

JENNINGS COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING
October 9th, 2025, 9:06 A.M.
Annex Building

Matt Sporleder, Shane Boswell, Alex Zimmerman, and Charlie St. John were present. Matt opened the meeting at 9:06 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Nicci submitted a travel request for Daniel Brookbank, to attend the County Veteran Service Conference on 9/23/25. There is no cost to attend. Shane made a motion to approve the request, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Also submitted was a travel request for Stacy Lane, Purdue Extension office, to attend the Purdue Southeast Area Support staff meeting on 11/20/25. The expenses will be paid from the Extension travel budget. Shane made a motion to approve the request, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda is Magistrate Chris Doran. Matt states that we are going to revisit the Magistrate or referee position. Magistrate Doran apologized for not being in attendance at the last commissioners meeting. He was receiving a certificate for graduating from Indiana Judicial College and was required to be at the annual meeting.

Magistrate Doran provided a packet of information for the commissioners which included statistics for his current position. Chris discussed the costs involved with these cases, the programs that he has developed and the changes that have been made to date. Chris also discussed the additional economic benefits for the county by having this position. Chris discussed a plan to fund the position by utilizing 4-D or 8895 funds.

Shane indicated that others wanted to also speak. The Clerk stated that the 8895 fund is set-up as a cooperative agreement with her office and the state. "These are federal funds and if we use those funds for something other than what the state approves, we are misusing federal funds. If not utilized correctly, all of our federal funds in that program are at jeopardy." The Clerk is not aware of any other cooperative agreement.

John Webster introduced himself and explained that he is here in support of the Magistrate and the position. As a former Circuit Court Judge for twenty-four years, he described the transformation that he has seen in the court system. "We have to keep pace with what's going on in our judicial system. I am here to lend my support to these judicial offices who need help to get the work done."

Advocates for Children, Jamie Greathouse has worked for children for twelve years. "I am here to speak on behalf of children in our community who have been abused and neglected and rely on the courts for protection."

Matt asked Judge Bright if the position is not approved to use the 8895 funds, is there enough in the Opioid settlement money to cover the salary? Judge Bright indicated that there is money that was assigned to JRAC and we might need to use the unrestricted Opioid money. Matt states that the only way he can vote for it is if there are no other funds that come out of taxpayer money.

Shane said that the state did the study on the position and I am not here to argue with it. Charlie said it is not a matter of whether you have done a good job. Is there enough workload for three is the question. The state says there is not. If there is no further discussion, Charlie made a motion to agree to leave the vote as it stands. Shane seconded the motion. Matt said no, he disagreed. Motion passed.

Next, the burn ban needs to be lifted. Shane made a motion to lift the burn ban. Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

A memorandum of agreement for engineering services from HWC was presented. Shane made a motion to sign the agreement, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Alex presented a settlement agreement with EEOC and the Civil Rights commission pertaining to a pending matter. This has been approved by liability insurance. Shane made a motion to sign, Charlie seconded, passed unanimously.

Alex also presented an ordinance to create a 911 grant fund for GIS with address mapping. A grant fund needs to be created. Shane made a motion to approve, Charlie seconded, passed unanimously.

Alex has an item that was added last minute. Matt explains that we have the opportunity to purchase property on Norris Avenue. The property is next to the health department. This property is needed to expand the health department's parking lot. Jerry Lamb explained that the purchase agreement is for \$45,000.00. The purchase agreement for 237 Norris Avenue was reviewed by the commissioners.

Alex explained the county must follow Indiana law with respect to purchasing the property. The language in the agreement states it is subject to county council approval of funding. It also states that the purchase price may not be greater than the average of the two appraisals that must be conducted pursuant to Indiana law or the \$45,000.00, whichever is less. Shane made a motion to approve the purchase agreement, Charlie seconded, passed unanimously. A motion to proceed with the acquisition and authorize the county attorney to appoint two individuals licensed to appraise real property and to serve as appraisers of the property is needed. Shane made the motion to submit resolution, Charlie seconded, passed unanimously.

Jerry asks Alex about a closing date. This will depend on when the appraisals are completed and when the council approves funding. Plan on 90 days at most.

Jenny Vogel from the Fairboard brings the designs for the fair grounds building. The designs were e-mailed. She requested replacing the rabbit and poultry barn previously. This is a certified design by

an engineer. This is for a 60 x 100 poultry barn. The commissioners agreed to put the concrete in at our expense.

The commissioners had indicated that they would be willing to cover the cost of the building itself. We are working with Rose Acres for new cages at a cost to us. Matt asked for a rough estimate. Jenny believes it could be completed for approximately \$60,000 to \$70,000. Dave W. disagrees that the building could be built for that price. The commissioners gave permission to solicit three separate bids for the concrete and the building.

The highway department has a request for a speed limit ordinance. The request is to reduce the speed limit to 30 MPH on 700 west of the Hayden school. Shane says we need a traffic study to be legal. Sherri was asked to if this has been discussed with the sheriff. Sherri has not, but will contact the office. Charlie made a motion to reduce the speed limit, Shane seconded, passed unanimously.

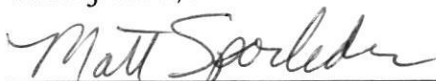
Sherri is asked to speak about Bridge 188. Sherri says that the bridge is separating in the middle due to pot holes. The bridge needs a barricade. Barricades have been investigated and they are from \$30,000-\$120,000K. Matt suggested investigating a steel plate that you can drive across. Shane suggested checking with USI to verify if it can be done.

Matt asked for a motion to approve prior minutes. Shane made the motion, Charlie seconded, passed unanimously.

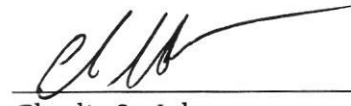
Matt asked for a motion to adjourn. Charlie made a motion to adjourn at 10:14 am, Shane seconded, passed unanimously.



 Sarah J. Abel, Auditor



 Matt Sporleder, President



 Charlie St. John



 Shane Boswell