

FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting –March 4, 2025

BE IT REMEMBERED:

That the Fayette County Commissioners of Fayette County, State of Indiana, met in regular scheduled session on the above date at 2:00 P.M. with the following present: Commissioners Dale Strong, Dale Munson, and Tracie Bever, and Auditor Jane Downard and County Attorney Geoff Wesling of said County and State.

Commissioner Strong called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Munson moved to approve the minutes of February 18th regular meeting, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

BID OPENING: County Farm Rental

We received two bids for the County Farm Rental, one from Michael Savoy in the amount of \$150 per acre and one from Lowell Risch in the amount of \$160 per acre. Commissioners allowed those two to increase their bids: Savoy increased his bid to \$165 per acre, Risch increased his bid to \$180, Savoy increased to \$200, Risch increased to \$220, Savoy increased to \$240, Risch increased to \$250, Savoy increased to \$265 and Risch said to let him have it. Commissioner Munson moved to approve Michael Savoy's bid of \$265 per acre, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

BID OPENING: Cemetery Mowing

We received one bid for the Cemetery Mowing from Jay McAtee in the amount of \$22,000. Commissioner Munson moved to approve the bid of \$22,000 from Jay McAtee, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

911:

Kelly VanMeter presented a 144 and requested permission to hire three new part-time dispatchers, Karissa Toney, Taylor Gardener, and Cheyenne Wright. Commissioner Bever moved to approve the 144 as presented, Commissioner Munson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Munson asked when they had set the date to change the dispatching on the 800s. Kelly said it should be any day now. They had pushed back the date to allow every agency time to get all their radios programmed. Commissioner Munson said he heard EMS and Fire had been having some issues getting with ERS, and Kelly said Scott Jones had reached out to her about that. Kelly said she had not heard from any agency that they were not ready.

Kelly apprised commissioners of Wade Walling's request to add another 800 radio to her console for EMA and gave her opinion on that request. Kelly does not see the necessity for this, and does not feel that her budget should pay for it. Kelly said in her opinion dispatch should not be authorized to dispatch him off the console; she believes the agencies that we serve should request him as needed. Commissioner Bever asked if Kelly had discussed this with her advisory board, and Kelly said this just came up and the Advisory Board only meets quarterly. Kelly said the quote was a 90 day quote and could be tabled until the Advisory Board meets and makes a recommendation. Kelly said she did not feel that the EMA needs to be on the console 24/7.

Kelly said the antennas have all been fixed.

Kelly thanked Commissioner Bever for coming over and checking out 911.

AREA PLAN:

Bill MacDaniel had previously submitted a 144 to request permission to hire Bill Hughes as the part-time Building Inspector. Commissioner Bever moved to approve the 144 as presented, Commissioner Munson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

HIGHWAY:

Chris Gettinger acknowledged there are potholes everywhere. He encouraged people to call the office at 825-5981 and let them know where there are potholes so they can go out and investigate.

MAINTENANCE:

Josh Jarboe said our maintenance contract with North Mechanical is up for renewal. He said he would like to request other maintenance contract quotes but he would like to only do a one year contract rather than a three year contract this time. He currently has two quotes, and will try to find a third.

Josh advised that the washer and dryer at the jail are in poor condition and have needed a lot of service lately. He requested permission to purchase a new washer and dryer, and has gotten some quotes. He said he will get with the Auditor to get some credit applications done. He said he would like to purchase a welder so his employee can do any welding jobs done rather than having to hire those out. He also said he will need funds to repair the roof on the annex building and will be seeking quotes for that work.

RECORDER:

Lisa Witt updated commissioners that her office had recorded 1,010 military documents in January and 490 for February. She presented three quotes to have an outside firm digitize deeds. Only one of the companies will do that work on site, so she said she would like to use CSI rather than one of the other companies. Commissioner Bever asked how many deeds there were, and Lisa said she did not know. US Imaging two phases total cost \$117,349.58 for all deeds. IRA total cost \$24,200. Kofile quote did not have a total and Lisa did not realize it until she got to the meeting. Commissioner Bever moved to approve the quote from US Imaging pending council's approval, Commissioner Munson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

SHERIFF:

Zac Jones said he has not taken it to his Merit Board yet but he has an opening for a deputy and has a candidate in mind that would be a lateral transfer from another department.

He is waiting for McCombs to give a quote for a gate and fence for the new facility.

Commissioner Munson requested a roster of deputies and their numbers, and Zac said he would get it to them.

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

Geoff Wesling did not have anything for commissioners at this time.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:

There was no council member present.

MAIL:

Commissioner Bever shared a thank you received from the Hope Center for the grant they were given from the Opioid Settlement Funds.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Munson brought up the resolution regarding solar and said he did not want the ordinance changed he only wanted any ambiguous or erroneous wording corrected. Commissioner Bever agreed that was her intention as well. Commissioner Strong explained his belief that the attachments addressed ambiguous and erroneous language, and he asked some of the committee members who worked on the ordinance and were present at the meeting if they had reviewed the attachments. The committee agreed there were probably some grammatical errors that need addressed. Geoff Wesling said he was not a part of the committee and the APC had not asked him to review the ordinance, but if commissioners would like to request APC ask Geoff to review and correct any grammar in the ordinance without changing the substance of the ordinance, he would be more than happy to do that. Discussion was held. Richie Stevens and Dwayne Cox and Nick Thomas spoke. The ordinance was based on one currently in use in Madison County, so the committee feels like other than some grammatical errors the ordinance is fine as written. Commissioner Bever said she was ready to just let the existing ordinance stand with no changes. Commissioner Strong said his concern is the way the ordinance is written it will prohibit residential or commercial solar, and he said that counties such as Randolph do not have

such large setbacks. Commissioner Munson moved that we ask Geoff to look at typographical and grammatical errors and any conflicting language in the ordinance and rescind Resolution 25-R-1, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

QC Communications has requested permission to do some fiber optic work in the county's right of way. Commissioner Munson asked if we should have our highway director record the road prior to the work being done, and commissioners agreed that would be a good idea. Commissioner Munson then moved to approve the right-of-way permit, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

A contract renewal was presented for Malcon to do our fuel tax returns. Commissioner Munson moved to approve the contract renewal, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

Kleinpeter Consulting forwarded an agreement for engineering services for Everton Water through an OCRA Grant. Commissioner Munson moved to approve signing the agreement, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

The county has been a party to a lawsuit filed against the County and Community Corrections. Our insurance company appointed attorney has advised a settlement offer, and County Attorney Geoff Wesling recommended we follow the attorney's advice. Commissioner Munson moved that we offer the plaintiff the recommended amount in settlement, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

PATRON CONCERNS:

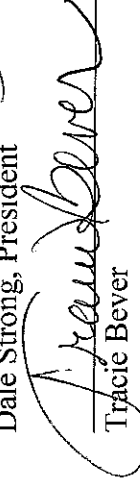
Gary Breitenbach said he had asked three times for a load of dirt from a job that the Highway Department was working on. He said he watched them take load after load of dirt to a house up the road, and he looked it up to see who owned the property. He shared the name of the property owner and asked if there was a contract between the county and that property owner. County Attorney Geoff Wesling intervened and said that he would advise the commissioners to take the information and do some research.

PAYROLL AND CLAIMS:

Commissioner Munson moved to approve claims and payroll as presented, seconded by Commissioner Bever, motion carried 3-0. Commissioners then signed all paperwork on camera.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Munson moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bever, motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.


Dale Strong, President

Tracie Bever


Dale Munson, Vice-President

Attest: Jane Downard, Auditor