

**MINUTES**  
**FOUNTAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**JUNE 17, 2024**  
**9:00 A.M.**

The following Fountain County Commissioners were present for the meeting: Brenda Hardy, Aaron Fruits and Tim Shumaker.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Aaron Fruits and seconded by Tim Shumaker to approve the minutes of the Commissioner’s meeting of June 3, 2024 as presented  
Vote: 3-0

**CLAIMS 1-167 (\$768,824.76) and Payroll Claims**

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Aaron Fruits to approve all claims.  
Vote: 3-0

**Report of Collections – as submitted**

A motion was made by Aaron Fruits and seconded by Tim Shumaker to acknowledge the Report of Collections for the Ambulance, Clerk, Health Department, Recorder and Sheriff for May.  
Vote: 3-0

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

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Aaron Fruits to acknowledge the Treasurer’s Bank Reconciliation for May 2024 along with the Monthly Fund Comparison Report.  
Vote: 3-0

**Review & Acknowledge Clerk’s Monthly Report for May 2024**

A motion was made by Aaron Fruits and seconded by Tim Shumaker to acknowledge the Clerk’s Monthly Report for May, 2024.  
Vote: 3-0

**BIDS**

**Community Crossing Matching Grant 2024-1 – Stringtown Road**

Bids were received from:

Milestone	\$1,995,420.00
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This was the only bid received for the project.  
The bid was taken under advisement. A representative from USI reviewed the bid and gave the go ahead as all paper work was in order.  
A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Aaron Fruits to accept the bid from Milestone.  
Vote: 3-0

**Transfers**

From:	1000-0380-10606	Jail Sergeant	
To:	1000-0380-14000	Jail Overtime	\$25,000

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Aaron Fruits to approve the transfer request and send it on to the Council for approval  
Vote: 3-0

A motion was made by Aaron Fruits and seconded by Tim Shumaker to approve the additional request and to send it on to the Council for approval.  
Vote: 3-0

**Grant of Ingress -Egress Easement**

Attorney John Larson prepared the document for a 12-foot-wide easement along, over and through an existing dirt and grass lane running in a southerly direction from Riverside Road (CR 500 E).

A motion was made by Aaron Fruits and seconded by Tim Shumaker to approve the easement contingent upon approval from the County Attorney.

Vote: 3-0

**Soil & Water – Big Shawnee Creek Watershed**

A letter of support was prepared to express the commitment and support of this project/grant by the Commissioners.

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Aaron Fruits to approve and sign the letter of support.

Vote: 3-0

**EMA - American with Disabilities Act**

A new transition plan for 2024 has been prepared and needs the Commissioners approval.

A motion was made by Aaron Fruits and seconded by Tim Shumaker to approve the updated plan for 2024.

Vote: 3-0

**AMERESCO – Invoice**

Requesting permission from Commissioners to pay Invoice 1029362 out of ARP Fund.

**A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Aaron Fruits to pay the above invoice out of ARP Funds and send it on to the Council for approval.**

Vote: 3-0

**Quote - Brooks Masonry Repair & Restoration Services**

A quote was received in the amount of \$15,000 to tear down old brick chimney and haul away all of the debris.

Sentry came and inspected the roof with one commissioner and 3 council members. They found there is no damage to the roof and it is still under warranty. They believe the problems are from the chimney and maybe old pipes. Tim Shumaker asked if this would stop the condensation.

**A motion was made by Aaron Fruits and seconded by Tim Shumaker to approve the quote for the removal of the chimney.**

Vote: 3-0

**Economic Development – Rod Bannon**

Rod stated that WEGA has assisted in the County’s Comprehensive plan, and the Greater Lafayette Region’s housing study. They recently held a job fair at the Annex. Rod also gave an update of the progress of the READI 2.0 grant. There are a few housing developments in the County. They are Shephard’s Landing Development (87 single family homes); The Reserve (71 single family homes); and Ironmen Properties (67 apartments – old Attica Elementary School). This project includes a community center and commissary facility to support the Regional Business Incubator. They have also been working on the childcare in Fountain County. River City Church will be adding 112 seats at a former church in Attica. Also, the Attica Learning center will relocate and add additional seats. They are working on two downtown revitalization projects in Attica and Hillsboro. He then gave an update on the progress of the Regional Business incubator.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**Highway – Jason Lewis**

Jason is seeking permission from the Commissioners to sign an on-call agreement with USI Consultants for the CCMG project to not to exceed \$39,000.

**A motion was made by Aaron Fruits and seconded by Tim Shumaker to approve the on-call agreement with USI.**

Vote: 3-0

They will be starting the chip and seal projects soon. He will put the chip and seal list on the website and social media for the public.

**Ambulance – Garth Kagels**

Garth stated that the lights and decals are being put on the new trucks. They have started work on the titles. He is anticipating delivery in early July.

**Health – Jenny Eads**

The Health Department has been awarded an immunization grant of \$94,700.00 to support our community.

