

**Commissioner's Meeting**  
**June 16, 2025**

Date & Time: 2025-06-16 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 Dawn Lowe followed by prayer from Dennis Spears, New Point Christian Church.
- **June 2 Commissioner Meeting Minutes**
  - No questions were raised regarding the June 2 meeting minutes.
  - A motion was made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Jeremy Pasel. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Claims Review**
  - No questions were raised regarding claims.
  - A motion was made by Gabriel Nobbe and seconded by Brian Wenning to approve claims. Claims were approved unanimously.
- **Payroll Approval**
  - Payroll for June 6, 2025, was discussed.
    - Motion to approve payroll was made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabriel Nobbe, and carried unanimously.
    - Payroll total: \$407,166.68

**Highway Department Updates**

- Regular Maintenance
  - The highway Department has continued regular maintenance including tree trimming, patching, road grading, vegetation spraying and mowing.
  - The department is gearing up for the CCMG roads next. The paperwork for CCMG 2025-1 has been submitted and approved.
  - After attendance at a conference, Superintendent Todd Houk was nominated and designated as the SE District Representative for the Indiana Association of County Highways (IACH).
- Construction and Detours
  - Discussion regarding construction work and detours, specifically referencing Highway 46 and 700 West.
  - Clarification was sought on which projects required detours and their current status, noting confusion about whether the 700 West project was related to the highway.
  - State Road 3 from Westport to Jennings County will require a detour.
- Bridge Certification and Funding

- The state requires certification for the Westport bridge to maintain eligibility for additional funding. Gabriel Nobbe moved to approve and sign the covered bridge paperwork, Brian Wenning seconded, motion passed.
- Certification was confirmed, ensuring continued funding possibilities as it makes the bridge eligible for additional funding.
- Stone Bids
  - Stone bids had been previously agreed upon; the only remaining step was to sign the non-collusion agreement.
- Bridge Condition Ratings
  - Brian Wenning shared that he has received several calls from residents asking why certain roads are being prioritized over others.
  - Clarification provided that a PASER rating of "two" is considered bad for bridge conditions.

### **JRAC/Opiod**

- Opiod Settlement Recommendations were discussed after a JRAC meeting on June 9, 2025. Including discussion on managing service gaps if current providers withdraw due to funding freezes. Currently, the board would like to freeze funding for Hickory Recovery Network due to lack of an MOU.
- Concerns were raised about readiness of new providers and potential for a 60-day service gap if new providers are not ready to hold immediately.
- Stability and continuity of services were emphasized as priorities. The IN Treatment Center in Columbus, IN is a potential new vendor.
- Jeremy Pasel moved to freeze the funds, Brian Wenning seconded, motion passed.
- The second recommendation was for \$26,940 from the unrestricted fund as an award to the Sheriff's Department for a new mobile app.

### **Mobile App/Commissary**

- Deputy Eric Blodgett provided more information on the potential new app, noting that this was a great way to streamline information to the public.
- The app would allow push notifications so the public is notified instantly of new emergencies and cautions in the community.
- A QR Code will be broadcasted at every event the Sheriff's Department attends, as well as publicity in the newspaper and current social media platforms.
- The sheriff was commended for securing funds proactively, with discussions confirming the ability to link payments directly to the commissary fund.
- After 3 years of development and usage of this app from Opiod funds, it will be maintained by the sheriff's commissary fund.

### **Rezoning and Planning**

- Doug Westerfeld, Area Plan, noted that letters were sent out to property owners for clean-up, however discussion of those properties will take place at a later date.
- Rezoning Petitions- 4 provided to be approved.

- Lester Gurley, Ordinance 2025-13, re-zone 2 lots from A1-A2
  - Gabriel Nobbe moved to approve the petition, Brian Wenning seconded, motion passed & petition approved.
- Alex Vanatta, Ordinance 2025-11, re-zone from A1-A2 to build a dwelling.
  - Brian Wenning moved to approve the petition, Gabriel Nobbe seconded, motion passed & petition approved.
- Charles Jeff Robbins, Ordinance 2025-10, re-zone from A1-A2 to build a dwelling.
  - Brian Wenning moved to approve the petition, Gabriel Nobbe seconded, motion passed & petition approved.
- Decatur County Commissioners, Ordinance 2025-12, re-zone from A1-A3 for the newly created parcel and community center.
  - Gabriel Nobbe moved to approve the petition, Brian Wenning seconded, motion passed & petition approved.
- Volunteer Fire and Comprehensive Plan
  - An issue was previously presented with septic placement on the Adams Township Volunteer Fire Dept. This has now been approved to move forward now that there is clarification.
  - Plans have been provided that match the building and smaller details continue to be worked out.
  - A comprehensive plan scoring meeting was held last week, where proposals from different companies were called for. Two separate proposals have been received, and interviews are scheduled.

