

**MINUTES
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 21, 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 Tim Shumaker and seconded by KW Rice to approve the minutes of the Commissioner's meeting of January 06, 2025 as well as the Drainage Board Minutes from January 06, 2025 as presented.

Vote: 3-0

CLAIMS 1-143 (318,056.07), and Payroll Claims

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

Vote: 3-0

PTBOA

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Tim Shumaker to appoint Sandy Whitaker, Brad Ringwald, and Patricia Ritchie to the PTBOA board.

Vote: 3-0

Appointments

Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) Appointment

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Tim Shumaker to appoint the following to the Board of Zoning Appeals Board and set term limits:

APC Member	Campbell White	Term – 1 Year
Non-APC Member	Jake McGraw	Term – 2 Years
Non-APC Member	John Allen	Term – 3 Years
BZA Board Member	Jessica Anderson	Term – 4 Years
BZA Board Member	Daye Phillippo	Term – 4 Years

Vote: 3-0

Area Plan Commission (APC) Appointments

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Aaron Fruits to appoint the following to the Area Plan Commission.

Citizen Member	Campbell White	Term – 1 Year
Citizen Member	Mark Bertolini	Term – 4 Year
Citizen Member	Amber Roarks	Term – 4 Year
Citizen Member	Jon Schrock	Term – 2 Year

Vote: 2-1

Tim Shumaker asked why a 7 & 1/2-year member from the board. Aaron Fruits stated they are going in a different direction and wanted new ideas. Tim thanked Sue Ann Anderson for her dedication and hard work. Aaron and KW also thanked her.

SEALED HIGHWAY BIDS – Gravel, Stone, Rip-Rap, Liquid Asphalt, Tile & Sewer Pipe, Bituminous and Fuel

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by KW Rice to accept all bids received and take them under advisement.

Vote 3-0

WHIN- Johnny Parks

Johnny Parks from WHIN gave a presentation and passed out some information. He discussed how his company benefited farmers,

manufacturing and technology. They want to adopt new technology in the region. They were able to attract \$2.7 million of Federal Grants. They have been able to help with 4 of the murals and the local schools over \$270,000.00 to help with E-learning. They are working with 8 different farmers in Fountain County. They have been able to put up 2 broadband towers in the county also. Johnny said he is grateful for Fountain County's previous generosity of donations and would like to see the county donate \$30,000.00 each year for the next 3 years. He has also given this presentation to the Council. Tim thanked him for all his work.

Judge Campbell-

Judge Campbell stated that the Commissioners are responsible for appointing someone to the Regional Public Defender Board. She would like to appoint Jenny Larson. She has agreed to serve.

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by KW Rice to appoint Jenny Larson to the Regional Public Defender Board.

Vote: 3-0

Judge Campbell reported they have received the scanner grant. She thanked Deputy Lathrop for his assistance in getting this grant. This is roughly \$38,767. We will pay and then be reimbursed.

Judge Campbell and Prosecutor Askren discussed the Opioid funding. That money will come into the Auditor's office. They would like to fund some literature for Johnny's House in Attica. This will be paid from the restrictive funds. The Judge would like to authorize the JRAC committee to make recommendations.

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by KW Rice to authorize local JRAC board/committee to authorize the expenditure of the Opioid money.

Vote: 3-0

ADDITIONALS

CCD – Keller PC

1138-0068-33100	Computer Maintenance	\$7,200.00
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LOIT Public Safety

1170-0005-10302	Deputy Sgt/Detective	\$2,000.00
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Co Gen – Jail

1000-0380-10506	Jail Commander/Deputy 5	\$1,200.00
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Health Dept (\$338,539.75)

1161	HFI	\$338,539.75
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A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by KW Rice to approve the additional request and send it on to the Council for approval.

Vote: 3-0

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Highway – Jason Lewis

Jason discussed the Community Crossings financial commitment. He would like the Commissioners to sign the letter. USI has contacted him and the price will be \$12,500 more for the scope of work. They can cut things if necessary. They would like to open bids the first part of March. The bridge inspection contract is up with USI this year. Jason would like to have one commissioner and one council member to help do scoring on roads. Ethan is reviewing the documents regarding the 5 landowners near bridge 202. They

will work on roads once it thaws out. KW thanked all the guys for their hard work during the snow.

Ambulance – Garth Kagels

Garth passed out a spreadsheet with the end of the year numbers. He broke down all the runs for 2024. They no longer transfer from Williamsport. They have a new secretary and her system seems to be working on the collections. The collections for 2024 were \$939,308.91. They did apply for an AIG Grant. This is for \$495,000 with a 5% match. This would be for 6 monitors and maintenance program. \$23,534.00 would be the County match.

Health Department – Jenny Eads

Jenny would like to use \$11,000 out the local health department grant for liability insurance

A motion was made by KW Rice and seconded by Tim Shumaker to approve the use of the \$11,000.

Vote: 3-0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sue Ann Anderson would like to know why she was never contacted regarding the APC. Laura Bush had talked to Aaron. Aaron said he had interest from other people who are interested in the direction they are heading. Sue said she talked to Laura and she wasn't ready to go either. Aaron said that is opposite of what Laura told him. KW apologized. He said they made the decision to put some new ideas on the board. Tim thanked Sue for her service and stated he had nothing to do with this. Aaron said that Tim was 100% correct.

Carol Owens stated she would like to meet somewhere else. She said Brad Crain said we could meet at the City Building. Aaron stated they are working on it. Carol also said she appreciated the joint meetings with the Council. Aaron said they want to work together.

Larry Schrock discussed County transparency.

Carol Owens wanted to know about the additional \$338,539.75 for the Health Department. This was for a grant. This is the HFI money they are receiving from the State.

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY

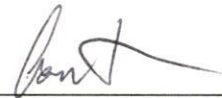
February 18, 2025

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

<<< SUBJECT TO CHANGE >>>



ATTEST