

JENNINGS COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING  
December 5, 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.

Matt started the meeting with a bid opening for the well used 2001 Ford ambulance. Matt opened the bid from Robert Nichols, and his bid is \$501.26. Shane opened the bid from Mike Bott, and his bid is \$957.00. Bob made a motion to award the bid to Mike Bott, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Matt asked the Auditors office to let Mike know that he won the bid.

Matt opened a bid for fuel from Premiere Energy. This was the only bid turned in for fuel.  
On road - \$2.9549  
Off road - \$2.3579  
87 Oct. - \$2.4008

Matt, Shane, and Bob continue to open the 2025 bid documents. The county received bids from IMI, Milestone, O'Mara, Asphalt Materials, Marathon, Terry Materials, Heidelberg, US Agg, Indot, Civilcon, Metal Culverts, Stearns and Winsupply. All bids received and acknowledged.

There is also a bid received for the engineering inspection for Brownstown Road. The county received bids from HWC Engineering, FPBH, and USI. These bids cannot be awarded until they are scored.

Sherri will take all bids to the Auditors office and review all bids. Matt told the prospective bidders that they could go with Sherri if they wished to.

There are 3 quotes turned in by maintenance for the doors at the probation office. Matt is requesting to table the bids until Justin can present them. Shane made a motion to table the quotes, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

HR presented a travel request for Dan Brookbank. Dan will be traveling to a district conference. There is no cost to attend the conference. Shane made a motion to approve, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Jerry Shepherd also has a travel request to attend a conference. There is no cost to attend the conference. Shane made a motion to approve Jerry's travel request, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

HR is also presenting a contract for Indigital, on behalf of Britt B. this contract is for a much-needed upgrade to the 911 equipment. Alex said that the contract is a 62-page document. Part of the contract is for the equipment upgrade and the other part is for updated service and maintenance. The contract will need to be revised and will not be able to be signed today. Shane made a motion to table the contract, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

David Moore with Moore & Shepherd Insurance provides the commissioners with an update on the county's liability insurance. Multiple companies have declined the coverage for the county because

the loss ratio is high. Liberty had said that they will not renew Jennings County. Shepherd had called Liberty, and they said they would take a second look at it. David said that the county needs a go to person; one that oversees the coverages on the county owned vehicles. David made suggestions such as having liability only on vehicles that are older than twelve years, or maybe after ten years to remove collision and leave comprehensive on. David thinks that with some changes, several thousands of dollars can be saved. Matt is asking David to come back with the recommendations on changing deductibles. David also recommends bringing a Risk Management group into to work with the county. Shane asked about the cost on a risk management company, and David said his estimate would be \$10,000 to \$25,000.00. If payroll does not increase, the works comp. insurance would not increase. Matt asked David if Shepherd Insurance was not a big enough company that this is on the market, and they could entertain? David said they are growing faster by acquisition than they are by organic growth. In the last 15 years, Shepherd has purchased 42 agencies, and they have 37 locations. Matt said he feels like they are forced into a situation that they are going to have to look at. Matt said, "Would we be better off if we didn't have a jail and housed the inmates somewhere else?" David said that he feels this is less of an insurance issue and more of a legal, court issue. David said that the jail is not driving all the premium. David said that he would keep working on the numbers and report back at the next meeting.

