

JENNINGS COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING

August 22, 2024, 9:00 A.M.

Annex Building

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

Jerry Shepherd, EMA director explains to the commissioners that there are twelve sirens in the county in 2018-2019. Over the years the maintenance has picked up and things have happened. We are at the point that upgrades need completed on these sirens. We have a quote for \$20,117.38 and this covers replacement batteries, battery charger, antenna and cables. Jerry asked commissioner if they had the money to pay for this or if he needed to go to council. Jerry states they are still working but we are over the battery life. Shane made a motion to approve and for Jerry to go to council and ask for the funding. Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Alden Rudicel said that since 2006, when he became coroner, he has used the funeral home van for the coroner's office. He is requesting a new van for the coroner's office. He went to the county council meeting last Tuesday and the did approve it but told Alden he needed to attend the commissioner meeting also. Alden received a price from Russ Hubler on a 2024 Chrysler Pacifica. Shane made a motion to allow Alden to proceed with the purchase of the Pacifica for \$38,305.00. Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Alden currently turns in all miles to the county for reimbursement. The Auditors office will reach out and order a gas card for the new van. This will eliminate mileage being turned into the county.

Autumn Moore with Main Street was on the agenda for a donation. Autumn was not in attendance tonight. She had previously asked council for the donation and council told her that she also needed to attend the commissioner meeting and ask them also. Since the requested donation was for Main Street Live and this event has already happened, Matt is suggesting that she come to a commissioner meeting and request a donation for an upcoming event.

Mike Miller went to county council last week and requested funding and was told that he would also need go to the commissioners and get their approval also. CSL has made it to the final stages of the READI grant (Blight elimination in housing initiative). Mike says all these things come with the requirement of matching money from the county. Country Squire itself has a 3 to 1 match and Mike will explain where that will come from later. It will also require from the county a 1 to 1 public match. Mike explains that he asked the council for \$750,000 because they are allowing CSL to use some of the road investments to make up the other \$250,000. CSL has asked the county for \$250,000 a year for three years in which Eli Lilly READI grant said that is acceptable, and that the council has approved this.

"What are we going to do with a million and \$750,000 dollars?" states Mike. CSL currently has 1031 mobile homes, which 434 of these are over 30 years old. 58 of these homes are over 50 years old. There are still many mobile homes that are vacant and /or abandoned that need removed. In progress to date, approximately 460 structures have been removed, approximately 115 are active with the Area Plan Commission, 15 awaiting removal, and 75 CSL compliance letters issued. The money used to remove these structures mostly came from back dues collected. Now for the 3 to 1 match from Country Squire. We are allowed to go back to January of last year and to look forward to December

the animals, there is no space! Matt said he is not for that at all. Every animal deserves a chance. At some point something needs to be done out there. We need better ventilation for sure! Shane said he wished we could get the adoption fees lowered and Matt said that is what he was trying to do with the donation of \$10,000 from the county, but the council did not approve it.

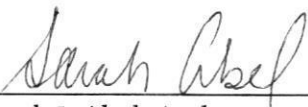
Matt asks if anyone knows any organizations that can help with food for the Senior Resource Center to please let him know.

There was only one bid received for the 2015 Equinox. Matt opened the bid from Damon and Shelly Davers and they offered \$1250.00 for the Equinox. Bob made a motion to approve the bid of \$1250.00, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Matt said to be sure to let the buyers know that we will need a cashier's check for \$1250.00.

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


 Matt Sporleder, President


 Bob Wilhite


 Shane Boswell

2024. The value of these new homes will count towards our match. Just in the last year and a half there are \$2.37 million that is complete. This includes new homes, stick built homes, and some single wide mobile homes. There is currently \$1 million in process now. Mike said, they will not be building \$400,000 homes in CSL. The range of the new homes will be \$200,000 to \$220,000. Mike said that when he started with CSL, they had 0 dollars in the bank and \$550,000 in debt. Currently they have \$550,000 in the bank and 0 debt. Dues have been reduced from \$365.00 to \$325.00. CSL had built a fire station, put in a new playground, invested their own money into roads, removing sediment out of big lake, clubhouse and maintenance have been completely remodeled, and have purchased new maintenance equipment. REMC is changing poles and electrical system. They are installing broadband in the CSL community. Mike says that the crime rate has also decreased at about 70%.

