

**MINUTES
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 07, 2025
9:00 A.M.**

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

MINUTES

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Aaron Fruits to approve the minutes of the Commissioner's meeting of March 17, 2025.

Vote: 2-0

CLAIMS 1-175 (512,971.52) Unpublished Claims and Payroll Claims

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by KW Rice to approve all claims.

Vote: 3-0

Review and Acknowledge Treasurer's Bank Reconciliation

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Tim Shumaker to acknowledge the Treasurer's Bank Reconciliation for February 2025.

Vote: 3-0

Report of Collections – as submitted

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by KW Rice to acknowledge the Report of Collections for the Clerk, the Sheriff's Department and the Ambulance for March 2025.

Vote: 3-0

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Judge Campbell would like to get some projects in her office done. She did get a bid for carpet, but would like to have some other work done before the carpet. Aaron Fruits said they would like to have each department get with them and show them what they want done. Judge Campbell said she would even like to get the carpets cleaned if possible. She also talked about getting tint put on the bottom windows. Bill Lathrop got an estimate for \$4,447.30. Daniel Askren stated that he would be willing to pay \$2,500.00 from his budget.

Ambulance- Garth Kagels

Garth said they did have an EMT quit, but he is being replaced in a couple weeks. He also said that the Def System in one of the ambulances is having problems. They did send this off to be fixed. It could be a sensor, but they are not yet sure. The ambulance has hit 100,000 miles.

Community Corrections – Danielle Snider

Dani had sent an email to the Commissioners. She gave information regarding the grant process they use. She is asking for permission to submit a grant, but is not asking for any money. She said a Fountain County probation officer is also funded by this grant. This is all state of Indiana money except the user fees. Dani also said that they have increased their donation to the county from \$2,500 to \$3,500. She also invited them to come visit and see what they do at community corrections.

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Tim Shumaker to approve Dani Snider to submit the grant application for Community Corrections.

Vote: 3-0

Health Department- Jenny Eads

Jenny said the immunization grant was rescinded. It was for \$94,000. They have been paying their part-time nurse with that. They would like to continue to use her until the end of the year. They need permission to use the HFI Funds.

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by KW Rice to use HFI funds to continue to pay the Health Department's part-time nurse.

Vote: 3-0

Highway – Jason Lewis

Jason wanted to discuss the authorization to proceed on bridges 103 and 105 from USI. He had sent those to the Commissioners. He wanted to see if they were okay in proceeding. He also said the Community Crossings project should start around the 1st of May. Corporation line road will be closed for five days due to work.

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by KW Rice to approve the design for both bridges.

Vote: 3-0

Purdue Extension – Adam Tyler

Adam discussed Safety day. The Governor chose Fountain County as one of his counties he was visiting. He was able to attend the safety day. He volunteered to talk to the kids. He even let them have question and answer time. He did say he was excited and asked if they could work with his chief of staff to coordinate for him to attend next year. This was a very positive visit for Fountain County.

BT Reynolds

Five quotes from BT Reynolds (Total \$10,469.31)

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Tim Shumaker to acknowledge the quote from BT Reynolds for \$408.54, \$190.00, \$1,903.77, \$1,970.00 and \$5,997.00 for heating and cooling.

Vote: 3-0

Tim Shumaker said we have worked on this building for several years. There are many things that need fixed, but this needs to be done right. The 40 million in solar money could have helped. Seven/eight years ago we hired Tradecraft. They did the hallway in the judge's office. We know this building is going to be 100 years old soon. Contractors have told us it is only a matter of time before the water lines pop. Every county around us is working on their building. We are just putting lipstick on a pig. We need to do it, but we were 2 months from getting drawings from Architura. The Council then said no. We were so close to getting something done. He said he would vote to do this, but wanted to bring everyone up to date on what happened in the past. Tim would like to see it done right.

Roemer Carpet Bid

A quote was made by Roemer Home Furnishings for carpet in the new Auditor's office for \$1,350.00

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by KW Rice to acknowledge the quote from Roemer's and submit to the Council.

Vote: 3-0

Roemer - Tabled

A quote was made by Roemer Home Furnishings for carpet in the Circuit Court Department for \$9,500.00-\$10,500.00 (Exact price is unknown until pull up old carpet). Also, a quote for \$1,700.00 for 5 additional Cartons.

A motion was made by ____ and seconded by ____ to acknowledge the quote from Roemer’s and submit to the Council.

Vote: ____

Tradecraft Specialty Contractor, LLC - Tabled

A quote was made by Tradecraft Specialty Contractor, LLC to do work in the Court Records Office, Juror’s Room and Bailiff’s Office for \$26,750.00.

A motion was made by ____ and seconded by ____ to acknowledge the quote from Tradecraft and submit to the Council.

Vote: ____

Dossett Consulting

\$4,700 contract

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by KW Rice to accept the 1-year contract from Dossett Consulting LLC.

Vote: 3-0

Fountain County 4H Club

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by KW Rice to accept the contract from the Fountain County 4-H Club Council, Inc.

