

Lastly, potential upcoming events were discussed including a trip to Howard Haven, Howard County's County Home. Mrs. Bracy will send out some potential dates to go and tour the facility. She also recommended a resident and community outreach night once the new flooring has been installed and the pests have been treated. She believed there is a lot of misconceptions in the community this could help clean up. Mr. Eads asked commissioners if there was a number the county was willing to fund for the facility. Mr. Aker believed that was more a question for the county council but noted the numbers were better than in previous years.

Mrs. Bracy concluded their goal as a board was to decrease expenses. Their focus is on the quality of life for the resident, to be fiscally responsible to the taxpayer and to be a shining star.

Jon Eads made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Rebecca Thornburg seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chad Aker
Chad Aker
Briar-McGalliard
Briar-McGalliard
Rex Journey
Rex Journey
Attest: [Signature]
Jay County Auditor

JUNE 10, 2024

The Jay County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, June 10th, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium in the courthouse. Attending was Rex Journey, auditor Emily Franks, and Chad Aker, president presiding. Absent was Brian McGalliard and attorney Wes Schemenaur. Rex Journey made motion to approve the minutes from May 28th, 2024 and the June 4th, 2024 Joint Session with the JCCL Advisory Board of Directors. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JAY COUNTY COUNTRY LIVING

Cindy Bracy, JCCL Advisory Board of Directors president, came to the commissioners to discuss four items. The first recommendation was to remove Kristie Delany as director for the center. Rex Journey made a motion to remove Kristie Delaney as director effective immediately. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Mrs. Bracy next brought forward the suggestion to place former director Melissa Blankley in as interim director until a replacement could be found. They are also working on adding more skills and education to the job description. Rex Journey made a motion to appoint Melissa Blankley as interim director effective June 10th, 2024. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The question of animals at the center is still pending a final answer from insurance. Lastly, the appointment for the open position on the board was discussed. The board recommended two names to the commissioners, Laura Garringer, and Cliff Moser, county veteran service officer. All thought both appointments would bring a different perspective to the board. Mrs. Bracy pointed out she believed an appointment needed to be open minded to changes at the home. Rex Journey made a motion to appoint Laura Garringer to the Jay County Country Living Advisory Board of Directors. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

TRAVEL APPROVAL

Robin Alberson, assessor, came to the commissioners for permission to stay overnight for their conference August 27-30, 2024 in Fort Wayne. The commissioners questioned the hours of the conference. Mrs. Alberson reported the conference will be held between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Ms. Franks explained the current policy only allows overnight stay over 100 miles or within the Indianapolis area without prior approval by commissioners. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the overnight stay for the conference. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

SHERIFF

Larry "Ray" Newton, sheriff, came before commissioners to discuss the most recent SRO (School Resource Officer) contract with Jay County School Corporation. There have been small changes from the prior contract to include no charge for days officers are not available, and wording changes from shotgun to rifle. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the SRO contract from July 1st, 2024 to June 30th, 2025.

Mr. Newton also came to discuss the Mindbase application, as it was stated to be discussed in June to allow for the 90 days out clause before the contract renews in September for another \$7,500. He has discussed it with employees and does not believe it is being used. However, he brought forward Contessa Stiltz, 911 IDACS Coordinator, to explain the Mindbase application currently used by the department and other first responders. She explained there are two parts to the application. The first is available to all employees to obtain resources including national emergency hotlines and therapists. The second portion is called the dashboard and has what types of calls the responders are going to and if they are seeing high levels of intense calls. They just linked up with the Portland Fire Department and will see the EMS soon. The EMS have always had access to the app, the struggle has been with getting EMS on the dashboard portion.

