

Commissioner's Meeting

September 17th, 2025

Date & Time: 2025-09-17 3:30 P.M.

Location: Room 106

Attendees: Jeremy Pasel, Gabriel Nobbe, and Brian Wenning

Opening

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
 - The meeting commenced at 3:30 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
 - The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Jeremy Pasel.

Cobia Solar Lawsuit

- Legal response to Cobia Solar lawsuit
 - The complaint was filed in Jennings County on September 4, 2025, seeking to overturn the BZA decision from August 6, 2025.
 - County counsel recommended vigorous defense and engaging outside counsel due to specialized zoning/solar legal issues.
 - Commissioners discussed the timeline: notice received on September 8, with 23 days to respond, placing the deadline around October 1.
 - Decision: Jeremy Pasel made a motion to retain **Barnes & Thornburg** to represent Decatur County and defend the BZA decision and Cobia's verified petition for judicial review, citing the firm's prior involvement and expertise in land use and zoning, Brian Wenning seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Fairgrounds

- Extension office space and forthcoming decisions
 - Informal discussion occurred regarding using the new community building as office space; no decisions were made.
 - Additional discussion and potential decisions are deferred to the meeting on the 26th, aligned with ideas shared by the extension office.

Internal fund transfers and fairgrounds expenses

- Approval sought for transfers identified during fairgrounds accounting review.
- Transfers addressed part-time labor (went over by 52–53 dollars plus FICA) related to fair operations and an office supplies overage.
- Motion made by Gabe Nobbe, seconded by Brian Wenning, motion passed unanimously.

- **READI project swap proposal and funding strategy**
 - Representatives proposed swapping Greensburg's remaining READI 1 Main Street project (just under 1.5 million dollars) with the county's READI 2 fairgrounds project (1 million nine hundred fifty thousand).
 - Concern: Splitting the fairgrounds project (building vs. electrical upgrades) could lower the economic impact score for READI 2, risking the second phase funding.
 - Commissioners' position: They would only consider a swap if approval for READI 1 automatically guarantees approval and funding for the electrical phase under READI 2, without separate application or impact analysis.
 - Benefit noted: READI 1 dollars are ready for disbursement by the state (subject to approval), aiding regional closeout and the city's timeline. However, commissioners stated the swap likely does not accelerate the county's timeline to receive funds.
 - Contingency: If city funds become unavailable, the county has a project that could receive them to keep dollars in the county.
- **OCRA grant closeout**
 - YMCA roof
 - Decatur County acted as pass-through for state funds to repair the YMCA roof.
 - Total construction cost for the OCRA portion was 500,000 dollars; the YMCA portion was also 500,000 dollars.
 - Gabe Nobbe made the motion to approve the closeout form for the YMCA OCRA grant; disbursements totaled 500,000 dollars, Brian Wenning seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Adjournment

- Motion to recess was made by Gabe Nobbe, seconded by Brian Wenning. Motion passed. Meeting recessed.

The Next Commissioner meeting will be held on Monday, October 6, beginning at 6:00 P.M. in room 106.

Attest: _____

Date: _____