Vote: 3-0

TRANSFERS

Maintenance & Repair

From: 1176-0531-22260	Other Supplies	
To: 1176-0531-22420	Bituminous	\$2,050.65

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Tim Shumaker to approve the transfers and send it onto the Council.

Vote: 3-0

REZONING

KW Rice said the APC Board was presented with a Hydrovac retail company along US Highway 41. They would like to build a retail facility, but rezone from agriculture to business. The adjacent land owner asked for denial. There is 11.79 acres in the tract. The business will take roughly 3 acres. There was a petition that went around. Fourteen people signed, but there was no cover letter describing the petition. KW said instead of going through an agricultural exemption they tried doing it the right way going through a full rezone for the property. He does understand the landowners worries. Tim thought there was a moratorium on ag land until the APC figured out what they were going to do. KW said the moratorium was for solar. Tim stated it was for Ag land and nothing was ever given to the Commissioners. Tim said this was done in roughly June 2024. He also wondered if the APC had an attorney. He suggests not doing anything with Ag until the moratorium is figured out and they have an attorney. Ethan Myers said they sent this over with no recommendations. Ethan told the Commissioners what their options were at this time. Aaron Fruits said he would like to discuss this at the joint meeting.

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Tim Shumaker to table the rezone until the April 21, 2025 joint meeting.

Vote: 3-0

Kelly Carlson spoke and stated she pulled the Ordinance 2024-2 regarding the Zoning ordinance. She said this moratorium was only for solar. She said this was signed June 03, 2024. There is nothing referring to agricultural.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Sue Anderson had sent email regarding looking over the comprehensive plan. Aaron would like a motion to pass this back to the APC to let time look over and fix it. There were many things that should have been included that were not. Tim Shumaker said the main reason county have these is for a guide and to get federal money. He said this is not written in stone. Aaron

said he would like to see a lot better than the cut and paste option we received for \$50,000.00

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Aaron Fruits to pass the Comprehensive plan back to the APC.

Vote: 2-1

Aaron Fruits submitted a letter regarding APC.

WEGA CONTRACT DISCUSSION

Kim Kalweit has accepted a new position for WEGA. She has helped with Veedersburg and has also studied economic development courses at Ball State. She is an independent contractor and self-employed. She said her advocacy is for children and young families. She is willing to help any way she possibly can. She does love to find opportunities for grants to help smaller communities. She helped Veedersburg get a conceptional plan to get a park. Aaron Fruits said he would like to sign the contract at the Joint Meeting. There is a lot of money and a lot that can be claimed through Read II. Brad Crain said it is very important for someone to be in economic development to go after this money. Kim said that we are part of a region so every county around us is dependent on us to get our money so they can get their money. Tim Shumaker wanted to go on the record saying that he thinks the world of Kim, but he thinks Rod Bannon did a great job. He watched Rod go after money and work through several struggles. Tim said Rod put a lot of energy and time into this project.

Kelly Carlson said they are working and are willing to work with WEGA. They all recognize that we need economic development in the county. Kelly said they are trying to do it the right way.

Tim Shumaker read a letter he had received from the Democratic party regarding the APC. He said it was a well put letter from Lindsey Milburg. They have been looking for a Democrat to sit on the APC. Aaron had asked if she had anyone in mind to put on the board. She did have some ethical concerns. She said they could maybe find a libertarian.

There have been meetings that have had no legal representation. Also there were four members resigned. Tim said good for them because what they did at the meeting was made a motion without an attorney to pull a permit from Dolphin Solar due to them not fulfilling all requirements. Dolphin sent a letter stating they had fulfilled their requirements and that the commissioners need to state they do not agree with the APC. KW said that motion has to be passed from the APC to the Commissioners in order for the them to vote on it. Ethan said he has had a lot of conversation with Dolphin's council. He has taken the position that the way Fountain County's zoning is reads that Roger holds the key. The APC doesn't have authority. Ethan's advice to the Commissioners was to stay out of it. Tim said the APC needs legal council before next meeting. Tim said we did have one of the best law firms in the state of Indiana when they had Rick Hall, but no one used him.

Tim said eventually nobody worth holding the position will run for public office.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carol Owens wanted to know if the Extension office had appointed anyone for APC. Adam Tyler said he has not found anyone at this time.

Larry Schrock stated that in the next meeting, Roger read a letter he had written to Dolphin. He said Wayne Delong stated they have vested interest and cannot be stopped. He also wanted to know when the Public Health Department Meeting was and where it would be held.

Tim Shumaker stated if you represent the county on a board, the county does have insurance to cover you. However, if you go rogue, you are liable to have to pay. This is why it is important to listen to your attorneys.

Bill Brewer requested an update on Bruce Martin's request to get the property next door cleaned up. Ethan Myers stated he has contacted the landowner. If necessary, they would look into prosecuting through the BZA or APC.


THE NEXT JOINT MEETING WILL BE MONDAY
April 21, 2025
AT 6:00 P.M.

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by KW Rice to close the meeting.

Vote: 3-0

Next:

<<< SUBJECT TO CHANGE >>>


ATTEST

