

Commissioner's Meeting August 18, 2025

Date & Time: 2025-08-18 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 Sheriff Bill Meyerrose followed by prayer from Pastor Terry Canfield

Approvals and Financial Matters

- The minutes from the August 4th commissioners' meeting were reviewed and motion made by Gabe Nobbe, seconded by Brian Wenning, motion carried unanimously.
- Claims were discussed, including a correction for a bill mistakenly sent by Peine that belonged to the hospital; this was removed after verification. With no other issues, Gabe Nobbe made the motion to approve, Brian Wenning seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- Pay application 4 was added for the READI project at the fairgrounds:
 - Disbursement four totals \$457,578.85.
 - Payment breakdown:
 - \$267,719.58 from EDIT funds.
 - \$160,000 from ARPA funds.
 - \$29,859.27 from foundation seed money.
 - The payment schedule is being adjusted so payments align with service delivery, including materials for stairs, railing, fire suppression, HVAC, and bricks.
- Payroll for August 15, 2025, in the amount of \$412,722.25, was reviewed. Brian Wenning made the motion to approve, Gabe Nobbe seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- A promissory note was discussed to formalize the return of \$200,000 to the county from the Parks department related to previous council approval for the ball diamonds project.
 - The note will be circulated to the Parks Department board for review and potential changes before moving forward.
- There have been some issues with the Motorola contract and payment. The county will pay the Motorola contract up front and invoice the city police and fire departments for their portions to reduce confusion in payment reconciliation.
 - The 911 board supports this approach, and while the payment line may temporarily run in the red, it is expected to streamline the process.

Projects and Department Updates

Records Digitization

- The Recorder's office is planning to digitize historical documents, with bids received from two companies:

- One bid for \$253,915.
 - Another bid for \$99,903, with an additional \$17,500 for 24/7 access.
- The selected company will work for nine days, likely in October, with two shifts and three staff members at a time.
 - Security concerns were addressed with the sheriff, and background checks will be conducted.
 - Access will be limited to the Recorder's office, with other offices locked.
- Documents to be digitized span from 1822 to 1968 (books) and 1968 to 1973 (microfilm).
 - The perpetuation fund will cover all costs, with no impact on the general fund.
 - Digital storage will be managed via the CSI program and cloud backup, independent of county IT.
- The project aims to preserve records and prevent loss from incidents like fire or leaks.

Alley Vacation and Easement Considerations

- The process for vacating alleys or streets was explained:
 - Petitions are reviewed by the Tech Review Committee, which may recommend for or against closure.
 - The alley in question received a favorable recommendation due to a barn built at its south end, blocking access except through the Scudder's property.
 - The alley is 132 feet long, and the barn was built in 1957, predating local ordinances for setbacks and permits.
 - Questions were raised about the need for an easement for future access.
 - There are no known utilities, storm sewers, or drainage infrastructure present in the alley.
 - The technical review committee gave a favorable recommendation for vacating the alley, with no identified issues or precedent concerns for this specific case.
 - Ordinance 2025-8 for vacating the public way was motioned by Gabe Nobbe, seconded by Brian Wenning, and approved unanimously.

Highway Department

- Maintenance activities included patching, grading, stone roads, mowing, and vegetation spraying.
- Bridge projects are underway, with compliance meetings held for Bridge 131 and 141 (federal aid projects).
 - Closeout for project 2025-1 was completed and submitted to INDOT; preparations are in place for 2026-1 CCMG submission.
- Resolution 2025-12 was motioned by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe, and approved unanimously to borrow road counters from Tippecanoe County at no cost, with only minor expenses anticipated for replacement tubes.
- Title VI and ADA compliance updates were discussed:
 - Title VI must be submitted annually; ADA every three years.
 - Staff attended recent training sessions for these requirements.
- FEMA reimbursement for storm damage (from March 25 to April 10, 2025) was discussed:
 - The highway department submitted \$106,118.52 for reimbursement, with potential to receive 75% if approved.
 - Further information is needed for FEMA, and a conference call is planned to clarify requirements.

