

lot by roughly 20 spots and would add a stone area to the existing asphalt parking lot. Mr. Matilen felt their most immediate need was the parking lot for voting. Mrs. Bracy questioned how many people voted at the scout facility. Mr. Matilen was unsure of the number of voters at any one time but the parking also holds the poll workers.

Mr. Towell questioned if the building was on ground that was not owned by the facility. Mr. Matilen confirmed they were originally under a 20-year contract and are currently under a 5-year extension with Waste Management. He is unclear of what will happen after the conclusion of the extension in 3 ½ years. However, they have committed to be a community partner and cannot imagine they will not renew the contract. In the buffer zone the Jay County Community Center utilizes the soccer fields as well as the Jay County Sheriff Department for their Firing Range.

Matt Minnich made a motion to approve the \$10,974 for the scout facilities. Dave Haines seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. An additional appropriation will be advertised for the next meeting May 10th.

HELP! STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PLAN

Travis Richards, JCDC director, came to the council for a final adoption of the HELP! Strategic Investment Plan. The next step after adoption will be to start working on the grant management to apply for the matching money. They will meet with representatives from OCRA to talk through the CDBG project. Matt Minnich asked if they could ask at that meeting if the land purchase would qualify for the matching grant. Matt Minnich made a motion to approve the HELP! SIP. Cindy Bracy seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

SHERIFF REPORTS

The sheriff annual jail report for 2022 was presented to council as well as a meal report for the first quarter of 2023.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Jeanne Houchins asked for the council to set up another meeting with Jason Semler from Baker Tilly to go over the comprehensive financial plan. They will look at him coming the May 1st, 2023 or if not, other available dates.

Bill Walters, ECI Regional Planning Director, met with commissioners regarding a broadband commercial project today. They would like to set up a meeting with the council in the future. Jeanne Houchins will check with them for the 17th of May at 6p for an executive session.

With no further business for the council Cindy Bracy made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Dave Haines seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

JAY COUNTY COUNCIL

NAY

AYE
Jason Semler
Harold Towell
David Haines
Matt Minnich
Cindy Bracy
Travis Richards
Bill Walters
Emily Franks
ATTEST: *Emily Franks*
JAY COUNTY AUDITOR

MAY 1st, 2023

The Jay County Council met in special session on Monday, May 1st, 2023, at 6:00 PM, in the commissioners' room at the Jay County Courthouse as the auditorium was closed for construction. Attending was Harold Towell, Cindy Bracy, David Haines, Matt Minnich, Randy May, Faron Parr, auditor Emily Franks, and Jeanne Houchins, presiding. The purpose of the special session was to discuss a draft of the county comprehensive plan with Jason Semler, Baker Tilly LLP.

COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL PLAN

Jason Semler, partner, Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors LLC, came before the council to present a draft of a comprehensive financial plan prepared by the company. He cautioned the general assembly had just ended the past weekend introducing several changes to current laws. There has been an increase to the homestead standard and supplemental deductions. In the past, the maximum levy was determined by the state 6-year average of non-farm income. It was predicted to be another 5% increase to the maximum levy for 2024. However, new legislation has changed the formula to cap the increase at only 4% max for the next few years. These changes to taxing formula and deductions he believed would be a detriment to the tax base for at least the next couple years, if not longer.


Mr. Semler went through the plan including all budgeted funds with projections until the end of 2025. Their company can show a five-year projection but it becomes less reliable due to multiple varying factors. The projected cash balances in most funds were trending downwards as most were estimated to expend more money than estimated revenues. He noted the current cash balances were strong enough to sustain a shortfall for a few years. A goal would be to maintain a 50% operating balance in each fund before transferring money into the Rainy-Day fund. He advised to not transfer money to where Rainy-Day funds be used for daily operating expenses. Their company can update the study during budget time with the new legislation changes to better determine what the county can afford.


With no further business for the council Faron Parr made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Cindy Bracy seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

