

**FOUNTAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Date: 04/06/26

Time: 9:00 AM

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**1. Call to Order:**

Call to order the April 06<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Fountain County Commissioners.

**Commissioners President:** Aaron Fruits

**Time:** 09:00 AM

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**2. Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance:**

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**3. Roll Call:**

**Members Present:**

- Aaron Fruits
- KW Rice
- Tim Shumaker

**Also, Present:**

- Kim Johnson, County Auditor
- Lisa Spiering, Deputy Auditor
- Ethan Myers, County Attorney

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**4. Approval of Agenda:**

**Action Requested:** Approve agenda as presented/amended

- Motion by: Tim Shumaker
- Second by: KW Rice
- Vote:  Passed 3-0  Failed \_\_\_\_\_

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**5. Approval of Minutes:**

**Meeting Date:** 03/16/26

- Motion by: KW Rice
- Second by: Aaron Fruits
- Vote:  Passed 2-0  Failed \_\_\_\_\_

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**6. Elected Official & Department Reports:**



- Auditor, Kim Johnson
- Treasurer, Tiffany Wells
- Assessor, Amber Roarks
- Clerk, Patty Smith
- Recorder, Nikki Allen
- Coroner, Kayla Holt
- EMA Director, Tina Holmes
- EMS Director, Wayne Laswell
- Prosecutor, Daniel Askren
- Veteran Services,

- Health Department, Jenny Eads
- Highway Superintendent, Jason Lewis
- Landfill, Greg
- Jail, Andrew Krout, Deputy Sheriff
- 911 Director, Dana Stonebraker
- Sheriff, Terry Holt
- Wega, Kim Kalweit

#### **Tiffany Wells – Treasurer**

Tiffany informed the public that taxes were mailed out April 01, 2026. She has added Centrebank to the list of banks that will accept payments from taxpayers.

#### **Jason Lewis – Highway**

Jason updated the Commissioners on the bridge projects. They are finalizing the right away certification for Bridge 202, Stonebluff. The bidding will begin in July and construction will start possibly in the fall. Bridge 66 is planned for 2028. They are still working on plans. The newest federal aid project is Bridge 39 and that is schoolhouse road. Letters of interest were just received. They are working on getting road assessment done so that they can get their plans for chip sealing. There will be a couple closings, 1 starting April 13 Norfolk Southern. They will be shutting down the railroad crossing near Riverside. INDOT will also close state rd 32 between 170 West and 280 West. There will be detours available. Also, a couple guys retiring. He has 5 applicants to be interviewed. He would like to get a couple of guys paid for CDL, but having County attorney write up a contract they must sign. Jason does have a line item in his budget he could possibly use instead of requesting an additional. Commissioners did not mind. Tim asked about Crossroads letter stating they wanted to cancel the letter of credit. Jason has discussed with them. This has also been forwarded to Ethan.

#### **Wayne Laswell – EMS**

Wayne discussed the 911 billing and Stryker. He gave some more information regarding getting everything set up and started. This should increase the revenue 50-100%. This also takes liability off of county. They also have ways of minimizing what goes to the public. He gave the Commissioners the contract. The commissioners agreed. EMS also needs 2 cots and 2 monitors.

#### **Jenny Eads – Health Department**

Jenny informed the Commissioners that the Public Health Nurse has put in her notice and her last day will be 04/17/26. She would like to work as needed until a replacement is found. Commissioners are okay with that decision.

#### **Kim Kalweit – WEGA**

Kim discussed the grants she is currently working on. She stated she is also submitting a grant for READI 2.0 for the arts in Veedersburg. She is working on the \$10,000 Waste Tire grant also. This has been awarded, just waiting on a document to be signed.

#### **Greg Robinson – Landfill**

He has been going through paperwork and noticed a survey was done to separate the landfill from the rest of the County property. This process was never completed. Ethan Myers will work on this.

#### **Terry Holt – Sheriff**

Terry discussed the insurance for the law enforcement. This is going high risk. Terry said they were just told it was renewing not raising. Terry said the insurance company is just paying out instead of fighting the claims. The lawsuits that are settled are not agreed on by the Sheriff. Tim said Charlie has contacted the county and let them know. Terry said we should not pay out quite a few of the open lawsuits. Tim said he and Charlie had been discussing. Tim said all he sees of claims being paid out. There are claims open but only \$56,000 have been paid out. Terry said to stop paying out the claims. He said this is why everyone wants to sue. Tim said there have been 8 lawsuits in 4 years. He is surprised Charlie found this new insurance. Aaron Fruits said there are \$640,000 worth of lawsuits, but only \$56,000 has been paid. A vast majority of that is stuff we should not be settling for. Terry said he is being transparent and trying to get all information requested. Aaron said this is not Charlie, it is the insurance company above him. Right now, Kinsale is the only one available. Tim said last year we were only paying \$43,962. Tim said we are lucky to have insurance. Aaron asked why is this a problem now. Some of these claims are 2-3 years old. Aaron wondered if this is being used because it is an election year. Tim said he didn't think so and he just wants to clear the facts. Kelly Carlson discussed some of the lawsuit situations. Tim said the premium is \$188,000 difference in premiums. KW Rice asked who decides to settle. It is the insurance company. Terry said they say it is cheaper to settle than to go to court. They would like to look for different insurance. Tim said we are lucky Charlie found this insurance. Tim said there is nobody going to look at the county with 8 claims, 3 closed and 5 open. April 4<sup>th</sup> was the renewal.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