Parks Department

- Approval was asked for the purchase of a 2023 Dodge Ram 2500 (four-door, V8, automatic) for \$36,500, with funds already budgeted. Gabe Nobbe made the motion, Brian Wenning seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- The department is considering future uses for a vacant park house:
 - The house is currently vacant and in poor aesthetic condition, though structural integrity is uncertain.
 - Options include repurposing as office space or event coordination headquarters, pending inspection.
 - The group agreed to have Maintenance employee, Charlie Davis inspect the property before making a decision.

Sheriff's Department

- Approval was asked for up to \$10,424.50 from the jail tax fund to replace a failed 360-degree surveillance camera, with potential cost savings if a lower quote is obtained. Brian Wenning made the motion to approve, Gabe Nobbe seconded, motion carried unanimously.
 - Installation will be performed by the maintenance staff to reduce costs.
- The sheriff requested approval for four medical sensors (two for pad cells, two for medical cells) to monitor inmate biometrics, with a quoted cost of \$29,000 and a \$3,600 annual subscription. Brian Wenning made motion to approve, Gabe Nobbe seconded, motion carried unanimously.
 - The sensors aim to reduce liability and improve response to medical emergencies.
 - Funding will come from the jail tax fund, with council approval required.

Health Department and Court Services

- A proposal was presented for new building signage for the Health Department and Court Services to improve identification and wayfinding.
 - The preferred option includes custom design and installation for \$6,931.00
 - Brian Wenning made motion to approve new signs and pay for out of Annex Cum Cap, Gabe Nobbe seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Community and Development Updates

Community Pool Survey

- The pool survey is live and includes a QR code for access; it will be shared on Facebook and via signage at various county locations.
- The survey consists of five or six questions, with the first question identifying whether the respondent lives in Decatur County.
- The survey cap is currently set at 10,000 responses and will remain open until August 31, 2025; the cap may be increased if needed.
- U-TRIP participants are being incentivized to take the survey to gather data on potential pool usage from both local and out-of-county visitors.
- Erica Gunn and her team were thanked for their rapid work on signage and survey setup.
- The survey does not track IP addresses or emails, ensuring raw data collection.
- Results will be bucketed by residency status to analyze local versus non-local interest.

Long-Range Capital Improvement Committee

- Proposed structure includes one commissioner, two council members, the auditor, and Maintenance Supervisor, with openness to including all three commissioners for the first year.

- The committee will collect capital and large expenditure projects, implement a yearly forecasting worksheet, assign priorities, and create spending and savings plans for long-term projects.
- The committee will evaluate best practices for economic development payments and forecast upcoming needs over a 15-year horizon.
- Baker Tilly’s comprehensive financial plan will be incorporated for ongoing review and five-year projections.
- Meetings will be public to ensure transparency and community input.

Local Development and Community Updates

- High school students are required to complete work-based learning hours to graduate, ranging from three to 150 hours.
 - There is concern about the pressure this places on staff and businesses, but it is seen as beneficial for workforce readiness.
 - Businesses are encouraged to partner with schools to provide valuable experiences and help create a talent pipeline.
- The final READI 1 project, Washington Street downtown, is set to be completed by the Fall Festival, with other projects finishing in 2026.
- READI 2 fairgrounds information has been submitted, with positive feedback from IEDC and anticipated results.
- Preparations for next year’s election are underway, including attendance at an election conference and ongoing jury management.
- Funding for a storage building was approved through TIF, but delays persist due to state and city approval requirements.
 - Concerns remain about staying within the original quote, with potential adjustments to materials if costs exceed the budget.
- The tax sale is scheduled for September 22, 2025, at 10:00, with an expected reduction from 120–140 parcels to about 30 by the sale date.
- Courthouse security will check the stair lift daily following issues identified during a recent fire alarm.
 - Staff are encouraged to seek training on the chair lift to ensure readiness in emergencies.
- Concerns about bird infestation on sidewalks ahead of the fall festival were raised.
 - The fire department is willing to assist with cleaning if contacted; Maintenance will coordinate as needed.

Meeting Adjournment

- Motion to recess was made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe. Motion passed. Meeting recessed.

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

Attest: _____ Date: _____