

MARCH 11, 2024

The Jay County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 11, 2024, in the auditorium in the courthouse. Attending was Rex Journey, Brian McGalliard, attorney Wes Schemenaur, auditor Emily Franks, and Chad Aker, president, presiding. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the minutes from February 26, 2024. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

LIFESTREAM

Kevin DeCamp, project manager, came to the commissioners for approval of their quarterly rural transit grant claim for \$167,268. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the quarterly claim for Lifestream. Rex Journey seconded the motion, and the motion was passed by unanimous vote.

ECI REGIONAL PLANNING

Bill Walters, executive director, came to the commissioners to give an update on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) plan. The plan will be working in conjunction with the READI 2.0 program to ensure cohesion and have an extension for completion until September 30th. The plan will be for the four-county region including Jay, Blackford, Delaware, and Grant. The meeting for Jay County will be on April 9th at the Jay County Library. Mr. Walters also gave an update on the EDD or Economic Development District comprehensive strategy. The five-year plan will be a nine-month process estimated to be completed the first of 2025. He informed the commissioners that while both plans can last from 5-10 years, updates can be made to both plans.

OWNER OCCUPIED REHAB PROGRAM

Nate Kimball, assistant executive director, came to the commissioners regarding an application release date for the Owner-Occupied Rehab program. They will announce it in the paper, on the radio and again through the cities and towns. Mr. Kimball would like to promote it again ahead of its release and give a timeline for completion. The tentative application release date would be April 8th with May being the earliest they could take bids. Mr. Schemenaur had some questions on the grant agreement which were forwarded to Mike Kleinpeter to discuss with OCRA. Brian McGalliard made a motion to table the agreement approval awaiting OCRA's response. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

BEAD PROCESS

Cindy Bracy, council member, Travis Richards, JCDC Director, and Autumn Marshall, ECI RPD, came to the commissioners to speak about the county participating as a challenger and entering challenges on behalf of residents. The challenges will be from March 4th through April 17th, 2024. Autumn Marshall spoke regarding the NextLevel Connection BEAD Broadband program including the \$68 million dollar grant through the three rounds. She also explained the county was looking to challenge, as an example, southeastern Jay County shows as served when it is unserved or underserved. They will have a meeting tonight at the John Jay Center for Learning at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Richards discussed what the area challenge process would be for the county. The challenge areas are divided into 23 census block groups and set by population. A minimum of six addresses are required to challenge the group and the service provider can still challenge the challenges. It is his recommendation to use 12 addresses per census block group to ensure success. The county would need to sign up first and then can add Mr. Richards as a teammate to help in the process. They would like to publish the information in the newspaper and on the radio for an estimated cost of \$600. Brian McGalliard made a motion to become a challenger for the BEAD process. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Rex Journey made a motion to approve ads for the challenge process. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

TOWN OF REDKEY

Dave Dudelston, Redkey Town Council, came to the commissioners to see if they would be willing to assign tax sale parcels to the town. Emily Franks explained the assignment process would require the commissioners to approve an assignment of the lien. Once assigned, the owner would have a one-hundred-and-twenty-day redemption period before the town could move forward to obtain the title. She explained the tax sale usually occurs in September or October with owners receiving a one-year redemption period. If a parcel does not sell at the tax sale, the commissioners take title to the lien and offer them at a reduced rate in February or March through a certificate sale.

HIGHWAY

Bob Howell, Superintendent, and Spencer Patterson, road foreman, came to the commissioners to give their monthly update on operations. They will be attending road school this week and Mr. Patterson is working on his ERC certification. Their drivers are continuing to maintain their roads. A load of emulsion was delivered today for them to begin patching some of the roads. Truck #124 has been released from WA Jones and is at Stoops having some warranty work completed. Truck #214 is still at Arni's being repaired but should be operable soon.

Mr. Patterson reported the distributor is back from winter maintenance. Mr. Aker questioned if they were still looking to replace the distributor. Mr. Howell confirmed they were looking to use the current distributor for one more year. At that time, they will switch to a 2011 truck from a 2001 and put a new tank on the back. He believes the new tank will eliminate the \$10,000-\$12,000 of winter maintenance annually. They both recently toured the Asphalt Emulsion Plant and discussed potential issues with the oil. They explained the distributors might start spraying light causing the stone not to stick. They are looking to see the best way to correct these issues. The bid requests for emulsion and trucks have been sent out.