JAY COUNTY COUNCIL


NAY


AYE
Jason Semler
Harold Towell
David Haines
Matt Minnich
Cindy Bracy
Faron Parr





Harold Towell





Cindy Bracy

ATTEST: _____
JAY COUNTY AUDITOR

MAY 10TH, 2023

The Jay County Council met in regular session on Wednesday, May 10th, 2023, at 6:00 PM, in the auditorium at the Jay County Courthouse. Attending was, Harold Towell, Cindy Bracy, David Haines, Matt Minnich, Attorney Wes Schemenaur, Auditor Emily Franks, and Jeanne Houchins, presiding. Randy May was absent. Matt Minnich made a motion to approve the minutes from the joint meeting on April 5th, and regular session on April 12th, 2023 council meeting; Cindy Bracy seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Wes Schemenaur, county attorney, informed the council regarding an issue that has arisen with the IU Health transition over Jay County Hospital. He explained a little of the history of the transition. Originally IU Health agreed to put up 5 million dollars to make renovations at IU Jay in 2018. They were to be spent by 2021 but were not spent due to COVID. Of the \$5 million, \$3.75 million dollars was put in an account at First Merchants Bank with \$1.25 million went to the Portland Foundation. \$1.291 million of the funds has been spent to date. IU Health has requested the funds be released by First Merchants Bank but they have been unable to release due to a signature issue. He will bring a resolution to correct the issue to the commissioners meeting on May 22nd, 2023. The resolution will make the signatures the President of the Council and Commissioners. This will be presented at the next council meeting for approval June 14th, 2023.

Additional Appropriations:

COUNTY GENERAL	Circuit Court- Travel/Mileage	
1000-232-30-0012		\$500
Faron Parr made a motion to approve the additional appropriations from County General. Matt Minnich seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.		

LIT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1112-001-30-0233	Jay County Scout Facilities	\$10,974
Harold Towell spoke out about the facility having already paved the parking lot before receiving official county approval. He asked why the practice seemed to be prevalent of organization spending money before approved by the council. He also brought up a separate issue of the land not being owned by the Scout Facility but by the Jay County Landfill. Cindy Bracy stated she believed the project was approved because the facility is a polling place. Wes Schemenaur stated he believed the parking lot was not done out of malice. The facility had asked for the work to be put on the schedule. The contractor had immediate availability and it was agreed for the project to be done before election day. Cliff Moser, resident, questioned if the repairs for polling sites should be paid out of the clerk's budget. Emily Franks, auditor, corrected the budget is currently for polling place rentals and not repair and maintenance. Cindy Bracy added if rentals for the facility increase due to improvements, it would allow them to better maintain the buildings. Jeanne Houchins concurred stating the facility has wanted these upgrades for several years. Cindy Bracy made a motion to approve the additional for the Jay County Scout Facilities. Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by majority vote with Matt Minnich and Dave Haines voting for the motion and Harold Towell voting against the motion.		

1112-001-30-0224	Jay County Humane Society	\$137,500
The amount for the Jay County Humane Society was advertised in both Economic Development Windfarm and LIT Economic Development to allow for the council to choose from either for appropriation. Harold Towell spoke out against the additional for the Jay County Humane Society from either fund. He feels as if it is not an expenditure that needs to be made while the county is in a budget deficit. It is not due to the need but due to the large scope of the project. He cautioned the board to watch the overall spending of the county budget. He also mentioned he has received the most calls in regards to the animal control since taking office in August 2021. He added the majority of those calls were not in favor of project. Greg Miller, Pennville resident, spoke out against the county giving money to the Jay County Humane Society. He believed the money would be better suited for use on maintaining county roads and side ditches, services that were cut back on for budget cuts.		

Jeanne Houchins clarified a point about the current facility not being large enough to properly handle animal control calls. The contract will not be able to be renewed if the Humane Society is not able to get into their larger facility. Larry Newton, sheriff, spoke in favor of animal control as a county wide problem. The sheriff's department is regularly called for animals on the loose. Their problem is not just regarding small or large animals but are receiving calls on both. He stressed the county will need someone to do the job of animal control if the Jay County Humane Society is unable. As a former council member who voted on the first additional appropriation in April 2022, he believed the council committed to the money prior and should hold to their word. Wes Schemenaur, attorney, added the county does have a responsibility to provide animal control. That requirement can be satisfied through a contract or creating a county animal control department.

Cindy Bracy questioned how many animals can their current facility hold versus their new facility. Mindy Weaver, stated the new facility could hold at least 40 dogs whereas they currently have only 12 kennels. Cats are more easily adjusted but the new facility would have space for 100 with room to expand. However, she believes adoptions will move along with their more visible location on the highway. They have also hired a consultant who has experience working with a county as their animal control services. Mrs. Bracy also questioned if the facility was a no kill shelter. Mindy Weaver stated they are a no kill shelter. Jeanne Houchins inquired if there were ever circumstances where animals would be euthanized. Mrs. Weaver indicated there were circumstances in which they euthanized. Mrs. Bracy asked how the process worked if an animal has attacked a person. Mrs. Weaver informed those present they follow all state and local guidelines regarding animal bites. If an animal bites a person, they must quarantine it and run tests. If the owner does not come forward, they will follow state law and euthanize it. At that point they are no longer considered pets but predators. Conversely, if an injured animal is unable to be brought back to health, a vet is consulted and at that point a determination is made on whether it is more humane to euthanize.

