

Commissioner's Meeting

September 15th, 2025

Date & Time: 2025-09-15 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 a.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 Janet Howell followed by prayer from Dennis Speer

Approvals and Administrative Items

- The meeting minutes for September 2, 2025, were approved with three corrections:
 - "Cold replacement" in the highway department section was corrected to "sign maintenance."
 - A reference to a "chiller issue" was removed from a claim regarding courthouse window repairs, as it was not part of the Henry Glass claim.
 - A water-based recreation survey result was clarified to state the average interest in people attending the pool was 4.56 out of 5 "for family," not just individuals.
- The executive session meeting minutes from September 5, 2025, were reviewed. Brian Wenning made motion to approve, Gabe Nobbe seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- Claims were reviewed with no issues. Gabe Nobbe made the motion to approve, Brian Wenning seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- Payroll for September 12, 2025, totaling \$406,634.74 had no issues. Brian Wenning made the motion, Gabe Nobbe seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- The board discussed bids for a new trailer, with the primary requirements being that it is powder-coated and has a dovetail.
 - A motion was made to accept the bid from Five Points for a trailer costing \$4,100 by Brian Wenning, seconded by Jeremy Pasel. Motion carried unanimously.
- A significant bird roosting problem in the courthouse trees has created a mess on the sidewalks, prompting multiple public complaints.
 - The fire department had previously sprayed the sidewalks two weeks prior, but the area was covered again within two days.
 - Bids were sought to trim the trees before the upcoming Fall Festival, with a deadline of Thursday at 5 o'clock, as vendors would be setting up.
 - Adams Tree Service was the only company that could perform the work in time. Pride Tree Trimming and Mayhugh Lawn and Tree Services were unable to perform the work by the deadline.
- A motion was made to accept the \$3,300 bid from Adams Tree Service by Gabe Nobbe, seconded by Brian Wenning. Motion carried unanimously.

- The service includes heavily trimming five maple trees and one Bradford pear tree to remove foliage, as trimming only two trees would cause birds to simply roost in others.
- It also includes the removal of a smaller, dying tree on the west side of the square.
- The fire department will return to clean the sidewalks after the trees are trimmed on Thursday. A suggestion was made to wet the area first to prevent airborne particles and potential health risks during cleaning.
- Holiday Schedule
 - The 2026 holiday schedule was presented. Brian Wenning made the motion to approve, Gabe Nobbe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
 - It was noted that the schedule mirrors the one set by the state court system.
- Commissioner Meeting Schedule
 - A discussion was held about moving the 8 a.m. meeting to 9 a.m. to give courthouse employees more preparation time, especially after weekends.
 - The idea was rejected to avoid causing members of the public to miss an additional hour of work.
 - The commissioners decided to maintain the current schedule: the first meeting of the month at 6 p.m. and the second at 8 a.m. Gabe Nobbe made the motion to approve, Brian Wenning seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Hoosier Trails Boy Scouts
 - A request was made for the Boy Scouts to use the Decatur County Fairgrounds on September 22, 2025, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to launch small model rockets they built.
 - The location was amended from a general parking lot to the track area, as it is more contained, has fewer overhead lines, and offers a dirt/grass surface. Gabe Nobbe made the motion to approve, Brian Wenning seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Decatur County Visitors Commission
 - A request was made to use the courthouse bathrooms on October 4, 2025, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. for a rescheduled train visit, with Brian Robbins supervising the courthouse. Gabe Nobbe made the motion to approve, Brian Wenning seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- New Directions
 - A request was made to change the clock tower light to purple for the entire month of October to mark Domestic Violence Awareness Month, noting it is a simple change with the new clock technology. Jeremy Pasel made the motion to approve, Gabe Nobbe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Highway Department Report

- Ongoing Maintenance: The department is continuing with patching as needed, grading roads, applying stone to roads, and battling vegetation through spraying and mowing roadsides.
- Bridge 63: Beams for the bridge replacement were scheduled for delivery and setting on the day of the meeting.
- Additional Chip and Seal Project:
 - The department is planning to apply chip and seal to over 16 additional miles of stone and asphalt roads, separate from the 116 miles completed earlier this year through the CCMG grant.

- Bid documents for the required oil have been approved and will be sent out to three different manufacturers. The county will supply the stone and trucking while coordinating with a contractor to apply it.
 - A special session to open the bids is scheduled for September 26 at 2:30 PM to expedite the project before the weather turns bad.
- Project Cost Analysis: A request was made to track the man-hours for this additional chip and seal project to analyze the cost-efficiency of performing similar work in-house in the future, potentially for full CCMG projects.
- FEMA and Grant Updates:
 - The department is having weekly meetings with FEMA to provide documentation for storm damage reimbursement.
 - The CCMG grant call opens on October 1st and is expected to be highly competitive. Decatur County is in good standing based on past submissions and closeouts, but funding may be partial (e.g., receiving \$750,000 on a \$1 million application) to ensure all counties receive some award.
 - Grant applications will now be more strictly evaluated on Title VI (updated annually) and ADA (updated every three years) compliance, with new submittals required.
- Speed Limit Change: INDOT has completed a study and will be changing the speed limit in the Sandusky area near 580 from 55 mph to 45 mph.

