

JENNINGS COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING

April 17, 2025, 6:00 P.M.

Annex Building

Matt Sporleder, Alex Zimmerman, Shane Boswell, and Charlie St. John were present. Matt opened the meeting at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Cathie Martin and Robert Frist are members of the Crossroad Creek Subdivision and have come before the commissioners to ask if the county would take their lane on as a county road. There are seven lots on the road. The problem is getting gravel and finding someone to spread the gravel. Matt asked the highway department if INDOT would accept it on their road list. If the county agrees to it, INDOT would accept it. Matt's recommendation is to table until the next meeting. Some from the county highway need to go out and inspect the road to be sure that it meets a certain set of specifications. If it meets the criteria, the commissioners will vote on it in the next meeting. Shane made a motion to table, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

HR presents two travel requests. The first is from the Clerk for the annual Clerks conference. The expenses will be paid out of the county general fund. Shane made a motion to approve, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously. The second travel request is from Mary Kilgore. She will be attending the annual Recorder conference. The expenses will be paid from the country general fund. Shane made a motion to approve, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda is for HR to discuss Cyber Insurance renewal with the commissioners. Jennings County currently has a million dollars of coverage with a per incident deductible of \$50,000.00. The same amount of coverage for this year came in at \$14,068.13. Shepherd does want the commissioners to consider \$2 million of coverage. Matt said that he would like to be able to say something went down in cost and not up! Shane made a motion to approve the renewal, keeping the coverage the same for \$14,068.13; Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Marie Shepherd presenting for Animal Control. Marie says that she spoke with Animal Control after the department head meeting and expressed commissioner concerns for litigation that is currently going on regarding kennel license. Marie pulled up the kennel and commercial dog breeding license and the only thing that she sees was a mention of zoning requirements, but our county does not have anything in place for zoning in the county's ordinances. The kennel license had not been an issue until the concerns that were just brought up. The Town of Vernon has an ordinance that says you are only allowed 3 or 4 dogs. The City of North Vernon is putting an ordinance in place. The commissioners are asking Area Plan to adopt some kind of ordinance concerning animals. Matt said that he wants this issue discussed and then all sides of the issue can be heard, and then the powers that be can decide.

The county highway has a contract for the construction inspection on O&M Ave. and Brownstown Rd. that needs to be approved. It is within the limits that the State budgeted (\$498,000) for the county. This contract was scored, and the negotiations were successful. Shane made a motion to sign and approve the contract, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.