Mr. Howell presented the IDEM closure report for the underground fuel tanks to the commissioners. He also provided a safety inspection report on bridges from Beam, Longest, and Neff (BLN) related to phase two reporting for 2023. Mr. Aker questioned if the department had reviewed the report and was okay with it as presented. Mr. Howell confirmed they were okay with the report. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the safety inspection bridge report. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Howell then presented commissioners with a quote from Great Lakes Chloride for calcium chloride in 2024. The quote was for \$1.56 per square foot with a minimum length of 300 feet, and 16 feet wide. Mr. Aker asked if the dust mat could be advertised early to allow the county to get it applied to the road sooner. Mr. Howell confirmed they would be working on it but would like to discuss what will be used for the road conversions. He believes Dust Stay, while more expensive, will work better with the asphalt. When they tried it last year, it seemed to work better for the adherence. They will discuss the topic further at the next road committee meeting.

Lastly, Mr. Howell wanted to inform the commissioners they will be going along the side of the road to reclaim the edge before chip and seal work. They will be scraping back the grass growing over the side of the road. It might upset a few people as it sometimes is where they mow the side ditch. Mr. Aker understood there might be some inconvenience to residents, but the process is part of road maintenance. Mr. Howell added they would also be berming, which entails cutting the edge of the gravel road to get the water to drain off. Truck 104 was scheduled to be sold with Purple Wave Auction but cannot obtain a title. The truck was wrecked with only a title for the frame and not the body and will be required to be sold as a non-titled vehicle. Mr. Aker will reach out to Loy's and see if an auction could be scheduled for the county. Mr. Aker requested that Ms. Franks send out an email to all other departments to see if they had any items for a county auction.

PERRY PRO TECH

Tyler Sprunger, Senior Business Development Specialist, came to the commissioners to discuss a print management contract with the county. The contract would provide service and support for tabletop printers not currently under contract. The ink and toner supplies will automatically ship within 30 days to empty and be included in the monthly price. The three-year contract would remain in place, but devices could be added and removed from the contract. Mr. Journey questioned the estimated savings and how it was able to be cheaper. Mr. Sprunger believed it was due to a discount by volume they were able to obtain. Mr. McGalliard asked if he could explain the excess clicks billed quarterly. Mr. Sprunger explained there were expected to be overages from the base contract and could be billed monthly or quarterly. Their reasoning was to not overcharge a base price if copies were not produced. The contract would lock in the rates for three years but could be terminated after one year. Mr. Sprunger stated they could provide an out clause in the contract for termination at any time with notice. Brian McGalliard made a motion to table the contract until the language can be drafted. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JAY COUNTY COUNTRY LIVING COMMITTEE

Cindy Bracy, committee president, came to the commissioners to discuss the top three priorities of the committee. The first is to complete pest inspections to determine what if any remediation is required. The second is to review policies and procedures for the department including job descriptions. The third is to halt all emergency housing requests until the policies and procedures are in place for the safety of staff and residents. She believes there is a need for emergency housing and is working with local churches on possible solutions. Mrs. Bracy reiterated the board's goal is to keep the facility open. She discussed the three-month lag to receive RCAP as it is not reimbursable. They are looking for help to sponsor the residents until they receive RCAP.

JAY COUNTY COUNTRY LIVING

Kristie Delaney, director, came to the commissioners to discuss an RCAP contract she had signed for surplus monies available. The reimbursable grant was funded through surplus RCAP funds over the last few years and is required to be spent by June 30th. They would like to use the monies to paint and put new flooring in every room. They have several church organizations that have offered to help with the work. Mr. Aker informed her the commissioners and county attorney have to review contracts before signing. Mr. Schemenaur asked the volunteers for the project to be cleared through county insurance.