### **Fairgrounds Contracts**

- Cody Gault presented a bid from Ellis Tents for various tents (goat barn, track, other areas) totaling \$6,189. These tents are acquired annually for the fair.
  - Gabriel Nobbe moved to approve this bid, Brian Wenning seconded, motion passed.
- A Clear Sound contract for audio setup at the headquarters building, track pagoda, and arena for \$2,036.40 was approved, ensuring all wiring and systems are working.
  - Brian Wenning moved to approve the contract, Gabriel Nobbe seconded, motion passed.

### **Courthouse HVAC and Maintenance**

- HVAC System Issues
  - Ongoing issues with deteriorating strainers and seized valves in the courthouse HVAC system, causing significant temperature imbalances (e.g., one office was 80degrees, while hallways were extremely cold due to efforts to offset hot rooms).
  - Peine provided an initial quote of \$18,000 for partial work; Turnkey offered a more comprehensive solution for \$10,779, which included replacing all

valves, 10 strainers, and the entire system while on site, making it \$8,000 cheaper for more work.

- The plan includes draining the entire chilled water system, putting glycol into totes, cutting out old valves, installing new valves, adding extra sectoring valves for easier maintenance, replacing all strainers, and then testing and pumping the glycol back in.
- Gabriel Nobbe moved to proceed with Turnkey for \$10,779, Brian Wenning seconded, motion was approved.
- Expansion Tank Replacement
  - A recommendation from Charlie was made to replace the expansion tank, especially during system downtime, as it already needs replacement.
  - Peine's bid for the expansion tank was \$7,840, with Turnkey at \$6,287.
  - Brian Wenning moved to approve the Turnkey bid of \$6,287, Gabriel Nobbe seconded, motion passed.

### **YMCA Grant and Pay Application**

- The YMCA received a grant from the Office of County Affairs (Indiana) for roof replacement.
- The county acts as a pass-through for funds; no county dollars are used for this project.
- Pay application number five was processed for \$226,893.83.
- Brian Wenning moved to approve YMCA Pay App #5, Gabriel Nobbe seconded, motion passed.

### **Port-a-let Bids**

- A bid for 20 port-a-lets to be placed on site from July 5th to July 19th was received.
- Certification (State IDEM certification permit valid until February 1, 2028) and insurance requirements were met; the bid amount was \$3,500.
- Gabriel Nobbe moved to approve and accept the bid from Port-A-Lets, Brian Wenning seconded, motion passed.

### **Policy Discussions**

- Overtime Policy
  - Ongoing discussion about amending the county handbook to clarify overtime eligibility.
  - A draft was presented, with a request to include dispatch in the exceptions alongside the sheriff's department.
  - Further discussion and potential revision are to be brought back at the next meeting.
- Cell Phone Reimbursement Policy

- Discussion on eligibility and scope for cell phone reimbursement for county employees, including who is eligible and what portion is paid. The proposed reimbursement amount is \$40.
- Clarification was made that department heads can reimburse employees whose positions require it.
- Gabriel Nobbe made the motion to approve the cell phone reimbursement policy, Brian Wenning seconded, motion passed.

### **EMA and Community Engagement**

- Interim EMA leadership from Gary Hash was acknowledged and thanked for his efforts.
- It was noted that there was an increase in applicants for the EMA position, with 16 total applicants and 6 interviewees.
- Applicant #1 was identified as the top choice; however, the board would like to offer the individual \$55,000.
- Commissioner Brian Wenning will present this request to Decatur County Council at their June meeting.
- Jeremy Pasel moved to approve and extend this job offer to applicant #1, Gabriel Nobbe seconded, motion carried.

### **Facilities**

- A proposal was made to replace two water fountains with bottle-filling stations in the courthouse at \$1,500 a piece.
- Expected cost savings from reduced bottled water usage were noted, as the county is likely renting water.
- Gabriel Nobbe moved to approve the installation of the new refill stations, Jeremy Pasel seconded, motion approved.

### **Community Correspondence and Public Comments**

- A letter of thanks was received from Karen Meeker and Wendy Coughlin to the Decatur County Sheriff's Department for the SDES 5K event, which they hope will grow.
- A public inquiry regarding property access near 645 N and the fire station in Clarksburg prompted commissioners to agree to investigate further, noting the need to understand the situation fully, including potential landlocked landowners, and referencing similar past cases in Milford involving alleyways.
  - Parties involved were requested to provide contact information for follow-up.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

- A motion to recess was made by Gabriel Nobbe, seconded by Brian Wenning, and approved. Meeting adjourned.
  - The next Commissioner meeting will be held on July 7, 2025, at 8:00 AM in Room 106.
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Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_