

Wes Schemenaur, and Chad Aker, president, presiding. The meeting was held per IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(4) to interview or negotiate with an industrial or commercial prospect.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

**JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

*Chad Aker*  
Chad Aker

Brian McGalliard

Rex Journey

*Emily Franks*  
Attest: Emily Franks  
Jay County Auditor

**JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

The Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council were advertised to meet in a special joint session to discuss a new countywide emergency radio system on Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the ~~main room of the~~ ~~2024~~ courthouse. Attending was Commissioner Rex Journey, county attorney Wes Schemenaur, ~~county auditor Emily Franks, and county council members Matt Minnich, Cindy Bracy, and Randy May. The meeting was held at 6:38 p.m.~~ ~~attending was Commissioner Rex Journey, county attorney Wes Schemenaur, county auditor Emily Franks, and council members Matt Minnich, Cindy Bracy, and Randy May. The meeting lacked a quorum for both boards. Those present participated in an open forum with members from cities, towns, emergency personnel and representatives from Ritter Strategic Services. The forum ended at 6:38 p.m.~~

**JULY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

The Jay County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium in the courthouse. Attending was Rex Journey, Brian McGalliard, auditor Emily Franks, attorney Wes Schemenaur, and Chad Aker, president, presiding. Rex Journey made motion to approve the minutes of the regular and executive sessions on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**ITTER STRATEGIC SERVICES**

Barry Ritter, Owner, came to discuss the draft phase one radio study submitted a few weeks prior and to see if there were any other questions or comments. If the county would like to move forward with joining the IPSC (Integrated Public Safety Commission) system, it would require a contract for phase two of their services. A proposed contract for phase two was presented to commissioners and counsel for their review. The second phase would determine what equipment or if additional towers would be needed for a cost not to exceed. Mr. Journey updated the members regarding the information meeting held on June 26<sup>th</sup>, regarding countywide radios. The meeting was held to inform the other county entities of what the county was looking at and what equipment would be needed. The county asked local entities respond by the end of July if they would like to be part of the county system and what equipment would be needed.

Mr. Schemenaur questioned if the proposed contract would change depending on the participation of local entities. Mr. Ritter confirmed the contract for up to \$178,500 was drafted as an all-in scenario; however, he bills hourly. If fewer entities participated, it would lower the number of total hours billed. Mr. Ritter explained if departments stay on the old system, it would create more work on the PSAP and would require the county to maintain two different systems. Larry "Ray" Newton, sheriff, stressed it would be a 12-18-month process and hoped the equipment would last until that time.

Mr. McGalliard asked if the change in radios was a state mandate. Mike Weitzel, Portland City Fire Chief, responded it was not, but the equipment currently utilized was obsolete which made it hard to find parts to make repairs. Ms. Rhodohamel, EMA director, reported the individual fire departments were on board with the new system. However, she was unsure if Dunkirk or Portland City police were on board with the change. Mr. McGalliard expressed concern over the county being the only one to bear all the financial burden of the new system. Mr. Newton explained the county would be housing most of the equipment. Mr. Ritter confirmed as the only 911 (PSAP) agency in the county, the system was their responsibility.

Mr. McGalliard questioned how long it would take Ritter to complete the engineering and the planning portion for the project. Mr. Ritter believed the entire project should take 12-18 months, but they could accelerate the project. Mr. McGalliard stated he did not believe the county should accelerate any project to use ARPA dollars. Mr. Aker explained the council would have to

appropriate the funds for the phase two contract before moving forward. Mr. McGalliard asked when the county could receive a cost estimate for the entire project. Mr. Ritter estimated it would be 60-90 days. There will be no Request for Proposal (RFP) required as the state holds a contract with Motorola. Mr. Journey questioned if the sheriff was satisfied with the contract for phase two. Mr. Newton confirmed he approved of the agreement citing for the money being invested, he would like someone to oversee the project. Brian McGalliard made a motion to table the contract until the next meeting to see if the cities and towns are on board. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **LIFESTREAM SERVICES**

Kevin DeCamp, project manager, came to the commissioners to receive approval on a claim to INDOT for four new buses as part of the original grant agreement. The claim for \$367,032, is an 80% federal and a 20% local match. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the claim. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION- OPIOID SETTLEMENT**

