

JENNINGS COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING

September 12, 2024, 9:00 A.M.

Annex Building

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

Nicci, with Human Resources submitted a travel request to attend the AIC conference. The fees for this conference will come from the HR budget. Shane made a motion to approve the request, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Nicci also submitted an agreement between the county and Barnes & Thornburg for a Department of Labor investigation. Shane made a motion to sign the agreement, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously. The last thing that Nicci will present is an ordinance change for regulating employees of county owned vehicles. Shane made a motion to table this ordinance change, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Kristian Manning with Domestic Violence is asking to be considered for \$10,500.00 in the 2025 budget. She states that they received a decrease in the VOCA dollars and appreciate the support of the county. Shane made a motion to approve, contingent on council approval. Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

John Springmeyer lives at 9900 N Co Rd 100E and is asking the commissioners to pave or chip and seal the road. He has lived her for about six years and calls the county every year and is told that it is on the books. There is constant dust, and he suffers chronic sinus issues. There is about ½ miles that needs paved or chip and sealed. Matt said that this is his school bus route, and he does not want this road paved. With the river running the way it does and no guard rails, it becomes a safety hazard. Matt said that he can have the sheriff's department go look and can concur what Matt is saying. Matt says that people are going to drive entirely too fast and when there is snow and ice, you could slide right off the road into the river. It was mentioned to only do a portion of the road, and Matt said that you would need to pave/chip seal the whole road. Matt said that the school corporation removed this road from the route but with highway 3 being closed he is running that route again. Matt said he wants the sheriff's department to look at it before any decision is made. Matt said it would not be paved; it would need to be chip sealed. The chip seal would allow a little bit of traction.

Sherri with the county highway needs a signature from the commissioners for a Notice to Bid advertisement. Shane made a motion to sign the notice, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Tracy with EMS is here to discuss a new ambulance. The county approved a request for an ambulance in 2023, but it is not scheduled to be delivered until March of 2025 or possibly later. The previously ordered ambulance is a 2022 and will not be delivered until 2025. Tracy came across a deal for a 2024 Ford F-350 4x4. The current fleet consists of:

2008 Ford F-450 with 116,811 miles.

2011 Ford F-450 with 120,0888 miles.

2015 Ford F-350 with 113,848 miles.

2017 Ford F-350 with 59,756 miles.

Manufacturers recommendation for the life of an ambulance is 5-7 years. The quote from Penn State for the 2024 F-350 is \$225,000.00 and can be picked up with a matter of a couple of weeks. This ambulance will need to be outfitted with the radio system, a power load, and the graphics. The total cost of the ambulance will be \$320,470.32. Matt did voice his concerns about the rotation of purchasing new ambulances. Council approved with purchase, contingent on commissioner approval, and council has requested the funding come from Safety LIT. Tracy said that they have two ambulances that need replaced. The oldest truck will be replaced first and Animal Control is requesting to use it. Tracy informed Animal Control that they would need to talk to the commissioners. The other truck that is being replaced; EMS is requesting to keep it as a backup truck. Shane made a motion to approve the purchase of a new ambulance, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously. EMS has an old truck sitting out back and it has been out back for seven years. Tracy and her team are going to convert this old truck into a simulator. Tracy had a meeting with the county attorney to discuss what to do with the chassis. It is probably only worth \$300.00 to \$400.00. The county attorney is suggesting the bid process to sell the chassis. A county employee has several hundred dollars wrapped up in the simulator because he thought he would get the chassis. John with EMS is asking if the money that the employee has put into the chassis can be part of his bid? Matt & Alex to research this.

The mayor of Vernon, Wayne Zamora is asking the commissioners if they would consider sealing and re painting the lines at the county lot in Vernon. With all the things going on in Vernon, the remodel of the Log Cabin, and the success of Los Alamos. We also have two residents hosting Air BnB's. Wayne has received a letter of support from the vendors in Vernon in support of this. Matt asked if there is going to be a cross walk and Wayne said that the Trails Grant has a crosswalk in the plans going in by the liquor store. Matt is good with making the improvements if the construction on the building adjacent to the parking lot is complete. Wayne said that he would check and get back with the commissioners.

Avis McGovern, with the park board wanted to introduce Seth Jones as the appointed superintendent of the park, as of September 4, 2024. Avis said Seth is doing a phenomenal job and the other park guys are hitting the ground running, preparing for 2025. There are 3 park employees split between two parks right now, but the work is getting done. She said that they are very thankful for all the resources in the county, and for the highway department helping with debris from the big storm. The Park Board will be apart of the hiring process for a new park director and will start that process after the 2025 budget is finalized. Seth said the goal right now is just to get through the season and work on a game plan for 2025. Seth said the splash pad was shut down after Labor Day. There will need to be work done on the splash pad before they can open it up next year.

