

JENNINGS COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING

April 09, 2026, 9:00 am

Annex Building

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

Mike Kelley and the commissioners discussed the roof needed at the Geneva Township Fire Department. Shane asks Mike why the fire chief came to them and asked for the money instead of coming to him. Mike said that he knew that the council had given money to Butlerville to build their fire department so he figured that LIT funds could be used to help pay for the roof. Mike says that they are very frugal with money. The fire station also must purchase seven pieces of turnout gear that was damaged in the O'Mara fire. Shane said that he doesn't want the county to be the first stop, he wants to be the last stop. Shane said that if the fire station gets in a bind, he doesn't mind helping but to spend taxpayer dollars when the trustee has money, doesn't sound like the right thing to do. Mike said that is what the LIT money is for. Matt said that the LIT money is used for other things as well. Shane said that the council should have never voted because they should have come to commissioners first. Charlie told Mike that if he has the money to put the roof on, he will put the roof on. If there is a situation where you needed money for something, come back to the county to request it. I don't want to take money from the account just because it is sitting there when another department might need it later. Mike explained that if we have a situation where a truck breaks down, I can't wait two-three weeks to come back to see you. Mike said that he cannot wait two or three weeks to get money allocated when something is needed. Matt said that if he puts a roof on one building, other departments are going to ask for the same. Matt said that he would be happy to pay for the turnout gear. Matt said that other issues are that the three quotes were not comparing apples to apples. Shane said that the department has money in the bank, so he thinks that Mike needs to pay for the roof. Matt wants to investigate and see if the county paid for Campbell Township VFD roof. Charlie said that he would like the department to pay for the roof if they have the money. Matt made a motion to table, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Nicci Lucas presents travel requests for Travis and Chasity to attend conference in Beech Grove. costs will be paid from Probation Training Funds. Shane made a motion to approve, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously. The next request is from Merri Eder to attend JDAI Training in Indianapolis. The JDAI fund will pay for any cost that occurred. Shane made a motion to approve, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously. The last request is for Travis, Shana, Cory, Merri, and Chasity to attend the Justice Services Conference in Indianapolis. Any cost will be paid from Probation User Fees. Shane made a motion to approve, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Cody Low comes to the Commissioners for approval to release funds in the bond. Council told Cody to come to commissioners for approval, and they would figure out the funding. Cody is asking for \$377,000.00 to be released. All the items were approved in the bond. Shane questioned the figures showing purchased already on his paperwork. Shane made a motion to release the funds in the amount of \$377,000.00. Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Marie Shepherd is asking permission to pay her part time clerk \$21.65, instead of \$18.00 per hour. Marie thought that since the money was budgeted that she could pay her that. Marie said she received two different salary ordinances with two separate figures. The council sets the compensation for employees, not the commissioners, Alex says. Shane made a motion to approve \$21.65 per hour, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Dawson Estes with RT Insurance and Greg Goodnight from Gardner Insurance came to the commissioners to introduce themselves and discuss property and casualty insurance. Matt suggests that RT Insurance be a part of the quoting process this year.

A claim was submitted from the jail for Securitas. The bill is from 2024, and it was brought to the commissioners for approval. Upon advice from the attorney the recommendation is to table this. Shane made a motion to table, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Chasity from Probation has asked for a credit card with a limit of \$1500.00. Chasity said that the probation department itself does not have a card. Chasity is wanting this card to attend conferences and training. Shane made a motion to approve. Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The board appointment for the library was tabled. Shane said that he does not like it when a director gives the commissioners the name of the person to put on the board. Shane made a motion to table, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

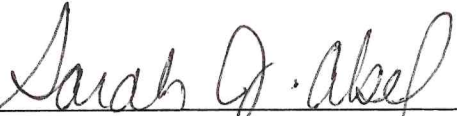
The Animal Control Board came to discuss the new building that is needed. The building has air filtration issues among other things. Animal Control received a donation through the Jennings County Community Foundation that has already donated \$25,000.00 and will continue to donate more. Matt said that the balance of the bond is \$364,000. Matt said he knows a guy that has a building that is 60 x 80 x 16 for \$51,700.00. Matt put a deposit on it but would be willing to give that to Animal Control. Matt says that it is a very nice building. Trent said that he thinks they just need to look at it overall and have a plan in place. Matt said to start with the shell building and have a plan in place for concrete, electric, etc. Matt says \$600,000.00 is not a realistic number.

Mary Kilgore expressed her concerns with the new timekeeping system. Mary said she entered data that had disappeared. Mary said that Amy Jump has come to her office several times and has been very helpful. Matt asked if the system was complete or if it is a work in progress. Only one tier has started clocking in and out in the new system. The Auditor's office is working with AOD and fixing the bugs. Matt asked if representatives from AOD would be on site for training? Sarah A. said the training was via Microsoft teams meeting. There have been training documents sent out for all employees and supervisors. Three department heads said the employees received no training. Marie said that she didn't appreciate her time being approved by someone other than her. Matt would like to speak to the reps of this company. The Auditor's office worked with AOD on approving and making the timesheets ready to process the first payroll. The system works well but the department heads and commissioners want a live person for training to better comprehend the system.

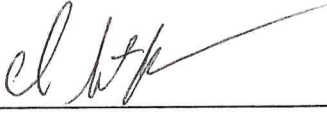
Shane made a motion to approve payroll and claims, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Shane made a motion to approve prior minutes, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Matt said that he is going to speak to council about lowering the rate to offset assessment increases. Homes and buildings got the increase this year, but the farmland didn't increase. The farmland has increased in the last two years. Matt said that the county is financially stable right now and he is concerned about the people that cannot afford their taxes. Matt wants to sit down with Reedy, the assessor and the council to discuss this. Matt doesn't want to take money from taxpayers if it's not needed. Randy said that he is already working on trying to get assessments reduced.

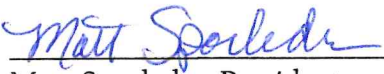
Shane made a motion to adjourn at 10:37pm. Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.



Sarah J. Abel, Auditor



Charlie St. John



Matt Sporleder, President



Shane Boswell

These motions to approve prior minutes & payroll