Bob made a motion to approve the request of \$250,000 a year for 3 years plus the value of the roads. Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The Assessor went to a council meeting and asked for approval to purchase a new copier. The council approved the request but referred him to the commissioners for their approval. Since the assessor has already received the new copier, there was nothing for the commissioners to approve.

Christy Willhite, Vice President of the Jennings County Library Board explains to the commissioners that they went to council before seeing the commissioners and apologized for that. Christy is discussing the libraries WOW bus to the commissioners. The library started the WOW bus in August 2022. This was started in an old bread truck that was converted into Words on Wheels (WOW). The library did not expect for this program to take off as much as it did. They go too hard to reach areas in the community, school groups, daycares, and Autumn Trace. The current truck has broken down several times and has heating and cooling issues. The truck also is not wheelchair accessible. The library started doing a lot of research on a new bus. The main points of the bus are wheelchair accessibility, sturdy shelving and seating, air conditioning, and lighting. The new van was purchased from an Indiana company. The van will be wrapped by Imagination Graphics and the cost for that is \$10,000 to \$15,000. \$308,563.00 is what the bus costed the library. The money that purchased the bus came from the libraries Operating Savings Account.

Mary said that she has worked hard on the library budget. Mary said that she will take any amount that the county can give them. There will be extra monthly fees associated with the bus, such as Wi-Fi, increased book purchases, and insurance. Dave Woodall said that the council is willing to help support the bus, but he doesn't know how much that will be. Matt said that we should talk to Alex and check the legalities and Mary said that she already had spoken to State Board, and it is legal to do so. Christy said that she would like to see others in the county too support this also. Shane made a motion to approve \$20,000 for the library, contingent on the council finding the money. Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Amy Thompson is letting the commissioners know that per Indiana Code 3-11-8-3, one of the polling locations will not be available. The school has grown so we will not be able to utilize the Hayden Pike Baptist Church. The election office will be sending out postcards to the voters that have voted at the Baptist Church.

Sarah Abel explains that the current credit limit for Jennings County's credit card users is \$20,000.00. If another department head seeks a credit card, we would not be able to approve that.

Shane made a motion to approve an increase of \$5000.00, making the county limit \$25,000.00. Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Sarah also presents a quote from Randy Taggart on an adapter board for the courthouse and the annex to provide additional security for both buildings. Shane made a motion to approve the quote, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Sarah presented a travel request for the AIC conference in September. She will be paying for this conference from her budget. Shane made a motion to approve, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Sarah is asking to fill a part time position in her office. Shane made a motion to approve the request, Bob seconded the request, passed unanimously.

Matt Sporleder presented a letter authorizing a property transfer of 2 acres from Southeast Purdue Agricultural Center to the County Commissioners for the purpose of expanding the Butlerville Cemetery. The commissioners intend to transfer the property to the jurisdiction of the Butlerville Cemetery upon the property being transferred. Shane made a motion to approve this transaction, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

HR/Nicci Lucas presents a letter of engagement from Barnes and Thornburg that need signed for a project that we are having them help us with. Shane made a motion to approve the letter, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

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.

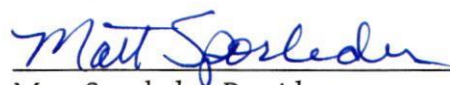
Bob made a motion to adjourn; Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.



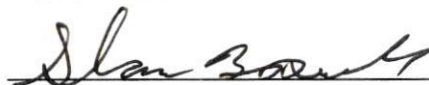
Sarah J. Abel, Auditor



Bob Wilhite



Matt Sporleder, President



Shane Boswell