Mrs. Stiltz explained Mindbase is more of a preventative tool versus a treatment tool. The treatment would be covered by Brooke Aker, of Lifeworks Counseling. She completed a Mindbase webinar last week along with other agencies. They felt like it was a slow process, about 2-3 years for people to start actively using it. Mindbase will provide two training sessions in person on June 26th, 2024. While the contract is due in September, she has discussed with the company extending it to December 2024. Mr. Journey questioned how long the department had been using the application and if the application was still needed with the services from Brooke Aker. Mr. Newton responded it would be two years this September. He could not say at this time if they were going to use it or need both services. Mr. Aker agreed as he had the app, but had never used it. He suggested if they could extend the contract to December to offer the training, see how many show up, and then they can review again the first of October to see if they want to extend it.

DRUG PREVENTION COALITION

Ally Raines, JCDP Coalition, came to give an update on the recovery residence in Jay County. They have been donated a building from IU Health at the corner of Craiger and Votaw in Portland. A closing and possession date of Wednesday June 12th, 2024 has been scheduled. Once they have possession, they will start cleaning up and have a feasibility study completed. They will start working with Mike Bruns out of Ft. Recovery and Muhlenkamp Building. The feasibility study will first go through their board and then they will be back in front of the commissioners. There have been 200 submissions to name the facility with 187 not duplicated, with 5 names pushed out to the community for them to decide. They have only had one negative feedback, but ask anyone with concerns to reach out to them.

Mr. Aker questioned if they had an idea of how many the facility could hold. Ms. Raines estimated the men only facility could hold 15-17 residents but would know after the feasibility study. They have thought about adding an addition to the back and turning the garage into a living space as well. Mr. Journey asked if they had a timeline for completion of the facility. Ms. Raines explained they just applied for a Building Communities of Recovery grant, they will know if they were selected in August, and receive funds in October. If they receive that funding, they are looking at next July for an opening date.

DUNKIRK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Craig Faulkner and Stephanie Crouch from the Dunkirk Public Library came to commissioners to ask for windfarm funding for new cabinets and countertops at the library. They requested \$5,707.89 as they had only budgeted \$3,000 and it came in more than anticipated. Mr. Journey questioned if they had requested any funds from Dunkirk. He would like to see them ask Dunkirk Council before approving anything for the project. Mr. Aker explained if a portion was not covered to come back to the commissioners.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Samantha Rhoddehanel, director, came to commissioners to give a quarterly update on operations. She reminded commissioners that Ritter Strategic would be in the auditorium Wednesday June 19th, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. to present their phase one study on the radios. Their HMEP grant has been completed and is in the approval process. The SHSP grant for Pediatric MCI training will be closing out once the report can be submitted. She has attended INDOT progress meetings, fire chief's meetings, Salamonia Town Board for weather preparedness, Ohio/Indiana Cross Borders EMA meeting, Blackford County Radio Meeting, the first IU Health Jay Community Needs meeting, LEPC Exercise Subcommittee, Jay County School Safety Commission, and the Quarterly LEPC Meeting.

Ms. Rhoddehanel reported to the commissioners that when she and the Portland Fire Chief were at the Blackford County Radio Meeting, state representative JD Prescott, as well as officials from IPSIC were also in attendance. ISPIC are having similar issues with their radio systems not working in certain areas of the county. Mr. Prescott mentioned he would like to see state funding made available for counties that need assistance. He will take it back for consideration at the state level.

Mr. Aker questioned Ms. Rhoddehanel about INDOT's progress on their current project. Ms. Rhoddehanel believes they are on track for completion by the Friday of Tractor Engine Show. She also informed the commissioners that they have a project coming up and they will be taking out a

bridge on the north end of the county on highway 27 just south of 900 S in Adams County. There will also be some small structures coming up on South highway 27, and North on highway 1. Mr. Journey questioned whether there would be work done on highway 67 East of Bryant and Ms. Rhodahamel confirmed that was correct. This should all be expected to start next month. Ms. Rhodahamel stated that the closure on highway 18 west of Fiat has now been completed. She also stated that the bridge closure on highway 27 was scheduled to begin at the end of July. However, they must finish an ongoing project in Wells County before they can shut down 27 and begin work on the bridge. Mr. Journey questioned whether it would be a complete closure and Ms. Rhodahamel believed that to be true, though, she intends to double check and report back her findings.

