

**Commissioners Meeting
May 19, 2025**

Date & Time: 2025-05-19 6:00 P.M.

Location: Room 106

Attendees: Jeremy Pasel, Gabriel Nobbe, 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 Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jeremy Pasel followed by prayer from Jaron Jackson.
- **May 5th Commissioner Meeting Minutes**
 - No questions were raised regarding the May 5th meeting minutes.
 - A motion was made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Executive Session, May 12th Minutes**
 - No further discussion, motion was made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe to approve the executive session minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Claims Review**
 - No questions were raised regarding claims.
 - A motion was made by Gabe Nobbe and seconded by Brian Wenning to approve claims. Claims were approved unanimously.

Payroll for May 9, 2025

- A question regarding the Recorder's Office Document Scanning and Work from Home was raised.
 - The Recorder's Office has been scanning all documents for preservation.
 - The office considered hiring an outside company but opted to have an employee perform the work, as it was more cost-effective.
 - The overtime is paid from the Records Perpetuation fund (fees), not from County General funds.
 - Agreement: The approach saves money and utilizes internal resources.
 - Motion made to approve payroll for May 9th, 2025 was made by Brian Wenning and seconded by Gabe Nobbe. Motion was approved unanimously.

Highway Department and Road Maintenance

- **Department Activities and Storm Response**
 - Maintenance activities included patching, tree trimming, sign work, and spreading stone on gravel roads.
 - Storm damage occurred on Friday and Saturday; six staff members responded for cleanup.
- **Training and Budget Updates**
 - Todd Houk attended an Association of Indiana Counties (AIC) meeting focused on budget finance and upcoming changes.
- **Road Condition Concerns and Follow-Up**
 - Specific roads discussed: 550 East, 200 South, and possibly 700 East.
 - A commissioner and a community member reviewed these roads and identified legitimate concerns.
 - Plans were made to gather specifics and address the issues.
- **Community Crossing Grant and Road Repair Strategy**
 - The team is preparing for the Community Crossing Grant, targeting several roads for skip patching and wedge and overlay due to their poor condition, which makes chip sealing unfeasible.
 - The process for these repairs will begin once the necessary materials are secured.

- These repairs are intended as a base until the roads are in suitable condition for chip and seal.
- **Road Paving Decisions and Funding Allocation**
 - Public Inquiries and Road Selection Criteria
 - There have been community questions regarding why certain roads, such as Lake McCoy Road and 480, are being paved while others are not.
 - Roads in Burney and other small towns were prioritized due to their deteriorated condition and lack of maintenance in recent years.
 - The selection process involves factors such as pager rating and average traffic count.
 - 2024-2 HMA Overlay and Use of Surplus Funds
 - Roads were included in the 2024-2 HMA overlay project using approximately \$300,000 in leftover funds.
 - The decision to use surplus funds for these roads was based on their poor condition and the positive impact on small communities like Lads and Forest Hill.
 - In 2024-1, 84 miles of roads were completed, and the remaining balance was used for additional paving rather than returning funds to the state.
 - Grant Submission Process and Competitiveness
 - Since 2016, Decatur County has received grant awards annually.
 - The grant process typically involves two calls: one in January and another in June. For 2025-2, the second call was eliminated.
 - For the upcoming year, only \$100 million will be distributed in the first call, with the remaining \$100 million allocated to counties with a wheel tax.
 - Decatur County has a wheel tax, making it eligible for additional funds, unlike some neighboring counties.
 - The grant application process can be time-consuming, especially for projects like chip and seal (116 miles completed this year), and may require several days to complete due to technical challenges with mapping systems.

Enterprise Fleet Management Proposal and Vehicle Planning

- Introduction and Current Engagements
 - Tracy Benson, Client Strategy Manager with Enterprise Fleet Management, presented an overview of services, noting existing partnerships with the Sheriff's Department and proposing expansion to the Highway and Parks Departments.
 - Enterprise Fleet Management is part of Enterprise Mobility, with 60 local offices in Indiana and a strong presence in Indianapolis.
 - Regular in-person meetings (2-3 times per year) are held with departments to review budgets and needs.
- **Vehicle Fleet Planning and Budgeting**
 - Sheriff's Department Vehicle Sales and Budgeting
 - Discussion Summary: The team reviewed the ongoing process of selling vehicles for the sheriff's department, noting the unpredictability of their resale value but referencing historical data to support their budgeting.
 - Decision/Agreement: There is interest in observing another year of the sheriff's department's vehicle program to further assess its effectiveness.
 - Data Request:
 - Request made for detailed information on each vehicle: age, mileage, general condition, and specific usage/upfitting.
 - Purpose: To determine if new vehicles are necessary or if existing vehicles can remain in service up to 200,000 miles.
 - Next Steps:
 - Information on vehicles to be provided for review.
 - Topic to be included on the agenda for the next meeting, scheduled for the first meeting in June.

