

**AUGUST 11, 2025**

The Jay County Commissioners met in session on Monday, August 11, 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 July 30th, 2025. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**MULTI HAZARD MITIGATION**

Samantha Rhodehanel, EMA director, came to commissioners to discuss an agreement for services to update the county's multi hazard mitigation plan with Christopher Burke Engineering LLC. The agreement is for \$24,304 with other related services requested not to exceed \$10,000. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the contract with Christopher Burke Engineering LLC to update the county's multi-hazard mitigation plan. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**BUILDING & PLANNING**

John Hemmelgarn, director, came to the commissioners to give a quarterly update on operations. They have issued 13 new home permits with a couple of business remodels in Portland. Mr. Hemmelgarn discussed the carbon sequestration with POET and did not believe they had been transparent through the process. They have spoken to some county officials and offered \$2 per ton. POET plans to pump 175,000 ton of carbon per year, under the surface after selling off the rest for bottling. Mr. Hemmelgarn reported the federal government is paying \$85 a ton for an estimated \$14,000,000 a year, for ten years. They are also paying farmers \$100 an acre to use their mineral rights. Mr. Hemmelgarn would like to see the county negotiate between \$5-\$10 a ton with the money going to fund Police, EMS and other emergency services. Lastly, requesting the commissioners have POET attend their next meeting to explain their project fully. Duane Monroe made a motion to have POET come in and give a summary of their plans. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Duane Monroe questioned where they were on the road agreement with Minnich. Mr. Hemmelgarn explained the BZA board will need approval for the road use agreement before they meet. However, the agreement would need to be worked out with the highway department. Mr. Howell agreed to have Chad Aker meet with them ahead of the next commissioners' meeting.

**COURTHOUSE**

Bruce Sutton, superintendent, came to the commissioners to give a quarterly update on operations. He provided the commissioners two quotes for sealing and tuckpointing of the courthouse. The first quote was from Millwright Solutions for a total quote of \$177,000 including the additional options of weather cap and tuckpointing. The second quote was from Atlas Building Services Inc for a total of \$214,304. Mr. Sutton could not get a response for the third quote. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the work from Millwright Solutions LLC for the full amount of \$177,000. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**HIGHWAY**

Robert Howell, superintendent, came to the commissioners to give an update on operations. All single seals are complete, with continued work on soft spots within conversion repairs. There have been roughly 82 miles of chip and seal completed this year. They have rented a steel drum with vibratory for one month for use on the roads. Mr. Howell requested approval to sell their 1996 badger excavator on Purple Wave. Duane Monroe made a motion to allow the sale of the excavator on Purple Wave. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Spencer Patterson, road foreman, briefly discussed 100 W from 100 N to 300 N, that was converted several years ago. They have discovered there is no stone left under the road, just mud and are working on a solution moving forward.

They have decided the paving project on 400 S will be submitted for the Community Crossings Management Grant, for October 2025 FY 2026, as there is not significant time to use it on a bridge project. They are looking at Bridge #159 with EGIS who is contracted to do the design and planning, for the July 2026, Fiscal year 2027 CCMG call. The plan is to have the July 2027, Fiscal Year 2028, be the overlay for bridges #126, #190, and #272. This should save money overtime as the substructures are good and would increase the lifespan of the bridges. Mr. Aker noted the state has reduced the funding from two times a year, to one and from \$1.5 million down to \$1 million, which has made it more competitive. USI brought forth a contract to start implementing other firms for \$23,000. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the contract with USI after the required language is approved by the county attorney. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **EDIT REQUEST MEETING**

The commissioners discussed setting a date to discuss EDIT requests for the 2026 budget. The county is still waiting for LIT estimates from the DLGF, but is needed for the September 3, 2025 budget hearing. The commissioners agreed to set a meeting for Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 3:45 p.m.

#### **OWNER OCCUPIED REHAB**

Darlesia Lee, Assistant Director ECIRPD, came to the commissioner to give an update on the Owner-Occupied Rehab (OOR) program. All contracts are ready to be signed by the county. The heavy rains have produced some concerns for homeowners, that are being addressed. Duane Monroe thanked the organization for their work and questioned the transition of projects to JCDC moving forward. Bill Walters, director ECIRPD, confirmed they would complete the CCMG grant for those entities as covered on the additional contract. They will also stay through the close of the OOR program estimated to be completed by October.

Claims were presented for the Owner-Occupied Rehab as follows: Fortitude Consulting for \$21,500, \$18,161.81, and \$561.19, Dave's Heating & Cooling for \$421, and EGIS for \$11,449.30. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve all the OOR claims as presented. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **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 July 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 and treasurer's report for July was presented for commissioner approval. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve the clerk's and treasurer's report as presented. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Emergency claims from the County home for Troyer's \$673.98, Conte Cleaning & Maintenance \$1,275, Hull Brothers for \$993.39, and Hometown Hardware for \$34.71 was presented for commissioner approval. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

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

#### **JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**Chad Aker**

**Duane Monroe**

**Doug Horn**

Attest: Smile Franks  
Jay County Auditor

**AUGUST 11, 2025**

The Jay County Commissioners met in executive session on Wednesday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 10:00. a.m. in the courthouse auditorium. Attending was Doug Horn, Duane Monroe, auditor Emily Franks, attorney Wes Schemenaur, and Chad Aker, president, presiding. The commissioners met in executive session to discuss soliciting proposals for the purpose of awarding contracts for goods or services (IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(18) and to discuss a job performance evaluation, employee specific compensation, or employment matters of individual employees per (IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(9)).

