

The commissioners were presented with paperwork on the two new vehicles for the sheriff and highway and for the signature of the sheriff's wrecked Dodge and the 2008-Ford from the Highway. Rex Journey made a motion approve the transfer of titles. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.


An emergency claim from the sheriff's department to Dell Technologies for \$2,483.98 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.

An emergency claim from the highway department to Ed Martin of Anderson for \$1,945 was presented for commissioner approval. The claim was to add a warranty on the recently purchased 2024 Chevrolet Silverado. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the claim to Ed Martin. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

With no further business, Rex Journey made a motion to adjourn at 11:30 a.m; Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Chad Aker



Brian McGalliard



Rex Journey

Attest:   
Jay County Auditor

#### **SEPTEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The Jay County Commissioners advertised a special session on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. in the auditorium in the courthouse. The purpose of the meeting was to meet with individuals regarding health insurance. The only members present were Chad Aker, commissioner president and auditor, Emily Franks. The meeting lacked a quorum with Brian McGalliard and Rex Journey absent.

#### **SEPTEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The Jay County Commissioners advertised a special session on Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 2:30 p.m. in the auditorium in the courthouse. The purpose of the meeting was to meet with individuals regarding health insurance. Attending was Rex Journey, auditor Emily Franks, attorney Wes Schemenaur, and Chad Aker, president presiding. Absent was Brian McGalliard.

#### **ONE DIGITAL**

Jessica Clayton, broker, started by stating that her goal for the meeting was to recap where the county insurance currently stands, things that have been looked at in the past, what she intends to show moving forward, and to go over some pieces that she believes haven't been communicated well previously. Mrs. Clayton reminded the commissioners that they chose to restructure their benefits at the start of the year to include a HAS -Health Savings Account option which the county contributes quarterly. Mid-year the county was still trending well, but it is still very important to look at the big picture. She compared an outsider coming in looking at claims, to a horse with blinders on. They are seeing what is happening right at this moment, but they do not see the full story.

At the mid-year point the county loss ratio was 72%. The sweet spot is considered to be between 70-80%. Only two months later the county loss ratio jumped to 106%. Mrs. Clayton explained that when other brokers are looking at how the county is currently trending, they are unable to see the serious claims that are coming through. She highlighted for the commissioners the months that the claims are now out weighing the premiums that have been paid in. Mrs. Clayton stressed the fact that the county has 20 high claimants, several of which have ongoing chronic conditions. She is not against being self-funded but she believes that it doesn't make sense for the county.

Mrs. Clayton pointed out that having positive 2-way communication with all of their carriers is very important and can help them to get the best rates. The county's renewal is still about three weeks out and is still being worked on by PHP. The county has averaged a 125% loss ratio over the last twelve years and 152% loss ratio over the last three years. Claims are highly out weighing the premiums that are being paid.

If the county were to be self-funded Mrs. Clayton believes the employee experience would be the same. However, the county would be responsible to pay a specific deductible of \$50,000-\$70,000 per member. She noted with self-funding cash flow is very important. She compared it to how our the HRA is structured today with a partially self-funded approach and the safety net of having a carrier. The county would have known fixed expenses, but unknown would be the high claims that you would receive such as a NICU baby or a major surgery. After the member pays their deductible, the county would be responsible to pay those members' specific deductible.

If we were to look at self-funded, each company would go through underwriting. It is the underwriter's job to access the risk and to identify which members may have significant health issues such as cancer, needing a transplant, or other serious ongoing chronic conditions. Those members, known as lasers, would have a higher specific deductible, which could be as high as \$250,000. So, if that member were to incur a million-dollar claim, their out of pocket would be \$5,000. Jay County's out of pocket would no longer be \$50,000 because that member has been moved up to a laser amount.

Mr. Journey questioned if the county currently has lasers. Mrs. Clayton explained that we do not, because we are not currently self-funded. He then asks what dollar amount typically creates a laser employee. According to Mrs. Clayton a laser employee is accessed based off of the medical diagnosis versus the dollar amount of a claim. Mr. Aker asked if there were caps in place. Mrs. Clayton confirmed there would be caps, but the county would still be on the hook up to that amount. In the past, one company would not even quote based on a diagnosis of an employee. She went on to add the fully insured was a safe conservative route for the group in the past.

Mr. Aker questioned how the county received a refund from PHP last year and what determines the amount. Mrs. Clayton explained the loss ratio was about 88% for 2023. If the premium paid by the county is over the number of total claims, the county will receive a 40% refund. Mrs. Clayton suggested if the county was looking to go partially or fully self-funded to look at a captive partner, such as Pareto. This would be a safer option and less risk to the county. There could be initial lasers, but will offer no new lasers moving forward.

Mr. Aker asked if there was anything the county could do to get the premiums lowered for employees. Mrs. Clayton explained the premiums are right in the national average falls, but knows it does not feel that way to employees. The commissioners noted all three brokers were suggesting different ways for the county to move forward. Emily Franks, auditor, suggested commissioners wait until the county had renewal figures from each broker before making a decision. Mrs. Clayton stated she had requested a renewal early from PHP, but it would still be three weeks out.

