

**August 26, 2024**

The Jay County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 26<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 from August 12, 2024. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT- CYBERSECURITY**

Samantha Rhodahamel, director, came to the commissioners to discuss required updates from the state per IC 4-13.1-4, regarding cybersecurity that becomes effective 7/1/2025. The state will classify certain technology equipment as infrastructure and will require an in.gov domain in the email address. This could become a countywide issue since non-compliance may make state websites inaccessible. The process would be to first determine what in the county would be considered infrastructure of the state. A cybersecurity assessment would need to be completed and possible revisions to county policies. The domain change does not need to be completed until 2027, but she would like to begin moving forward as soon as possible in order to be done by the deadline.

Ms. Rhodahamel discussed updating the current cybersecurity plan in the county. She recommended setting up a cybersecurity committee to review the plan in case of an incident. Also adding, Cybersecurity insurance requires entities to follow procedures that are in place exactly or they may not cover the loss. Recently, several counties have experienced cyber-attacks and Ms. Rhodahamel would like to be as prepared as possible. Mr. Aker agreed they should start working on the issue with the relevant IT. Mr. Schemenaur suggested an initial survey should be taken for every department to determine state access. Mr. Journey asked if the county could see examples of other cybersecurity policies. Ms. Rhodahamel explained they are protected documents, but has access to a template. Rex Journey made a motion to allow emergency management to set up a task force to update our cybersecurity. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ms. Rhodahamel gave an update on Rescue 19. They are down to 3 active and 3 inactive members and have responded to roughly 15 runs this year. Mr. Aker reported the chiefs of the local emergency agencies no longer feel the need for the organization. He added, Ms. Rhodahamel could look at how to dispose of their equipment, but several departments had expressed interest in the items. Mr. Schemenaur advised they should notify each county department in writing regarding the equipment. If no interest is shown, items could be offered up for auction to other departments. Once the inventory is dealt with the next step would likely be to repeal the ordinance establishing Rescue 19. Mr. McGalliard questioned who would cover the Salamonia area if Rescue 19 was disbanded. Mr. Aker clarified that Salamonia Fire Department would be dispatched, but if they do not respond, Portland Fire Department would respond. Ms. Rhodahamel also noted that due to excess funds from a recent grant, all of our fire departments will now have the battery-operated extrication equipment that they need. Rex Journey made a motion to ask Ms. Rhodahamel to research the truck, make an inventory list of Rescue 19 equipment, and present it to the commissioners. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**SHERIFF**

Larry "Ray" Newton, sheriff, came to the commissioners for permission to purchase a new vehicle to replace the recently totaled 2021 Dodge Durango following a recent pursuit. The insurance check received was for \$27,250. They located a 2024 Dodge Durango for \$43,183 from Thomas Dodge of Highland Indiana, one 2024 Dodge Durango for \$44,659.50 at John Jones, Salem IN, and one 2023 Dodge Durango from Greve Chrysler at Van Wert, Ohio for \$46,726. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2024 Dodge Durango from Thomas Dodge in Highland, IN for \$43,183. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**ROAD REQUEST**

Karl Kaiser, landowner at 2404 W 850 N, came to the commissioners to request his road be chip and sealed or paved due to an excessive amount of dust caused by the high amount of traffic, including semis that travel down his road. Mr. Aker questioned if a dust mat had been purchased. Mr. Kaiser confirmed he did not purchase a dust mat, as he believed they pay enough in county taxes and plates to not purchase one. Mr. Aker informed Mr. Kaiser that the county has a road committee that meets throughout the year to determine which roads will be converted. He added the committee does take into consideration the number of houses on the roads and it is their goal to serve the largest amount of people as possible. It was also explained that they have over 200 miles of stone roads they are currently working to convert. However, they are only able to convert 5-7 miles per year. Mr. Kaiser was interested in speaking with the road committee, but asked for notification of their next meeting as their meetings are irregular. Mr. Aker offered to take his information and contact him about the details of their next meeting once established.

**USL- HEALTH INSURANCE**

Tom Schweistal and Alex Dickman, representatives of USI Health Insurance, came to speak with the commissioners about whether it would be more financially beneficial for the county to be self-insured in their health plan moving forward. Mr. Schweistal explained to the commissioners that they have gathered data from PHP looking back from 2020-2024. According to the claims data analysis they believe it would have been more beneficial in the past four years for the county to have been self-insured. He also projected that it would make more sense for the county to be self-insured in the next 5 years.

Mr. Dickman explained that using the data collected from PHP they show that in the last 5 years the numbers came back at about \$780,000 in over spent money, if the county had been self-funded. Looking forward he believes the county would see around \$180,000 potential savings on an annual basis. This would total around \$700,000 over the next 5 years. Mr. Dickman mentioned that there is an additional risk potential which they have budgeted at max liability at 1.5 million dollars. However, they expect the number to be closer to 1.2-1.3 million based off of past claims. He explained the best indicator is to look at what the county paid in the last full year. In 2023 the county paid \$1,350,000 on the medical portion and had around \$700,000 in claims. This comes out at about a 56% loss ratio.

Mr. Dickman then asked the commissioners for permission in a change of brokers, and to make USI the broker moving forward. He stated that they would work with PHP to start this self-funding strategy with the county's health care plan moving forward. Mr. McGalliard wanted to clarify that this is a partially self-funded program. Mr. Dickman confirmed that it was. He told the commissioners that since the county is already with PHP and liked the network, he didn't look to go outside that relationship. PHP does have the capabilities of doing self-funding so the county would be able to stay with their current network and carrier. He added that this would just give them the opportunity to add some additional savings because of the loss ratios.