##### **Claims (\$377,485.43) Nonpublished & Payroll**

- Motion by: KW Rice
- Second by: Tim Shumaker
- Vote:  Passed \_\_\_\_\_  Failed \_\_\_\_\_

##### **Treasurer's Monthly Report for February 2026**

- Motion by: KW Rice
- Second by: Tim Shumaker
- Vote:  Passed 3-0  Failed \_\_\_\_\_

##### **Highway Annual Operational Report**

- Motion by: KW Rice

- Second by: Tim Shumaker
- Vote:  Passed 3-0  Failed \_\_\_\_\_

**Transfer and send to Council**

**911 – \$3,007.00**

**1000.10212.0000.0303 Floater to 1000.10211.0000.0303 Lead Operators**

- Motion by: Tim Shumaker
- Second by: KW Rice
- Vote:  Passed 3-0  Failed \_\_\_\_\_

**Parking Ordinance 2026-02**

- Motion by: Tim Shumaker
- Second by: KW Rice
- Vote:  Passed 3-0  Failed \_\_\_\_\_

**8. New Business:**

**Wabash River Blueway**

Michelle Stuckey gave a presentation on the Wabash River Blueway. This is a five mile family friendly area. She discussed the project and handed out packet. The Commissioners will discuss more on the meeting on April 20, 2026.

**Cole Myers – Road Closing**

Cole would like to have the easement by his property closed. He owns both properties on the sides of this easement. He would like to close it and put a house. Jason Lewis said it is not county. He has also reached out to INDOT. There are no other landowners.

Close Road pending information to Ethan Myers, County Attorney.

- Motion to approve by: Tim Shumaker
- Second by: KW Rice
- Vote:  Passed 3-0  Failed \_\_\_\_\_

**Bids on Courthouse Cleaning**

- **Off the Wall Pressure Washing (outside only) - \$3,100.00**
- **Pressure Doctor - \$15,300**
- Motion to approve by: Tim Shumaker
- Second by: KW Rice
- Vote:  Passed 3-0  Failed \_\_\_\_\_

**Stryker Contract**

- Motion by: Tim Shumaker
- Second by: KW Rice
- Vote:  Passed 3-0  Failed \_\_\_\_\_

#### 911 Billing

- Motion by: KW Rice
- Second by: Tim Shumaker
- Vote:  Passed 3-0  Failed \_\_\_\_\_

#### Busse Excavating LLC - \$28,532.00

- Motion by: KW Rice
- Second by: Tim Shumaker
- Vote: 3-0 Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Failed

#### Public Hearing – Subdivision Control Ordinance - Setbacks

Beginning Time: 10:08 am

- Public Comment – Larry Schrock asked about the abbreviations.
- Min was 60 ft from center of the road. APC discussed taking it down from 60 ft to 25ft minimum
- Motion by: KW Rice
- Second by: Tim Shumaker
- Vote: Passed 3-0 Failed \_\_\_\_\_

- End Time: 10:10 am
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#### 9. Correspondence & Announcements:

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#### 10. Council Member Comments:

Jeff Fishero discussed the Wega area in Attica and the area being redeveloped is grant money.

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#### 11. Public Comment:

**Carol Owens** – Carol asked if Covington was wanting an ambulance. Nothing has been mentioned to the Commissioners

**Carol Freese** – Carol discussed the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration. There is now a monument on the courthouse lawn. There will also be commemorative rocks in all the parks.

**Bill Brewer** - Bill would like to advocate for Jason. He said every time we get a big rain, Don Martin's shed floods. Bill said Jason is aware and is always helpful. He stated that maybe it is time to get a ditch and culvert out that way.

Bill said someone needs to standup and fight the lawsuits. He understands Sheriff Holt and Tim's sides.

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Jeff Fishero stated that he did not sign a NDA with WEGA


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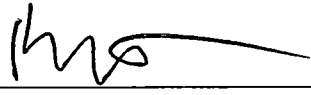
**12. Adjournment:**

- Motion by: Tim Shumaker
- Second by: KW Rice
- Vote: Passed 3-0
- Time adjourned: 10:24 AM
- **NEXT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING: Monday April 20, 2026, at 9:00 AM**
  - **NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Monday April 13, 2026 at 9:00 AM**
  - **NEXT JOINT MEETING: Monday April 20, 2026 at 9:00 AM**

in the Commissioner's Meeting Room

\*\*\*SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*\*\*

  
ATTEST

  
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