With no further business, Rex Journey made a motion to adjourn at 3:10 p.m.; Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

## JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Rex Journey

  
Chad Aker

  
Brian McGalliard

Attest: 

Jay County Auditor

**SEPTEMBER 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**

The Jay County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, September 23<sup>rd</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. Brian McGalliard made motion to approve the minutes from September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**HIGHWAY**

Bob Howell, superintendent, came to the commissioners for the opening of the bids for the 2008 Ford truck. As no bids were received, Rex Journey made a motion to scrap the truck due to the lack of bids. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Howell presented a quote for flashing solar stop signs at 650 S west of Highway 27 for \$5,238. He had been approached by a taxpayer regarding the matter. He also informed them he has around \$8,000 left in his sign budget. Mr. Journey questioned the reason for the flashing sign at that location and if there has been accident at the intersection. Mr. Howell stated it would draw more attention to the stop. Mr. Aker explained he had also spoken with the resident and the issue was a hill right before the stop. The area already had sufficient signage to alert drivers of a stop ahead. The area has been turned over to Nate Kimball, ECI Regional Planning as part of their Safer Streets for All (SS4A) grant.

Mr. Howell expressed concern over recent vandalism and theft of signs, including their solar flashing stop signs. The solar panel of two signs had been busted and were inoperable. The company does not like to change panels with the new signs and it requires a full replacement. Mr. Aker noted the several stop ahead signs stating at some point the driver has to be responsible for their own actions. Mr. Howell stated the resident either wanted a flashing stop sign or rumble strips put in. While they can place in rumble strips, they can come loose and are hard to maintain. It will require them to tear the roads up. Brian McGalliard suggested the department wait until the end of the year and see if there was any money remaining in the budget. Mr. Journey agreed noting the large number of recent vandalism and thefts.

Spencer Patterson, road foreman, discussed lenders for the new case loader. The rate offered by the dealer was 6.8% and the lowest local rate was from The Farmers State Bank at 5.75% Rex Journey made a motion to approve the loan with The Farmers State Bank for 5.75% for the Case Loader. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Howell explained they had a couple complaints related to the road closure on 700 W. The bridge consultant from EGIS ran a test across with the truck and there was a lot of flex. The bottom of the bridge was in pretty bad shape and it was their recommendation to shut the road down between 700 W between 200-300 S. They advised them to put dirt and stone in front of the approaches to the bridge. They have ordered road closed signage that needs to be permanently placed to the road at the site. They will also post them at the end of the road. They cannot cross the bridge on the south end, but it should be passable to all landowners on that road.

Stephanie Klarer, assistant superintendent/ERC has worked to notify INDOT of the closure. The road signage has to be permanent and then pictures will be submitted to their bridge consultant. The bridge consultant will submit it to INDOT to make this permanent. Chad Aker noted it is a timber bridge that has deteriorated. Mr. Howell stated it had been inspected and was further down on the list for repair. Mr. Journey questioned what the tonnage limit was for the bridge. Mr. Howell believed it had a limit of 8 tons. Mr. Aker asked that they keep commissioners updated on the bridge. Ms. Klarer explained they already had two bridges for the community crossing grant next year and that the bridge will probably be down for a couple of years.

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Samantha Rhodelanel, director, came to commissioners to discuss an Emergency Declaration Burn Ban. The fire chiefs had already met and determined on September 13<sup>th</sup> to issue a burn ban. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the burn ban until further notice. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ms. Rhodelanel reported she emailed out the local fire departments giving them until October 23<sup>rd</sup> to get back to her regarding Rescue 19 equipment.

Ms. Rhodelanel reported on the storm damage from the previous night. It was believed to be a tornado, but will be confirmed this afternoon. The national weather service will be in the county this morning starting at the high school. The worst areas impacted were Beacon Heights, the Jay County Jr/Sr High School and Water Street to the North. Ms. Rhodelanel has already contacted Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) for their FEMA reporting. She will continue on their preliminary assessments.

### **SUN CHIEF SOLAR**

Spencer Micali, assistant project manager, came to the commissioners for approval of an amended economic development agreement. The project is roughly 1,200 acres located on SR 67 in Richland and Jefferson townships. There should not be any other delays. They are looking for about a year of construction time utilizing roughly 100-150 staff and two full time employees once in operation. The total investment will be a minimum of \$100 million as outlined in the SB-1. Mr. Micali explained they overbuilt the substation during the windfarm project which allows them to accommodate the solar project.

Mr. Micali also mentioned they are looking at sheep grazing for this project. PJM which approves the connection to the grid had delays as already outlined. All applicants have been put into three different buckets, and have been confirmed they are in the fast track. They hope to have their connection agreement by December 31, 2024.

The current SB-1 has construction started by December 31, 2024 and completion by December 31, 2025. They believe they will start construction June 2025 and hit commercial operations by June/July 2026. The timeline has been updated to reflect the changes. However, to make sure they will not have to amend the forms again in the future the forms have a start of construction date of December 31, 2026 and a completion date of December 31, 2027.