Mindy Weaver, co-chair of the project, spoke to update those new council members who were not present for the discussion last year. Their process for a new building started in 2018. They hired a local contractor in January of this year and have subcontracted to all local entities including D&D plumbing, Hemmelgarn Masonry, and Gabbard Fencing. They have raised money in the county and have tried to keep all the work in the county. She informed the council they will be proud of what they are doing at the old Fastenal building. Jeanne Houchins questioned what percentage of funds were raised by those in the county. Mrs. Weaver believed that 93% of donations were Jay County taxpayers. Ms. Houchins believed that was an indication there are taxpayers out there that would like to see this pass. Mr. Towell added he was referring to the taxpayer base that have no choice on where money is spent.

Dave Haines spoke in favor of the motion stating it was split milk as the prior council had already voted in favor of the project. He added the problem has been addressed already with no one offering other solutions to the animal control problem. Matt Minnich who voted against the original motion in April 2022, disagreed with no other available options. He would rather see the county contribute to their overhead costs as part of their contract, instead of giving a donation to the building project. The difference would be paying for the service instead of the building to offer the services. Cindy Bracy asked about the length of time it takes for the Humane Society to respond to an animal control call having heard it could take up to two hours. Mrs. Weaver responded that it does take longer to reach the far corners of the county, adding it might not be quick enough, but they do get there. Cindy Bracy echoed maybe it was more of geographical problem.

Julie Forcum, Jay County Humane Society, addressed the council stating the money was already approved by the commissioners and was approved for the \$275,000 originally by the council. They had already signed the contract with Muhlenkamp Construction to start work on the building. She urged the council if they would like to change the rules for any future projects, that was fine. However, they had already committed to move forward on the project. They are having to deal with what is here and now which would include continued fundraising efforts. It would require them to raise and additional \$137,000 adding many in attendance were probably avoiding our phone calls.

Mr. Parr spoke in favor of the additional appropriation stating it was a long time coming. The county has gotten off cheap for years with our animal control. As a commissioner for twelve years prior, he never found a county with animal control as low as our county. He sees this as a county problem as it impacts quality of life, economic development and public safety. Adding he believed it was a bad example he wanted no part of, promising an organizations money and backing out. Faron Parr made a motion to approve the additional out of LIT - Economic Development. Dave Haines seconded the motion and the motion passed by majority vote with Cindy Bracy voting for the motion and Matt Minnich and Harold Towell voting against.

COUNTY SHERIFF CONTINUING EDUCATION

1133-001-30-0128	Sheriff Training	\$5,000
FIREARMS FUND		
4906-001-20-0018	Ammunition	\$7,080.09
Faron Parr made a motion to approve the additional appropriations from County Sheriff Continuing Education fund and Firearms Fund. Matt Minnich seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.		

SURVEYOR PERPETUATION

1202-001-30-0146	Location of Cornerstones	\$5,000
Matt Minnich made a motion to approve the additional appropriation from Surveyor Perpetuation Fund. Faron Parr seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.		

PROSECUTOR DEFERRAL

2400-001-30-0127	Crime Control	\$5,012
Wes Schemanaur spoke regarding the additional appropriation. The fund is funding by court fees. Faron Parr made a motion to approve the additional appropriation from Prosecutor Deferral Fund. Dave Haines seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.		

RETIREMENT CENTER DONATIONS

4102-001-30-0211	Resident Activities	\$1,200
Cindy Bracy made a motion to approve the additional appropriation from the Retirement Center Donation Fund. Matt Minnich seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.		

TITLE IV-E REIMBURSEMENT

8891-001-30-0087	Pauper Counsel	\$580.00
Cindy Bracy made a motion to approve the additional appropriation from Title IV-E fund. Dave Haines seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.		

OPIOID SETTLEMENT TASK FORCE

Kimbra Reynolds, director Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition and Opioid Settlement Task Force member, came to the council to discuss their proposal for the Opioid settlement monies. They are focusing on items that could be done locally to help prevent overdose deaths. The determination after receiving feedback from various areas including; law enforcement, coroners, veteran administration, school, DCS and family members of those who have passed due to drug overdose was the lack of sober living or recovery house for individuals in the area. The monies would come from the restricted funds the county received that can only be used towards prevention. Jeanne Houchins questioned if the facility would only be open to those returning from incarceration or if it would be open to any individual who would like to get clean. Mrs. Reynolds informed the board it would be open to all those who would like to get sober. She will return to the council with more information at a later date.

ABATEMENT MINNICH POULTRY, LLC

Travis Richards, JCDC director, came to the council to discuss a new proposed a five-year abatement from Minnich Poultry, LLC. The council will be able to review their compliance forms for approval of the abatement every year. You can only bring abatements for businesses in the ERA area in perpetuity. It is a \$5.1 million dollar investment in property for real estate. The estimated revenue of 10 years is around \$740,000 with a tax savings to them of \$297,279. Cindy Bracy made a motion to approve the new abatement with Minnich Poultry LLC. Dave Haines seconded the motion and the motion was approved by unanimous vote. Matt Minnich abstained from the vote.

