

The commissioners set a special session for Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. to discuss EDIT requests received for 2025's budget.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The payroll docket was submitted for commissioners' approval. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the payroll docket. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The county home monthly report for January was presented for commissioner approval. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the county home report. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ms. Franks, auditor, asked for approval for the recorder to purchase a new Bookeye scanner that was ruined in the water damage on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The county will pay for it out of recorder's perpetuation and then should be reimbursed by the insurance company. The quote from Priority Engineering came in at \$58,810. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the purchase to replace the damaged equipment. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

With no further business, Duane Monroe made a motion to adjourn at 10.27 a.m; Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Chad Aker  
*Chad Aker*  
Duane Monroe  
*Duane Monroe*  
Doug Horn  
*Doug Horn*  
Attest: Emily Franks  
Jay County Auditor

**FEBRUARY 20, 2025**

The Jay County Commissioners met in special session on Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in the courthouse auditorium. Attending was Doug Horn, Duane Monroe, auditor Emily Franks, and Chad Aker, president, presiding. Absent attorney, Wes Schemenaur. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss EDIT requests submitted to the county for 2025.

Rusty Inman, director, John Jay Center for Learning, was present to answer any questions from the commissioners. Their original request was for \$70,000 towards the HSE program. After a brief discussion the commissioners suggested funding half of the request at \$35,000.

The request for 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks for \$10,000 to be divided \$5,000 to the Jay County 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee, and \$2,500 each to Redkey Fireworks Committee and Dunkirk Volunteer Fire Department was agreed to be funded.

Carolyn Carducci, executive director, Arts Place, was present to answer any questions for their \$15,000 request for Arts in the Park. She gave commissioners an overview of the programs offered and number of children who participate. The commissioners agreed to fund the full request of \$15,000.

Judy Porter, Regional Director, East Central Indiana Small Business Development Center, was present to explain their request of \$3,000. Their services are free to the public and offers business advice, consulting, and workshops. The commissioners agreed to fund their request as submitted.

Angela Paxson, representing JCDC had asked commissioners to delay their request for the Launch! Jay pitch competition of \$15,000 until a later date.

Additional money aside from those already budgeted in 2025 for the Jay County Fair Association and Jay County 4-H were agreed to be tabled until determined if the fair could receive help through an OCRA grant and after 4-H completed fundraising efforts.

Zach Chenoweth, representing the Jay County Chamber of Commerce spoke to commissioners regarding their request. Their original request was for \$25,000, but would like to amend it for a lower amount. They are not sure until after their dues for the year have been collected and a new director is hired. The commissioners asked for them to return with an updated request application once an amount was determined.

Doug Horn made a motion to approve the amounts as previously discussed. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

With no further business, Doug Horn made a motion to adjourn at 3:55 p.m; Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
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Chad Aker

  
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Duane Monroe

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Horn

Attest:   
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Jay County Auditor

**FEBRUARY 24, 2025**

The Jay County Commissioners met in session on Monday, February 24, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the courthouse auditorium. Attending was Doug Horn, Duane Monroe, auditor Emily Franks, attorney Wes Schemenaur, and Chad Aker, president, presiding. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the minutes from February 6<sup>th</sup> special session, and January 10, 2025. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**RESOLUTION 2025-04**

Melissa Elliott, clerk, came to the commissioners to discuss the option of the county becoming a vote center county. There are currently 65 counties of the 92 in the state that use vote centers. The council has already approved the measure with Resolution 2025-03 at their February 19, 2025 meeting. A list of steps to become a vote center county was presented to commissioners for their reference. There are currently 8 voting locations that would be consolidated down to 3 or 4 voting centers. Mrs. Elliott explained they would look into the locations, but would like the centers to be within around 10 miles of the voters and have ADA compliance. She also informed commissioners there would be a cost to notify voters of the change, but it would save money through wages and polling rental costs. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-04. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

A resolution approving the designation of Jay County as vote center county.