Mr. Micali explained the amendments to the economic development included a change to the payment schedule. The amended version now has the first payment no later than six months after the start construction instead of no more than 15 days after commercial operations. Once the amendment is approved, they will mail out a letter to all landowners and adjacent landowners to give them a project update. Lastly, the amendment includes a payment of professional services not to exceed \$10,000. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the changes and amended Economic Development Agreement (EDA) with Scout Energy. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

Gary Hendershot, deputy director, came to the commissioners to report damage to their building, which is leased by the county. They had about four inches of water in the back of their building on their floor due to roof damage. The area which included a conference room,

bathroom and education room is inoperable. The front half of their office did not sustain damage. Mr. Aker questioned if they would need different accommodations. Yvette Weiland, director, asked for assistance in cleaning out the back area but will wait on the landowner before moving forward. Wes Schemenaer suggested the county's insurance be informed in case there is a renter's insurance policy.

#### **DUNKIRK LIBRARY APPOINTMENT**

Stephanie Crouch, director, informed the commissioners they had an open appoint on their board and recommended Courtney Bivens for the appointment. Rex Journey made a motion to appoint Courtney Bivens to the Dunkirk Library Board. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **JAY COUNTY LIBRARY APPOINTMENT**

Eric Hinderliter, director, informed the commissioners they had a vacancy on their board due to the resignation of Tabby Sprunger. The remainder of her term would need to be filled from October 1- December 31, 2024. They recommended Amy Hawbaker for the appoint. Rex Journey made a motion to appoint Amy Hawbaker for the remainder of the term. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **WASTE MANAGEMENT**

A new contract from Waste Management for trash removal services at the Jay County Security Center was presented for commissioners' review. The original contract was with CCL for a one-year term ending October 1, 2024. Mr. Schemenaer explained he had reviewed the contract which included an automatic renewal clause. The commissioners asked if the sheriff had quoted other companies such as Best Way or Cardinal. If the contract is not signed, it will go to a month-to-month agreement. Rex Journey motion to table the contract with Waste Management for 30 days for time to review. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **JEMS**

Gary Barnett, shift supervisor, presented financials for August 2024. He reported they are doing well with an increase in income of around \$9,000. Chad Aker questioned if the number of runs had increased from last year. Mr. Barnett stated their runs are about the same over last year. The department is still short two full time paramedics and have part time filling the gaps.

#### **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 September was presented for commissioners' approval. Brian McGalliard made a to approve the claims docket for September. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The clerks report for August was presented for commissioners' approval. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the clerk's monthly report. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

A work authorization form for Hays and Sons related to the water damage in the courthouse was presented for commissioner approval. The order had previously been approved by staff the day of the incident. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the work authorization agreement. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The commissioners reminded those in attendance that due to early voting in the auditorium, their meetings October 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> will start at 5:00 p.m.

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

JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Rex Journey



Chad Aker

Brian McCalliard



Jay County Auditor

September 26, 2024

The Jay County Commissioners met in emergency special session on Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. in the auditorium in the courthouse. Attending was Brian McCalliard, auditor Emily Franks, and Chad Aker, president, presiding. Absent was county attorney Wes Schemenaur and commissioner Rex Journey.

Emergency Declaration

Amy Blakely, EMA deputy director, explained the emergency meeting was called in response to the tornado that hit the county on Sunday, September 22, 2024. She reported their assessment with a total of 14 commercial buildings affected. Of the 14, one had major damage, two buildings were reported with minor damage, and eleven buildings had minimal damage. There were seventy-four residential homes with damage, three with major damage, eleven with minor damage, and sixty were affected with minimal damage. The totals reported did not include the damage to the Jay County Jr. Sr. High School. Ms. Rhodehamel, EMA director, is working with IDEM to obtain a burn permit, which is required to burn the debris from the tornado at a designated burn location.

Ms. Blakely also reported that Indiana 211 is open, they are encouraging residents to go online and fill out the necessary forms to report their storm damage. If they are not able to go online, they may call or go into the office to get help completing the paperwork. This will help with assistance in the future. Ms. Blakely reported Nextera Energy is offering any assistance the county may need. Senator Todd Young's office has also reached out to Ms. Rhodehamel offering assistance to the county. Mrs. Blakely informed the commissioners they have been working with the Assessor for residents to complete change of assessment forms. They would prefer the forms be completed before any demolition could occur to commercial buildings damaged by the tornado.


Lastly, Ms. Blakely brought before the commissioners two action declarations. The first was a local disaster emergency declaration related to the two tornados on September 22, 2024. The issuance of the declaration could potentially help the county receive state and/or federal assistance for things such as reconstruction or demolition. Brian McCalliard made a motion to approve the emergency local disaster declaration. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The second declaration brought before the commissioners was to rescind the burn ban that was currently in effect and have it rescinded as of 2:00 p.m. that day. Brian McCalliard made a motion to rescind the burn ban effective 2:00 p.m. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

With no further business for the commissioners Brian McCalliard made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Chad Aker seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m.



Rex Journey



Chad Aker

Brian McCalliard

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jay County Auditor