Ms. Rhodahamel reported that they had a medical surge response exercise for District 6 HCC which was based on tornados hitting multiple counties. They attended the State IPPW meeting and went to a District 6 HCC Resource Rally where they were able to see what kind of HAZMAT, DECON, medical equipment and resources our neighboring counties have available. She also attended the L103 Science of Disaster Course which is number 4 of 5 for the PEM certification she is working towards. She worked with EMS and organized their first disaster and triage drill using the pediatric MCI system that they received from the grant. Ms. Rhodahamel reported that the drill went well and they intend to set up another drill in the fall that will simulate a plane crash. The last week of August, Ms. Rhodahamel will virtually attend a Public Information Basics course which will be the 5th course required to complete her PEM certification.

Ms. Rhodahamel presented the commissioners with the district 6 MOU. The EMA coalition would like all 13 counties in the district to sign it, although it is not a state mandate. Ms. Rhodahamel stated that county attorney, Wes Schemenaur, has already looked over the document. Due to the fact that Delaware County attorney has already requested a revision of the document, Ms. Rhodahamel suggests that we hold off on signing it, to ensure that no further revisions need to be made. She has also been working with the Health Department to update the local MOUs. These will be with community centers, churches, and other local organizations so that if there were to be a local emergency where they needed to pass out resources or set up a temporary shelter these MOUs would come into place. Her goal is to write them to include other emergency response agencies in an effort to eliminate the need for duplicate MOUs. However, she is unsure of the legality of doing that and intends to work with Mr. Schemenaur to see what can be done.

Ms. Rhodahamel informed the commissioners of her intention to stress to the public, through social media and at the fair, the importance of having multiple methods to receive severe weather warnings. She told the commissioners of a radar that is being installed by a private company on top of the village of St. Henry's water tower. This radar has a 60-mile radius and would give us more accurate weather updates. The coverage of the current weather radars in North Webster and Wilmington fall on the outskirts of Jay County. This puts us in a "hole" making it difficult to receive accurate weather predictions. She would like to get access to this new radar, but the company is not wanting to give access to local governments. Ms. Rhodahamel is currently trying to work with other local counties and state officials in hopes of a state collaboration.

The LEPC exercise has been scheduled for September 5, 2024 from 9a.m.-12p.m. Lastly, Ms. Rhodahamel reported a member of Rescue 19 resigned in March of this year. This leaves 9 on the roster including one probationary member. Rescue 19 did not hold meetings in April or May due to lack of a quorum. They have had 10 paged runs in 2024 with only 4 of those having been responded to. Mr. Aker asked Ms. Rhodahamel if she had any thoughts or recommendations regarding Rescue 19. She informed him that they are not wanting to commit to training until a decision had been reached by commissioners regarding the continuation of the organization. Mr. Aker suggested having a special meeting at some point to address the matter.

CITY OF PORTLAND AGREEMENT

A Lease Agreement between the City of Portland and the Jay County Commissioners for space rented at 118 S Meridian St. Portland. The agreement will start July 1, 2024. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the lease agreement. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

OWNER OCCUPIED REHAB

Nate Kimball, Asst. Director ECI RPD, came to the commissioners to give a brief update on the OOR program. He has received 70 applications so far and will continue to accept them until June 28th, 2024. While 40 residents would be the minimum the county could fund, he believes 60-80 homes would be a more realistic number. He reported Mike Kleinpeter has prepared an RFQ for radon testing and home inspecting and it has been sent to OCRA for final approval. They hope to hear back with approval soon. Lastly, Mr. Kimball reported much of the incomplete information on the applications have been resolved.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Heath Butz, administrator, presented the commissioners with an application for the \$25,000 Preparedness Bioterrorism grant starting July 1, 2024 and will run through June 30, 2025. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the grant application. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

