

Commissioner's Meeting
July 7, 2025

Date & Time: 2025-07-07 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 Todd Houk followed by prayer from Commissioner Brian Wenning

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- **June 16th Meeting Minutes**
 - Correction: "Bridge condition ratings" should be "road condition ratings."
 - Update: State Road 3 detour from Westport to Jennings County, via 700 West, has already happened and the road work has been completed.
 - Motion to approve the minutes with amendments made by Gabe Nobbe, seconded by Brian Wenning, motion was carried unanimously.
- **Budget Session Minutes Review**
 - No additional comments or corrections were noted.
 - Motion to approve made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe, motion carried unanimously.

Financial Matters

- **Claims**
 - Discussion included a \$2,100 claim for snow removal by Brian Schwering from the past winter, which had issues with invoice documentation but has since been reissued, paid, and is being sent out this month.
 - A second payout of \$596,182.82 from GM Development for the fairgrounds project was received; buildings have been delivered, and footers are being poured, with the project area to be fenced off and inactive during the fair.
 - Motion to approve claims made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe, carried unanimously.
- **Payroll**
 - Payroll for June 20th: \$425,220.63.
 - Payroll for July 3rd: \$415,147.78.
 - Motion to approve both payrolls made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe, carried unanimously.

Highway Department Update

- **General Maintenance and Projects**
 - Ongoing maintenance includes road patching, grading stone roads, addressing washouts on gravel roads, spreading stone, mowing and spraying vegetation, and culvert pipe replacements.
 - Documents for the 2024-2 project closeout were submitted and approved by INDOT.

- The 2025-1 Chip and seal project is approximately three weeks behind schedule due to weather.
- Detours and Road Closures
 - Unofficial detours were submitted for eight projects on South 421, between Decatur County and Ripley County, each with a DES number and up to a seven-day closure. The scope of work includes bridge deck thin overlays and small structure replacements. Each project will have a different detour route, which will be reviewed and filmed by INDOT prior to starting.
- Quality and Public Communication
 - Positive feedback was given on the quality of chip and seal work, noting that intersections are completed separately to prevent damage from trucks, and some roads required retreatment due to weather. Communication with the public, including updates to IT and dispatch, was highlighted as very helpful. Approximately 116 miles have been chipped and sealed. Concerns about gravel in yards and ditches have been minimal this year. An incident involving a car parked in the right-of-way getting gravel in its hubcaps during chip and seal was discussed, with the contractor asked to address it and a new policy established to tow vehicles in such situations.
- Community Concerns
 - A discussion took place regarding a culvert pipe on 500 East (the old K-O-A campground road), raised by Mr. Powers, who expressed concerns about flooding during heavy rain events. While the pipe is sized correctly for normal rain, it is not sufficient for heavy rainfall (e.g., three to five inches), leading to 8-10 inches of water above the 16-inch culvert, which flows after an 18-inch culvert.

Discussion on Property Drainage and Flooding Issues

- Location and Property Details
 - The culvert in question is located on 500 East, previously known as the K-O-A campground road, directly across Mr. Powers' property, which includes a garage or barn but no house.
- Drainage Concerns
 - Mr. Powers expressed a desire to install a drain from his basement to the ditch, approximately ten feet away, to avoid using a sump pump, a solution he has been requesting for eight to ten years.
- Flooding Issues
 - Flooding occurs during heavy rain events, particularly in front of Mr. Powers' garage, with water flowing through a 16-inch and an 18-inch culvert, and 8 to 10 inches of water above the 16-inch culvert.
- Culvert Size and Hydraulics
 - Todd Houk and Tim Ortman are tasked with evaluating the culvert sizes and the area's drainage capacity, with Tim running diagnostics to determine if the current culverts are undersized, and an answer expected by Friday.

