

JENNINGS COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING

June 20, 2024, 9:00 A.M.

Annex Building

Matt Sporleder, Shane Boswell, and Bob Wilhite were present. Shane opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Matt opened the meeting with the CCMG bids. Matt opened the bid for Milestone, Shane opened the bid for All Star Paving, and Bob opened the bid for Dave O'Mara. Sherri will review the bids and come back with the results of these bids.

Nicci, with HR is asking permission on behalf of the Assessor to advertise, interview, and hire a replacement for his deputy in the Assessor's office. This job will be vacant on July 5, 2024. Shane made a motion to approve the request, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

In the last commissioner meeting, there was an executive session held concerning 4 employees. One employee has been on unpaid administrative leave and the commissioners need to vote on his continued employment status. Shane made a motion to terminate his employment, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Nicci is asking if this employee would be eligible for holiday pay for June 19, 2024. Alex stated that in his opinion, he should not be eligible for the holiday pay, but if he had any vacation time or personal time, he could use that. Shane made a motion not to pay the employee holiday pay because it was unpaid administrative leave, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Next there needs to be a vote for an hourly rate increase for an employee that was discussed in the executive session. Shane made a motion to approve a \$3.00 per hour increase. Bob seconded the motion, passing unanimously.

Also, the commissioners need to vote on the 2024 percentage rate increase requested by an employee in the executive session. The commissioners have referred the employee to the council to discuss. The commissioners also need to vote on employment status for an employee that has been on leave. He has been paid all the time he has accrued. Shane made a motion to terminate said employee; Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Sheriff Freeman wants to discuss the medical contract that he currently has at the jail. The current contract is with Fast Access, and they will be raising their rates and will not be offering the coverage of care that the jail currently receives. The rates currently for Fast Access are \$165,600.00 and they will increase to \$182,221.05. Along with the price increase, they are changing the ADP (average daily population), which is set at 150 inmates, to 100 inmates. If the ADP exceeds 100 inmates in each month, a per diem charge of \$1.29 per inmate per day will occur. Fast Access reports that based on the billing for the first quarter of 2024, they expect to save the county \$17,800.00 per year. With the cost savings, the county should expect no real cost difference in the amended contract.

The jail captain reached out to a few different Health Care providers, and she received a proposal back from Southern Health Partners. The quote provided was \$174,285.00 annually, \$14,524 monthly. This includes an option for a \$12,000 cost pool. A cost pool will allow the county to set aside money for medical supplies, x-rays, labs, and off-site medical care. Southern Health Partners also have an ADP (average daily population) of 100 inmates. includes an ADP of 100 inmates.

Alex is asking the commissioners to table it because this is the first he has seen the contracts, and he does not feel comfortable authorizing the approval of the contract. The sheriff said what he is asking for is an increase in funds because either way they owe them on the original contract with Fast Access and the cost will increase on the 28th of June. Matt asked the sheriff if he had a spreadsheet comparing both companies. The jail captain said that the information Matt is asking for is on the contracts provided to them. The Sheriff said there are more benefits with Southern Health Partners. He also says that he can offset this cost with the DOC money. The Sheriff said that if the county would set up a non-reverting fund and allow the DOC funds to come back to the jail, he could offset the cost with those funds. Matt and the sheriff discussed the DOC money again. The sheriff bills the DOC, so if the sheriff did not bill the DOC, the county would not receive those funds. The Sheriff mentioned the DOC money being put in a meal line for the jail. Matt said he thought that was a great idea. Alex will create an ordinance and get back with the commissioners and sheriff. Matt would like to see SHP to match the price of Fast Access. The sheriff said that he would pay the additional \$12,000.00 out of his misdemeanor fund if the council approves the contract. Shane made a motion to allow the sheriff to proceed but not to exceed \$175,000.00. Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Sheriff Freeman would like to reduce the speed limit on county roads to 45 mph or less. The sheriff has done research and most of the accidents on the county roads were caused by speed and/or the width of the road. The sheriff said he would like to see an ordinance that allows them to enforce the speed limit and to allow the sheriff's department to utilize the funds brought in from this ordinance. Alex said that he would need to list all the roads and the speed limits that the sheriff is asking for on the ordinance. If the roads are not currently marked with a speed limit, there will need to be speed limit signs put up. Matt is suggesting that we start with major collectors, such as Greyford and Base Line Road. Matt said he is all for safety but will need to do a little more research. The sheriff said that his department doesn't receive any money off citations, and he wants his department to be able to receive funding from citations. The commissioners are suggesting starting small and going from there.

Chief Deputy Low said the parking lot at the sheriff's department is getting rough and it is going to need repaired. Matt asked Chief Deputy Low to reach out and get recommendations because of the drainage problems and to report back to the commissioners.

Sherri with the county highway department is back with the bids results. They are as follows:

Milestone - \$2,038,625.00

All Star Paving - \$2,650,364.00

Dave O'Mara - \$1,497,581.82

Sherri said that everything appears to be in order and her recommendation is Dave O'Mara.

Shane made a motion to approve Dave O'Mara, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

County Road 500 E and County Road 20 N are currently one-way stops. The county highway is asking for an ordinance to be approved to make this a three-way stop. Shane made a motion to approve, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Dustin Meeks with Barnes & Thornburg is present via Zoom and is acting on behalf of The Redevelopment Commission. The money collected by TIF would be able to fund projects in the Town of Vernon, but the Town of Vernon is not included in the TIF district. The resolution that the Redevelopment Commission is requesting approval for would allow State Highway Seven into the TIF district. Matt asked Dustin if he had an estimate on the increased revenue coming in for the

whiskey barrel storage facility. This revenue would go to TIF and the county would be forfeiting this revenue for projects for the Town of Vernon. Shane made a motion to move forward with the TIF redistricting, Bob seconded the motion, passing unanimously.

