

FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – October 7, 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 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 September 16th regular meeting, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, and motion carried 3-0.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

SURVEYOR:

Bill Macke presented an updated professional services agreement with SCJA for commissioner approval. Commissioner Bever moved to approve the agreement with SCJA as presented, Commissioner Munson seconded the motion, and motion carried 3-0.

Bill presented information related to the purchase of Bridge 32 right-of-ways. One of the property owners is disputing the valuation of his land and the cost of moving his fence. Auditor will forward documentation to County Attorney for his review and advice.

ASSESSOR:

Jeff Coleman presented a contract for the 2026-2030 reassessment cycle. Jeff recommended the county accept the bid from Ad Valorem Solutions for \$398,400. Commissioner Munson moved to approve the bid, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, and motion carried 3-0.

Jeff presented a 144 to hire Natalie Snyder as a reassessment clerk. Commissioner Bever moved to approve the 144, Commissioner Munson seconded the motion, and motion carried 3-0.

Jeff requested permission to close his office to the public on the afternoon of October 16th for staff training. Commissioner Munson moved to approve the closing, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, and motion carried 3-0.

HIGHWAY:

Chris Gettinger had previously submitted a quote to purchase a hotbox, which would save money when doing road repairs. The cost of the equipment is \$44,000. Commissioner Munson moved to approve the purchase from SealMaster, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

Chris also presented an updated agreement with Morton for salt. There is a price increase from the prior year to \$87.45 per ton. Commissioner Bever moved to approve the agreement as presented, Commissioner Munson seconded the motion, and motion carried 3-0.

Chris said they have been paving some and he believes the paver will get them through the rest of this year. They finished up Longwood Road, and came down 150 and connected 400 W and Hawkinsville Road. They are down on 150 S and Williams Road now. They put some binder down and are going to cover the cans, and they have installed some other cans.

PROBATION:

Ryan Siggers presented a 144 to hire Brooke Libby as a probation officer to replace Chuck Whallon who recently retired. Brooke will be paid from the DOC Grant Funds. Commissioner Bever moved to approve the 144 as presented, Commissioner Munson seconded the motion, and motion carried 3-0.

Ryan requested permission to apply for a \$4,500 grant from the Fayette County Drug Coalition to be used for incentives for probationers. Commissioner Munson to approve the grant application, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

911:

Jeff Griffin said two of the newer hires are now fully trained and that manpower is where it should be for now. He has some applications for part-time dispatchers. He did have some disciplinary actions and shared that information with the commissioners.

Jeff questioned the policy on vacation days and sick days. Auditor Downard clarified that the handbook says sick days are use them or lose them, but vacation days could be extended beyond the anniversary date with a letter from the supervisor.

They have done away with the boom mikes. They felt like the speakers were loud and disruptive.

They have issued a written dispatch for anyone wanting to make a complaint on dispatch.

Most dispatchers got their CPR training completed last week, and they are also working on their required 40 hours per year.

They have adopted a Mission Statement: Fayette County Central Dispatch strives to ensure rapid, reliable communications to Fire, EMS, Police, Deputies, and volunteers while protecting lives and property with professionalism, precision and unwavering dedication.

He submitted a quote for the ESRY software which they are using for addressing. The software is \$550 a year, and will be split between 911, Police, and Sheriff.

He asked if commissioners had a chance to review his proposed job description. Commissioners have reviewed his proposal but have not had a chance to discuss it yet, and they would like Jeff to be a part of any discussion.

Commissioner Munson asked if he had heard any more on the dispatch channel. Jeff said there is something going on with a tower in Wayne County, and once that work is done they are going to reprogram all the radios.

ANIMAL SHELTER:

Dave Ryckman had submitted two sets of proposed guidelines for volunteers based on examples he had received from other counties. Commissioners agreed that the proposed guidelines seemed acceptable.

He shared with commissioners some changes he had made to his receipting processes after his recent appointment with State Board of Accounts. He explained his report of collections, and mentioned the recent closing of the PayPal account. He showed the documentation he keeps when they have a shot clinic.

He gave some details of recent activity with a particular set of puppies. He also shared about a neglected dog he had rescued that later died. He has been in communication with the Brookville Veterinary Clinic about using their services for spaying and neutering.

Dave asked about getting a truck if another department had an extra. His current vehicle needs some repairs, and Commissioner Bever suggested he use the Career Center for those repairs.

