizens. This will be on next meeting agenda.

Acceptance Signature/Contract for the Jail Sewer Project

Kent Minnette said the bid was accepted and the contract is ready. He stated that 50% is due at time all materials are received, 25% at time of completion and the other 25% will be held back as retainage for final completion.

Approval of Work Order – Elevator Door

Colleen received a work order for \$7,086 to fix the elevator door. Deputy Bill Lathrop offered to repair for his normal wages which was acceptable to the Commissioners.

ATM – Courthouse

Colleen Chambers will talk with the office holders. She said she will talk with the area banks to explore the options and any costs associated with it.

Sheriff- Terry Holt

They currently have 71 inmates and 30 of the inmates are being paid for by other counties or the State.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE MONDAY,
May 6, 2024
AT 9:00 A.M.**

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Andrew Hall to close the meeting.

Vote: 3-0

After the meeting several citizens wanted to speak and make a public comment. The Commissioners agreed to 3 minutes and no back and forth. Tim Shumaker stated that at the Plan Commission Meeting there will be no public comment.

Carol Owens- Carol wanted to know what the \$45,000 in consulting fees and \$500,000 for capital outlay was for.

Sarah Duensing- Graham Creek Road

She stated that she would like a moratorium on the solar project for 2 years so that studies can be done to find out the impact on wildlife. She stated she

45
has a lot of questions and asks the commissioners to give the citizens some time to research.

Thad Taylor- Realtor in Covington IN
He says people do not want to buy houses near Solar Panels. How will the current homeowner be reimbursed for the value decreasing?

Amber Roarks- Covington IN
How solar farms are you going to allow into the county? Will it be in every township? We have more than 600 signatures on the petition. We are going from a county of agriculture to a county of solar.

Roger Holmes – Covington IN
Roger stated that he is frustrated with the arrogance and lack of answers. He stated he will spend every dollar he has to fight this.

Clint Kilby- Covington IN
Clint said that Brenda Hardy and Tim Shumaker are the ones behind this and they do not represent the county anymore. He would like to have Tim and Brenda resign. He feels like they are representing themselves.

Charles Bookwalter-
He has testified on 6 or more counties on solar and wind. He stated other solar projects are being stalled. He wanted to know how you can tell people what they can and cannot do on their land. He also had questions regarding the tax base. He stated that he feels like backroom deals are happening.

Jeff Fishero-
Jeff wanted to know how the county would survive if there was no solar
David Jenkins-
David would like to know why each official ran for office. He said the people are going to hold the Commissioner's accountable.

Tammy Hinote-
Tammy would like to address the CO2 pipeline and water. She stated we need to protect what we currently have.

Carol Freese- Covington IN
Carol stated that there is 200 years of Fountain County History. She stated that once the trees are gone, Fountain County will not be as beautiful.

Charles Bookwalter-
He stated that other counties have done a workshop. This would be beneficial to Fountain County in his opinion. It would let the public be able to ask questions and understand.

Susan Reynolds- Covington IN
She would like the Commissioners to consider a workshop. She would like to know how can we all work together.






ATTEST

