

## JENNINGS COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING

APRIL 23, 2026 @ 9:00AM

ANNEX BUILDING

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

Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Program - Whitney Kelly presented the contract for grants administration and environmental review services for the county's owner-occupied rehabilitation program. Ten homeowners verified; inspections and contractor meetings planned. Construction expected to begin in June. Shane motioned to sign the contract, Charlie seconded, passed unanimously.

Unofficial Detour for State Road 7 - A detour contract was incomplete with blank sections, so it was not approved. Derek was authorized by the board to finalize the unofficial detour route with county highway, with the board to approve it later. Construction is scheduled to start before the next meeting; detour needed promptly.

Phone System Upgrade for Animal Control - Proposal to replace the current RingCentral phone/fax system with a new internet-based service costing \$360.00 per month and an upfront charge for \$788.00 to purchase phones. There is call recording of incoming/outgoing calls for accountability; better service than current provider Frontier. Phone purchase included in 2025 bond; monthly service paid from commission's budget. Shane motioned to approve the phone system upgrade, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Flooring Repairs in Public Bathrooms at Annex - Quotes for replacing rising floor tiles (trip hazard) in men's and women's bathrooms were reviewed by three companies:

Floors & More - \$2996.00 for both restrooms.

Carpet One - \$3404.00 for both restrooms.

Carpet Gallery - \$4379.75 (men's) \$5011.43 (women's)

~~Board chose Carpet One for better quality and service despite it being slightly higher cost. Shane made a motion to approve Carpet One's quote. Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.~~ *Shane motioned to approve Floors & More.*

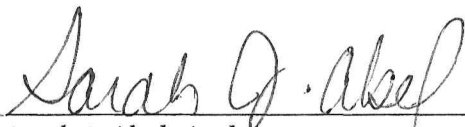
AC Unit Replacement in Election Office - Current unit (14-16 years old) repeatedly blowing fuses; repair estimated at \$5,000 including labor. Replacement is recommended instead of repair due to age and risk of further failures. The lead time is 10-12 weeks for delivery; optional \$1,200 expedite fee declined. The temporary solution suggested purchasing a portable AC unit for interim cooling. Shane made a motion to approve \$5,000 for replacement and the portable unit, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

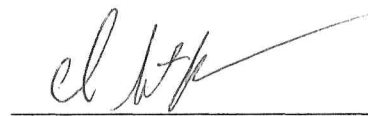
Unpaid Security Technology Invoices - Two invoices from 2024, totaling \$1,708 (\$233 + \$1,475) went unpaid due to an email typo at the sheriff's department. The service provider has placed a credit hold, delaying needed door repairs. The board agreed to pay invoices immediately to clear


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.

  
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Sarah J. Abel, Auditor

  
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Charlie St. John

  
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Matt Sporleder, President

  
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Shane Boswell

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credit hold and ensure timely repairs. Shane made the motion to approve paying the invoices, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Summer Reading Program Promotion - The Library marketing staff presented a campaign to combat "summer slides" with the decline in student reading skills during summer break.

The key statistics are: 34% average literacy loss over summer, and only 1 in 3 students in the county are at grade-level reading by graduation. The program offers free books for 8+ hours of summer reading. The goal is to increase literacy rates to improve education outcomes. The plan would include community leaders participating in short promotional videos to boost awareness. The board agreed to assist and promote via social media and community outreach.

Highway Bridge Inspection Contract - Derek presented a four-year federal inspection contract for county bridges. The total contract increased from \$250,000.00 to \$481,413.50 due to additional bridges requiring annual inspection, and new federal inspection requirements (about 80 new inspection items). 80% is reimbursed by the state, and the county pays 20%. Bridge inspections vary by age and condition, with some requiring annual checks. Shane made a motion to approve contract, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Historical Bridge Analysis for Bridge 188 - A \$150,000 contract awarded for historical and alternative analysis of Bridge 18. The estimated time is about 2 years to complete due to hearings, public input, and review. This step will guide future repair or replacement decisions. Shane made a motion to approve contract, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

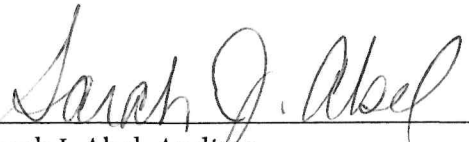
Letter of Support for Active Transportation Committee - A request for a letter of support from the county for a walking and biking path project connecting Vernon to North Vernon. There is no cost or commitment now. The support is needed to begin feasibility studies. Shane made a motion to sign the letter of support, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.


Countywide Prayer Vigil Request - The pastor requested use of courthouse grounds on Sunday, May 17, 2026, at 2:00 PM for a prayer vigil to commemorate 250 years of American independence. There are no costs involved. Shane made a motion to approve pending no scheduling conflicts, Charlie seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Public Concern: Dog Nuisance Complaint - Residents reported ongoing issues with multiple dogs barking excessively, breeding on-site, and poor animal care conditions. Animal control has been contacted but only provides education so far. The residents were referred to area planning for further action.


Community Receivership Status Inquiry - Resident asked about status of a receivership versus bankruptcy for a local HOA. Receivership is court-ordered and can only be ended by court action. It was advised to contact attorneys for docket information.

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

  
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Sarah J. Abel, Auditor

  
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