Mr. McGalliard questioned if the potential loss the county could incur would be capped at 1.5 million. Mr. Schweistal confirmed that yes, that would be a worst-case scenario. Mr. Dickman added that the probability of that happening is only 12% in the first year. After 3 years of self-funding, that percentage drops to less than 1%. He went on to say that they predict that 1 out of 5 years are going to be bad, but the 4 good years should be able to offset that difference. Mr. McGalliard questioned what our current renewal fee was. Mr. Dickman told commissioners that if they were our broker they would be able to have these conversations with PHP and have these specific numbers for the commissioners as well as work on the partially self-funded solution. However, the carrier will only work with one broker so they currently cannot obtain that information.

Mr. Journey said he would like to see what the current brokers have to say before they make a decision. Mr. Dickman again asked to become the county's broker so they can begin negotiations with PHP on the county's behalf. Ms. Franks recommended the county take more time before making a decision, also noting the partial-self funding with PHP could be managed through any broker. Mr. Journey recommended tabling the decision until they are able to do some further investigation. After further discussion Mr. Journey made a motion to table action on USI's insurance presentation. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### EMS

Gary Barnett, shift supervisor, provided updated financials through July 2024. He reported a full-time paramedic will be going to part time. This will make the department down two full time paramedics.

#### HIGHWAY

Bob Howell, superintendent, came to the commissioners to discuss various items. He reported they are finished with road conversions on 1025 W between Balbec and River Road, River Road between 500 N & 450 N, and 450 N between River Road and 150 W. They are working on patching roads and are completing necessary repairs on the early conversions. A quote to complete the 300 feet of paving on 500 N was received and will be completed. They have been receiving quotes for a new pickup and a new front wheel loader for the department. Currently they have a 1996 Cab Front Wheel Loader that is in dire need of replacement. At the moment they only use it to load stone because they do not trust it to take it down the road. Lastly, Mr. Howell reported the chip box, which runs the roller, recently broke down.

Mr. Howell discussed quotes for a new pick-up truck. The quotes came in at \$39,887 for a Dodge, \$52,287 for a Chevy, and \$57,827.50 for a Ford. Mr. Journey confirmed all trucks were ½ ton. Mr. Aker questioned if the amount was available in their budget and if he had a preference on which vehicle. Mr. Howell confirmed there was money available in their budget. He also reported they had been having trouble with 3 out of their 4 Dodge trucks and would prefer either a Chevy or Ford truck. Mr. Journey agreed he would prefer a maintenance free option, noting costs of repair. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the 2024 Chevrolet from Ed Martin of Anderson for \$52,287. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The department would like to dispose of a 2008 Ford 150 Supercrew with engine trouble. They would like to put the truck out for sealed bid. Mr. Howell believed the truck to be worth \$500-\$600 in scrap material. The commissioners gave approval for him to go ahead and advertise the truck for sealed bid. Mr. Howell reported the semi-trailer has been removed off of the premises and the new roof is now complete on the old salt barn. He has been looking at new items for the department including a distributor tank.

A local landowner at SR 67 and 300 W expressed concerns to the department regarding traffic traveling at high rate of speed coming off of 300 W. They have requested either a Children at Play or Reduced Speed limit sign be placed at the location and have agreed to pay for the costs. Mr. Schemenaur explained the ordinance would need to be amended if they would like to move forward with the reduced speed. He suggested the commissioners speak to the landowner and review the area before making a decision.

**ECI REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT- BROADBAND**

Bill Walters, executive director, came to the commissioners to give them an update on broadband for the county. Mr. Walters first gave some updates on a few different projects such as international development, OOR program, and SS4A. Mr. Journey asked if Mr. Walters thought there would be anything done by the end of the year in regards to the OOR program. Mr. Walters replied that he believes they will have the contracts in front of them, decisions will be made, and then weather permitting they will be working on projects all throughout the winter and into the spring.

Mr. McGalliard then asked Mr. Walters for his opinion on what the county needs to do to fix their budget crisis and what they need to focus on to increase revenue in the county. Mr. Walters replied there are only two sources for government to increase their revenue which are development and raising taxes. He also went on to say that broadband is what ties everything together from agriculture, to industry to personnel, broadband is the way for the county to open up development.

Nate Kimball, ECI assistant director, spoke to the commissioners about the radon contract concerning OOR. He explained that Mike Kleinpeter is currently working with OCRA, because only up to \$5,000 of the radon testing can be funded through this grant. He is working with them to see if we can extend that amount a little bit so the entire cost of the radon testing can be funded. Mr. Kimball recommends the commissioners wait to sign the contract until they know if OCRA will allow them to use more of the grant funding to cover the radon testing.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

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

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

An emergency claim to Dell Marketing from the Sheriff's Department related to their IDOH grant in the amount of \$1,730.50 was presented for commissioner approval. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the claim to Dell. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

With no further business, Brian McGalliard made a motion to adjourn at 10:30 a.m.; Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
Chad Aker

  
Brian McGalliard

  
Rex Journey

Attest:   
Jay County Auditor

**September 3, 2024**

The Jay County Commissioners met in administrative session on Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. in the commissioners' room of the courthouse. Attending was Rex Journey, Brian McGalliard, auditor Emily Franks, attorney Wes Schemenaur, and Chad Aker, president, presiding. Also present were administrators

from IU Health and Jay County EMS. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss procedures for transporting patients from IU Health-Jay. The conclusion of the discussion was to involve Jay County Sheriff's department dispatch in the conversation for the establishment of new procedures.

The meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

**JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

*Chad Miller*  
Chad Miller

*Brian McCalliard*  
Brian McCalliard

*Rex Jourday*  
Rex Jourday

Attest: *Emily Strank*  
Jay County Auditor