Alex presents an ordinance to the commissioners to regulate the speed on 400 South. Shane said that he spoke with the sheriff, and he recommends a speed limit of 35 on 400 S. Shane thinks we should act on the sheriff's recommendation. Bob made a motion to waive the first reading, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Shane made a motion to adopt the ordinance, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Alex presents another ordinance regarding the requirement of suspension and debarment language in county contracts. In any Federal Grants of \$25,000.00 or more you must make sure that there is language that states the individual doing the work, or any subcontractors are going to have documentation that they are not under suspension, and that they are in good standing and have not been debarred or suspended from doing any government work. We were notified of this, and this was new to us. We did not have this in our

contracts. Shane made a motion to adopt this ordinance, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The next ordinance that Alex must present pertains to no truck traffic ordinance on Base Road. There have been some violations processed through the court and Alex did not realize that he drafted the original ordinance, he did not include a fund for these fees to be deposited into to. The proceeds collected from these violations, will be deposited into the sheriff's garage and motor fund. Alex also added to the ordinance that along with the \$500.00 fine, the violator will incur court costs. Shane made a motion to adopt the ordinance, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Matt discussed having a 4-way stop put up at 860 North/900 East. This is a county line intersection at 1000 W. in Ripley County. This is a very dangerous road and needs a 4-way stop. Matt asked Sherri if she received an email from Darren Reeves regarding the issue, and she stated that she has not. Matt said that it might be an issue with it being a county line intersection.

Sarah (Auditor) told commissioners that there needs to be a copy of all county contracts in the Auditors office. The Auditor's office is legally bound to have a copy of the contract so that we know how the bill is supposed to be paid. Alex asked Sarah to send him an email regarding this.

Amy with the Auditor's office discussed the transfer of deed fees with the commissioners. Currently, the Auditors office charges \$10.00 per deed, whereas most counties charge \$10.00 per parcel. The Auditors office will have one deed come into the office but that one deed can have 50 parcels on it, which requires extra time to process. The revenue received is deposited into a dedicated fund for use in maintaining property tax records, in traditional or electronic format. Shane stated that problem he has with this is that he feels like everybody is paying plenty of taxes and the county should be providing a service. Matt said that he agrees with Shane 100% but along those lines, if the Auditors office does not have enough money to maintain the records, then that falls back on the commissioners. If more money is needed in the fund, Matt is suggesting that we go to council and ask for the money. Shane made a motion to leave the transfer fees at \$10.00 per deed, Bob seconded the motion.

Alpha Omega Chapter is asking for the fees to be waived at The Community Building for their annual purse auction in March 2025. Bob motioned to waive all fees except the \$75.00 cleaning fee, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Tara Thormin on behalf of the Animal Control wanted to come say Hi, and to let the commissioners know that 210 animals have been adopted out so far this year. Tara and a group of friends started a little group called Friends of Jennings County Animal Control. Fundraising events are getting started and all the money will go towards sponsoring some of the adoption fees and covering some emergency medical care. Alex asked what kind of organization this is, and Tara stated that it is strictly volunteers. Alex said the any donations would need to go through the Animal Controls donation fund. Tara said that she was not aware of that. Tara said that this is separate from the donation fund with the county. There has been a second Animal Control officer hired but she is still in training. Tara has asked the commissioners if The Animal Control Board could have their meetings at the Annex in the commissioners' room. The commissioners are good with that provided there is not any scheduling conflicts.

The recorder spoke on behalf of the late Richard Wahlman. Richard was a dairy, tobacco, grain, and hog farmer most of his life. In his later years he served as a deputy in both the Recorder's and Clerk's office. He also served on the board for Jennings County Soil and Water. Mary says that he was a very loyal county employee and a family person.

Cody with the sheriff's department speaks to the commissioners about auto insurance claims. They will have approximately \$30,000.00 and they will need that money to supplement the other vehicles. Cody is asking if the money can go directly into the police vehicle fund. Matt voiced his concerns on the Sheriff's Department buying back a totaled vehicle and repairing it. Matt says the insurance company will not insure a vehicle with a salvage title. Shane and Matt are both asking for better communication, and to keep the commissioners in the loop.

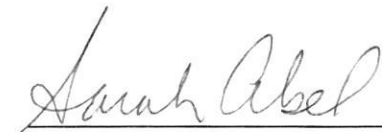
North Vernon Main Street attended a council meeting a few months back and council approved a donation and told them that they needed to follow up with the commissioners. Matt said that he did not even know about the downtown event. There will be 3 events next year and would love to have the counties support. Shane made a motion to approve \$1500.00 for the next event, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Matt wants to come up with a Task Force to see how many county vehicles we have and to see how many are needed. This will consist of one council member, one commissioner, Chief Deputy, HR, and Sarah Abel.

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

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

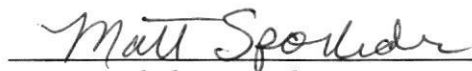
Bob made a motion to adjourn; Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.



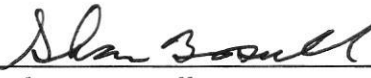
Sarah J. Abel, Auditor



Bob Wilhite



Matt Sporleder, President



Shane Boswell