Kimbra Reynolds, JCDDPC executive director, and Mike Weitzel came to make a request for opioid settlement monies in the amount of \$11,000 to pay for Bruns Consulting out of Fort Recovery, Ohio. The firm will complete an engineering report for the proposed sober living at 422 E Votaw St. in Portland. The commissioners questioned the amount of money currently available in the restricted-Opioid settlement fund. Ms. Franks confirmed there was a balance of over \$277,000 in the fund. Mr. Journey asked if the total amount would be enough to complete their project. Mrs. Reynolds explained they have submitted grants for personnel and operating funds, including READI 2.0 monies. Mr. McGalliard reminded the organization a second application must be resubmitted by August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the claim to JCDDPC of \$11,000. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **OWNER OCCUPIED REHAB**

Nate Kimball, Assistant Director, came to the commissioners to discuss quotes received to handle the radon testing and mitigation. The first quote they received was for \$30 a unit with no mitigation license. The other three companies were licensed and their quotes were \$150 per unit, \$119 per unit and \$99 per unit. Any mitigation that needs done will be charged at an additional cost and is required to be taken care of before moving forward in the grant process. The funding for the mitigation can be included as part of the grant up to the \$25,000 cap per household. Mr. Aker explained the \$99 per test would be covered by the grant for the first 60 homes approved. The remainder would need to be paid for out of county funds. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the AirX-Ray quote for \$99 a per test, pending verification with the state licensing board. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Kimball also reported all applications are being approved by Mike Klempeter. Once approved the home will be radon tested and moved forward to quote. Mr. Journey questioned how many applications were complete. Mr. Kimball reported there were over 100 completed applications.

#### **HIGHWAY**

Bob Howell, superintendent, came to the commissioners to give a monthly update on operations. They have been continuing to chip and seal and will be wrapping up single seals soon. Klink Trucking will be completing the road grinding on 500 so they can apply 4-5 inches of base on the road. They will start priming 850 E for the road conversion at Reiter's Poultry and hope to have it complete by the end of the week, pending rain. They are working on getting the side ditches mowed, but are struggling to get the east side of the county with only two mowers. The MowerMax has been down due to more maintenance on the pump for the extended reach, but is scheduled to be fixed in the next few days. Mr. Howell reported it will be around September 16<sup>th</sup> before the new mower will be available to be installed on the tractor that currently doesn't have a mower. Mr. Journey questioned if the company was covering the new part needed for the MowerMax. Mr. Howell explained they had received the wiring harnesses and all costs were covered by warranty.

The request for proposal (RFP) was submitted to INDOT for the new bridge inspection contract. They will complete the scoring by August 19<sup>th</sup> with the five companies of USI Consultants, Niricson Software, United Consulting, EGIS (formerly Beam, Longest, & Neff) and Collins Engineers. Mr. Aker asked where the department was at with the repairs to the older salt barn. Mr. Howell stated they had been having a hard time with local contractors responding or paying attention to the bid process. He discussed the second quote previously submitted from Fort Recovery Lumber was around a thousand dollars higher. Rex Journey made a motion to approve Fort Recovery Lumber to reroof the older salt barn at the highway. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Howell reported the retirement center has requested a fuel pump with a meter to track how many gallons are used each time. They also would like to purchase a filter system with it. His

understanding is they have the money in the budget. The commissioners asked the matter be forwarded to the Jay County Country Living Advisory Board of Directors for their review at the next meeting.

Mr. Howell expressed concern over the potential new radio system being looked at by the county. He worries they will be unable to communicate with emergency personnel during inclement weather. Mr. Aker will reach out to Ritter Strategic Services to confirm how the system would work with their current system. Mr. Journey questioned how many radios would be needed. Mr. Howell believed they would need around 17-18 radios.

Mr. Howell presented the commissioners with a map showing what was chip and sealed this year. He explained that they sent the distributor truck for winter maintenance. They learned that the sprayer has a glitch in the system causing it to change the amount of oil being sprayed without the driver's knowledge. Mr. Journey asked if Mr. Howell intends to send the truck in for wear and maintenance every year. Mr. Howell explained that he intends to convert a truck in their fleet into a distributor truck by adding a tank, bar and computer system on the truck. He believes doing this will be cheaper than spending \$18,000 annually on winter maintenance.

