

JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chad Aker

Duane Monroe

Doug Horn

Attest:

Jay County Auditor

MAY 16, 2025

The Jay County Commissioners met in session on Friday, May 16, 2025, at 3:45 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 the county's employee health insurance and benefits broker.

Doug Horn made a motion to terminate USI as the county's insurance broker and hire OneDigital effective 5/31/25. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

With no further business, Doug Horn made a motion to adjourn at 3:50 p.m. with Duane Monroe seconding the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

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MAY 27, 2025

The Jay County Commissioners met in session on Monday, May 27, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the courthouse auditorium. Attending was Doug Horn, Duane Monroe, auditor Emily Franks, and Chad Aker, president, presiding. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve the minutes from May 12th and the special Session from May 16th as presented. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JCDC

Angela Paxson, Executive Board President, came to the commissioners to discuss their contract and funding for the second half of 2025. They currently expect to have a \$24,000 budget shortage as presented to their board at a recent meeting. Eventually they would like to have six months of reserves built back up, but understand it took twenty years to save that amount. Mrs. Paxson noted that Jodi Hayes, administrative assistant, had not received a raise for two years and had stepped in while they have been looking for a new director. The boards' request would be for \$50,000 for the remainder of the year. This would cover the shortfall, give them two months reserve, and allow for a raise.

Mr. Aker had no issues with the additional funding request agreeing the county budget was tight, but to come back to the county with additional projects they might need to fund. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve the \$50,000 from July to December of this year pending a signed contract. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. A contract will be drawn up and approved by both parties at their next meetings.

Lastly, Mrs. Paxson also requested additional time to submit their 2025 EDIT request. Mr. Aker explained it would not fall under the traditional deadline since it was a contract for services. Ms. Franks informed commissioner's the budget process had been delayed due to new legislation. She questioned if the commissioners would like to postpone the EDIT requests deadline and commissioners meeting. The commissioners agreed to move back the timeline.

LIFESTREAM

Kevin DeCamp, project manager, came to the commissioners to approve and sign a claim for a local match related to the purchase of two mini vans. The two mini vans will be replacing two of their eight passenger plus two vans. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the documents as presented for Lifestream Services. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

ECI REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT

Darlesia Lee, assistant director ECI Regional Planning District, came to the commissioners to give an update on the Owner-Occupied Rehab (OOR) program. They now have 4 homes completed. She also worked with AirXray and EGIS regarding a misunderstanding over a contractual item and they are moving forward with testing. They had two projects that could not be completed due to lack of electrical bids, which has been resolved. She reported funds must be used by August 31, 2025, but anticipates they should be able to be expended. Lastly, expressing she would like to see a similar project offered to the community in the future.

Mrs. Lee briefly discussed a mural requested from the City of Portland on the side of the community resource building. They have online promotional videos and sponsored ads to crowd fund the \$10,000 for the project. She asked those present to help get the word out to the community.

CORONER

Brayden Fields, coroner, came to the commissioners to request permission to trade in the department's 2019 RAM 1500 and purchase a 2025 Chevy Tahoe SSV 4WD from Kelly Chevrolet of Fort Wayne for \$36,205. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve the purchase. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

ADA AND TITLE VI COORDINATOR

Duane Monroe made a motion to appoint Chad Aker as ADA and Title VI Coordinator for the county. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Ms. Franks read, the request was to update the plan and submit by August 20th, 2025. The commissioners asked it be put on the agenda annually moving forward.

Later in the meeting, Robert Howell, highway superintendent, and Stephanie Klarer, assistant highway superintendent came to discuss the topic. Ms. Klarer reported the updated plan could remain specific or could be a bit more general. She added the Title VI report needs to be submitted by October 1st annually to INDOT.

JAY COUNTY COUNTRY LIVING CENTER

Stacey Johnson, director, came to the commissioners to discuss monthly operations. She reported Mustard Seed is almost finished with the men's bathroom and the new floors have been completed. They will have a community garden planting next week with Purdue Extension and the Jay County Health Department. The department would like to fundraise in the future. Mr. Schemenaur recommended the department check with insurance and the auditor's office before moving forward with any future events.

Ms. Johnson expressed her hopes to have drive-thru meals available at the center and to restart their partnership with Journey Home. She has been working with the Health Department, Purdue Extension and ECI Regional Planning District on ways to maintain operations and the buildings. They currently have 19 residents and are looking at double occupancy for some rooms. Lastly, they are still working on verifying mental and physical acuity for current residents to see if it remains a good fit for both parties.

JEMS

Gary Barnett and Jessica Curtis, shift supervisors, came to the commissioners to give a report on monthly operations. Mr. Barnett provided the monthly expense report and financials to the board and asked if there was any additional information they would like to see moving forward. Mr. Aker requested they report number of runs along with the monthly financial information. When discussing the department no longer taking transfers from IU Health, Mrs. Curtis noted it mostly meant not taking overnight transfers. She listed concerns with the transfers, citing the only ambulance would be outside of the county on a non-emergent run. This would see residents waiting thirty minutes to receive assistance or the calls being answered by other e-services.

ORDINANCE 2025-10 BUILDING & PLANNING

John Hemmelgarn, director, came to the commissioners to discuss a continuation of the project in Pennville. The zoning special exception request had already been approved by the BZA and the Plan Commission gave a favorable recommendation. Mr. Hemmelgarn reported the property owner had already completed clean up on the site adding the majority in Pennville were on board with the exception. Ordinance 2025-10; to approve the rezoning of the three parcels in Pennville was presented for approval. Duane Monroe made amotion to approve Ordinance 2025-10 as presented. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

SOUND UPGRADE AUDITORIUM

Innovative Concepts provided quotes to the commissioners for sound upgrades to the auditorium. They recommended sound treatments including panels to deaden echoing in the room. The cost for 19 panels and installation came to \$5,388.32. Innovative Concepts also submitted a quote to include two additional speakers facing the board members to help in hearing fellow members. The quote for the additional set up was \$2,927.78. Doug Horn made a motion to approve both quotes from Innovative Concepts. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

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

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

Emergency Claim claims were presented from the Retirement Center from True Value for \$559.73 TKE Elevator for \$566.19, Hometown Hardware \$72.65, Bug Free \$250. An EGIS Consulting claim related to the OOR program for \$8,047.50 and to Kelley Automotive Group for \$36,205. Doug Horn made a motion to approve all claims 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 9:58 a.m; Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

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