EMA:

Wade Walling presented documentation regarding two grants he would like to apply for, one for the Emergency Management Performance Grant Salary Reimbursement and one for Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant Program. Commissioner Munson moved to approve the two grant application, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, and motion carried 3-0.

Wade requested permission to stand his team back up, and commissioners said the issues have not yet been resolved so they are not ready to resume volunteer operations.

SHERIFF:

Zac Jones presented quotes for the fencing and gates between the women's facility and the existing jail. Commissioner Bever said that one of the bids was considered not acceptable. She said of the two remaining bids, Friendly Contracting would be the low bid at \$34,200 and she moved to accept that bid, Commissioner Munson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

SUPERIOR COURT:

Judge Paul Freed spoke regarding the hiring freeze. His immediate court staff is paid from the general fund, and he will be going to County Council this evening to ask them to waive the hiring freeze for his department. He requested that commissioners put in a good word with council. Commissioner Bever moved to approve the hiring of Jenna King to fill the full-time position and hiring a part-time replacement contingent on council's approval, Commissioner Munson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

EXTENSION:

Stephanie McCurdy and Lisa Bruns were present to request commissioner support of them being able to fill their vacant Office Manager position. They finished the 4-H year with 396 members and 69 volunteers. They were able to do Serve Safe classes eight times, Dining with Diabetes, many composting and gardening programs and many nutrition education classes. Lisa spoke regarding her 4-H recruitment activities and also the idea of developing a club to address special needs students. Unfortunately the timing of the hiring freeze has affected their office by not allowing them to replace their Office Manager because that will result in a lot of times where the office will be closed. There is a statute that says the county is required to fund the administrative position along with other statutory requirements.

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

Geoff Wesling did not have anything for commissioners today.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:

There was no council member present.

MAIL:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

CCMG 2025-1 Closeout documents were presented for commissioner signatures. Commissioner Bever moved to approve signing the documents and closing out the grant, Commissioner Munson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

Mike Kleinpeter of Kleinpeter Consulting was present regarding the \$500,000 grant the county received from OCRA for Owner Occupied Repairs. The grant is to assist homeowners with home improvements. Applications are available at the Library, the Auditor's Office, and the Grant Administrator's Office. Commissioner Munson moved to sign the agreement with Kleinpeter Consulting for the administrative work on the grant, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, and motion carried 3-0.

The 2026 Pay Schedule and 2026 Holiday Schedule were presented for approval. Commissioner Munson moved to approve both, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

PATRON CONCERNS:

Kay Pike was present representing the Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). She talked about the boulder on the courthouse property. In 1927, the boulder was placed where it should be near Wendy's. The tablet says "John Conner, born 1780, died 1826. In 1801 he was licensed to trade with the Indians. In 1808 he established a fur trading post. In 1812 he was an interpreter and guide for General William Henry Harrison prior to and during the War of 1812. In 1813 he founded Connersville. He was the first sheriff and he owned the first grist and saw mills, tavern, and store. In 1816 he was the first state senator. In 1820 he was one of nine commissioners to select the site of Indianapolis as the state capital. In 1825 one of the committee appointed by Governor James Ray to receive General Lafayette when he visited Indiana. In 1825 he was one of

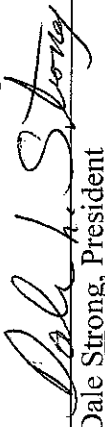
the committee appointed by Governor Ray to the House of Representatives." The tablet was erected and dedicated on June 14th, 1927 by the John Conner Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution. The large boulder holding the tablet was furnished by Charles West who resided at RR 4 in Liberty. They are requesting the boulder be moved back closer to its original home near what is known as the Heineman Building. Rick Lemen owns the building and is willing to have the stone placed there. Commissioner Munson moved to allow the moving of the boulder, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

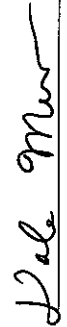
PAYROLL AND CLAIMS:

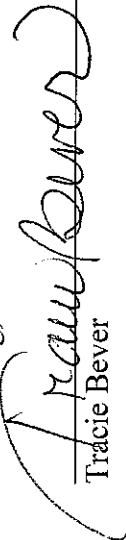
Commissioner Munson moved to approve claims and payroll as presented, seconded by Commissioner Bever, motion carried 3-0. Commissioners then signed all paperwork on camera.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Munson moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bever, motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.


Dale Strong, President


Dale Munson, Vice-President


Tracie Bever


Attest: Jane Downard, Auditor