

**JULY 14, 2025**

The Jay County Commissioners met in session on Monday, July 14th, 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. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve the minutes from June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**OPENING BIDS- PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING**

There were seven bids received for a new county public safety facility as noticed in the request for proposals. The bids were from Peterson Architecture, Elevatus Architecture, RQAW, Martin Riley, American Structure point, K2M Design and MSS Engineering. Doug Horn made a motion to take the bids under advisement. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**OPENING BIDS- OWNER OCCUPIED REHABS**

There were no bids received for the third round of owner-occupied rehab bids.

**JAY COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION- ARP UPDATE**

Carl Walker, president, came to the commissions to give a quarterly update on the ARP monies as part of the signed interlocal agreement. He reported to date the commission has not spent any ARP monies. Mr. Aker asked the commission to put the possibility of creating additional TIF districts on their next agenda. Mr. Walker questioned if they had confirmation the solar farms would be breaking ground in the county.

**HODSON ENERGY**

Kyle West, Hodson Energy, came to the commissioners to request an extension to their Economic Development Agreement with the county. The council already approved the update to their abatement and EDA. The extension is due to different requirements with PJM and dramatic shifts in the global supply chain. Mr. West answered the question posed by Carl Walker, stating they would be moving forward with the project, as millions of dollars had already been spent on the project. The agreements remain the same other than the start of construction date being moved from June 30, 2026 to June 30, 2027 and the construction completion date of December 31, 2027 to December 31, 2028. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the extension and change to the Economic Development Agreement. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**CYBERSECURITY RECOMMENDATION**

Emily Franks, Cybersecurity Committee member, read a recommendation letter from their most recent meeting. She reported the committee had participated in presentations from LEAP Managed IT, Perry Pro Tech and Allstar Technologies before participating in a formal vote. The taskforce recommended the full managed service with LEAP Managed IT with a co-managed option for the Jay County Security Center who will keep their current contractor. The key factors were; reporting to council and commissioners, no lapse in support if an employee leaves, each office would have equal access to support, providing a clear transition plan, and will assist the county in compliance with upcoming cybersecurity rules. Duane Monroe made a motion to move forward with getting a proposed contract with LEAP Managed IT. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**HIGHWAY**

Bob Howell, superintendent, came to the commissioners to give a monthly update on operations. They have continued to chip and seal as weather permits, with 16.5 miles left on single lane passes, and several road conversions to complete. They had ordered the dual facing cameras for their county vehicles and will have training completed before installation. Bridge 139, on Seventh St in Portland is underway. They have run into issues with the caps having more erosion than anticipated and EGIS has been working with the contractor for the best solution. A quote for repair work came in at \$33,000 and would delay the project by about two weeks. They are waiting on an estimate to replace the caps with an estimated 3-5-week extension on the project. The department might have to request an additional

appropriation to cover the cost of repairs. The commissioners asked the issue be delayed until next Monday to receive a quote for replacement.

Bridge #113, located at 600 W and SR 26, should have the culvert delivered by Civil Con this week and Link Dozing will be scheduled sometime in September to install. There is a plan to place aerial cable and phone lines in the area while working on that culvert with Mr. Howell providing a map to commissioners. Spencer Patterson, road foreman, informed commissioners they had put signs up at 650 N and 250 W for the current detour.

The department received another letter from INDOT regarding work on SR 67 E of Bryant. The projected timeline would be to start in early Spring 2026. This detour had the same issues as presented with the last one going through Bryant. As an option, the commissioners would like to put the official detour sign back from the area. Wes Schemenaur recommended speaking to someone higher than INDOT as the county cannot control the signage on a state highway.

Mr. Howell discussed paving 400 S from Highway 67 to State Road 1 as the chip and seal has not been sufficient. He believes they will have enough money in their budget to cover the cost. Duane Monroe made a motion to let bids for paving on 400 S between Highway 67 and State Road 1. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Lastly, Matt Shauver, city of Portland, requested approval to put up a speed limit sign on Blaine Pike to slow down within so many feet of town. Mr. Shauver handled the locate and will be responsible for maintaining it in the county right of way.

#### **JAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Ceann Bales, PhD, Executive Director, came to commissioners to give them an update since taking the position. The last few months have been about creating relationships with companies and community leaders. She reported the county has a low employment rate, which was confirmed by companies looking for employees during her visits. This has put their focus on housing to bring people into the county. There are about six community development projects along with numerous abatement projects they are working on. Mrs. Bales has also been focusing on childcare in the county. While the three facilities in the county are excellent, the county is only at 30% capacity. The changes at the state have some concerned regarding the current voucher program.

They are looking into getting their website redesigned, updating their marketing materials and at creating a new county comprehensive plan through OCCRA. Lastly, she gave an update on READI 2.0. They will have a steering committee meeting the first of August with Doug Inman serving with her on the committee. The 68A project has moved through the first approval phase of READI 2.0, which was a pre commitment review on the economic impact. The second phase will be regarding the feasibility of the project. Mr. Aker asked the organization to take point on the project regarding items such as the RFP. Mrs. Bales agreed as the executive committee was in full support.

#### **CITY OF PORTLAND-LEASE AGREEMENT**

The lease agreement with the city of Portland for office space at the community resource center was brought forward for commissioner approval. The office space is for the community developer from East Central Indiana Regional Planning District (ECIRPD) in the amount of \$350, per month. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the lease agreement with the City of Portland. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **2026 FUNDING REQUESTS**

The funding requests for 2026, due on July 11, 2025 were presented to commissioners for review. Ms. Franks recommended commissioners wait until income tax estimates were available from the state, hopefully first of August, before making any decisions. The commissioners agreed to wait and schedule a meeting, likely August.

#### **2026 ANIMAL CONTROL CONTRACT**

A proposed contract with the Jay County Humane Society for animal control services in 2026 was presented to commissioners. The contract would still need to be altered to include the

required language from the county. The commissioners asked the organization to be present at their next meeting to discuss services. Wes Schemenaur suggested they also speak to the sheriff regarding calls where they are utilizing them.

#### **SHERIFF PHONE LINE**

Duane Monroe discussed a Bright Speed line coming into the sheriff's department and potentially moving it underground. The lines have been pulling at the building which has led to a mortar crack that needs addressed. The cost for moving the line would be \$5,719. Duane Monroe made a motion to move the line underground for a cost of \$5,719. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **BRIDGE DEDICATION**

Duane Monroe updated those present the bridge dedication for Lance Corporal Andrew Whitacre will be held on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. The exact location of the dedication was not determined but the bridge is located on Highway 67, just south of Jay County Jr./Sr. High School.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

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

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

The agreement with Jay School Corporation regarding reimbursement for the School Resource Officer was presented for commissioner approval with the updated Appendix B. Duane Monroe made a motion to sign and approve the agreement with Jay School Corp. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Emergency Claims to Youth Opportunity Center for Juvenile Services in the amount of \$33,945 and Koorsen Fire in the amount of \$200.66. Claims related to the Owner-Occupied Rehab (OOR) to EGIS \$12,586.44, claim to Dave's Heating & Cooling totaling \$30,750, and a claim to Mustard Seed Remodeling totaling \$74,461.45. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The commissioners next regular scheduled meeting on July 28<sup>th</sup> will be moved to July 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m., due to a lack of quorum.

With no further business, Doug Horn made a motion to adjourn at 10:05 a.m.; Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Chad Aker

Duane Monroe

Doug Horn

Attest:

Jay County Auditor