The payroll docket was presented for commissioner approval. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the payroll docket. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Jay County County Living County Home Report for May was presented for commissioner approval. Mrs. Bracy reported there were still 3 residents that are still pending payment with RCAP. Mr. Journey questioned if they would receive back pay for the residents. Mrs. Bracy explained it would be dependent on their payment method, the one RCAP would be retroactive but the other two are waiting on SSDI and SS Benefits. They are currently at 20 residents as two moved out in the month of May. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the May County Home Report. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Rex Journey made a motion to remove Kristie Delaney from any county bank accounts and add Melissa Blankley. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The clerk's report for May was presented for commissioner approval. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the clerk's report. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Two emergency claims to Dunkirk Volunteer Fire Department and Redkey Fireworks Committee for \$2,500 was presented for commissioner approval. Rex Journey made a motion to approve both claims as presented. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The policy for cameras in county vehicles has been returned to the county. Ms. Franks reported she had not heard back from the county attorney. Chad Aker recommended they wait until the county attorney was present and the matter was tabled.

With no further business, Rex Journey made a motion to adjourn at 10:00 a.m.; Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chad Aker



Brian McCalliard



Rex Journey



Attest:

Jay County Auditor

JUNE 18TH, 2024

The Jay County Commissioners met in special session on Tuesday, June 18th, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium in the courthouse. Attending was Rex Journey, auditor Emily Franks, and Chad Aker, president, presiding. The meeting was advertised as a joint session with Harold Towell, Dave Haines and Matt Minnich attending from the council, but lacked a quorum. The purpose of the meeting was to hear from Ritter Strategic Services regarding the final report of their phase one study.

RITTER STRATEGIC SERVICES

Barry Ritter, owner, started the meeting by thanking members of the county for their cooperation in the study. He stated the county currently is set up as silos with no thought around incorporating other departments explaining there is not a single source of authority, inventory, or influence when it comes to the public safety systems. He believes the county could make meaningful change using a unified system. He then introduced Dillon Griffith, technical lead on the project.

Mr. Griffith started his presentation by discussing public safety vhf radios. He explained that what the county currently has is normal for a public safety vhf radio system. These systems tend to be like this because needs are only addressed as they present themselves. However, with a larger system implementation the county will not need to come back and do another system for a long time, if it is done right. He explained they completed a two-stage system assessment, the human side, and the

technical side. For the human side of things, they surveyed first responders and radio system stakeholders to get their experiences on what it is like to be on this radio system. They asked where it succeeds for them, where it fails, and what types of radios and equipment they are currently using. The first phase minimizes the need for on the ground information gathering later and lowers the cost of the assessment phase. The second half of the assessment is the technical approach including a propagation map of our radio system to get a visual representation. This helps to communicate coverage and to ensure that the vendor proposed coverage is accurate.

Mr. Griffith informed those present that our county currently has three different systems. The sheriff is on a 900mghz UHF system, there is a standalone VHF system in Portland, and a VHF system used by Fire, EMS, and EMA. He informed them that due to needing to advance 3 separate systems, the options that would typically be the "lowest cost options" end up being much higher.

He then presented them with multiple visuals representing the different levels of coverage with the current systems we have in place. The map showed where portable radios will not work, where portable radios will work but only if worn outside, where portable radios will work inside a stick-built structure, and where they will work inside a heavy building such as the courthouse or a Walmart. He explained the Sheriff Department's 900 MHz system has a more concentrated and therefore much smaller wave length that travels smaller distances but can better penetrate structures. Whereas, the VHF system that is used by Fire, EMS, and EMA has a big wave length that travels farther distances but terminates almost immediately upon impact with an obstruction, such as a wall or tree. He then displayed a map of the City of Portland's coverage overlaid with the coverage of the Sheriff Department. He explained that because these two frequencies are so similar and within the same band, there is a high likelihood of creating interference, which reduces the reliability and coverage for both systems. This overlap was created by the county system trying to cover the county's most populated areas.