Alex with SPAC wants to donate a two-acre piece of property to expand the Butlerville Cemetery. Purdue would have to transfer the property to the county and then the county would need to transfer it to the Butlerville Cemetery. Purdue can only transfer property to a government entity. Shane made a motion to approve the land transfer, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Alex provided a notice to bid for the APC vehicle. All bids must be delivered to the Auditor's office by 4pm on July 31, 2024. Shane made a motion to allow Alex to post the notice; Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

In 2017 Jackie Koenig Jr., a Lance Corporal in the Marine Corps. passed away on a military base while serving overseas. Alex is seeking local support for renaming a bridge after Lance Corporal Jackie Koenig Jr. Alex is seeking the support so that he can get the process started. Bob made a motion to approve, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

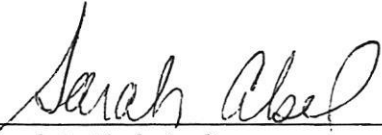
Dan with Veterans Services would like to transfer his old vehicle to the sheriff's department when his new vehicle comes in. Shane made a motion to approve the transfer, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The Auditor's office received an email on a road complaint for 900 E (dirt road). They are requesting chip and seal for the road and speed bumps and/or signs. The individual has lived on the road for eight years and stated that their requests are always ignored. Matt said if the road was chip and sealed, the people would just drive faster. Matt asked Sherri if she could check into cooking oil for the road and requested that the county highway put up slow children play signs on both sides of the house. Matt said to get an estimate to chip and seal from the intersection to the house.

Tara Thormin, a representative with the animal control board, thanks the commissioners for the much-needed construction at the animal shelter, and for allowing them to install new security cameras. The feedback from the community is that Animal Control have lower adoption fees. Tara said they are exploring options to be able to have free adoption events. We would much rather see the adoption fee lowered so that these animals do not get euthanized. Tara is reaching out to other counties to see how they can have low adoption fees. Animal Control has recently hired a part-time tech but are still looking for a full-time Animal Control Officer. There will be a need for a bigger building because there is not room for the animals. Some of the rooms do not have proper ventilation and that is worrying. When you enter the building all you can smell is urine. The animals deserve better than what they have. There are no holding areas for sick dogs. The current adoption fees for dogs start at \$157.00 and go up to \$300.00.

The adoption fee for cats starts at \$142.00. Nine community members covered adoption fees for nine cats. Tara will provide progress reports to the commissioners. Tara said she is dedicated to making this facility better! Matt mentioned donating \$10,000.00 for the remainder of the year to apply to adoption fees. This would be contingent on council approval. Shane made a motion to approve, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Bob made a motion to sign prior minutes, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.



Sarah J. Abel, Auditor

Matt Sporleder, President



Bob Wilhite



Shane Boswell

JENNINGS COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING

July 11, 2024, 9:00 A.M.

Annex Building

Shane Boswell, and Bob White were present. Shane opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Judge Bright & JRAC is asking the commissioners for approval to join the ARA (Administrative Resources Association). In attendance with Judge Bright is Tobi Herron and Whitney Koelling with ARA. JRAC will be pulling in ARA for grant writing. The cost for ARA will be paid out of the Opioid Settlement funds. The county attorney is not in attendance today and he will need to review the contract. Judge Bright will send the contract to Alex for his review. Bob made a motion to allow Judge Bright to move forward with the ARA, Shane seconded the motion, passing unanimously.

Nici with HR presented a travel request for herself and Shana Richmond. The expense will come from the HR training budget and probation user fees. Bob made a motion to approve the travel request, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously. The treasurer also has a conference coming up and the expenses to be paid from the elected official training budget. Bob made a motion to approve the travel request, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Marie Shepherd with APC has a presentation in Greensburg coming up and there will be no expenses involved. Bob made a motion to approve the travel request, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Danny with APC will also be attending a training session, and the expenses will be paid from the APC budget. Bob made a motion to approve the travel request, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The prosecutor's office received two resignations. The first one being Deputy Prosecutor Madysn Harsh, her last day will be July 26. The second is the Victims Advocate, and she will be retiring on August 15. Bob made a motion to allow the Prosecutors office to start finding these replacements. Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Bee Murphy with the coordinating council has come to ask the commissioners for \$10,000 for the 2025 budget. Bee said that the coordinating council received a grant from Purdue University to hire another person. She said the need just gets greater and greater. The families that have 2 incomes are having trouble making ends meet. Bee said that the Coordinating Council gives out 4600 to 4800 meals a month. She said that food boxes do not go to dead beats. If they are not working and trying, she will not give them a box until they go to work. She will not let them go hungry so she may give them peanut butter and beanie weenie's but not a meal box. The boxes have \$100.00 worth of food in them and that is enough to last for seven days (three meals a day) for four people. The coordinating council operates on donations only. Bee does not get paid, and she is in her eighth year. Shane told her that he was proud of her and glad that she was still there, and that she is doing a great job. Bob made a motion to approve \$10,000.00 for the 2025 budget, Shane seconded his motion, passed unanimously.