

Commissioner's Meeting January 20, 2026

- Date & Time: 2026-1-20 8:00 a.m.
- Location: Room 106
- Attendees: Jeremy Pasel Gabriel Nobbe and Brian Wenning

Opening

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
 - The meeting commenced at 8 o'clock with a welcome to attendees.
 - Title VI forms are available for attendees to fill out and submit to the auditor's office.
- **Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer**
 - The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Janet Howell followed by prayer from Terry Canfield.

Financial and Administrative Approvals

- Meeting minutes from January 5th were reviewed. A motion to approve was made by Brian Wenning with the exception of the next meeting date error, seconded by Jeremy Pasel. Motion carried unanimously.
- Meeting minutes for the Executive Session held on January 5th were reviewed. Motion to approve made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe. Motion carried unanimously.
- Motion to approve payroll for the week of January 16, 2026, in the amount of \$419,860.91 was made by Gabe Nobbe, seconded by Jeremy Pasel. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Extension Office Printer Purchase:**
 - The commissioners discussed a purchase from Office Shop for an extension office printer.
 - The portion for the commissioners to pay is \$5,083.
 - A motion to approve the payment was made by Jeremy Pasel, seconded by Gabe Nobbe. Motion carried unanimously.
- **ARPA Interest Fund Ordinance:**
 - ARPA funds have generated approximately \$500,000 in interest.
 - The plan is to move this interest into a separate fund for county projects, as it is not subject to the same strict spending rules as the principal ARPA funds.
 - The ARPA committee will recommend projects, with the county council having final approval.
 - A motion was made to pass ordinance 2026-2 to manage the ARPA interest funds by Brian Wenning, seconded by Jeremy Pasel. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Adoption of ADA and Title VI Plans:**
 - Mitch Hansel from USI presented the updated Title VI and ADA transition plans after reviewing county buildings and sidewalks for deficiencies.
 - Following a public hearing with no comments, Resolution 2026-3 was reviewed and motion made to approve the ADA was made by Jeremy Pasel, seconded by Gabe Nobbe. Motion passed unanimously. Motion to approve the Title VI portion was made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Jeremy Pasel. Motion passed unanimously.

- Doug Westerfeld was appointed as the ADA coordinator, and Christy Smiley as the Title VI coordinator.
- USI will provide the full list of deficiencies to the relevant departments.

Departmental Updates

- **Highway Department:**
 - **Recent Activities:** The department has been grading roads, adding stone, patching potholes, performing bridge maintenance (including adding wing walls), and assisting with hauling for the pool project.
 - **Current Projects:** Survey and design work is underway for projects on 400 West, 20 West, and 150 North.
 - **Grant Application:** A presentation was given to INDOT for a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant to run LIDAR and identify road hazards. Notification is expected in February.
- **Parks Department:**
 - A new electric panel is being added at Rebekah Park in conjunction with Duke Energy and tourism efforts.
 - This will provide more electrical access for events and allow for enhanced security and access control at the dog park.
- **Area Plan Department:**
 - **Building Permit Deposits:** The department will now correctly charge a separate \$100 refundable deposit in addition to the permit fee, as required by ordinance, to prevent a \$100 loss per permit.
 - **Comprehensive Plan:** Public forums and focus groups have been held. An online survey is active until the second week of February, and public participation was encouraged. A final open house is scheduled for March when a draft plan is ready.
- **Chamber of Commerce:**
 - The Chamber, now in its 120th year, reported strong growth. Website traffic for the membership directory and events page increased significantly from 2024 to 2025.
 - In 2025, the Chamber gained 46 new members, achieved a 95% retention rate, and held 20 ribbon cuttings (14 for new businesses).
- **911 Communications:**
 - The department is at 100% staff for the 2025 roster, with three trainees.
 - Upgrades are underway for the Greensburg radio site and the 911 system, which will add the ability to dispatch emergency helicopters directly.
- **Economic Development (EDC):**
 - The regional arts plan was presented to Lilly and the IEDC.
 - The new IEDC president, Josh Richardson, visited to discuss regional and local matters.
- **Auditor's Office:**
 - The "over 65 deduction" has been changed to a credit. The office processed approximately 140 new credits following the change.
 - The deadline for 2026 was January 15th, but residents can file for the 2027 tax year.

New Initiatives and Staffing

- **“Rollie Jobs” Initiative:**
 - The Chamber is launching “Rollie Jobs,” an AI-enhanced job platform in partnership with the Economic Development Corporation.
 - The tool will automatically scrape member websites for job openings to improve the currently underutilized job board. It found 145 openings compared to the two manually posted.
- **Fairgrounds Event Coordinator:**
 - The need for an event coordinator for the new community building was discussed, with a focus on marketing and attracting conventions.
 - To save costs, there was a general agreement to pursue a dual-role for an existing employee rather than a new standalone position. Dennis Fogle, who led fundraising, will assist for the first year.
 - Pay for the dual-role employee would need to be supplemented through the council.
- **Employee Position Change:**
 - Following a January 5th executive session, a motion was made to move an employee to a different in-house position by Jeremy Pasel, seconded by Brian Wenning. Motion carried unanimously.

Animal Neglect Case

- A report was presented on approximately 60 head of cattle in poor condition in New Point, an issue ongoing for about a year and a half.
- The owner has reportedly been uncooperative despite prior involvement from the Board of Animal Health (BOAH).
- A quote of \$3.50 per head per day was received for care. The owner will have 10 days to post a bond; otherwise, the animals become county property.
- A motion was made to move forward with seizing the cattle by Jeremy Pasel, seconded by Brian Wenning. Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements and Events

- **Candidate Filings:** The last day to file for the primary is February 6th at noon.
- **Certificate Sale:** A certificate sale for properties from the tax sale will be held. The sale date is March 10th, and it will be advertised in the paper on January 27th, February 3rd, and February 10th.
- **Warming Center:** A warming center was opened due to weather conditions, with the schedule published to Indiana 211.
- **Upcoming Chamber Events:**
 - **Leaders and Lagers:** This afternoon, 4-6 p.m. at The Tapp.
 - **HR Power Hour:** Thursday, January 22, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 - **Ag Day Breakfast:** Saturday, February 7, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. at the Red Barn.
 - **Decatur County Legislative Update:** February 20, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Meeting Adjournment

- Motion to recess was made by Jeremy Pasel, seconded by Gabe Nobbe. Motion passed. Meeting recessed.

The Next Commissioner meeting will be held on Monday, February 2nd, beginning at 6:00 P.M. in room 106.

Attest: _____

Date: _____