Sheriff's Department CIT Program Update

- Program Overview and Performance
 - The CIT program has been operational since February 1st.
 - To date: 77 calls for service over 108 days.
 - Outcomes: Reduction in trips to the ER and jail, indicating program effectiveness.

- Expansion: CIT has been involved with the health department and other agencies, showing increased wraparound services.
- **Training and Partnerships**
 - April: First 40-hour CIT training held, including sheriff's department staff, school system personnel, and cadets.
 - Next training scheduled for November; Shelby County will host a course in February, allowing for Decatur County's spring course to move to early June and target school system staff.
 - Positive feedback from the school system regarding April's training.
 - Two additional response deputies hired in April, introduced as John Bundick and Tiffani McFarland.
 - CIT LCSW has expanded offerings and built relationships with central Indiana facilities to divert individuals from the justice system.
 - Regional Collaboration: Agreements with Rush and Shelby counties for cross-county training participation.
 - Community Awareness: CIT is gaining recognition, with neighboring counties reaching out for information.
- **Crisis Response Process and Community Engagement**
 - Explanation: Crisis is individualized; can include mental health, substance use, or intellectual disabilities (e.g., autism).
 - Calls come through dispatch/911 or directly to the CIT team as community awareness grows.
 - CIT responds to both traditional and non-traditional crises, including major accidents, supporting not just victims but also families and first responders.
 - Community Event: Upcoming event at the high school in May to introduce the team and partners, and to showcase available resources.
 - April training included a resource panel with about 25 faculty members presenting available services.
 - Goal: To consolidate and coordinate resources for first responders and the community.
- **Feedback from New CIT Officers**
 - New officers report positive experiences and strong reactions from agencies outside Decatur County.
 - The program's full-time status, enabled by foundation funding, distinguishes it from neighboring part-time programs and increases its impact.
- **Video System Upgrade Request**
 - Issue: The current iRecord video system in the jail and interview rooms is outdated and has developed issues, including a significant blind spot due to only one camera per room.
 - Proposal: Upgrade the software and add a second camera in each interview room.
 - Cost: \$17,526 (not budgeted; suggested to be paid from the commissary fund).
 - Rationale: Adding a second camera is necessary to eliminate blind spots, which is a concern for law enforcement and prosecutors.
 - A motion was made by Gabe Nobbe and seconded by Brian Wenning to allow purchase of new camera from the Commissary fund. Motion was approved unanimously.

Insurance Renewal

- **Insurance Renewal and Coverage Adjustments**
 - Renewal Details and Recommendations
 - The insurance renewal includes an amendment to add cyber liability, with a favorable quote from Tokyo Marine HCC.
 - The recommendation is to move the package coverage from Liberty to Travelers, with the renewal to include Travelers and HCC.
 - The revised pricing reflects the inclusion of cyber liability.
 - Coverage Review and Savings
 - No concerns were found regarding coverage after reviewing the different quotes and policy sections.
 - The switch to Travelers results in a savings of \$99,000.
 - A motion was made by Brian Wenning and seconded by Gabe Nobbe. Motion carried to accept the quote from Travelers IPEP and HCC.

Health Department and Comprehensive Plan Survey

- **Health Department Pool Ordinance Review**

- Status and Review Process

- The ordinance is not ready for final review; Attorney Chad Smith is still reviewing due to the significant number of changes and detailed wording.
 - Adjustments are needed to ensure clarity and alignment, especially for regular maintenance.

- **Comprehensive Plan Survey Distribution**

- Survey Availability

- Hard copies of the comprehensive plan survey are available at the meeting location and in the office.
 - The survey is also accessible online via the commission webpage and social media (including Facebook).
 - QR codes are provided for smartphone access.
 - Surveys are not being mailed out, but individual requests for mailed copies can be accommodated.

