

DECEMBER 9, 2024

The Jay County Commissioners met in session on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the courthouse auditorium. Attending was Brian McGalliard, Rex Journey, auditor Emily Franks, and Chad Aker, president, presiding. Absent was county attorney Wes Schemenaur. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the minutes from November 25, 2024, the special session from November 27, 2024 and the joint session from November 20th, 2024. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Heath Butz, environmentalist administrator, came to the commissioners to discuss the reappointment of Joseph Vormohr to another four-year term on the Jay County Health Board. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve Joseph Vormohr to another 4-year term. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

COURTHOUSE

Bruce Sutton, superintendent, came before commissioners with an amended quote for flooring from Medler's Furniture. The amended quote includes \$526.50 for carpet removal in the assessor's office and an additional \$793.50 for carpet removal in circuit court's office. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the amended flooring quotes. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

HIGHWAY

Bob Howell, superintendent, came to the commissioners to discuss various topics. The first was the need for commissioners to approve a series of right of way permits for AEP. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the right of way permits for AEP. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Howell gave the commissioners an update on monthly operations. The drivers will be grading roads before freezing temperatures and burning trees out of right of ways. They have received their tractor back with a mower installed and the new wheel loader. The federal grant has been submitted for bridge 177 and 178 located on 300 East between 300 S and 400 S. Also, right of way contracts for Bridge 93 and Bridge 110 are currently being reviewed under federal aid. They conferred with EGIS for the contract to include the new language requested by the county. It is a standard boilerplate contract used by INDOT and are unsure if the language can be added. The commissioners requested the department check with INDOT to see if they will include the county preferred language.

Mr. Howell also discussed the possibility of creating a conditional employment contract for prospective employees that are not CDL licensed. He has had a lot of people interested, but due to the CDL requirement, they are not qualified. The employee would be hired with the understanding that they have to obtain their CDL within a certain timeframe. In comparison, the city of Portland and the county sheriff's department currently have contracts in place that state the employee has a certain timeframe to complete the needed training and licensing. Also, if the employee were to leave the department before a certain time set in the contract, the cost of the training would need to be paid back by the employee.

They suggested the term limit be one year to complete the CDL training and licensing and a conditional contract of employment of two years. Mr. Journey asked for an estimate of the amount this would cost per employee to become licensed. Mr. Howell stated that the training in Fort Wayne is about a two-week process and the cost would be around \$3,900.00 per employee. He added if the employee qualified, they could take the training through Ivy Tech in Fort Wayne, and receive a grant to cover the cost. This still needs to be presented to the personnel committee and council before moving forward.

Mr. Howell presented the details regarding the loan for the new wheel loader. The loader payment will be paid over a four-year period, with the first installment due December 2025. The loan is in the amount of \$192,240.00 with a 5.75% interest rate annually. Rex Journey made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-07 regarding the loan for the loader with Farmers State Bank. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous

vote. Bob also asked commissioners for approval to transfer the Caterpillar wheel loader from highway inventory, to the county surveyor department. Commissioners had no issues with this transfer and gave their approval.

Commissioners opened the highway aggregate bids for 2025. There were two bids received, from IMI and US Aggregates, with each bidding between 6-14 types of aggregate stone. After review of the bids from the two companies, Rex Journey made a motion to accept all bids for 2025 from IMI and US Aggregates. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Samantha Rhodehamel, director, presented commissioners with her quarterly report. She stated that the hazardous materials (HAZMAT) emergency planning grant, in the amount of \$18,300.00 was received. This will be used for HAZMAT training for dispatchers, law enforcement, and first responders. The grant will also cover the consulting fees related to designing the 2025 LEPC exercise. She reported the EMPG salary grant in the amount of \$29,213.05 was also received.

Ms. Rhodehamel reported she had attended various training workshops that cover multiple areas, such as warning and effective messaging, HDC patient networks, and damage assessment. Some of the training is in person and some is online. Recently, Emergency Management also assisted with the Jay County Progressive Agriculture Day. This event included approximately 400 6th and 7th grade students. There were many different stations setup to teach safety in rural community. She also attended the Portland Fire Department Safety Day.

A Homeland District 6 mutual aid agreement was presented to commissioners for their approval. This agreement is between all counties within the district. This includes Jay, Blackford, Grant, Delaware Randolph, Tipton, Howard, Union, Madison, Henry and Fayette. This agreement allows the counties to share resources if needed. County attorney Wes Schemenaur previously reviewed and approved the agreement. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the District 6 agreement. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ms. Rhodehamel stated that an Interstate Mutual aid agreement meeting between Jay County and Mercer County was held. This group includes members of fire, hazmat, EMS, EMA, public works or public health orders. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the interstate agreement with Mercer County. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Ms. Rhodehamel reported she will be working on a like agreement with Darke County.

A preliminary draft regarding the county action plan was presented to commissioners due to the recent tornado. The plan is not complete as they are still working on the corrective action portion and getting this training brought into the county. She is hoping to add this training into the 2025 LEPC exercise. When this is finalized, she will give commissioners a copy.

Also, cybersecurity task force meetings were held. The task force is working to get a cybersecurity plan for the county. The task force will be holding another meeting soon. The LEPC after action was submitted to the state and will now be reviewed by the committee this week. The plans were all submitted on time. She gave an update regarding Rescue 19. The equipment that was transferred to other entities has been disbursed. The remaining items will be included in the next auction. She stated she would provide a list of remaining items to the commissioners soon.

Rex Journey asked about the recent disaster in North Carolina and Georgia. He wanted to make sure that we have all the needed agreements in place should we ever need assistance from FEMA. Ms. Rhodehamel stated that she is working with the health department to update all MOU's. If there is a disaster situation, for the first 48 hours the county will only have state assistance.

FARM GROUND

Farm bids were opened up for the retirement center farm ground and the 68-acre ground owned by the county. There were four bids received for the 293.8 acres located at the Jay County Retirement. The first bid opened was from Hartzell Farms at \$206 an acre for an annual total of \$60,522.00. The second bid, from Schoenlein Farms, was for \$376 per acre for a yearly total \$110,468.00. The third bid was submitted by Dues and Sons for \$285.00 per acre with a yearly total of \$83,733.00. The last bid from Kenny Hemmelgarn was for \$275.00 an acre for an annual total of \$80,795.00.

Also, three bids were submitted for 68 acres located in section 18 on the west end of Portland. The first bid opened was from Dues and Sons for \$285.00 an acre for an annual total of \$19,380.00. The second bid opened was from Chris Muhlenkamp, for \$400.00 per acre with an annual total of \$27,200.00. Schoenlein Brothers submitted the third bid for \$376.00 an acre for an annual total of \$25,568.00.

Commissioners accepted the bid from Schoenlein Brothers for the 293.8 acres located at the Jay County Retirement Center, for \$376.00 an acre for a yearly total of \$110,468.00. Rex Journey made a motion and Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners reviewed the farm bids that were submitted for the 68 acres. Rex Journey made a motion to table the bids until further notice. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

The county home monthly report for November was submitted for commissioner's approval. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the November County home report. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The clerks monthly report was submitted 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.

Four claims for \$150 each to AIC for Newly Elected Officials training were submitted for commissioners' approval. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve all four claims to AIC. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

A claim to AirXray for three invoices totaling \$1,386.00 for radon testing related to the Owner-Occupied Rehab was submitted for commissioner approval. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the claim to AirXray. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

With no further business, Brian McGalliard made a motion to adjourn at 9:50 a.m.; Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Brian McGalliard

Rex Journey

Brian McGalliard

Rex Journey

Attest: Emily Frank
Jay County Auditor