

**MINUTES
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JULY 1, 2024
9:00 A.M.**

The following Fountain County Commissioners were present at 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 17, 2024 as presented. Vote: 3-0

CLAIMS 1-147 (\$306,127.28), Unpublished and Payroll Claims

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

Transfers

From:	1176-0530-33310	Freight	
To:	1176-0530-33900	Dues & Subscriptions	\$46.22

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

COVERED BRIDGE CERTIFICATION

A motion was made by Aaron Fruits and seconded by Tim Shumaker to approve the Covered Bridge Certification for 2024. Vote: 3-0

Courthouse Security – Possible utilization of scanner

Judge Campbell, Prosecutor Dan Askren and Bill Lathrop asked for permission to utilize the metal scanner that we already have. Judge Campbell will be pursuing a grant for a bag scanner and canopy for the entrance (wheel chair ramp). However, the 2024 grant period has ended and she will have to wait until the Spring of 2025 to apply. All equipment will be mobile if it should have to be moved. They will be getting quotes and will bring them back to the Commissioners for their approval.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Highway – Jason Lewis

Jason would like to use the annex or the Commissioner's room on July 10, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. for a pre-construction meeting with Milestone and USI for the Community Crossing Grant on the Stringtown Road Project. He is also working on putting together numbers for calcium chloride application for dust control as he has been getting phone calls. He has also reached out to neighboring county departments to see what they have been using for dust control. He has found out that the calcium chloride treatments are not as effective. They are also about half way done with the chip and seal projects. Tim Shumaker stated that he had received a call about the amount of gravel put down on the roads.

Custodian – Rick Beck

Rick gave an update on the projects at the Courthouse. The camera company was here and found that there were some plugged drains. He proposed to have Johnson's Sewer come to clean out the drains. They are to start on the tear down of the chimney today. Kone will be here today also

to fix the wheel chair lift. A representative from TK Elevator will be here today to look at the elevator doors to get them in working order. New doors will have to be ordered as the current ones are very old and parts are nearly impossible to find. Kent Minnette stated that if the quote was over \$50,000 it would have to be put out for bids.

Judge Campbell stated that if she could do anything to expediate the repair of the elevator she would be happy to help. At this point, it is locating the parts.

Landfill – Greg Robison

Bell Excavating finished up the repairs to the landfill on Friday. The south ditch still needs to be cleared. Greg has had trouble with equipment. The clutch on the brush mower overheated and burned up. The skid steer also overheated and blew the filter. It is being repaired. He would like to purchase a new mower to be used with the county highway tractor. The mower needs to be bigger due to the volume of debris/brush at the landfill. He would like to use a hay rack to move the excess grass from the landfill so that it does not kill off the remaining grass. IDEM will be out to inspect the recent work.

The well testing came back and it was a good report. The chlorides are dropping.

Tim Shumaker asked Greg and Jason to explain to the public how Roger Azar has been an asset to their department. Brad Crain also stated that he has been very beneficial to the City of Covington.

Roger has a knowledge of what INDOT and IDEM requires.

Tim Shumaker explained that we have not had a county surveyor since the early 80's in Fountain County. He has been valuable to the County in relation to the County drains as well as many other services for Fountain County. Tim wanted to dispel the rumors going around.

Health Department – Jenny Eads

The Health Department recently purchased some new office furniture due to a grant. They have some old furniture that they would like to discard or sell. She gave the Commissioners photos of the furniture. **A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Aaron Fruits to declare the furniture as junk/surplus.**

Vote: 3-0

Sheriff – Terry Holt

Sullivan County has pulled their inmates out of the Fountain County Jail. They currently have 45 inmates. He has contacted the State to let them know that there are beds available for parole holds.

Terry stated that he has received a quote for the sealing of the parking lot. Roger Azar gave an update on the sewer/screen project at the Jail. They will not be able to get the screen equipment until October. The contractor plans on getting everything prepped so when the screen arrives, it will be ready to go. The Town of Veedersburg called Tim with a complaint of the trash that has come through their system recently.

Sheriff Holt also stated that an inmate has filed a complaint in regards to ibuprofen not being strong enough for his pain. He will talk with the County Attorney.

Commissioner – Tim Shumaker

Tim would like the public to know that there is a lot of misinformation on social media. He asked that they go to the Richard Lugar (2007) Questions and Answers portion on the IN.Gov website. It debunks the false information on social media.

Also, there only have been two companies that have filed for a permit. They are Ranger Power and Dolphin Solar.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Virginia Bennett - She asked why the public was not notified when the solar company was looking into Fountain County. She was notified of an old road that was being vacated but not that a solar company was coming in by her property. She heard about it when she came up from Texas to check on her farm.

Dave Jenkins – He accused the Commissioners/APC of doing things behind the scenes. He does not have trust in the government officials. They are to work for the citizens and not themselves. He wanted to know if they let the public know of the hearings/meeting for the wind and solar ordinance. He said that not all people can attend the meetings due to work. He feels like he comes to meetings to babysit.

Bill Stonecipher – He has come to meetings and has listened. He believes it all boils down to the lack of communication between the Commissioners and Council. The Council is slow in acting and not very efficient.

Kelly Carlson – She listened to a webinar last week from Jansen Law Firm in regards to solar. The attorney stated that the counties should have a special bond for the decommissioning cost; top soil should remain on the property/farm; and the solar company should come to the County to let them know that they will be contacting citizens. She would also like for the county to look into an app that is similar to the one the City of Attica is currently using, as this may help with the notification of events/meetings to our citizens.

Sue Spurlin – She asked if these conversations were mute since the moratorium was put into place as they were not to receive any new applications. There have only been two permits filed. They were from Ranger Power and Dolphin Solar.

Chris Bruner – She asked when the citizens came to the meeting, in regards to the changes in the zoning ordinance for the wind turbines, was it also for solar. Tim stated the citizens that came to the meeting were only interested in the wind turbines. They came to the Advisory Plan Commission. No one showed up in regards to solar farms. He said that the State of Indiana will probably take over the solar just like IDEM took over the hog confinement industry.

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE MONDAY,
July 15, 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
Tim Shumaker