Credit Card Authorization Requests

- Sheriff's Department
 - Sheriff Bill Meyerrose requested authorization for a credit card to document all expenses related to the CIT (Crisis Intervention Team), ensuring proper tracking when the Lilly grant funding for these expenses is depleted. Currently, these expenses are paid from the Lilly grant using a Sheriff's Department card, which blends them with other departmental bills. Motion to approve made by Gabe Nobbe, seconded by Brian Wenning. Motion was carried.
- Maintenance and Commissioner Credit Cards

- Discussion highlighted the necessity for Charley Davis (Maintenance) to have a credit card for small purchases and emergencies, as well as to easily attribute and track maintenance expenses. An additional card for the Commissioners was also requested, primarily for training or conference expenses. Motion to approve both the maintenance credit card and the additional Commissioner credit card made by Gabe Nobbe, seconded by Brian Wenning. Motion was carried unanimously.
- Prosecutor's Office and Child Support Division
 - A request was made for credit cards for Nate Harter for the Prosecutor's Office and the Child Support Division. This request was prompted by a new IRS rule requiring tax-exempt forms to match the name on the credit card, which has prevented reimbursement for expenses incurred during conferences and trainings when personal cards were used. Motion to approve both requests made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe. Motion was carried unanimously.

Tourism Office Phone and Stipend

- Current Setup and Issues
 - Erica Gunn from Tourism requested assistance with a stipend for cell phones. The office phone is currently a cell phone through Verizon, chosen due to high costs previously associated with Great Plains. There is significant confusion regarding billing from Great Plains, which provides a security system (including a back door monitor) but not an office phone. Bills fluctuate, with a \$1,750 charge in April for equipment, and other months showing \$177.61 and \$162.79. The bill descriptions often incorrectly list "office phone, internet, and security system," despite the absence of an office phone. The security system is alarm-based, potentially notifying 911 dispatch or a security company.
- Proposed Solutions
 - Commissioner Gabe Nobbe suggested exploring porting the current office phone number to a DID (Direct Inward Dialing) with the county, which could significantly reduce costs and allow for flexible call forwarding. The discussion was paused to allow Gabe to investigate the Great Plains billing and the overall phone setup, with a plan to revisit the topic at the second meeting in July. Erica also sought a second cell phone for Kate Acra, who manages after-hours events, social media, and marketing, as Erica's personal and office phone numbers are currently the same, creating challenges for after-hours duties.

Genex Solar Project Update

- Economic Development Agreement
 - Wayne DeLong (Director of Development) and Sonny DeCastro (Vice President of Development) from Genex Solar provided an update. Their project is currently pending with the Board of Zoning Appeals. They have been working for approximately nine months on various agreements, including the Economic Development Agreement, Road Use Agreement, and Agricultural Agreement. They reiterated their offer of a 30% floor on tax abatement, which is significant because Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 1 changed the law, allowing equipment to be depreciated to zero after seven years. Genex Solar's commitment to a 30% depreciation floor is "above the law," demonstrating their intent to pay their "fair share" as a corporate citizen.
- Next Steps
 - The Economic Development Agreement, under review since January, needs to be updated based on recent changes in law. It will be brought forward at the next commissioner's meeting and will also be subject to the county council's review.

Overtime Policy Review

- Policy Details
 - The proposed overtime policy states that overtime is based on actual hours worked after a typical 40-hour pay period. Pay leave time, including hours from PTO, personal days, sick days, comp time, holidays, jury duty, or bereavement leave, do not count as hours worked for overtime calculation. Departments working 35 hours do not receive overtime until they have worked 40 hours. Exceptions for overtime, requiring department head evaluation and approval, apply to employees required to work as designated by the department head. Specific departments that may meet these exceptions include the Sheriff's Department, Highway Department, Decatur County Communications, and 9-11 Dispatch Divisions, particularly for emergency services, long-distance transports, or specialized training.
- Approval
 - The revised policy was reviewed and met expectations for adoption, with specific confirmation that Decatur County Communications was included. A motion to approve the new overtime policy was made by Gabe Nobbe, seconded by Brian Wenning. Motion carried unanimously.

EMA Director Update

- Update: Commissioner Brian Wenning provided an update on the hiring process for the new EMA director.
 - New Director: Michael Snyder was introduced as the new EMA director. He is a local resident of Greensburg, a former 911 dispatcher, and was the deputy director for Bartholomew County EMA.
 - Welcome: The committee welcomed Mike and expressed eagerness to work with him.

