

Commissioner's Meeting

October 6th, 2025

Date & Time: 2025-10-06 6:00 P.M.

Location: Room 106

Attendees: Jeremy Pasel, Gabriel Nobbe, and Brian Wenning

Opening

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
 - The meeting commenced at 6:00 P.M. 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 Christy Smiley followed by prayer from Ken Mobley.

Meeting Approvals and Financial Approvals

- The following meeting minutes were reviewed and approved:
 - September 15th regular meeting – motion to approve made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe.
 - September 15th executive session – motion to approve made by Gabe Nobbe, seconded by Jeremy Pasel.
 - September 17th special session - motion to approve made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe.
 - September 26th special session – motion to approve made by Gabe Nobbe, seconded by Brian Wenning.
- Claims were discussed with a question raised regarding a crane charge for Bridge 63, which appeared as an identical charge on two different days (7/31 and 8/1). Todd Houk verified it was for two separate jobs. With no other issues, Brian Wenning made a motion to approve, Gabe Nobbe seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- Payroll for September 26, 2025, totaling \$403,852.20, was reviewed. Gabe Nobbe made the motion to approve, Jeremy Pasel seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Departmental Reports and Updates

- Highway Department Report
 - General Maintenance: The department continues with routine maintenance, including grading roads, mowing, spraying for vegetation, and installing culverts.
 - Bridge 63 (120 East / 300 North): The bridge deck is set and the guardrail is up. The department is preparing to lay the waterproof membrane and pave, with an expected opening in the next week.
 - Bridge 167 (Westport): Preparation work is underway. While marking utility locations, the crew hit a water line that was approximately 35 feet off from where it was marked by Westport.
 - FEMA Mitigation for Lake McCoy Bridge: The department is proposing a mitigation project for the bridge on Boulevard Lane near Lake McCoy. The plan involves removing the bridge and installing a cul-de-sac. An on-call professional services agreement

with United Consulting was approved to create a cost estimate and application for FEMA. The documents must be turned in by October 10, 2025.

- CCMG Grant Submission: Two applications for the 2026 CCMG grant were submitted for a total of 120.2 miles.
- Chip and Seal Project: SC Construction is moving in to begin the fall chip and seal work on October 8, 2025. The project covers just over 15 miles.
- Area Plan Commission Report
 - Decatur County Revitalization Project Board: Brian Wenning made the motion to approve the second reading of ordinance **2025-15** establishing the Decatur County Revitalization Project Board, Gabe Nobbe seconded, motion carried unanimously.
 - OCRA Grant for Comprehensive Plan: The county's OCRA grant petition was approved, allowing work to move forward on the comprehensive plan review.
 - Rezoning Petitions: The following petitions were reviewed and approved:
 - **Petition 2023-12**: Dan and Jennifer Riley to rezone 2.99 acres from A1 to A2 to build a single-family dwelling. Motion to approve made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe.
 - **Petition 2024-19**: Donald and Kathy Butz to rezone 2.99 acres from A1 to A2 on Northeast 80 to build a single-family dwelling. Motion to approve made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe.
 - **Petition 2024-18**: Brian and Dawn Schwering to rezone 2.5 acres from A1 to A2 to build a single-family dwelling. Motion to approve made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe.
 - **Petition 2024-23**: Alex Sefton to rezone 1.5 acres from A1 to A2 on Highway 3 to build a single-family dwelling. Motion to approve made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe.
 - **Petition 2025-18**: GD Partnership LLC to rezone 0.45 acres from R2 to B3 on Highway 46 in New Point for a gas station, conditional on the construction of a fence. Motion to approve made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe.
- Health Department Updates
 - Employee Recognition: Alicia Nobbe received the Presidential Accommodation Award from the Indiana Environmental Health Association.
 - Upcoming Open House: Dr. Weaver will visit the health department on November 17, 2025, at 9 a.m. An open house will be held to recognize past employees and health officers.
- Other Departmental Updates
 - Biosolid Application: A notice was received that the City of Greensburg will apply 700 dry tons of biosolid to 56 acres. The material is confirmed to be below the PFAS limit.
 - Tourism: Work has begun on compiling polling numbers for the ball diamonds to conduct a year-to-year analysis of visitor traffic.
 - Parks & Rec: End-of-year numbers for the complex are being compiled and will be presented in a diagram.
 - Communications (911): The 911 board approved a major system upgrade, with installation anticipated in the spring of 2020. The light on the Greensburg local tower has been fixed.
 - Auditor's Office: The health insurance quote for the upcoming year came in with a minimal increase of 0.08%. The office is waiting on a

software update to comply with Senate Bill 1 before proceeding with property tax deduction work.

- Fall Festival: An after-action report meeting for the public safety aspects of the festival is scheduled for October 7, 2025, at 8:30 AM.
- Veterans Officer Ken Mobley attended a 100th birthday party for WWII Vet Robert AmRhein.

Community Concerns

- Water Drainage Ordinance Violation
 - A complaint was raised regarding a property at New Point where a semi-permeable stone pad is being expanded incrementally. The cumulative size has grown significantly and is now negatively affecting drainage, prompting a request for the county to investigate.
- Blight and Safety Concerns in Clarksburg
 - Resident Complaints: Multiple residents raised concerns about properties in Clarksburg, particularly one near the park, citing graffiti, trash, unleashed dogs, unsanitary conditions, and rats. A resident reported finding two rats in her house. Another noted issues with a neighbor who is a registered violent sexual predator living in a trailer without water or electricity.
 - Official Response and Plan: Officials are aware of the rat infestation and property issues and are coordinating a response. A statutory process must be followed, which is expected to be a 60-day process before cleanup can begin. The county's authority is limited to the exterior of the property.