Mr. Griffith went on to discuss some potential paths forward. The first of which was to reassess the way our current system is configured by replacing parts and reorienting the way the antennas are facing. This is typically the cheapest path but while it can improve the overall coverage of the existing system, it does not mitigate the problems with interference with neighboring systems. Another option would be to add tower sites to the existing system. He cautioned VHF is a congested band, and while adding towers would improve the saturation of coverage, it is not considered appropriate due to the communication issues inside most structures. The county would also incur the cost of constructing new tower sites as well as the cost of procuring the land.

The next option Mr. Griffith suggested was the Simulcast System upgrade, which would mean taking the existing systems and fully replacing them within the same band. Due to the way Simulcast System operates it will minimize interferences and bring everyone onto a similar system where they can communicate and make more use of the towers. However, he noted this is a very expensive option. He then presented another option, which he recommends. This would be to migrate to the State of Indiana radio communication system. This option makes use of the existing coverage of the IPSC (Indiana Public Safety Commission) system, reduces long term maintenance costs associated with the upkeep of towers, and gets the county out of the congested VHF bands. It would require replacing the current radios being used and adding two pre-existing towers to the IPSC system which they estimate would provide a 95% county coverage.

Mr. Journey asked if the state would contribute to the cost of the towers. Mr. Griffith explained that the state will maintain the towers that are pre-existing. Mr. Ritter then explained that the state used to have a program where if the county were to build a new tower, they would take over the maintenance and responsibility. However, as of a few years ago, they no longer do that. If the county were to build a tower it would become part of the overall system that the state monitors, but the county would be expected to maintain financial responsibility for the maintenance of that tower.

Mr. Aker asked if the highway department would lose their coverage if we did away with the VHF system. Mr. Griffith then explained that by simply using a cross-link radio at a central location the highway department could use their existing VHF radios. When they talk, they would not be going on the system, therefor it would be unnecessary for them to be active subscribers. The cross link would feed them into the dispatch center and patches can be made as necessary, keeping their ability to communicate with the county at large.

Mr. Journey questioned how the county would know that the system we are being presented would work and will they test it. Mr. Griffith explained that during system procurement, coverage acceptance testing is a standard part of overall milestone completion. A list of specs would be made, and those specs would be a requirement for whichever vendor provides the infrastructure, to participate in a coverage acceptance test plan. A test would be performed grid by grid to make sure the county is getting the coverage they are expecting.

Mr. Ritter added another option in their report that they did not recommend, was to purchase and install our own stand-alone 700-800 MHz system. The benefit of the stand-alone system is autonomy, but it is the most expensive option at an estimated \$9 million.

Mr. Journey questioned how many years would be included in a very long time. Mr. Griffith believed realistically forever or unless a major upgrade comes through. He then explained how standard system maintenance would work, stating that the IPSC service requires counties to be part of a service upgrade agreement. Every year critical system components will be looked at for replacement ensuring so that at no point components are getting to a critical stage. In doing this, every five years the county will essentially have an entirely new system. At no point should the county ever have to do a complete system replacement again.

Mr. Ritter gave an example of their project in Wayne County where they recently made the same recommendation. Wayne County chose to migrate to the IPSC system which will require two new tower sites but are pursuing a public private partnership to help with cost of construction. He added that the expense comes in on the end users with purchasing the equipment explaining the state holds a contract with Motorola. Due to that circumstance, they are the only vendor who can provide the base stations for the remote transit sites. However, the subscriber units, mobiles, and portables can be purchased from other vendors.