Atrium Window Repair

- Issue: The glass in the atrium needs replacement, and the exterior window on the prosecutor annex requires resealing.
- Bid Details:
 - The total bid for the repair is \$2,957.07. This includes:
 - Window (quantity one, one inch overall thickness, tempered glass): \$836.51
 - Caulking: \$41.20
 - Labor: \$480
 - Lift rental: \$1,599.30
 - Maintenance Director Charley Davis had requested quotes from other businesses, and this was the only one that could fulfill the job.
- Decision: A motion was made to approve the bid by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe. The motion carried unanimously.

On Angels Wing 5K Event

- Request: Scott Hadler requested road closure for the 13th annual On Angels Wing 5K event.
 - Date and Time: August 23, 2025, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
 - Route: No changes to the route. Sheriff deputy was requested for one end of the route, and Sebo Lane for the duration of the event, as done in previous years.
 - Insurance: A copy of liability insurance was enclosed.
- Decision: A motion was made to approve the event by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe. The motion carried unanimously.

HVAC Maintenance Announcement

- **Maintenance:** HVAC maintenance is scheduled for Thursday to address ongoing heating and cooling issues in the courthouse.
 - **Weather Consideration:** This day was chosen as likely the coolest day in the middle of summer, making it the best time for the work despite potentially warmer-than-ideal indoor temperatures.
 - **Dress Code:** Department heads may allow staff to dress more comfortably, provided attire remains appropriate for working in a county public building. The maintenance is expected to be completed by the end of the day on Thursday.

Fair Insurance Requirements

- **Policy:** A new racing facilities policy for the fair's truck drags was discussed, which Kevin Krekler had been working on for three to four weeks.
 - **Cost:** The policy costs \$844.
 - **Requirements:** In addition to existing concrete and highway metal barriers at the track, the policy required an additional 20-foot setback for pit areas to ensure attendees are not sitting on concrete barriers inside the track, especially near bleachers.
 - **Options:** Due to the timeframe, there were not many other insurance provider options available.
- **Decision:** A motion was made to authorize signing the policy by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe. The motion carried unanimously.

County Insurance Document Correction

- **Issue:** An error was found in the original document for the county's uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage, which is part of the general county liability insurance.
- **Action:** The corrected document needs to be re-executed.
- **Decision:** A motion was made to sign the edited document by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe. The motion carried unanimously.

Fair Audio and Visual Equipment Contract

- **Contract:** A new contract with Clear Sound was presented for providing all visual and audio equipment for the stage in the farm and home building during the fair, where various bands will perform. This follows a previous contract approved in June for track audio. The equipment includes speakers, lights, and wireless microphone capabilities.
 - **Total Cost:** The total price is \$4,077.45, which represents a 35% discounted rate, or \$2,195.45 off their usual charge, as Clear Sound is a Decatur County Fair sponsor.
- **Decision:** A motion was made to approve the contract by Gabe Nobbe, seconded by Brian Wenning. The motion carried unanimously.

Community Updates

- **Ball Diamonds:** Rob DeHoff reported that the ball diamonds are doing very well, with 23 tournaments held so far and four more scheduled for the upcoming week. Attendance is good, and significant funds are being generated through concessions.
- **Veterans Services:** Ken Mobley emphasized the critical importance of veterans understanding and applying for their benefits, noting that many are missing out. He cited an example of a deceased 20-year retired veteran who never applied for VA compensation, leading to efforts to secure benefits for his spouse. He urged veterans to contact him to review their files, ensure they are updated, and potentially receive additional earned compensation.
- **Decatur County Fair:** Chris Ramey, who manages the Decatur County Fair's Facebook page, announced that the grandstand app will no longer be used this

year. Weather-related closures or delays will be communicated via the Facebook page and shared with WRBI, WTRE, Greensburg Daily News, and the county website. He also issued a reminder about the fenced-off construction area, urging the public not to climb or enter it, citing a recent incident of a child climbing the fence. The fair is set to begin on Thursday.

Comprehensive Plan Update

- Update: Doug Westerfeld announced the selection of a new comprehensive plan and contract.

Meeting Adjournment

- A motion to recess was made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe, and approved. Meeting adjourned.
- The next Commissioner meeting will be held on July 21, 2025, at 8:00 AM in Room 106.

Attest: _____

Date: _____