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 3-1-1-18.1 allows counties to adopt the vote center model and,

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners of Jay County approves the designation of Jay County as a vote center county and,

WHEREAS, the county election board has the responsibility for property drafting a vote center plan for Jay County, which will take effect upon unanimous vote of the county election board and making sure the plan is properly filed with the Indiana Election Division;

Be it resolved by the Jay County Board of Commissioners that Jay County is approved to operate as a vote center county, upon the required approval and filing of the county vote center plan.

### **LIFESTREAM**

Kevin DeCamp, project manager, came to the commissioners for approval of the quarterly claim for 182,297. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the quarterly claim to Lifestream claim to INDOT. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. DeCamp discussed the possibility of transitioning their grant directly from INDOT instead of having the county as a pass through. He stated their president and vice president were okay staying with the county or transitioning. Emily Franks, auditor, noted the county must receive at least \$750,000 in federal funds to receive an annual audit from the state which has sometimes relied on money from rural transit. Doug Horn made a motion to continue to be a pass through for Lifestream. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **OWNER OCCUPIED REHAB**

Darlesia Lee, ECI Regional Planning Assistant Director, came to the commissioners to give an update on the Owner-Occupied Rehab program. They will continue to work on getting electrical bids for the next round. Mr. Aker noted more contractors might be interested now that OCRA allows them vote on different parts of the project.

### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Heath Butz, administrator, came to the commissioners to discuss a contract for services related to the Health First Indiana funding. They allow Health Departments to do pass through funding to other agencies to complete programs and services. The contract brought forward is with Purdue Extension \$47,214 to expand existing programming, new programming and to hire additional staff and materials. The programs include; ATV Safety Club, Be Heart Smart, Clever Cooks Program, Cooking Club, Dining with Diabetes, Head Start Farm to School, Juntos, Matter of Balance, Parenting Program, Parenting a Second Time Around Program, RealCare, Soccer for Success, Steps, Steps to a Health You, Tobacco Prevention/Cessation Program. The department will have to report all information into a portal track with the state department of health. Mr. Monroe questioned if the portal would be available to the public. Mr. Butz believed it would be for internal purposes only at this stage. Doug Horn made a motion to accept the contract with Purdue Extension. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **HIGHWAY**

Bob Howell, superintendent, and Spencer Patterson, road foreman, came to the commissioners to discuss a detour request from the state of Indiana for SR 18 West of Bryant. The bridge deck replacement work is estimated to begin in April and last for at least 30 days. The detour will be 50 W, 650 N and 250 W. Chad Aker questioned if there would be a road use agreement in place. Mr. Howell had been asked the county process from INDOT and will ask them about an agreement and a better timeline. Mr. Aker also noted a potential issue with a turn on the detour. Mr. Patterson questioned if they could put a temporary no truck in the area. Duane Monroe made a motion to have the county attorney prepare a temporary no-truck ordinance for the detour. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Howell explained INDOT had met them and Brad Daniels on Highway 1 at around 300 S. They had determined the drainage was insufficient as water has been getting under the roadway and deteriorating it. INDOT first suggested they open the tile, but it would cause damage to the Pitman residence. Mr. Howell suggested they ditch it in the state's right of way. Mr. Patterson explained they would be putting in a 3ft by 2 ft square box to collect the water.

Lastly, Mr. Howell informed commissioners Glass Capitol Chrysler did not believe they would honor the original warranty due to the aftermarket additions. They would like to trade in truck #2, a 2024 Dodge Ram, for a 2024 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 from Kelley Automotive Group of Fort Wayne. The cost of the truck is \$48,500, but are offering ~~it for~~ <sup>04</sup> \$34,000 ~~after trade~~ in. They will leave the boss plow mount and controllers in the truck, but will remove the lights before trade in. Mr. Howell tried to quote a Ford, but all they had was a single cab for a higher price. He also stated Chevy said they will honor the warranty, if the plow was added by an authorized dealer. Mr. Aker questioned if the department had the money available in the budget for the purchase. Mr. Howell confirmed they did. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve the purchase. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **OPIOID SETTLEMENT MONIES**