- **Revitalization Project: Unsafe Properties**

- Six properties are targeted for cleanup, with two in Lake McCoy and three having received previous notices (dating back to 2018 and 2020).
 - Mailings for current notices went out in March, with follow-up inspections and second notices sent as needed.
 - The focus is on removal of unsafe buildings, with specific properties discussed in detail.
 - David Israel Property Discussion
 - Background and Owner's Request
 - The property is vacant, and the owner, David, explained previous efforts to clean up the shop property and financial constraints limiting progress to one project per year.
 - David requested an extension of about four months to complete the cleanup, citing limited resources and recent planting season commitments.
 - The plan is likely to tear down the house and potentially build a pole barn, pending permission.
 - Board Discussion and Decision
 - The board expressed willingness to grant an extension but not for the full 120 days requested.
 - A 30-day extension was agreed upon, with the expectation that windows will be boarded up and debris removed.
 - Progress will be reviewed prior to the 30-day mark, with a follow-up at the second commissioners meeting in June if necessary.
 - James Alverson Property
 - Background and Owner's Request
 - Accumulation of litter is the primary concern.
 - Previous letters regarding cleanup were sent in 2018 and 2022, with the most recent notice sent in February.
 - A representative spoke on behalf of the property owner.
 - The property owner contracted to build a pole barn as a solution for storing extra items on the property, but the plan was not approved, resulting in a halt to construction.
 - The owner's health has been declining, but now has help from family members willing to assist with cleanup.
 - A survey was contracted in October of last year with Scholle's company, but the survey has not yet been completed due to delays over the winter.
 - The property owner is waiting for permits and a resurvey of the parcels before proceeding with the barn.
 - There is a history of delays, with initial plans dating back to August 2022, and the building process is still incomplete nearly three years later.
 - Ordinance and Compliance
 - The property is subject to county ordinances, as Burney is unincorporated.

- There is a complaint regarding debris and items needing cleanup; the pole barn alone will not resolve all ordinance issues.
- The ordinance requires vehicles on the property to be licensed and registered unless stored inside a building.
- The property owner requested a six-month to one-year extension for the pole barn construction.
- A 30-day extension was discussed to allow for appreciable progress on debris removal, with an update to be provided at the end of the period.
- James Moss Property: Litter, Nuisance, and Abandoned Vehicles
 - Initial and follow-up letters regarding litter and abandoned vehicles were sent (initial: February 5, follow-up: May 1).
 - Since receiving notice, Mr. Moss has cleaned up the driveway area, moved items behind the property, and relocated materials to the east perimeter.
 - The property includes an old outhouse and a log splitter, which remain; vehicles are on skids and will be moved inside.
 - The extension of 130 South has been maintained by individuals since the 1940s, but attempts to officially close it were denied by commissioners.
 - A re-evaluation of the property will be conducted to confirm cleanup; if satisfactory, the case will be closed.
- Lake McCoy Unsafe Properties: Joshua Reese and Richard Reese
 - Joshua Reese Property – Gary and Melissa Reese present.
 - Initial letter sent in March 2025; property is unoccupied.
 - The community is working to reestablish its board with assistance from Bev Rivera, leading to positive changes over the past year and a half.
 - Property line identification is problematic due to missing survey markers and discrepancies in mapping (Beacon off by several feet).
 - The plan is to prioritize removal of a cabin on Joshua's property, with a 30-day period for progress and follow-up.
 - Richard Reese Property – Gary and Melissa Reese present.
 - Adjacent to Joshua Reese's property; similar issues with unsafe structures and materials.
 - The house is not livable (no dry wall, insulation, or electric wiring) but is structurally sound.
 - Gary Reese expressed a desire to remove the building, citing high taxes and lack of utility.
 - Question on who actually owns this property. Put on hold until that is figured out.
- James & Bonnie Smith: Abandoned vehicles, Litter, Nuisance
 - Letters sent in 2020; some progress has been made. Vehicles moved around and off of road.
 - Line of site still an issue. Had sufficient time to remedy.
 - Area Plan will move forward with cleanup

911 Director Report – LeighAnn Dashiell

- Quote for 700 mhz repeater \$28,000
- Motion made to accept bid by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe. Motion approved unanimously.

Disaster Declaration

- Offered through FEMA for dates March 30 – April 8, 2025
- Allows the County to apply for reimbursement of expenses incurred during the storms.
- Brian Wenning made motion to sign declaration; Gabe Nobbe seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Fairgrounds Restrooms

- A quote of \$5,770 from Dave Owens was presented to update the restrooms at the track grandstands.
- Fixtures from the home and home building will be used
- Brian Wenning made the motion to approve quote, Gabe Nobbe seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Request Use of Facilities – Decatur County Visitors Center

- Concert series – will host 5 concerts at Rebekah Park Amphitheatre
 - Motion was made to approve concert series by Gabe Nobbe, seconded by Brian Wenning. Motion was approved unanimously.

Dossett Consulting Contract

- Cost Allocation Plan based on actual expenditures for the year 2023.
- Motion made to approve 3-year contract by Gabe Nobbe, seconded by Brian Wenning. Motion was approved unanimously.

READI Update

- Funds are set to be released early next week for the READI.2 projects
Motion made to amend EDIT Plan to proceed with Fairgrounds project then pay back with READI funds when received by Gabe Nobbe, seconded by Brian Wenning. Motion approved unanimously.

Commissioner Pasel reminded all county employees to please park in the County parking lot.

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 June 2nd, beginning at 6:00 P.M. in room 106.

Attest: _____ Date: _____