## **Sheriff Department**

There are currently 56 inmates. We are being paid for 24 of them. Sullivan has removed all of their inmates.

## **E-911 – Dana Stonebraker**

Dana reported that the training on the Caliber system went very well. Everything seems to be running smoothly.

## **Joint Meeting – Tim Shumaker**

Tim stated that he did not know about the Joint meeting with the Council that is scheduled for tonight until Friday. Who called it? Aaron called the meeting. Tim said generally the President usually calls the meeting. Tim asked that next time to communicate. The stance of two of the Commissioners is the Council and Commissioners met with this group of people. It is not how it reads on the social media posts that we have started construction. This is all preliminary work just so we can get quotes to see what these projects are going to cost. We signed the contract and we are bound by that contract. We have told them that we're not doing the Courthouse anymore but there is money budgeted for the annex and we are going to get drawings. We are under contract and following our attorney's advice. Once these drawings are completed, they can be used next month, next year or whenever. There have been hundreds of hours spent studying the building.

Brenda Hardy stated that we spent \$45,000 on the Comprehensive Financial Plan to be used as a tool to guide the Council on how we can fund these projects.

Tim Shumaker said they work hard and try to do positive things for this County. He wishes this could work out.

Kelly Carlson said the Council is not opposed to doing a project but we were willing to go ahead with the Highway garage. We felt that was the most important thing to do right now. They need a building that is suitable for their health. I think the breakdown with the Council was when the Commissioners moved forward with the annex. The Council thought we were working on the highway building. We were surprised when we had our joint meeting that it was the annex also. I also thought we were only talking about one floor not three floors in the annex. The Council does realize that work does need to be done to the Courthouse but we're going to have to try to do the best we can with what we have. We need to get the best bang for our buck. We have to fix this breakdown. I am not sure about moving forward but we have got to figure it out.

Brenda Hardy – When you brought up the 3 floors it was to our surprise that there had to be an elevator and a stairway had to be widened to meet ADA requirements. They changed where the elevator would be located to utilize all 3 floors so it's going to be 20,600 square feet. Some of that area is for mechanical and secure storage. We are out of room in the Courthouse. In the beginning we talked about doing phases and so when Dudley made a comment it was going to be a million dollars that was phase one. That was just to get 911 out there. We didn't know we were going to have to all of these other things at the time. It was agreed by all of us that we could do the annex and the highway garage at the same time. There has been a lot of information gathered on the Courthouse. When there has been construction in the Courthouse – it echoes. Our concerns were individuals' health when they start disturbing asbestos and mold. She does not want any health issues for the employees. That was the reason of getting the annex done and moving those that can fit in the annex and utilizing that building. That way the contractors can come in and do what they need to do. They would not have to work after hours at an additional cost. That would save the county 30-35%.

Tom Booe wanted to know when the Commissioners asked if the council had proper funding for the Highway Building. I asked Jeff because he came to me and said in December you wanted a new roof here. In January you wanted a new highway building and to forget the building so I asked you what's going to be next month. We don't know which direction we're moving forward with these contractors and then all of a sudden, we are told to stop.

Tom said lets go back a little bit. There has been no transparency whatsoever. You talk about these contracts being signed; you should have been coming to the Council.

Brenda said she came to the council and told them that a contract had to be signed on that next Monday. No one said a word. We had to sign it in order to move forward with Envoy for the BOT. Tom Booe said we didn't approve it. At the last joint meeting, I talked with Mr. Conley and told him we are not going to fund that. There are other things we want to fund. The meeting was about voting for Mr. Conley's architect to fund

him for what work he has done. We saw the contract. The point of it is, it has not crossed us. It has not been determined that we are going to fund all three of the projects, which you found out. We are not going to fund the annex. The work needs to be stopped. Number one, we can't afford it. Number two, we want a garage. We want to do the Courthouse a section at a time. You made a good choice today in getting the chimney down. Tonight, we have two votes, one on the contract and the second on the consultation fees on the Plan Commission. The Council has not signed anything to do any kind of work. Tim Shumaker said because it's not your (Council) role. You're are out of your lane. It's not the council's role to sign anything. Tom said it's a council's position to sign off to pay for it. I am looking out for the county as to pay money for projects that we are not ready to do. I agree with you, we had the annex and didn't like it. People were dragging their feet and we didn't know where it was going to end up. We had things added to it.

**Public Comment**


Carol Owens would like to know why the claims were so high this time. It was due to the payment to Milestone for asphalt on the paving that was recently done.

**JOINT MEETING  
COMMISSIONERS & COUNCIL  
MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024  
6:00 P.M.**

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE MONDAY,  
July 1, 2024  
at 9:00 A.M.**

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Aaron Fruits to close the meeting.  
Vote: 3-0

Colleen Chambers  
ATTEST

  
Brenda Hardy  
Tim Shumaker