

DECEMBER 22, 2025

The Jay County Commissioners met in session on Monday, December 22, 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 the joint special session on December 3rd and the regular session on December 8th, 2025. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

68 ACRE FARM GROUND

The commissioners opened farm rent bids for the 68 acres as advertised, they came in as the following: Simon Dirksen for \$337 per acre, Chris Muhlenkamp for \$420 per acre, Schoenlein Brothers \$376 per acre, and Aaron Post for \$330 per acre. Duane Monroe made a motion to accept the farm bid from Chris Muhlenkamp for \$420 an acre, a total of \$28,560 for 2026. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

SHERIFF

Larry "Ray" Newton, sheriff, and Ben Schwartz, chief Deputy, came to the commissioners for approval to purchase new vehicles. Mr. Schwartz was able to locate two 2026 Dodge Durangos from John Jones Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep in Corydon, Indiana for \$87,103. The department also requested to purchase a 2026 Chevrolet Silverado from Jim Schmidt Chevrolet of Delphos Ohio for \$ 53,600. Lastly, they presented a quote from Safety Systems to outfit all three vehicles for \$20,272.85. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve the purchase of vehicles and equipment through the cum cap vehicle fund totaling \$160,975.85. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Newton discussed the purchase of new tasers for the department. They would like to purchase the X10 from Axon Enterprises, a current vendor. The overall cost for 60 months would be \$100,020 including all the training and batteries. It will be approximately \$20,000 per year, due every March for the next five years. Mr. Aker questioned the anticipated life expectancy of a taser. Mr. Newton was unable to give an exact timeframe as it depends on usage but estimated around eight years. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve the purchase of the tasers totaling \$100,020. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JOURNEY HOME

Justin Lester, director of advancement, came to the commissioners with some financial information, but will be sending commissioners a balance sheet. The Department of Veteran Affairs identified three areas of critical concern with the county home facility. The first was the limestone foundation which would require it to be evaluated by a structural engineer. The second was regarding the outdated wiring requiring an electrical engineer to assess the system. The third critical issue was regarding the sprinkler system which was only partially functional during the walk through. They require a fire Marshall or protection specialist review and sign off on the system. Mr. Aker suggested they reach out to the fire protection vendor for their review. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve the electrical and structural engineering at their expense and Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

HIGHWAY

Bob Howell, superintendent, revisited the topic of the air compressor for the department. It was decided to stick with the three-phase for \$2,328.99. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the purchase of the air compressor for \$2,328.99 with a two-year warranty. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Mr. Howell then presented 4 quotes for new plows as follows: W.A. Jones- 9'2" for \$9,930 and the 8'2" for \$9,648 for a total of \$19,579 with installation. True Land Equipment out of Ft Wayne, Indiana for \$19,648.03 with installation. The third from Right Way Automotive out of Albany, Indiana for \$25,899.90 with installation and Lehman's Automotive Repair in Berne, Indiana for \$21,966.35. He did receive one quote for the 12-foot plow and are going to hold off until they get more quotes. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve the purchase of the

two Boss Plows from W.A. Jones for \$19,579. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Howell presented three quotes to put concrete back in the enclosed salt bay. This would provide a wash bay for the trucks and would include a 40–42-foot trench drain. The first quote was from Top Shelf Concrete for \$21,350, the second from Lawrence Excavating \$21,793 and the third from KBL \$23,787. He only has \$7,500 in their building & repairs account and would like the commissioners to cover the remaining costs. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve the work through Top Shelf Concrete for \$21,350 with \$7,500 coming out of the 2026 highway budget and the rest coming of out of Cum Cap Development. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Items from the Retirement Center was discussed including transferring the bush hog and tractor to the highway department. Ms. Franks recommended the items be transferred to the department on inventory. Mr. Howell suggested the mower and Ford Explorer be placed in the spring auction. There were a few other small items they would like such as an air compressor. The Honda Odyssey has been scrapped and proceeds deposited.

Lastly, annual bids for aggregates were opened by commissioners. The two bids received were from IMI and US Aggregates. US Aggregates bid, \$12.90 a ton for #53 and #73, #2 for \$15.60 per ton, \$45 per ton for INDOT Class 1 Rip Rap and \$19.60 per ton for INDOT Rip Rap. IMI bid #2, #53 and #73 at \$16.55 per ton for state, or \$13.35 per ton commercial, with \$17.50 per ton for state revetment rip rap. Duane Monroe made a motion to accept all bids for Aggregates. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Stephanie Klarer, assistant superintendent/ERC, requested the commissioners have an executive session as soon as possible to discuss right of way. The commissioners set an executive session for January 6th, 2026 at 3:45 p.m. with a special session at 4:00 p.m.