2024 BUDGET

A proposed calendar for 2024 budget meetings was presented to the council for their approval. The budget review will be scheduled for September 6, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. The public hearing and first reading of the budget September 27, 2023 and the 2nd Reading and adoption on October 11, 2023. These dates can be adjusted slightly moving forward if necessary. Emily Franks, auditor, suggested starting with a 3% salary increase across the board. This would be a place marker as the wage analysis from Waggoner, Irwin and Scheele will not be ready until mid to end July. However, the budget Form 1s are required to be returned to the auditor by July 1st 2023. Dave Haines made a motion to approve the 2024 budget calendar schedule. Matt Minnich seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.






The regularly scheduled July 12, 2023 Council meeting will be during the Jay County Fair. The council decided to move their meeting to a different week. Cindy Bracy made a motion to move the July 12th meeting to the next Wednesday, July 19th, 2023 at 6 p.m. Dave Haines seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

CLERK

Jon Eads, clerk, came to the council to let them know he would be turning in an additional appropriation for June out of his clerk's perpetuation fund for his new voting machines.

With no further business for the council Cindy Bracy made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Dave Haines seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

JAY COUNTY COUNCIL

<div>AYE  Jeanne Houchins</div>	_____
<div>AYE  Harold Towell</div>	_____
<div>AYE  Cindy Bracy</div>	_____
<div>AYE  Randy May</div>	_____
ATTEST:  Emily Franks	_____
JAY COUNTY AUDITOR	_____

MAY 18TH, 2023

The Jay County Council and Commissioners met in special joint session on Thursday, May 18th, 2023, at 6:00 PM, in the auditorium at the Jay County Courthouse. Attending was Harold Towell, Cindy Bracy, Matt Minnich, Randy May, commissioner Brian McGalliard, auditor Emily Franks, and Faron Parr, council vice president presiding. Dave Haines, Jeanne Houchins, Rex Journey and Chad Aker were absent. The purpose of the special joint session was to meet with representatives from OCRA regarding the HELP! Program.






Allie Daugherty, OCRA Northeast Community Liaison, came to answer any questions the joint board had regarding the eligible project list provided by their department. The list was in regards to the projects listed in the final HELP! Strategic Investment Plan. Most of the projects provided in the investment plan will not be eligible for the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) matching grant. The matching grants cannot cover operations of local government and must have a COVID tieback. The only project listed in green was related to the childcare facility project.

The project for Spur Housing Development was listed in blue. However, the project is limited to single home owner occupied rehabilitation and must be used on fixes that without would make a home unlivable. The grant would not cover work on new infrastructure. Projects listed in Orange included In-Patient Mental Health, Public Safety Building, Recovery & Reintegration Program, and Youth Engagement. After questioning the Public Safety Building project was determined to now be red and ineligible for any CDBG funding.

Ms. Daugherty encouraged both boards to collaborate and asked a timeline be established to submit a fundable application for CDBG Cares Act Funding and a plan to meet pivotal milestones in the process. The deadline for the timeline to them would be June 16, 2023. They also reminded those present the deadline for their construction grants would be January 21, 2024 and should be prioritized. The deadline for all other grants including: economic development, program services and planning grants will be June 21, 2024.

With no further business, Faron Parr made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

JAY COUNTY COUNCIL

<div>AYE  Jeanne Houchins</div>	_____
<div>AYE  Harold Towell</div>	_____
<div>AYE  Cindy Bracy</div>	_____
<div>AYE  Randy May</div>	_____
ATTEST:  Emily Franks	_____
JAY COUNTY AUDITOR	_____

MAY 23RD, 2023

The Jay County Council met in an executive session on Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023, at 6:00 PM, in the auditorium at the Jay County Courthouse. Attending were, Harold Towell, Cindy Bracy, Matt Minnich, Randy May, commissioner Brian McGalliard, auditor Emily Franks, and Faron Parr, council vice president presiding. Dave Haines and Jeanne Houchins were absent. The purpose of the executive session was covered under IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(4). Interviews and negotiations with industrial or commercial prospects or agents of industrial or commercial prospects and no other topics were discussed.

With no further business for the council Cindy Bracy made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Faron Part seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

JAY COUNTY COUNCIL

NAY

AYE
Maurice Howard
Faron Part
Harold Jones
Cindy Bracy
Marilyn
Gandy Part
ATTEST: Emily Stark
JAY COUNTY AUDITOR