

**MINUTES
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
November 20, 2023
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 and the Drainage Board Minutes of November 6, 2023 as presented. Vote: 2-0

CLAIMS 1-169 (\$197,684.39) Unpublished and Payroll Claims

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to approve all claims. 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 October, 2023 and the Monthly Fund Comparison Report. 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, Health Department, Recorder and Sheriff for October, 2023. Vote: 2-0

PHI – Agreement for 2024

Kevin Gorskey introduced himself and Daniel Griffin. Mr. Griffin will be our account manager. The new agreement is for \$47,901 for 2024. A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to approve the agreement with PHI Medical for 2024. Vote: 2-0

BIDS – Jail Sewer Screen Project

Roger Azar stated that the bid was not detailed enough and unfair. He felt the County should re-word areas of the notice and re-bid the project. A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to reject the bid received on the Jail Sewer Screen Project. Vote: 2-0

Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Professional Services Proposal

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to approve the above-mentioned Mitigation Plan. Vote: 2-0

Agreement for Transplant Renewal for 2024

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to approve the transplant renewal for 2024. Vote: 2-0

Resolution 2023-41 – Resolution Confirming the Participation of Fountain County in the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to approve Resolution 2023-41 and to keep the appointments the same as for 2023. (Tim Shumaker, alt. Brenda Hardy). The term shall be from January 2, 2024 to December 31, 2025. Vote: 2-0

Resolution 2023-43 – Resolution Opposing Construction of a Pipeline to Divert Water from Wabash River Aquifer to Leap Innovation District

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to approve Resolution 2023-43. Vote: 2-0

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

AMBULANCE – Brenda Hardy stated that a meeting had been set up on December 6th with Addie from Irwin & Steele to discuss the exempt/non-exempt status and the pay of the EMS employees.

CORONER – Josh Whittington

He is still looking for some kind of locked storage unit for his office.

E -911 – Dana Stonebraker

She has a final quote from Caliber Public Safety in the amount of \$201,869. The annual maintenance fee is \$62,085.45. The annual maintenance is much higher than what we are currently paying. However, the response time will be exceptionally better. This does include all updates and monthly visits. It will work with any other agency that has Caliber to make it much safer for the officers and residents. It is approximately \$198 per individual license. She will be asking other entities using our system to put their prorated share in their budgets for 2025.

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Brenda Hardy to accept the quote from Caliber Public Safety. Vote: 2-0

SHERIFF

Terry Holt was not present at the meeting but told Tim that he had 64 inmates. Eleven are for DOC; 22 from Sullivan County and the remaining 31 are Fountain County inmates.

HIGHWAY – Jason Lewis

He will be getting the annual bids ready for advertising to be opened at the January 16 Commissioner meeting. He also asked Kent about annual bids for general construction and excavating, if they could be bid on also. Kent will be looking into the process. Milestone has finished the paving on CR 1400. The striping will be done today or tomorrow. There are a couple of concrete structures that need to be repaired. He will need to transfer or encumber the money for the repairs. He has talked to Vialytics. They are a German based company and is based on AI. It will run an inventory of our roads and can also do a condition assessment of them. It will help with the Paser rating. He has not received a price to date.

LANDFILL – Roger Azar

He will be talking with Greg Robison about rolling the landfill soon.

Childcare – READI Grant (Wabash Economics Growth Alliance)

Rod Bannon reported that there is only about 12% of our population that has access to childcare. It is an economic development issue. WEGA will have a leadership role in the program. Robin Shumaker from Community Action stated that lower-level entry positions have a challenge to find daycare. We need to know where to put daycare. Is the workforce going to Crawfordsville, Danville or other places. She also stated that there are some in home facilities in the area. Dale White of the Community Foundation asked Rod Bannon how WEGA determined this was an issue. Rod said that the READI Grant defined this as a concern in the region (7 counties). READI 1 is for the program and READI 2 is more for the capital outlay for the region. Jeff Fishero would like to see the legislature more involved as Dr.

Grimes from Fountain Central ran into some push back from the State when she tried setting up something at the school. Rod Bannon asked what the desire was of the county. Attica and Covington have some housing projects in the works which may require more daycare. He asked about a committee. Robin Shumaker suggested using the coalition board, as the framework is already in place. They would also like to add some Commissioners, Council and Mayor to the board.

The funding is a 1:1 match. Brenda Hardy stated that things don't happen overnight. It is not up to the Council to decide. Rod stated that money needs to be committed each year for the childcare. He said solar dollars may be able to be used for childcare.

It was stressed that we need to have a plan in place so when the money is ready to be distributed for projects, we will be ready to move forward when offered.

Cades Bridge – Henry Schmitt

Henry stated that they have received bids for the restoration of the bridge. The low bid was \$412,000. With the money that they (Arts Council) have raised and the commitment from the County, they will be able to move forward.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE December 4, 2023 AT 9:00 A.M.

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

Cecilia Chambers
ATTEST

Brenda Hardy
A-H
Tim Shumaker