Parks and Recreation - Park House

- Property Status: The park house by the sports complex was inspected by Charlie Davis and Jody Biddinger and found to be in poor condition, with very questionable and "wavy" floors, making it difficult to salvage without significant funds.
- Proposed Action: The current thinking is to demolish the house to create additional parking for the new sports complex. Removing the house and some trees could create 30 or more new parking spots, which is a premium in that area.
- Next Steps: A quote will be obtained for the demolition. There is a desire to preserve as much greenery and as many trees as possible during the process.

Area Plan Commission - Blight Revitalization Ordinance

- Ordinance Purpose: The first reading of ordinance 2025-15 was held to assign authority for the Decatur County Revitalization Project to the Area Plan Commission (APC). This project, funded by ARPA, addresses blight in the county.
- Process Change: Authority to review cases, hold show cause hearings, and pursue legal action against non-compliant property owners will shift from the County Commissioners to the APC. This new process is modeled after a successful program in Jennings County. Previously, the building commissioner was responsible for initial assessment and letters, with cases only reaching commissioners if no action was taken.
- Ordinance Structure: A second ordinance will define procedures and establish three different levels of violation based on the severity of the situation.
- Board Composition: The ordinance establishes the Decatur County Revitalization Project Board, which shall be under the guidance of the Decatur County Area Plan Commission and consist of the Director of the Decatur County Revitalization Project Board, Planning and Zoning Department staff, a Decatur County Commissioner, a Decatur County Councilman, a representative of the Decatur County Health Department, a Township Trustee, a representative of the Decatur County Highway Department, the Decatur County Planning and Zoning Department

Attorney, the Decatur County Recorder, the Decatur County Auditor, and the Decatur County Assessor.

- Next Steps: The second reading of the ordinance is scheduled for the next regular October meeting, not the special session.

County Pool Updates

- Property Line Survey:
 - A review of online GIS plots and paper records shows the county pool's property line is unclear, cutting right up against the back of the concrete and into the parking lot, potentially off by several feet. The property has not been surveyed since the 1950s or 60s.
 - A motion was made by Jeremy Pasel, seconded by Brian Wenning to accept a bid of \$3,600 from Scholle Land Survey to conduct a formal survey and establish accurate boundary lines, deemed beneficial for future investments in the area. Motion carried unanimously.
- BOT Advertisement:
 - A Request for Qualifications (RFPQ) for a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) partner for the pool was first advertised on September 11, 2025, with a second advertisement scheduled for September 18, 2025.
 - All letters of interest and qualifications are due by the close of business on September 25, 2025.
- The full BOT document was published in the paper to provide all necessary information upfront, following a suggestion by Greg Martz to make the process easier than requiring multiple form submissions.
- Despite this, many people are still reaching out with questions, indicating they are not reading the entire document.
- Staff are referring individuals back to the published paper, which contains all the requested information and guidelines.

Health First Indiana Plan

- New legislation passed this year requires the county executive to sign off on a county health plan.
- The state advised that the plan does not need to be overly complex and should focus on three specific Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for submission and approval.

Departmental and Community Updates

- Fairgrounds Winter Storage
 - Winter storage for motorhomes, campers, boats, and other vehicles will be available at the fairgrounds.
 - Drop-off is Saturday, November 1, 2025, from 7:30 a.m. until noon. The cost is \$11 per foot. Patty Hensley can be contacted at 812-222-0588 for more information.
- Public Health
 - Animal Shelter: An investigation into a mold situation with state officials found that indoor air quality is good and humidity is low due to dehumidifiers and air cleaners, posing no health concerns. The issue is considered isolated and resolved, likely related to wet weather, with final lab results on mold types pending by the end of the week.
 - Kohler Park: Water testing at the park came back satisfactory with no bacteria. Given past history, it was recommended that signs be posted advising against drinking, as there are no drinking fountains.

- West Nile Virus: Another mosquito pool tested positive for West Nile virus. The public is advised to continue taking precautions, as it is assumed mosquitoes may be carrying the virus.
- Community Garden
 - The community garden has been a major success, with over 400 pounds of weighed produce distributed and an estimated total of 700 pounds, thanks to Alicia Nobbe's leadership.
- Chamber of Commerce
 - The Cash Bash fundraiser is underway, which supports small business grants of up to \$1,500. Applications for the Don Horan Community Leader of the Year Award and Entrepreneur of the Year Award are also open.
- Burn Ban
 - The recent rain may have staved off the possibility of a burn ban, though Franklin County has enacted one. The NOAA website for drought monitoring is being used.

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 Monday, October 6th, beginning at 6:00 P.M. in room 106.

Attest: _____

Date: _____