Cody Low is asking the commissioners to increase the tow impound fee (criminal offenses) to \$120.00. Alex said that if he would have known, he could have amended the original ordinance. Cody has been instructed to come back to the next meeting to finalize the ordinance. Shane made a motion to direct Alex to amend the ordinance and increase the impound fee. Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Cody also explains to the commissioners that the 911 board needs a appointment from the commissioner's. Shane made a motion to appoint Cody Low to the 911 board, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Ronald Baugh has concerns about a drainage issue on his property that results from the street draining under the street from the west side through his property to the Big Lake in CSL. He says that he has had this problem for 6 to 7 years. According to Mike at CSL, it's not their problem. Ronald has tried to investigate to find the original plans. He said the drainage problem was not an issue when he first purchased the property. Ronald said that no one can provide the plans that he is looking for. Mr. Baugh states that he has lost six foot of property due to eroding from this problem. He said that he had contacted the county highway, and they came and looked at the problem. They said they would get with him in a couple of weeks, and that has been 3 months ago. He said he called Matt also and Matt never called back either. Matt said that he did not have an answer to give him. Alex told Ronald to go to the Area Plan Office and talk to Marie to get the information he needs. Matt said that they needed to look ahead. If Ronald gets the plans, who is going to fix the problem? Ronald also is saying that the road is starting to disintegrate. He says the roads should have been paved but they only put a gravel base and that is it. Matt explains that the gravel base is to get through the winter, and it will eventually be black topped. Ronald said it is looking like things are only being halfway done by the county and CSL. Shane stated that we must make do with the money we have.

Marie is asking the commissioners to approve a rezone request. The request comes from Michael and Lisa Coons. The property is currently zoned as agriculture, and they are wanting to rezone to heavy industrial. The address for this rezone request is 3960 N Co Rd 75 W. Marie said that essential services passed this rezone, and that APC passed it contingent on them coming back before the commissioners when it is sold to let the commissioners know what project is going in



there. Shane made a motion to approve the rezone, with the same contingency from APC. Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Sherri with the county highway reviewed all bids packets. All the necessary information was in each packet. Sherri recommends the low bidders:

Asphalt – O'Mara

Liquid Asphalt – Asphalt Materials

Fuel – Premiere (Daily Rack Rate)

Aggregates – US Aggregate

Metal Culverts – Civilcon

Plastic Culverts – Winsupply

Bob made a motion to accept all bids, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Sherri received quotes back on getting the truck fixed that was turned over. Palmer's quote is \$21,092.30 and Stoops is \$34,394.76. Palmer's quote is to repair the bed and Stoops is a brand-new bed. Shane made a motion to accept the quote from Palmer, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Sherri also submitted pricing to the commissioners for fuel tanks to be put in at the Sheriff's Department. A 1000-gallon tank and a 500-gallon tank is \$17,328.30. This includes the tank, the pumps, and the card system. Only EMS and the Sheriff Department would be utilizing this right now. The tanks will be filled every week to ten days. Driver and mileage would also be tracked. Shane made a motion to accept the bid for the 1000 gallon and the 500-gallon tanks at \$17,328.30. Bob second the motion, passed unanimously.

The county highway received a call on 600 W, which is the Hayden-Scipio Pike. They would like the intersections of 600W and 175N to be a four way stop instead of a two way stop. Cody Low has looked at the area and he recommends a four way stop also. Shane made a motion to allow Alex to proceed with an ordinance to allow the four-way stop. Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Matt also would like a four way stop at 860n and 900E. Shane made a motion to allow Alex to proceed with an ordinance to allow the four-way stop. Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Shane made a motion to appointment Brian Hatfield to the Campbell Township Sewer Board, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Alex created two ordinances on behalf of Judge Bright. One ordinance is creating a drug court fund that will start in January with grant funds from the Supreme Court. In order to receipt and disperse those grant monies, and that any money in that fund does not revert to the general fund. The second ordinance is to be used for the drug court. Judge Bright will receive grant funding from the Supreme Court to establish a pretrial services program. The money in this fund will not revert to county general at the end of the year. Any money in this fund will be used to operate the Pretrial Services Program. Shane made a motion to approve, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The commissioner meetings for Jan. 2025 to April 2025 will be held at 6pm.


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

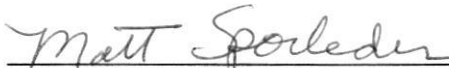
Bob made a motion to approve payroll and claims, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Shane made a motion to reappoint Tom and to appoint Jason Sanders to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

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

  
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Sarah J. Abel, Auditor

  
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Bob Wilhite

  
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Matt Sporleder, President

  
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Shane Boswell