

JENNINGS COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING
December 19, 2024, 9:00 A.M.
Annex Building

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

Shepherd Insurance comes before the commissioners. Shepherd Insurance was working with the marketplace and received a couple pages of denials. They thought they found a broker that would get the coverages that we need who gave a ballpark figure in the \$900,000's as of the last commissioner meeting. Since that meeting, the quotes have gone much higher. In a final effort, the leadership team at Shepherd came together and went back to Liberty, the expiring carrier, and had a long conversation and they had agreed to stay on after previously stating they were not. There was a unanimous motion to carry forward with Liberty through Shepherd Insurance.

Cody Low comes before the commissioners on behalf of the Sheriff's office. The first thing he brings up is that typically they use around 3700 gallons of fuel. He is discussing with the sheriff the recommendation of keeping gas cards for emergency fuel needs. Cody comes forth with a contract approved by the council to put in the bond, dash cams, subject to commissioners' approval. There is a discount pending on getting the contract signed by the end of the year. Alex states that the bond closed on the Tuesday before the meeting, and he will need to review the contract. He was told the contract can be presented again at the next meeting on December 30th.

Nathan Smith comes before the commissioners on behalf of Eagle Point to discuss the renewal of the IT contract. Due to personal reasons and health concerns, he has made the decision to domesticate the company in his residing state of Florida. One of the complications that arises from this is that his liability increases as his travel from home is increased. Secondly, he's moving the company to Florida to save tens of thousands of dollars in income tax, so he must have a physical location. If it looks like he's doing business directly in the State of Indiana, then he must reconcile with the Indiana Department of Revenue. Lastly, any potential lawsuits that Eagle Point takes on puts him at risk with his listing with the small business administration when he goes to get his set-aside status. Nate has worked with his attorneys to create an Indiana company based out of Seymour that does Indiana service contracts that would subcontract back to Eagle Point, so his current employees don't have to give up their benefits. The hourly pay rate will remain at \$53.00, but he is asking to go from 80 to 90 hours per week. That is an increase of \$27,560 annually. Shane made a motion to sign the contract with the new obligations, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Britt comes before the commissioners through Zoom on behalf of 911. Last meeting Nicci presented the IN digital contract and the commissioners wanted to know why there was only one bid. Britt explains that IN digital provides 911 to 70 counties in the state and we are one. If it is bid out, they would have to give up their licenses that were paid for years ago. The other company that provide 911 is reputable not as customizable. Britt has started seeking another bid, but he doesn't want to miss out on the funding from this year's project. Shane made a motion to approve the contract, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Ian comes before the commissioners on behalf of EMS. They are requesting \$80,000 for a grant with a match of \$13,000. They are requesting to replace their extrication equipment, which is about 30

years old, as well as the personal protection equipment, which are also approximately 30 years old. Last year the rescue unit did 35 extrication runs. The service life for PPE according to the National Fire Protection Agency is 10 years and the extrication equipment is 15 years. Some of the tools are no longer affective against newer vehicle materials. They would not be getting equipment for each member, but they would be getting boots, helmets, and gloves for all full-time employees, but not jackets or pants. Matt asked Tracy is she had the \$13,000 match money in her budget, and she said she should. Shane made a motion to approve Ian's request, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Peggy comes before the commissioners on behalf of the health department. She is asking to be able to use the county attorney for 2025 and beyond. They did not budget for an attorney next year under the assumption that they would be able to use the county attorney. They have used the county attorney since 2013. Peggy did not have an estimate of how many hours would be needed. Alex stated that his contract says he is the commissioner's attorney, not the county's attorney but if the commissioners wanted to change that in the future, he would be open to it. They decided on the spot to add that to his next year's contract. Shane made a motion to allow the Health Department to utilize the county attorney, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Shane made a motion to reappoint Dr. Scott Terry and Craig Kipper to the Board of Health. Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The 2025 contract from Purdue Extension was presented to the commissioners for approval. There was a \$5000.00 increase from 2024. Shane made a motion to approve the contract, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The commissioners discussed the need for stop signs and noted that the Ripley County Line sign is in the wrong place. The stop sign ordinances will be tabled until the next meeting.

Michelle comes before the commissioners on behalf of animal control. They got a credit card machine set up through pay.gov and went through the auditor's office to get banking information. The treasurer's office has requested that animal control gets a separate bank account from the general so that all the money is one location, and the record keeping is easier to keep track of. German American Bank said they could do that, but they required the minutes to show the approval from the commissioners. The fund will be subject to State Board of Accounts audits. Shane made a motion to approve the separate account, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The sheriff's department is requesting approval for Jeff Jones' duty weapon to be released and removed from the sheriff's Parliament Inventory. Shane made a motion to approve this request, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Alex reviewed the contract that Cody brought in and asked him to come back up to discuss it. Cody stated that contract is for car dash cams that turn on with the emergency lights. He spoke with their insurance who said it was one of the risk assessments they wanted to imply. The department currently has cheap dash cams, but the new ones would sync up with the body cams. Shane made a motion to approve the contract, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

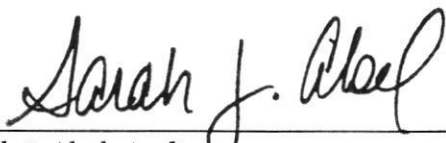
Bob made a motion to approve prior minutes, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Bob made a motion to sign payroll and claims, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.


Shane made a motion to reappoint Matt Sporleder and Jerry Lamb to the SISWD board. Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Bob Wilhite had two 12-year stances for a total of 24 years as a commissioner and is now retiring, as well as Howard Malcolm who served on the county council for 28 years. The commissioners would like to recognize them and thank them for their service. Immediately following the meeting, there will be a small reception to recognize Bob and Howard. For their dedication and commitment to the county.

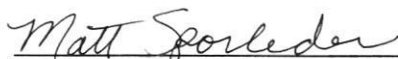
Bob made a motion to adjourn, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.



Sarah J. Abel, Auditor



Bob Wilhite



Matt Sporleder, President



Shane Boswell