

**MINUTES
JOINT FOUNTAIN COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS & COUNCIL
AUGUST 18, 2025
6:00 P.M.**

Aaron Fruits and KW Rice were present for the Commissioners. Tim Shumaker was absent.

Kelly Carlson, Jeff Fishero, Denise Crowder, Dudley Cruea, Todd Hegg, Jeff Carver and Jim McKee were present for the Council.

Call meeting to Order:

Fountain County Commissioners – Aaron Fruits
Fountain County Council – Kelly Carlson

Department Heads

Greg Robinson-Landfill

Greg discussed the retention pond progress. He gave an update and details on the tractor he will purchase. He has the funds available to purchase. Darrell Bell will move it to the landfill for him.

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Aaron Fruits to approve the purchase of the tractor.

Vote: 2-0

Garth Kagels-Ambulance

Garth discussed a medic who stepped down. He has filled that position but will need to fill the 12-hour position now. Garth handed out budget updates. Budgeted amount was set prior to hourly rates being increased. He asked if he should request an additional now or do a transfer from full time overtime for now.

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Aaron Fruits to approve a transfer of \$20,000.00 from full time overtime.

Vote: 2-0

A motion was made by Denise Crowder and seconded by Dudley Cruea to approve a transfer of \$20,000.00 from full time overtime.

Vote: 7-0

Garth also gave an update on the status of a new ambulance. There are problems with getting parts for a remount, but ours will be next. There is a possibility federal will get rid of DEF fluid. It's unknown currently what will happen with the current vehicles.

Jason Lewis-Highway

Jason asked for guidance on T&S Towing wanting to pave 50 South. It is a half mile stretch that goes by the Sheriff and EMT building. Sam Newlin wants to pave it himself but have the county maintain it. There are problems maintaining what the county currently maintains. County will liable and not able to ensure standards of the work.

Community Crossings project is done on 800 and Schoolhouse Road. Will need to request and additional after paying Milestone invoices. He will have the final figure by end of August or September.

Jason would like to talk about getting two new employees. He would like some floater positions. They fell behind on mowing and grating. Budget has already been turned in for next year.

Highway Dept – BOT Agreement

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Aaron Fruits to create a committee of four members for vetting bids and making recommendations.

Vote: 2-0

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Aaron Fruits to appoint Jason Lewis to the committee.

Vote: 2-0

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Aaron Fruits to appoint Aaron Fruits to the committee.

Vote: 2-0

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Todd Hegg to appoint Jeff Fishero to the committee.

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Jim McKee to appoint Kelly Carlson to the committee.

Vote: 6-0

Appraisals for Annex Building

The appraisals for the annex building will be kept private for now.

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Aaron Fruits to approve the commissioners to sell the annex building.

Vote: 2-0

A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Denise Crowder to approve the commissioners to sell the annex building.

Vote: 7-0

BT Reynolds Quote

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Aaron Fruits to approve the quote by BT Reynolds to replace the pressure relief valves on both boilers and check for leaks.

Vote: 2-0

Additional Appropriation

911 Dispatch

1000-33160-0303	Caliber	\$12,857.00
1000-33105-0303	IDACS	\$1,588.00

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

Indiana Foundation Service

Jeff Fishero stated the Health Department capsulation is done. They did exactly what they were supposed to do. It took them about four days. Power had to be added to crawlspace which was not there before. It also has battery backup. Bill Brewer confirmed they had dehumidifiers down there as well. Jeff said humidifiers in error.

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Aaron Fruits to approve the invoice from Indiana Foundation Service for the crawlspace inspection for the new Health Department.

Vote: 2-0

Ethan Myers-Law update

Ethan said a new law for anyone we contract for mental health states no single employee can make more than \$400,000.00. Valley Oaks sent a letter stating they are compliant with this new law.

PHI/Stat Flight

Daniel Griffin and Joe Michna gave a presentation on the benefits of the air ambulance available to all Fountain County residents. They encourage every resident to have a card and call to register. Independent memberships are also available as well as discounted senior memberships.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Brewer wanted to publicly thank Jason Lewis on the fast response to two trees across the road that were addressed. He likes the idea of having college kids help with the highway needs. Bill spoke to Matt Commons, and he expressed his frustrations with the solar moratorium.

**THE NEXT FOUNTAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONER
MEETING WILL BE
TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 02, 2025
At 9:00 A.M.**

**BUDGET HEARINGS WILL CONTINUE
ON MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 08, 2025
FOLLOWING THE COUNCIL MEETING
AT 9:00 A.M.**

THE NEXT FOUNTAIN COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING WILL BE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 08, 2025
AT 9:00 A.M.**

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

Vote: 2-0

A motion was made by Denise Crowder and seconded by Dudley Cruea to recess the meeting for the Council.

Vote: 7-0

<<Subject to Change >>

Kim Johnson
ATTEST

Kelly L. Carlson

Jeff Fisher

Denise Crowder

Dudley Cruea

Todd Hegg

James D. Klee

Jeff C. Cruea