

JENNINGS COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING

March 20, 2025, 6:00 P.M.

Annex Building

Matt Sporleder, Alex Zimmerman, Shane Boswell, and Charlie St. John were present. Matt opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Nicci (HR) submitted a travel request for Dan Brookbank. Dan will attend service officer training in June. Any expenses will be paid from his budget. Shane made a motion to approve the request, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously. A second travel request was submitted for the Extension office to attend a support staff meeting in Seymour. Mileage for this meeting will be paid from the Extension offices' budget. Shane made a motion to approve, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Nicci submitted the cyber insurance renewal application to the commissioners for approval. Shane made a motion to sign the application, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Tracy Jones with EMS is here to discuss a Cadet program in Jennings County. Ian Godfrey explains that this is not a brand-new program, it's a blast from the past. Mike Deshong started Jennings County EMS as a cadet and has recently retired after 27 years. Mike started as a cadet first and then transitioned into a part time employee. Mike eventually became a full-time employee. Cadet programs are growing throughout the nation, including several in Indiana. This program includes participants as young as 12 years of age. Ian sent the commissioners and the county attorney some documentation that includes a standard liability waiver that has been provided by the National Volunteer Fire Chief's Association. Ian explains that the cadets will train at the station and have ride time. The cadets are prevented from doing interior attack work but will respond to medical calls and vehicle crashes. Indiana recognized that teenagers play a vital role in saving lives. At age 13 they are allowed to go through the emergency medical responder program and can receive certification at age 14. The cadets can do things such as take vitals, administer oxygen, and help provide life saving measures. Ian states that they will be teaching the cadets every aspect of emergency medical services as well as public safety. Shane had questions related to the county insurance. The county insurance will cover the program, says Nicci, but they would prefer that the cadets stay outside and not to enter homes. There would need to be something drafted that says no pictures, no social media, etc. Ian said that this falls under the standard HIPPA policy. Shane said that he thinks it sounds like a great program, he just needed some clarification from the county's insurance. Ian said that he sent the commissioners the same packet that he would provide to the parents. Ian says that he understands that some of the incidents can obviously be life changing. Unfortunately, Ian says, "Life is Life and life isn't always pretty". Matt says that he is a mixed bag of nuts on this! He doesn't really know how to feel about the program. Matt thinks it is a good idea, but he has some reservations. Matt says that Ian keeps saying Life is Life, but never once mentioned death. Matt says, "That is the part that scares me." Matt says that it is wonderful if it's a learning experience but if it turns out to be a traumatic experience and we send someone the other way, that is where I am really concerned. Matt said that he would be perfectly fine with the office training portion of the cadet program. Matt tells Ian to be very, very careful as to what calls the cadets would be taken on. Matt said the cadets should not go on an infant choking incident or a serious traffic accident, not at 13 years old. Ian said that we are at a point in time where serious conversations are

being had about post-traumatic stress disorders in first responders and that he does not want to cause that in young men and women. Charlie asked if EMS was screening these individuals and Ian replied yes, of course. Shane made a motion to allow Ian to proceed with the cadet program. Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

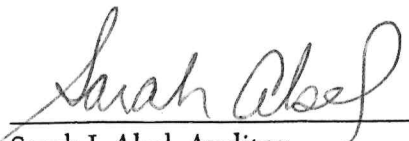
Roy Herr speaks with the commissioners about 425N. Roy has a potential buyer for property, but he feels that we owe this potential buyer a yes or no on being able to move the road. Alex said that what he told commissioners in the last meeting was whoever owns the property that there is a process to go through and that it starts with Area Plan. Alex does not want the commissioners to agree to move a road before any type of plan has been presented. Roy said that it is getting harder and harder to find places to build houses. The reason the potential buyer would have to move the road is because of the setback. The buyer is wanting the house by the river. Roy said that there is only one other house on the road and the buyer would have the easement right away. Shane said the only way he would even consider moving the road is if the county had done away with it and it was the potential buyers road. Shane said if he must vote, it's no for him. The county cannot file a motion to vacate the road because there is another person living on that road. Ray said that if that person approved it then it could be done. Matt said he didn't have a problem with that. Matt said that he is not voting for something that he hasn't seen plans for. Matt said he would vote at the next meeting if there were plans submitted to the Area Plan. Shane made a motion to the table until the next meeting, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.


Matt said that there was a quote received for the Animal Control building. The quote is \$600,000.00. Shane said that he thought they were building on and remodeling, not building a new building. Matt said that he is a big fat no on \$600,000.00. He knows that something needs to be done on air quality but not spend \$600,000.00. Shane said to tell Mr. Woodall, to tell whoever oversees the Animal Control Board, to come up with another plan. Matt asks if this was added to the bond. The Auditors' office said that there were kennels and a new security system in the bond but do not recall a new building being in the bond. Matt said the current building smells horribly of urine and needs ventilation. Charlie made a motion to reject the \$600,000.00 quote, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

JL Brewer comes every year to the commissioners to get approval for a letter of support for the Community Corrections Grant. Shane made a motion to approve/sign the letter of support, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Charlie made a motion to approve prior minutes, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Shane made a motion to approve payroll and claims, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

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


Sarah J. Abel, Auditor


Charlie St. John


Matt Sporleder, President


Shane Boswell