

FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – September 2, 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, along with 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 August 19th regular meeting, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

911:

Jeff Griffin gave a report on 911. He sent a packet to the state to get five more IDACS certifications. They implemented a new sign in process and a new tracking system so they'll have checks and balances to confirm when someone worked. They have implemented electronic payroll and he gave a shout out to Haylee in the Auditor's Office and Michael King in IT for helping him with that. They are initializing standardized training for all employees. On September 11th, they are having a FLEX mapping training session. He is now able to submit claims remotely.

EMA:

Wade Walling said his truck has been out of service. He ordered a part from Amazon that will hopefully help the battery keep a charge. He presented signed waivers for five of his volunteers and requested permission from commissioners to begin using volunteers again. Commissioner Munson moved to table the request to begin using volunteers again until the next meeting so he could research a couple of questions, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

HIGHWAY:

Chris Gettinger presented a 144 to hire Cody Blakely as a heavy equipment operator. Commissioner Bever moved to approve the 144 as presented, Commissioner Munson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0. Chris said he has been looking at the Vialytics program and talked to some other counties and heard all good things. Commissioner Strong mentioned a driveway on Wellsview Road that he and Chris had looked at last week where a property owner has put in a driveway that is about two inches higher than the road. Chris is concerned that a snow plow will catch that driveway and either destroy the driveway or cause damage to the plow. He has talked to the property owner and they seemed unwilling to discuss remedying the problem. Geoff Wesling advised commissioners that he would send one letter advising the property owner to grind down the concrete to be equal to the pavement and if they did not respond he would advise the county to fix it themselves. Geoff agreed to send an official letter on behalf of the county, and said he would send it both certified and regular mail. Dale said he would forward the address. Commissioner Munson moved to have our county attorney send a letter to make contact before the next commissioner meeting, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

AUDITOR:

Chief Deputy Haylee Weston presented two 144s to hire Jennifer Matthews and Rylan Wicker to fill the two open property tax deputy positions. Commissioner Munson moved to approve the 144s as presented, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

SHERIFF:

Zac Jones sent the commissioners three additional quotes for the gates and 10 foot tall fence. Two of the quotes are older but he contacted them and they will still honor those quotes. Discussion was held on the various quotes. Commissioner Munson moved to table this until the next meeting because the bids are for different size gates and one didn't specify what the gate would be made of, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

SURVEYOR:

Bill Macke had Bruce Spires from Butler Fairman and Seufert with him. Bruce was present to talk about the asset management plan they do for the county. He said the asset management plan had to be in the hands of LTAP for the county to be considered for Community Crossings Grant Funds. The work needs to be done by November to meet deadlines. An asset management plan has to be in place by December 1st. Derek Towle of USI was also present and spoke about Vialytics. He said the application is due no later than October 31st, but the paperwork isn't due until December 1st. Commissioner Munson moved to approve the contract with Butler Fairman & Seufert for the PASER project, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

Geoff Wesling did not have anything for commissioners today.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:

There was no council member present.

MAIL:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Bids for work needing done at Manlove Park was tabled in a previous meeting. Quotes have been received for clearing a ten acre plot for sediment storage from Sweet's Land Clearing & Forestry LLC for \$35,722.30, KW Earthworks for \$45,000, from Sasser Excavation and Drainage for \$50,600, and from Friendly Contracting for \$17,400. Commissioner Munson moved to approve the quote from Friendly Contracting for \$17,400, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Strong will inform the bidders of the outcome of the bids.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Everton Regional Sewer District requested commissioners reappoint three members to the board. Larry Wyong, Kenny Weisheit, and Richard Kidd are all up for reappointment for a term to be from September 29, 2025, to December 31, 2029. Commissioner Munson moved to accept the recommendation of the board and reappoint the three members as requested, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0. Kenny shared that the council will be appointing a member this evening.

Linda Fitzgerald was present on behalf of Healthy Fayette County and presented brochures regarding becoming a Blue Zone Community. She explained the current ranking of Fayette County in health outcomes and health factors (90th and 91st out of 92 counties), and discussed how becoming a Blue Zone Community could benefit the county.

Clara Judd was present on behalf of Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission. They are currently working on an EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant with a company called CHA. They are trying to form a coalition of at least three of the six counties they work with because they will have a better chance of getting the grant. Clara asked commissioners to consider joining with other counties to apply for the grant, and said there is no cost to the county. Commissioner Bever moved to approve the county participating in the grant application, Commissioner Munson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0. Clara said that they are looking at something with a good story, whether it's a historical site or something like an old gas station, an old school, an old theater, or it could also be someone's property like if the county is looking at purchasing a property they could have it looked at first.

Brad Colter was present on behalf of Economic Development Group. He said he recently became aware of a funding source for economic development. When we give tax abatements, we can put fees on the abatements that will go toward helping fund economic development. Commissioners agreed they would like Brad and our county attorney to look into this further. Brad invited commissioners to a meeting September 22nd at 1:30 p.m. at the Miller Building. They have been working on a project with Duke Energy where they have made a local building site and they would give a preapproval if they had a company that wanted to locate on a local building site. Duke is going to come and do a presentation to show a local site with their ready stamp of approval. He thinks this will put us in a relationship with site selectors and how to be competitive when companies are looking at sites.

Norris Choplin Schroeder – Commissioner Bever moved to approve a \$5,000 settlement for a case being handled by Norris Choplin Schroeder related to the Jail, Commissioner Munson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

PATRON CONCERNS:

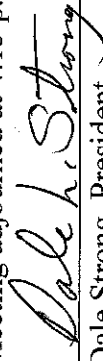
Don Cullins was present and said his home on Gray Road was hit again recently. The repaving of Ziegler Road took out the rumble strips. Mr. Cullins said the driver was from Honduras and was unlicensed and uninsured. Commissioners agreed to have rumble strips put back in. Geoff Wesling suggested maybe have stop ahead painted on the road itself. Mr. Cullins requested commissioners pay for the damage. Geoff advised against commissioners agreeing to cover any damage.

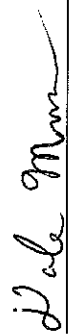
PAYROLL AND CLAIMS:

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.

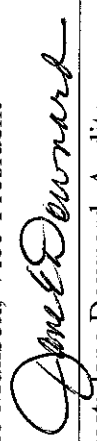
ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Munson moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bever, motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.


Dale Strong, President


Dale Munson, Vice-President


Tracie Bever


Attest: Jane Downard, Auditor