

Commissioner's Meeting
December 1, 2025

Date & Time: 2025-12-1 6:00 P.M.

Location: Room 106

Attendees: Jeremy Pasel Gabriel Nobbe and Brian Wenning

Opening

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
 - The meeting commenced at 6 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 Mike Snyder followed by prayer from Ken Mobley.

Approvals and Financial Matters

- Approval of Minutes, Claims, and Payroll
 - Minutes from November 17 meeting were reviewed, motion to approve made by Gabe Nobbe, seconded by Brian Wenning, motion carried unanimously.
 - Claims reviewed without questions, motion made to approve by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe, motion carried unanimously.
 - Payroll for November 21, 2025, amount \$415,873.38 was reviewed, motion to approve made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Friends of Greensburg–Decatur County Animal Shelter: Pet Food Box Initiative**
 - Presenter: Chris Ramey; project partner: Elizabeth Walden (Girl Scout Gold Award).
 - Goal: Install community "pet pantry" boxes for pet food/litter to reduce shelter surrenders due to supply/financial hardships.
 - Proposed locations: Greensburg Public Library; Decatur County Health Care Clinic/Annex (near health department resources); eventual placement at the shelter.
 - Donor support: A major donor committed funds for purchasing supplies; liability insurance in place.
 - Elizabeth's Gold Award scope: ~80 hours; design/build/post boxes; community fundraising; aim to submit final paperwork by April 1, 2026.
 - Box design: Similar to "Little Free Libraries"; community can add/take items; initial 3–4 months checks by Elizabeth; sustainability support from Friends board and potential school partnerships.
 - Commissioners feedback: Supportive; no objections to Annex/shelter placements; ribbon-cutting planned via Chamber of Commerce.
 - Conclusion: Positive reception; informal support expressed for locations and project sustainability.

- **Highway Department Updates**
 - Presenter: Todd Houk
 - Operations: Recent mowing, grading, bridge/culvert work, sign/road maintenance, patching.
 - Training: Attended winter ops training (Seymour District) with INDOT and National Weather Service; established contacts.
 - FEMA grant: Final documents submitted for flooding damage/debris removal; anticipated 75/25 split; approx. \$31,000 projected to return to county.
 - Railroad damage (350 West): Documentation transferred to Attorney Chad Smith for review on 11/24.
 - HSIP LIDAR grant: Writing grant to run LIDAR countywide; submission due December 5; cost estimate ~\$300,000; potential 90/10 or 100% funding; use cases include road width, drop-offs, right-of-way hazards, striping/curve signage, PASER ratings, overhead wires.
 - Winter prep: Trucks pre-treating hills/intersections ahead of snow.
 - CDL reimbursement program: Legal reviewed; needs commissioner approval; typical CDL cost ~\$7,500; tiered reimbursement if employee departs before 4 years. Motion to approve reimbursement made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe, motion carried unanimously.
 - Award letter: State awarded **CCMG 2026-1** application for \$491,348.23 (out of two applications totaling \$1,000,000 request); largest call with \$238M requested, \$100M awarded statewide; full award list forthcoming.
 - Public road issue reporting: New online form on Decatur County Government website (Highway Department/forms) for county roads; issues sent to Highway Dept. and commissioners; some state road reports redirected to INDOT; noted culvert paving mismatches on state roads, INDOT aware.
 - Secretary opening: Full-time secretary position; current last day 12/23; new start 12/29.
- **Assessor's Office Reassessment Bid**
 - Presenter: Doreen Greiwe; reviewed bids excluding higher-priced Vision; evaluated Tyler and Ad Valorem Solutions.
 - Legal review: Tyler's bid did not include item 19 (Level 3 assessor/appraiser on-site 4 days/week); deemed a material omission, non-conforming, excluded.
 - Result: Ad Valorem identified as lowest responsible bidder.
 - Motion made to accept **Ad Valorem** for reassessment bid made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe, motion carried unanimously; signatures executed.
 - Conclusion: Contract awarded to Ad Valorem.
- **Parks Department: Take-Home Vehicle Request**
 - Presenter: Bryan Robbins (Parks Board) on behalf of park director Chris Noblitt; temporary allowance requested due to ongoing housing search.
 - Discussion: Concern about precedent; suggested time-bound exception; reference to past sheriff policy (no current fee).
 - Motion to approve take-home vehicle for Parks Director until June 30, 2026 made by Gabe Nobbe, seconded by Jeremy Pasel, motion carried unanimously.
 - Conclusion: Time-limited exception granted.
- **Fairgrounds and Community Building Rentals: Donor and Nonprofit Policies (Proposal)**
 - Donor tiers (effective rentals 2026–2030):
 - \$50,000+: One free rental per calendar year (2026–2030; 5 years; no rollovers).

