

**MINUTES
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 17, 2025
6:00 P.M.**

The following Fountain County Commissioners were present at the meeting: Aaron Fruits and KW Rice. Tim Shumaker was absent.

MINUTES

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Aaron Fruits to approve the minutes of the Commissioner's meeting of March 03, 2025 and the Joint Meeting from March 03,2025.

Vote: 2-0

CLAIMS 1-156(\$245,944.51) and Payroll Claims

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Aaron Fruits to approve all claims.

Vote: 2-0

Report of Collections – as submitted

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Aaron Fruits to acknowledge the Report of Collections for the Health Department for February 2025.

Vote: 2-0

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Highway- Jason Lewis

The highway department has been cleaning up from the storm this past weekend. They had guys out Friday and Saturday. Travis and Jason will be attending road school on Tuesday and Wednesday in Lafayette. The Commissioners signed the agreement between the County and USI. They will start negotiations. USI will continue with inspections from 2026-2029. Katie from USI was in attendance. She asked if there were any questions. Jason wants to work on bridge 103 and bridge 105. Both bridges are on Foster Road. The first one is located at 400 and the second is by 650 north. USI would like to speak at the next joint meeting. Jason also asked if it was okay to proceed with Samsara. The money has already been budgeted.

Ambulance- Garth Kagels

Garth reported that collections were good this month. He said they are working with Medicaid representative to get reimbursements quicker. Garth has been working on the Governmental Ambulance Payment Adjustment Fee. He has also been working with a law firm in Indianapolis. They run the reports of the runs, hours, costs, etc. and this company comes up with a percentage to be reimbursed. They have received funding since 2013. He said they should receive roughly \$20,636. Garth believes the new power load has been installed. No news on the new ambulance. It was supposed to have been delivered to the new body shop the first part of March. Garth will follow up.

Burn Ban

Greg Robinson said Luke Adams will be lifting the burn ban tomorrow, March 18,2025.

Additional

Contractual Services – Treasurer

1000-33130-0003	Contractual Services	\$1,1052.44
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A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Aaron Fruits to approve the additional request and send it on to the Council for approval.

Vote: 2-0

Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) Appointment

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Aaron Fruits to appoint Christine May (term 2024 to 2027) to the Board of Zoning Appeals Board.

Vote: 2-0

Advisory Plan Commission (APC) Appointments

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Aaron Fruits to appoint Jessica Anderson (through end 2025) to the Area Plan Commission.

Vote: 2-0

ANNEX DISCUSSION

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Aaron Fruits to proceed on the process of putting the annex up for sale.

Vote 2-0

Barry Ritter – Contract

The Commissioners will have Ethan Myers write up the paperwork to dissolve the contract with Barry Ritter.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sue Ann Anderson would like to know if anyone has been placed on the APC board by the Purdue Extension office. No one has at this time. She also wondered if there would be enough people for a quorum. There will be enough if everyone shows up.

Christine Brunner requested a status of the extension of the solar moratorium. KW Rice stated that they are working on finalizing the wording and it will be presented at the next APC meeting.

Bruce Martin has been having trouble with dust control around his house. He said he has paid to have the road sprayed, but the County has still come through and dumped gravel and graded. He has put up signs requesting no more gravel and no more grading on his road. Jason Lewis will handle this problem.

Bruce also addressed his neighbor who has been piling trash in his yard. Bruce stated his neighbor's yard is full of trash and is affecting his property value. He would like the county to address this problem. The Commissioners will look into the ordinance and see if they can contact the neighbor.

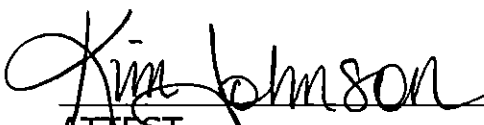
THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE MONDAY

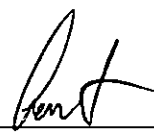

April 07, 2025

AT 9:00 A.M.

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Aaron Fruits to close the meeting.

Vote: 2-0


ATTEST

A Letter to the Citizens and Public Officials of Fountain County

On the Importance of the Comprehensive Plan Revision

The future of Fountain County is not a matter of chance—it is a matter of planning. And today, we are called to do just that: to shape, with care and intention, the growth and development of our county through the formation of a revised Comprehensive Plan. This is not merely a procedural step; it is a defining act of leadership.

The Indiana Code gives us more than permission to plan—it gives us purpose. IC 36-7-4-201 lays out the very heartbeat of why a Comprehensive Plan exists. It is to ensure:

- “That highway systems be carefully planned,”
- “That new communities grow only with adequate public way, utility, health, educational, and recreational facilities,”
- “That the needs of agriculture, forestry, industry, and business be recognized in future growth,”
- “That residential areas provide healthful surroundings for family life,” and
- “That the growth of the community is commensurate with and promotive of the efficient and economical use of public funds.”

In short, the State of Indiana has made its position clear. The law exists to:

“Encourage units to improve the health, safety, convenience, and welfare of their citizens and to plan for the future development of their communities.”

This is a call to action. A declaration of local responsibility. And let there be no doubt: Fountain County will plan for Fountain County.

Planning Director Jon Schrock will be leading this critical revision. Mr. Schrock brings experience and a clear, steadfast commitment to the long-term interests of Fountain County. He understands that planning is not about control—it is about vision, cooperation, and responsibility. We place our full faith and confidence in his leadership. A visionary leader must be backed by a united team. We call on every department head and elected official to offer their full support—proactively, constructively, and without delay. The plan must be shaped not by default, but by deliberate contribution from those entrusted with the daily care of our public institutions.

Under IC 36-7-4-505, the law requires:

“A statement of objectives for the future development of the jurisdiction; a statement of policy for the land use development of the jurisdiction; and a statement of policy for the development of public ways, places, lands, structures, and utilities.”

This is not an exercise in paperwork. It is a legally grounded, morally necessary, community-driven effort to guide our county into a future defined by health, opportunity, and local character.

The Advisory Plan Commission, empowered by IC 36-7-4-201, must serve as more than an administrative body. It must be the conscience of long-term planning. It must steward our land, protect our values, and stand guard over the next generation’s ability to thrive in a county that is functional, affordable, beautiful, and rooted in the best of our traditions. We are not following someone else’s blueprint. We are building our own.

Let this be the moment we rise to meet our responsibilities with unity and courage. Let it be the moment we stop merely reacting—and start designing our destiny.

We are proud to begin this journey under the steady hand of Director Schrock. We will build a Fountain County that honors its past, understands its present, and boldly prepares for its future.

Sincerely,

KW Rice
Aaron Fruits