The meeting concluded at 12:16 p.m.

**JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Chad Aker

Chad Aker

Duane Monroe

Duane Monroe

Doug Horn

Attest: Smile Franks  
Jay County Auditor

**AUGUST 13, 2025**

The Jay County Commissioners and Council met in joint executive session on Wednesday, August 13th, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in the courthouse auditorium. Attending were commissioners Doug Horn, Duane Monroe, and Chad Aker, president, auditor Emily Franks, attorney Wes Schemenaur and council members, Faron Parr, Michael Brewster, Cindy Bracy, Harold Towell, Bryan Alexander and Matt Minnich, president. Council member Randy May, joined the meeting at 5:19 p.m. The council and commissioners met in executive session to discuss a real property transaction per IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(D).

The meeting concluded at 5:30 p.m.

**JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Chad Aker

Chad Aker

Duane Monroe

Duane Monroe

Doug Horn

Attest: Smile Franks  
Jay County Auditor

## AUGUST 20, 2025

The Jay County Commissioners met in session on Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at 3:45 p.m. in the courthouse auditorium. Attending was Doug Horn, Duane Monroe, auditor Emily Franks, attorney Wes Schemenaur, and Chad Aker, president, presiding. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss 2026 EDIT funding requests. While the livestream was working for the entirety of the meeting, the recording was broken up by segments due to an issue with storage space.

### 2026 FUNDING REQUESTS

Carolyn Carducci, executive director Arts Place, came to the commissioners to request \$15,000 in funding for the Arts in the Parks program. They had 974 participates in classes during this year's program. Their program fliers are circulated through schools and have now started pop-up classes. The majority of classes are for ages 6-12, with some for ages 12-17. Doug Horn made a motion to approve \$15,000 for the 2026 budget. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Dunkirk Volunteer Fire Department again requested for \$2,500 towards their fourth of July Fireworks. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve the \$2,500. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Judy Porter, ECI Small Business Development Center, requested \$3,500 as their budget has been cut from other sources. They have a two-day workshop that will be brought to Jay County in December that is free to participates. In September, they will get with JCDC on how to develop their program moving forward including work with the Jay Pitch competition. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the \$3,500 requested. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Beth Stephen, president Jay County 4-H Clubs, requested \$27,000 in addition to the \$8,000 budgeted for fair premiums. The money would be used to repair bathrooms and additional soundproofing to make the building more user friendly. This would improve their rental income which will benefit the organization in the future. They had their first Clover chronicles this year, which was a fundraiser to collect almost \$13,000. The money was used towards other repairs around the building. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve the \$8,000 out of their budget in county general and \$27,000 out of Economic Development for 2026. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Jay County 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee again requested \$5,000 for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve the request as presented. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Amanda Blair, executive director Jay County Chamber of Commerce, requested \$10,000 to help provide their services including workshops and education for their members. The money would cover costs for two workshops and two lunch ins. Mr. Monroe appreciated the organization did not request money until they had a director and projects. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve the \$10,000 as requested. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ceann Bales, executive director, Jay County Development Corporation, explained their request would be \$254,250 if including a community developer position or \$159,250 to continue with a two-person office. Her goal would be to get them funded 60% private and 40% public funds, but explained that will take time to develop. They have started that work and it is progressing. At that point, EDIT monies would be available for them to complete projects in the county. Duane Monroe believed the third person would be beneficial to the county and pay for itself with the other commissioners concurring. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the request up \$254,250 pending contract negotiations. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Rusty Inman, executive director John Jay Center for Learning, requested \$70,000 medical supplies for training and HVAC plumbing, electrical training. The equipment list came from IU Health and Ivy Tech for what a training program would look like moving forward. This would be a certificate and degree class from CNA to LPN. The hospital could also utilize it as an offsite training. Mr. Aker explained they had only funded \$25,000 and asked if any services had been cut due to the decrease. Mr. Inman explained they did cut HSE classes from three days a week down to one and eliminated the program with the Jay County Jail. Doug Horn agreed with the need for training from the individual and local businesses and made a motion for \$35,000. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Redkey Fireworks Committee again requested \$2,500 for their fireworks celebration. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the request as presented. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

A funding request from West Jay Community Center was tabled until their meeting on Monday.

#### LAND PURCHASE

A decision regarding moving forward with a land purchase on Tyson Road was tabled pending the return of the two appraisals. There are still unanswered questions regarding the ARP and IEDC funding if the project were to be moved to the other piece of ground. Emily Franks, auditor, questioned where the money would come from for the purchase as an additional appropriation would need to be advertised to pay for the ground.

With no further business, Doug Horn made a motion to adjourn at 4:43 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Jay County Auditor