- \$25,000–\$49,999: 50% off one rental per calendar year (2026–2030).
 - \$10,000–\$24,999: 50% off one rental per calendar year (2026–2028).
 - \$5,000–\$9,999: 50% off one rental for 2026 only.
- Nonprofits (501(c)(3)):
 - Standard: 50% reduction in rental price for Decatur County 501(c)(3)s.
 - Additional reductions: May petition commissioners; vetting applies for requests exceeding 50% or for non-Decatur County entities; criteria include participant costs, benefits to Decatur County residents/youth, and other factors at commissioners' discretion.
- Youth organizations:
 - Decatur County 4-H Junior Leaders and FFA: Free use with prior scheduling and no conflicts.
 - Regional/state 4-H Junior Leaders and FFA events: \$750 facility fee for labor, water, electric.
- Scheduling and priority:
 - Commissioner approval required for community building and certain 4-H section uses to manage large-event logistics (e.g., weddings needing Friday setup/Sunday teardown) and prevent double booking.
- Contract alignment:
 - Policies to be incorporated into updated fairgrounds/community building rental contracts (including cattle barn and other facilities); corrections noted to figures (\$49,999) and effective year (2026).
 - Document to be emailed for review; discussion and possible passage at next meeting.
- Conclusion: Policy framework presented; no formal vote recorded; further review at next meeting.
- **Board Appointments and Reappointments**
 - Reappointments requested: Area Plan Commission (Todd Mauer), Alcohol Beverage Commission (Mike McCoy), Animal Control Board (Ashley Hungate), Board of Zoning Appeals (Rick Hoeing requested replacement), County Attorney (Chad Smith), Health Board (Dr. Howell and Dr. Amy Diewert), Tourism Board (Daniel Fayette requested replacement), JRAC (Ashley Hungate and Nick Wallpe).
 - Legal issue: Dual office holding—Todd Mauer on School Board and Area Plan Commission may be prohibited; reappointment tabled pending resolution.
 - Actions taken: Motion made for reappointments excluding Todd Mauer and Rick Hoeing's seat; new appointment of Kuyhlia Hulbosch to Tourism board made by Jeremy Pasel, seconded by Gabe Nobbe, motion carried unanimously.
 - County attorney contract: Motion made to approve fee schedule contract for term January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026 made by Jeremy Pasel, seconded by Gabe Nobbe, motion carried unanimously.
- **Parks and Facilities Updates**
 - Staff training: Pursuing playground safety inspector certification.
 - Facilities maintenance: Gas shutoff at a house may take 3–4 weeks; follow-up planned.
 - Demolition bids: Awaiting one more; plan to present early 2026.
- **Economic Development and Tourism**

- Housing study: Materials referenced; to be shared with relevant parties.
- Ready funds: \$1.95 million received.
- Hotel construction: Progress noted; opening date uncertain; ties to tourism and sports complex in the coming year.
- Tourism updates: Holiday Walk mentioned; planning ongoing.
- Conclusion: Funding confirmed; hotel timeline unclear; tourism activities continue.
- **Veterans Services Officer (VSO) and Senate Bill 433**
 - SB 433 changes: VSOs cannot be appointed; must be hired as full-time/part-time employees; standardization and accreditation across counties.
 - State meeting/conference upcoming to discuss impacts; VSO to send materials to commissioners.
 - Conclusion: Commissioners to review SB 433 implications; materials forthcoming.
- **U.S. Flag Disposal Boxes**
 - Resident requests for flag disposal locations.
 - Plan: Place a weatherproof disposal box near the annex building; explore repurposing retired post office boxes; Legion's current shed conditions are suboptimal.
 - Conclusion: Work underway to add a disposal box at the annex.
- **Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee**
 - Email to prospective members sent November 17; response deadline November 24.
 - Update expected at next commissioners meeting.
 - Conclusion: Awaiting committee composition update.

Meeting Adjournment

- Motion to recess was made by Jeremy Pasel, seconded by Brian Wenning. Motion passed. Meeting recessed.

The next Commissioner meeting will be held on Monday, December 15th, beginning at 8:00 A.M. in room 106.

Attest: _____

Date: _____