

JENNINGS COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING

January 25, 2024, at 6:00 PM

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

Randy Shepherd came before commissioners to make them aware of an appeal within his office. This is an appeal where the property owner does not agree with their assessment. Wal-Mart has filed an appeal on their assessed value. The Wal-Mart property is assessed at \$110,000.00 per acre. An acre of property beside Wal-Mart just sold for \$284,000.00. If the assessor drops the assessed value to the value that Wal-Mart is asking, the county will lose \$48,000 to \$58,000 per year in tax dollars. The PTBOA (Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals) is to be scheduled for February 21, 2024, at 9am. Matt says that paying attorney fees and an appraisal will still be better than losing \$50,000.00 a year for 10 years. Matt's opinion is to fight this appeal.

Nicci submitted a travel request for the clerk's office. This is for the Southern Indiana Clerk's conference. Amy, Brenda, and Jennifer will be the employees attending. Shane made a motion to approve, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Nicci also has a request from Animal Control to hire a part time person. The part time person they have now is out on medical leave. They are not asking for any additional money for this position. Shane asked Nicci to oversee the hiring process. Shane made a motion to approve, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Nicci has started taking photos for the new door security project. The first card will be free to the employees. If an employee loses their card, Nicci is asking that the employee pay for the replacement. Matt is suggesting that the employee replacement cost be \$5.00. Alex told Nicci to put a policy in writing and have the commissioners sign it.

Eco Park needs to be added to our insurance policy. Matt is suggesting that the insurance company suggest the coverage that is needed. The final payment for the contractors has been made and the park has passed inspection.

Tracy Jones is asking permission to resume her Deputy Coroner duties. Shane made a motion to allow Tracy to resume these duties, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Sherri presented the Community Crossing Matching Grant that needs to be signed by the commissioners. Shane made a motion to approve, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Sherri also submitted a city/county utility reimbursement agreement for Southeastern REMC. This is for new utility poles at CR 190E. Shane made a motion to approve, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Also needing approval by the commissioners is a consulting contract for Bridge 39, over Sand Creek. Shane made a motion to approve, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Sherri said that the highway department's 2012 Grade All needs repairs, and it is worn out. She received 3 quotes for a new Grade All. The swing brake for the 2012 Grade All is approximately \$25,000.00. Matt is asking if the old one can be rehabbed? He is also asking if we should explore other options? Bob made a motion to table so that there is time to do some research. Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Sherri also said that she had a meeting with the state, and they plan to shut down SR 7 & 3 at the same time. SR 7 will close at the beginning of June. The barricades will be at the Shiners Club and north of Decatur Mold. There will be no through traffic for approximately 6 months. SR 3 will be closed from Westport to the bypass from 4/1 to 9/28 with no through traffic. They are wanting to use Base Road as the unofficial detour. Matt said there is no way you can use Base Road as a detour road. Matt said that is entirely too long to be using Base Road as the detour road. They will be sending Sherri more information, and she will get it to the commissioners. Matt said that there will

Area Plan Board – Bob made a motion to reappoint Tom Beeman, Shane Boswell, and Ben Chad, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Animal Control Board – Tabled

Health – Tabled

Library – Shane motioned to reappoint Gene Hankins & Pam Woodall, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Mainstreet – Shane made a motion to reappoint Tina Ellis, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

SIRPC – Shane made a motion to reappoint Tina Brison & Amy Thompson, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

SWD – Shane made a motion to reappoint Matt Sporleder, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

TIF – Tabled

Tourism – Shane motioned to reappoint Megan Works and to appoint for the first time, Autumn Moore. Bob seconded this motion, passed unanimously.

Vernon Water Board – Shane made a motion to reappoint Dan Wright, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

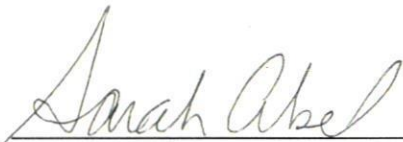
Bob made a motion to approve prior minutes, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

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

Bob made a motion to reappoint all active Department Heads until further notice from Commissioners, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Alex suggests that the active department heads serve at the pleasure of the board of authority unless there is an ordinance that says otherwise. Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

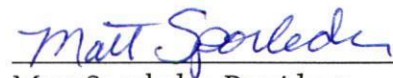
Bob made a motion to adjourn, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.



Sarah J. Abel, Auditor



Bob Wilhite



Matt Sporleder, President



Shane Boswell