SHERIFF

Larry Ray Newton, sheriff, came to the commissioners to discuss the purchase of two laptops for their patrol cars. Mr. Newton presented the lowest quote they found from Dell Technologies for \$2,319.32. Mr. McGalliard asked if they had a local quote to provide to the board. Mr. Newton did not have the other quotes on hand, but stated the Dell quote was through a state bid and was the lowest quote. Mr. Journey was okay with the quote, if a written quote had not been provided by a local company. Rex Journey made a motion to purchase the two laptops through Dell Technologies for \$2,319.32. Mr. McGalliard asked for Mr. Aker's opinion regarding the lack of local quote. Mr. Aker responded he would like to give the local company an opportunity to quote for the purchase. The motion died for lack of a second. The commissioners requested the sheriff obtain additional written quotes and return to the meeting.

Secondly, Mr. Newton presented a quote from Municipal Emergency Services for the purchase of 24 holsters and duty belts for the department. He added this is the cheapest place they had found for what we are looking for and had checked with several companies. Mr. McGalliard asked if there was anyone locally who could provide the items. Mr. Newton confirmed that no local companies could provide what was needed, Mr. Newton also added the money was budgeted for it and should be delivered within a six-week window. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the purchase for \$14,8393.68. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Newton requested he be allowed to terminate a contract with Emerald Business Solutions, as the employee is no longer with the county. He will check with DBS/ Craig Frazee about maintaining their webpage moving forward. Brian McGalliard made a motion to terminate the contract with Emerald Business Solution. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. The sheriff has recently closed a bank account related to their Emergency Response Team due to inactivity. As the money was originally donated to the team, he would like the remaining \$388.63 deposited into the sheriff donation fund. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the donations to their donation fund. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Lastly, he reported the recent jail staffing study has been completed and a report submitted. He would like to go over the findings with the council in April. The January and February meal reports were submitted to the commissioners. He reported they have removed the inmate work crew due to lack of staffing. They are currently down three jailers and will be down a fourth by the end of the month. There will be two new deputies starting next month but will start their work in the jail.

CLERK

Jon Eads, clerk, came to the commissioners for approval of a new grant. He would like to apply for the 2023 HAVA Election Security Local Grant. The state had some money left over and offered \$20,000 to Jay County. The grant would fund An Island to develop a new clerk's page locally. The page would be all about elections, who is running, online results, and precinct election results. If the county continues the page after the year, it will be \$7,000 annually. The commissioners agreed to move forward with the grant and would revisit the need for another year after the grant. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the \$20,000 HAVA grant and with that An Island Contract. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JEMS

Gary Barnett, shift supervisor, came to the commissioners to discuss the purchase of a new ambulance. The 2019 ambulance that was involved in a recent accident has been deemed a total loss by insurance. A brand new 2024 Ford Chassis with a Medix box manufactured in the same facility as their current ambulances is available for \$210,000. The ambulance is 3 inches smaller than their current ambulances and has the now required four point padded harnesses. Mr. Barnett had another option available on Friday, but it was already sold before the meeting. A new ambulance ordered now would be expected to be completed in October 2026. Mr. Aker agreed this was the only option available to the county. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2024 Medix ambulance from PennCare for \$210,000 using the insurance check and the remainder from cum cap. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Mr. Gerlach reported the power load system should be installed March 19th and they hope to have the new ambulance by then.

ORDINANCE 2024-06 AMENDING PERMIT FEES

An ordinance amending ordinance 2001-02 Regulating Solid Waste processing facilities and solid waste land disposal facilities was presented for commissioner approval. Section 7 has amended the fee to \$50,000 from \$35,000. The commissioners had determined the permit fee be increased for

2024 at their April 24, 2023, meeting. Rex Journay made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-06. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JAY COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

A non-voting member representing the school corporation was in need of reappointment. Shannon Current had agreed to another term on the commission. Brian McGalliard made a motion to reappoint Shannon Current to the Jay County Redevelopment Commission. Rex Journay seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

The payroll docket was presented for commissioner approval. Rex Journay made a motion to approve the payroll docket. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Bill Walters, ECI RPD, spoke to the commissioners about services they offer for tax sale properties. He will provide the commissioners with information on their program.

With no further business, Brian McGalliard made a motion to adjourn at 11:06 a.m.; Rex Journay seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Chad Aker
Brian McGalliard


Rex Journay

Attest: 
Emily Sparks
Jay County Auditor