Mr. Ritter explained the county's next steps would be to read the report, ask any questions they may have, and continue to move forward. He recommended the county proceed in some way as he believed the current system is not safe for emergency personnel. He also cautioned the importance of having an independent subject to represent the county and help them navigate when the time comes to purchase from vendors. Mr. Journey asked what the next steps would look like once a decision had been reached. Mr. Ritter explained if the county would move forward with joining the IPSC system, they will contract with the commissioners to be the project manager. Once another contract is signed, his company will start conversations with Motorola for specifications and negotiate the difference in those findings to fix problems. If the county wishes to move forward with procurement, then they would negotiate that with the vendor.

However, if the county opts to do something different, it would include creating specifications, a comprehensive request for proposals, evaluating and scoring those proposals, demos, site visits, and then coming back with a recommendation. Lastly, Mr. Ritter asked the county not to lose site of the radios in the dispatch area, and how many portables, mobiles would be needed. He cautioned the county cannot migrate and then force the other units to buy the equipment needed.

Mr. Journey questioned what the cost would be for help with phase two of the project. Mr. Ritter stated they would charge hourly as they are buying their time and expertise, adding most governments do not have someone to fill their role. He will come up with an estimated total cost, but the county would be billed based on deliverables. Mr. Journey asked an expected timeline for the project to be completed. Mr. Ritter believed it would be a one-to-two-year timeline to get the projected completed.

Mr. Aker suggested the council and commissioners needed to meet with the cities and towns to make sure no one is left behind and everyone is on board. He added that he thought it was blatantly obvious that we cannot kick the can down the road any further. Larry "Ray" Newton, sheriff, agreed with the sentiments adding the current system was about 16 years old and Motorola no longer had replacement parts. He stated the process had been started in 2021 to look for a different solution but nothing came of it. However, it might have been a good thing, as the original solution presented would not have fixed the problem. Mr. Ritter asked the state of the current dispatch equipment. Mr. Newton was not sure, but Bill Baldwin, 911 director, stated they were on the right system currently with a 25-year life expectancy.

Mr. Journey asked if there was an estimated cost for switching to the IPSC system. Mr. Ritter explained they would have to gather more information for all the units on the system to give an estimated cost. Mr. Newton added the figure from 2021 was \$1.8 million. Mr. Ritter informed those present Randolph County has a stand-alone 900 MHz system which created issues during the tornadoes. He added a like system would cost between \$8.5 million to \$10 million depending on the subscribers. Mr. Minnich asked if any estimate could be given for the IPSC option. Mr. Ritter explained IPSC has an exclusive contract with Motorola where they determine your annual maintenance cost based on the site. The figure depends on tower sites, subscriber radios, and public private partnerships, but he estimated it would be around the \$3 million dollar range. However, if contracted as a project manager, they would look for solutions to minimize the cost. As an example, a new tower will be the most expensive single purchase. Mr. Aker questioned if the towers in Salamina and Bryant could be utilized. Mr. Griffith stated it would depend on the structural integrity of the site and whether they could be added or upgraded.

Mr. Journey asked if the need for most of the smaller communities would just be radios. Mr. Ritter confirmed that if the county intends to bare the cost of the infrastructure of the system, then that would be correct. Mr. Journey then questioned what the price of the radios would be for the departments. Mr. Ritter explained that they would need to first determine the radio manufacturer and model they wanted before they could get an accurate estimate. He explained that the radios could range from \$500-\$10,000 a piece, depending on the features of the model. Mr. Newton mentioned that there are grants the units can apply for to help purchase the equipment. Mr. Aker stated that the county's next step forward would be to get in contact with the individual cities and townships to make sure everyone is on board. He believes this needs to happen rather quickly so they can report back to Ritter Strategic Services and give them the direction they would like to move with this project.

With no further business, Rex Journey made a motion to adjourn at 10:04 a.m.; Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chad Aker
Chad Aker

Brian McCalliard
Brian McCalliard

Rex Journey
Rex Journey

Attest: *Emily Strank*
Jay County Auditor