

JENNINGS COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING

May 22, 2025, 9:00 A.M.

Annex Building

Matt Sporleder, Alex Zimmerman, Shane Boswell, and Charlie St. John were present. Matt opened the meeting at 9:00 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sherri Maschino, with the County Highway Department, presented the unofficial detour on the State Road 7 closure for approval and signatures. Shane made a motion to approve, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Sherri asked the commissioners for an update for the Vialytics program. Matt said he isn't saying no but would like a little more information.

Randy Shepherd presented the Tyler Technologies contract for \$86,994.00 for approval. Matt asked why we need Tyler Technologies if the guidelines for reassessment are handed down by the state. Randy said the formulas and figures are plugged into the software. Randy said that those cannot be changed, and his office has no control over those formulas. The process starts with the county council and the budget. Once the budget is approved then the net assessed values are sent to the state. The state looks at the net assessed values compared to the budget and decides what the tax rate needs to be. If the net assessed values go down, the tax rate goes up. Randy says that we have the highest tax rate in the state, and we are one of the poorest counties in the state. Randy explains that as the market trends up, your assessed values trends up. June 16, 2025 is the deadline for appealing your assessment, if you choose to do so. Alex has reviewed the Tyler contract and gave his approval to the commissioners. Shane made a motion to approve and sign, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Dena Monday, Director of Spark of Kindness, asks the commissioners for approval to use the Community Building, free of charge for their event this year. They are wanting the building for a weekend in December, either December the 6th or December the 13th. Shane asks why they can not run the program through the week instead of the weekends. He explains that the weekends are when the county can make the money on renting the community building. Dena says that all the volunteers work and could not help through the week. Dena said that in 2024 they helped 350 children. Shane made a motion to approve the request for December the 6th, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Dena said that they would clean the building after the program.

Daniel with Malcon gives the commissioners a little snapshot of what Malcon does for our county. Malcon partners with different offices to recover money that's owed to them. The Clerk's Title 4D for example, Over the past six years, Malcon has found \$114,000 that has come back directly to the counties general fund. Daniel works with Jennifer and Amy T. in the clerk's office and Amy J. in the Auditors' office. Like this program, the Cost Allocation Program brought in \$305,000.00. Malcon works with Sherry at the highway department and Tracy at EMS to get some fuel excise tax reimbursements back to the county. Currently Malcon is also working on Medicaid reimbursements for EMS. Daniel wants to thank the Auditor's office for providing a lot of needed information, the highway department, EMS, and the Clerks office. This work cannot be done without their help. Matt asks Daniel if he has done the math on what the contract cost the county versus what Malcon has captured for the county. Daniel explains it depends on which program he is talking about. The

Clerk 4D and the cost allocation plan is paid out of the Clerk Incentive Fund. The county general does not pay a dime for that. The fuel tax is 50/50 split up to \$1500.00. Anything above that, the county keeps. The reimbursement to the county on the fuel tax was \$27,000 of the \$27000 Malcon kept \$13,000.00. Malcon's annual fee is roughly \$6000.00 and that generates anywhere from \$60-\$80,000 a year.

The county needs an updated lease agreement created for the building rental at the fairgrounds. The current lease agreement is \$88.00 per month for a three-year lease agreement. The commissioners agree that the fee is very low and may need to adjust the cost. In the cattle barn, we rent individual spaces as RV/Camper storage. These individuals pay \$100.00 for a spot. The commissioners agree that the lease agreement/contract will need to be renegotiated. Matt said that there were some major repairs that needed to be done on the fairgrounds a long time ago and there was no money for these repairs. This individual came to the commissioners and said that they would write a check for the repairs if they could lease the building for three years. Matt said this was approved because the repairs needed to be done. Now the military rents the fairgrounds which helps with the funding. Matt doesn't have a problem leasing the building but is suggesting that it be tabled so that the contract can be negotiated. Shane made a motion to table, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Tim Beineke says that he has a piece of property on Highway 50, (100N) and it floods with heavy rain. The culverts need to be cleaned up because there is nowhere for the water to go. Charlie said that he will look at the culvert but cannot go onto private property.

INDOT will host a company outing on September the 25th and is asking the commissioners to waive the fee for the rental of the community building. Shane made a motion to approve, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Matt said that the county's comprehensive plan was recently brought to his attention. The last comprehensive plan was renewed in 2012. Matt is asking for someone to explain to him how this benefits the county. If the comprehensive plan is upgraded, what is the cost, and how does it benefit the county. Kathy Ertel explains that it helps with future projects. It sets a base line. It also gives you the opportunity to identify long-term projects. If there are any grant dollars coming from federal or state, it aligns the county to show that pre-planning work has been done and are ready to move the plan forward. The plan itself will be approximately \$60-\$80,000 and the counties' portion of that will be approximately \$20,000.00. Charlie made a motion to allow Kathy Ertel to start the process of renewing the counties' comprehensive plan, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Alex presented the ordinance that the commissioners approved in the last meeting to strike the 80-hour language from the handbook. Shane made a motion to sign the ordinance, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Charlie made a motion to approve prior minutes with a change of the time at the top, *Shane* Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

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

Dave Woodall mentions the heat and air conditioning at the courthouse need replaced. Dave is suggesting a design build. Alex will check the rules and regulations on his end and let the commissioners know.

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

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

Sarah J. Abel

Sarah J. Abel, Auditor

Charlie St. John

Charlie St. John

Shane Boswell

Shane Boswell

Matt Sportleder

Matt Sportleder, President