County Health Improvement Plan

- The health department presented a plan, required by Indiana Code, to address the county's leading health indicators. The plan focuses on the four areas identified as needing the most improvement:
 - Cigarette smoking during pregnancy (82nd out of 96 counties).
 - Infant mortality rate (64th out of 92 counties).
 - Opioid overdose rate (59th out of 92 counties).
 - Adult obesity (45th out of 92 counties).
- A 12-month health plan for 2026 was approved unanimously to address these issues within a limited budget with Gabe Nobbe making the motion and Jeremy Pasel seconding.
- The plan aims for incremental improvements with the following goals:
 - Reduce smoking during pregnancy from 11.5% to 10%.
 - Change the infant mortality rate from 8.48 to 8.5%.
 - Decrease overdose deaths by 5% to 10%.
 - Reduce youth vaping and smoking by 20%.
 - Increase healthy eating and exercise opportunities in the county.
- An infant mortality review team will be established to analyze individual cases and identify preventative measures.
- The county has already started offering safe sleep classes and providing incentives like pack-and-plays and car seats.
- The number of certified car seat technicians will increase from one to three by the end of October 2025.

Grants and Funding

- EMA Grant Applications
 - Mike Snyder sought approval for two grant applications.

- State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Grant: This grant is for approximately \$112,166.46 to fund significant upgrades to the command bus equipment.
- Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG): This is an annual grant that reimburses a percentage of salaries for EMA staff, due by October 31st.
- Brian Wenning made the motion to approve the start of the grant process, Gabe Nobbe seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- Centerstone Funding Dispute Resolution
 - The county has been withholding funds from Centerstone since early 2022 due to their failure to provide legally required reporting.
 - After intervention from the FSSA, the missing reporting components for 2022 and 2023 have now been provided.
 - Brian Wenning made the motion to approve the release of payments totaling \$464,534.04, which includes \$226,755 for 2022 and \$237,779.04 for 2023, Gabe Nobbe seconded, motion carried unanimously.

County Projects and Purchases

- Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Vehicle Purchase
 - Due to high demand, the foundation that funds the CIT program has approved hiring a third field deputy.
 - Approval was sought to purchase a 2025 Chevrolet Silverado for \$48,410 for the new deputy. The purchase will be paid for by the funds held at the Community Foundation. Motion to approve made by Jeremy Pasel, seconded by Gabe Nobbe, motion carried unanimously.
- Courthouse Tree Maintenance
 - An arborist was hired to address the declining health of the courthouse tree.
 - A quote for \$2,860 was approved for the arborist to winterize the watering system and restart it in the spring. Trimming 30-40% of dead limbs will be revisited in the spring. Motion to approve made by Gabe Nobbe, seconded by Jeremy Pasel, motion carried unanimously.
- Water Filtration System
 - A proposal was made to install water filtration systems to combat hard water issues and appliance damage in the annex building.
 - The projected savings are approximately \$400 or \$500 in the first year and around \$1,200 annually thereafter.
 - A motion was made by Gabe Nobbe to approve the installation of the first three reverse osmosis (RO) systems at a one-time cost of \$779 and an annual filter cost of \$506, Jeremy Pasel seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- Pool BOT Vendor Selection
 - The pool committee reviewed proposals for the pool Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) project and recommended moving forward with Blue Escapes Pools.
 - A motion to select Blue Escapes Pools for the project was made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Jeremy Pasel, motion carried unanimously.
- Veteran Transportation Vehicle Proposal
 - A need for a veteran transportation vehicle was identified, as Rush County no longer transports veterans from outside its county.
 - An opportunity has arisen to purchase a 2017 van from a local Ford dealer for \$5,000.
 - The proposal will be finalized and presented for approval at the next meeting on October 20, 2025.

Fairgrounds and Community Building

- Decatur County Fair Emergency Plan
 - The Decatur County Fair emergency plan handbook was updated by EMA.
 - The Sheriff and the Fire Chief both reviewed and approved the updated plan.
 - A motion to approve the new emergency plan was made by Gabe Nobbe, seconded by Brian Wenning, motion carried unanimously.
- Fairgrounds Rental Rate Updates
 - The fairgrounds rental agreement is being updated. Proposed changes to existing rental rates include:
 - Entire Fairgrounds: Increase to \$10,000.
 - Farm and Home Building: Increase to \$500.
 - Rabbit and Poultry Barn: Decrease to \$800.
 - Horse Facilities: Consolidate into a single \$500 fee for the arena, barn, and lights.
 - Camping (with electric): Increase to \$35 per night.
 - Policy changes include no longer renting county-owned equipment for liability reasons and eliminating the \$75 fee for stocking restrooms.
- Community Building Rental Pricing and Policies
 - The facility is primarily intended to be marketed as a commercial convention and exposition hall with a capacity of 600 to 650 people.
 - Jeremy Pasel made the motion to set the rental price at \$2,500 for the first year to attract initial renters. The price will be revisited in six months, Gabe Nobbe seconded, motion carried unanimously.
 - The commissioners are responsible for all non-fair rentals, including any deviations from the standard rental agreement.
 - Discount Policies: A tiered discount system was proposed for campaign donors. It was also suggested that local groups like 4-H, FFA, and Junior Leaders should be able to use the facility for free.

Meeting Adjournment

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

The Next Commissioner meeting will be held on Monday, October 20th, beginning at 8:00 A.M. in room 106.

Attest: _____

Date: _____