A reimbursement agreement with Steve & Marge Reier for chip and seal work between 400 N and 500 N on 850 E where their new pullet houses are located was presented for commissioner approval. The agreement is for \$25,000, which is 50% of the conversion costs. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the reimbursement agreement. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **JCDC**

Travis Richards, Executive Director and Angela Paxson, board president, came to the commissioners to give their quarterly update on operations. Mr. Richards reported that READI 2.0 funding awards were announced with \$35 million going to East Central Indiana. The BEAD challenge was completed with 49 challenges approved out of 497 addresses across the county. They held business retention and expansion visits with IEDC at local industries, and they had their annual review with Bollenbacher & Associates regarding their finances. Mr. Richards also reported that he and Mrs. Sprunger have continued to work on their childcare grant, and he attended a kick off for a program called Strategic Sites Inventory whose goal is to help communities identify current and future potential sites for the government. JCDC is continuing to work through lease agreements with the community resource center. Lastly, he informed commissioners that he and Mrs. Sprunger attended Governor Holcomb's "Hoosier Huddle" JCDC was named Jay County's Not-for-Profit of the year, and that Mr. Richards was awarded the East Central Indiana Pathfinder Award.

Mr. Aker ask for an update on Yodel. Mr. Richards confirmed that JCDC did renew their contract with Yodel. They have seen an increase in Facebook marketing through the Jay region site. He also informed commissioners that Yodel has developed a widget to place on various websites.

Mrs. Paxson gave the commissioners an update from the JCDC board regarding steps they have taken to address the thirteen points requested by commissioners. The first item she addressed was the number of members on their board, currently at 25. The commissioners believed a smaller board would be more beneficial to the organization. Mrs. Paxson stated although their numbers are currently in line with 6 other counties and 2 other regional organizations, they have identified 2 board members to be removed due to attendance issues. She believes that they are ready to form a subcommittee to review their bylaws. A lengthy discussion was had regarding various items including the previous contract, work force numbers, unemployment figures, housing issues, and population decline.

Mrs. Paxson pointed out that they are making steps to address the changes the commissioners suggested and requested they receive half of their funding for the first six months of the year. Mr. McGalliard stated he was not in favor of releasing the funds to JCDC without a contract in place. Mr. Aker questioned if Mrs. Paxson believed she could get a contract in place for JCDC by the end of the month. Mrs. Paxson did not believe it would be enough time to form a subcommittee and review their bylaws, which had been asked of them prior to a new contract being signed. Mr. Journey suggested that he meet with Mrs. Paxson and Mr. Richards to review the thirteen points and determine which ones the commissioners would most like to see addressed in order for them to get a contract in place. Mr. Journey then made a motion to approve half the funding for JCDC as requested with the motion dying for lack of second.

#### **READI 2.0**

Brian McGalliard discussed READI 2.0 as the project holder for the 68-acre project. He explained the original submission was a pre-application. The project will need to be resubmitted to be considered and provided commissioners with a copy of the application. He listed the peak performance indicators on the application including population growth, income, housing and childcare capacity. It also requires a total amount of funds secured through the submission date. Mr.

McGalliard believed the lack of funding pledged impacted the amount received for READI 1.0. He would like a discussion on what monies would be used towards a match for the 68 Acres. Mr. Journey asked if the \$1.2 million purchase price could be considered a match for the project. Mr. McGalliard would have to check, but REA believed the closer to the match money committed the better chance of the project being funded.

**MEAL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY**

Ordinance 2024-08 amending the personnel policy for meal reimbursements was presented for commissioner approval. Rex Journey made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-08. Brian McGalliard 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. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The county home report from Jay County Country Living for June 2024 was presented to commissioners for approval. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the report for June. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

A claim to the Jay County Humane Society for the second quarter of animal control services in the amount of \$16,581.25 was presented for commissioner approval. Mr. Journey noted the hours of operation were from 12-4 p.m. Mr. Aker explained if there is an emergency local law enforcement is able to get in touch for services outside of those hours. He added he will mention the situation at their next meeting. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the claim to the Jay County Humane Society. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

With no further business, Brian McGalliard made a motion to adjourn at 11:32 a.m; Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Chad Aker  
Brian McGalliard

Rex Journey

Attest: Emily Franks  
Jay County Auditor

**JULY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

The Jay County Commissioners met in special session on Monday, July 8th, 2024, following the regular session in the auditorium of the courthouse. Attending was Rex Journey, Brian McGalliard, auditor Emily Franks, attorney Wes Schemenaur, and Chad Aker, president, presiding. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the funding applications submitted to the commissioners for 2025.