Kimbra Reynolds, executive director, Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition, came to the commissioners to give an update on their sober living facility at 422 W Votaw St. The name for the facility that was voted on was "Vision on Votaw". The house has passed the feasibility study and they are requesting \$13,150 out of Opioid restricted funds to cover their expenses to date. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve \$13,150 to the taskforce out of Opioid Restricted funds. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **JEMS**

Gary Barnett, shift supervisor, came to the commissioners to discuss monthly operations and present January financial information. Mr. Aker asked if there were any ongoing issues or items that department needed. Mr. Barnett stated they would need four new heart monitors in the coming years for an estimated \$60,000 apiece. The current monitors were extended for another three years, but would not be able to extend the replacement any longer. Mr. Barnett questioned if the department would be allowed to put a few thousand dollars of improvements such as flooring and paint to their Portland base. The department had been told not to spend money on the facility in recent years because they would be moving. Mr. Aker stated his goal would be to push forward on a new public safety building. Lastly, Mr. Barnett stated the gutter work on the Dunkirk Station was starting today.

### **BEACON CONTRACT**

Emily Franks, auditor, explained their previous GIS company 39 Degrees North/ Elevate had been bought out by Schneider Geospatial/Beacon in 2020. The county had just renewed a five-year plan before they were bought out. They are now required to switch to a plan offered by Schneider. The contract did not meet the county contract requirements, but the company was willing to add all the language except the auto renewal clause. They agreed to add it, but only for an additional charge of \$17,442. Ms. Franks explained the contract was required as soon as possible to allow tax bills to be added to the GIS for this year. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve the contract pending approval of the county attorney. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **HAYS & SONS**

Emily Franks, auditor, reported Hays & Sons has completed the ceiling repair work, paint, and subfloor. They hope to have the woodwork, trim and flooring installed in the next two weeks and the offices back open for use. Two claims to Hays and Sons related to progress billing and change orders were presented for \$10,360.12 and \$14,300.21. The commissioners agreed to allow the auditor and courthouse superintendent to release the funds once satisfied with the completed work. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The payroll docket was submitted for commissioners' approval. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve the payroll docket. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The claims docket for February was presented for commissioners' approval. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve the claims docket for January. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The clerk's monthly report for January was presented for commissioner's approval. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the report as presented. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Two donation checks for Jay County Country Living was presented for commissioners' approval from Red Gold and Delta Theta Tau. Duane Monroe made a motion to accept the two donation checks. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

A claim from the sheriff's department from Thomas Dodge for the two 2025 Dodge Durangos in the amount of \$87,774 and a claim from FR Conversions LLC for the 2024 RAM transport van in the amount of \$85,017 was presented for commissioners' approval. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the two claims as presented. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Two claims from the Recorder's Office for \$29,405 each to Priority Engineering LLC to replace the book scanner lost in the water damage was presented for commissioners' approval. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

A claim from the Highway Department from CivilCon for related to the bridge #114 replacement was presented out of ARP monies in the amount of \$176,875 was presented for commissioners' approval. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the claim as presented. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

A claim from the Retirement Center for \$200 to start a petty cash fund as approved by the council on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 was presented for commissioners' approval. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the claim as presented. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

A claim from the sheriff's department to Canteen Services for \$851.85 from December was presented for commissioners' approval. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the claim as presented. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

With no further business, Duane Monroe made a motion to adjourn at 10:00 a.m; Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chad Alker

Duane Monroe

Doug Horn

Attest: Jay County Auditor

MARCH 5, 2025

The Jay County Commissioners met in executive session on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the courthouse auditorium. Attending was Doug Horn, Duane Monroe, auditor Emily Franks, and Chad Aker, president, presiding. Absent attorney, Wes Schemenaur. The commissioners met in executive session to discuss pending litigation per IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(B)().

The meeting was concluded at 5:08 p.m.

JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Chad Aker

  
Duane Monroe

  
Doug Horn

Attest:   
Jay County Auditor