The commissioners had reviewed applications received by various organizations in June 2024. The following was added to the EDIT budget request for 2025.

- Arts Place- Arts in the Parks \$15,000
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks- \$10,000 total with \$5,000 to 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee, \$2,500 each to Dunkirk and Redkey.
- Small Business Development Center- \$3,000
- John Jay Center for Learning - \$25,000
- ICDC\_ Launch JAY1- \$10,000
- ICDC - to be determined by contract
- ECI Regional Planning District-

The following will remain budgeted out of County General Commissioners- Animal Control Contract (to be determined by approved contract), Fair Premium to 4-H (\$8,000), Fair Association (\$1,500) and GIS Contract.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

**JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Chad Aker  
  
 Chad Aker

Brian McGalliard  
  
 Brian McGalliard

Rex Journey  
  
 Rex Journey

Attest: Emily Franks  
  
 Jay County Auditor

**JULY 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

The Jay County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium in the courthouse. Attending was Rex Journey, Brian McGalliard, auditor Emily Franks, attorney Wes Schemenaur, and Chad Aker, president, presiding. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the minutes from both sessions on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**COURTHOUSE**

Bruce Sutton, superintendent, came to the commissioners for expenditure approval. He presented a quote from Nu-Flow Indy for plumbing work in the circuit court restroom located on the north side of the third floor. The company has previously worked on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the courthouse. The total quote came in at \$8,750 with half due at time of service. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the expenditure for Nu-Flow Indy and a claim for the deposit. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**ONE DIGITAL- HEALTH INSURANCE**

Jessica Clayton, Senior Benefits Consultant, came to the commissioners to give a mid-year review on the insurance plan. She explained the county has trended very high in claims over the last 12 years, but have been trending well recently. The average increase for renewal has been a 4% increase versus the national average of 10-12%. The county's average loss ratio is 125%. The county's renewal last year was a 1% increase with the HSA option added. Their feedback from employee meetings had a lot of positive feedback. As a reminder the renewal included the 40% refund agreement which the county received for last year.

The current expense ratio is at 72%, the number of claims is at 63%. They will go into renewal with claims incurred August 1, 2023 to July 31, 2024 and paid through 9/30/24. The county's experience has medical inpatient/outpatient lower than trend, but RX usage is higher than trend, however 87% are using generic. They would still like to see plan members take more advantage of preventative visits. Also, 57 ER visits out of 126 were deemed avoidable.

Mrs. Clayton discussed options for the upcoming renewal. She will check into partially self-funded options along with fully insured options. An example of what partially self-funded might look like was presented to commissioners for review. They can build an employee navigator for enrollment or a mid-year check in for no cost to the county. She also added the IRS has increased the contribution limits for HSA (health savings account) for 2025. Mrs. Clayton explained to the commissioners that while PHP is their current carrier, One Digital has excellent relationships with all the carriers, which allows them to negotiate on the county's behalf. Mr. Aker added they are happy with PHP and noted the refund allowed the county to reduce employee premiums for the rest of the year.

**ECI REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT- BROADBAND**

Bill Walters, executive director, came to the commissioners to give them an update on broadband. Mainstream Fiber was not awarded any funding in the most recent round of Next Level Connections. Brightspeed was the winner on the provider side. However, there are still three more rounds of BEAD before January 2025. Community Fiber Solution is number one in the area for broadband services. Mr. Walters has met with Comcast to look at the area and to see if they are interested in participating in the area. Mr. Aker questioned if the main issues were with the challenges. Mr. Walter explained the providers are chosen by the state and the county is at their mercy for where they expand. He added most providers, such as Comcast, choose areas they are already in for expansion. Mr. Journey asked if the county would have to start all over again for the next round of grants. Mr. Walter confirmed the work would only be at the provider level. Autumn Marshall, ECI RPD Regional Coordinator for Broadband, explained the designated unserved and underserved areas should receive some grant monies. She added there should be a plan to build it for the future especially in the area of Salamonia.

**ECI REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT**

Bill Walters, executive director, discussed various updates with the commissioners. He explained the EDA resiliency grant still has interns and availability for six more months. The CEDS