LEAP MANAGED IT

Mike Stults, Client Success Manager, came to the commissioners to discuss the 365 Licensing and other software updates for 2026. The average cost per account is \$202 for the year with approximately 178 email addresses. Duane Monroe made a motion to accept \$36,059.76 annually to LEAP equipment and Doug Horn seconded the motion out of this year's cum cap and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

An employee had requested to purchase their old computer from the county. The recommended price from IT was \$25. Doug Horn made a motion to sell the computer to Cherrie Geesaman for \$25. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

EMS

Gary Barnett and Jessica Curtis, shift supervisors, came to the commissioners to give an update on operations. The new ambulance is scheduled for delivery February 4, 2026 and will then be remounted. On January 2, 2026, they will begin their security renovations. An electrical contractor is scheduled to look at the Dunkirk EMS base this week. Mr. Barnett requested Jessica Curtis be allowed to sign claims for the department. Duane Monroe made a motion to allow Jessica Curtis to sign claims for EMS. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Lastly, Mr. Barnett requested three claims be paid prior to the end of the year. The first was for medical direction from Dr. Kornilow in the amount of \$1,300, the second claim was to Stryker for a maintenance contract in the amount of \$11,544.89 and Platinum Educational Groups for \$1,160. Doug made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

EMA

Samantha Rhodohanel, director, came to the commissioners to discuss a grant received from the AEP foundation for \$7,500. They would like to update their drone for the department to

meet federal requirements. The drone will be used for damage assessments in the event of natural disasters. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the grant application as presented. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Lastly, Ms. Rhodehamel requested permission to carry 14.5 hours of flex time through the end of March 2026. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the carryover of flex time to the end of March. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

RETIREMENT CENTER

Stacey Johnson, director, informed commissioners the remaining food had been given to Second Chance ministries, and the building is mostly cleaned out. The commissioners discussed additional security cameras for the facility. Ms. Franks will have LEAP IT look into options. John May, maintenance for the facility, updated commissioners on various work including updating fire extinguishers and noting all smoke alarms passed inspection the prior week. The kitchen suppression system will need to be redone soon. Mr. May also questioned how much repair work he should complete. The commissioners asked him to start with immediate repairs such as leaks and sealing the building.

Lastly, Ms. Franks informed commissioners the dumpster at the facility will be moved to the highway at the start of the year. How claims would work moving forward was discussed with Duane Monroe making a motion to allow the auditor to sign claims and to allow a county credit card for John May. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JCDC CONTRACT

A contract with Jay County Development Corporation for 2026 was presented for commissioner approval. The only update to the contract from 2025 was the amount of \$254,250 with all other terms remaining the same. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve the contract as presented. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

68 ACRES-REA

Duane Monroe made a motion to stop Rundell Ernstberger and Associates from completing any more work on the 68 acres. Doug Horn seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote with Chad Aker voting against the motion.

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

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

The emergency claims were presented for Commissioner approval as follows: ECI Regional Planning District \$3,000, NuFlow \$18,500, Allied Mechanical \$6,952, Hometown Hardware \$989.51, Four U Office \$2,554.36, MSS Engineering \$5,595, Cleaver Cabling \$1,883, and Rundell Ernstberger & Associates (REA) \$20,518.05. Mr. Monroe questioned the claim to ECI Regional Planning District for work completed on the asset management plans for 2026 Community Crossings Grant for Pennville, Salamonina and Bryant. After reaching out to the communities, they were not planning on applying due to lack of matching funds. Mr. Aker recommended speaking to ECI Regional Planning at their next meeting. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve the emergency claims as presented and tabling the \$3,000 for ECI Regional Planning District. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Aker updated the board after a recent meeting concerning the proposed public safety building. The departments believe they will not be able to use the existing building. Mr. Schemenaur counseled they update the hospital for them to approach their board regarding the change.

Mr. Aker announced he would not be seeking re-election or the presidency in 2026.

With no further business, Doug Horn made a motion to adjourn at 10:57 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

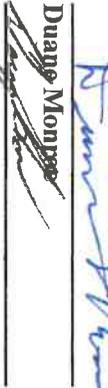
JANUARY 6, 2026

The Jay County Commissioners met in executive session Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 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 meeting was to discuss pending litigation per IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(B)0.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Chad Aker


Duane Monroe


Doug Horn
Attest: 
Jay County Auditor

JANUARY 6, 2026

The Jay County Commissioners met in special session Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the courthouse auditorium. Attending was Doug Horn, Duane Monroe, auditor Emily Franks, attorney Wes Schemenaur, and Chad Aker, president, presiding. The meeting was to vote on pending litigation per IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(B).

The first matter discussed was regarding a settlement agreement between the county and Donald and Christine Whitenack. An appropriation of real estate had previously been filed in relation to bridge work planned for 350 West between SR26 and 200 North. A settlement of \$17,500 an acre for the right of way, is pending commissioner approval. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the amount for settlement totaling \$5,308. Duane Monroe seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The second matter discussed was also regarding a mediated settlement with former sheriff's department employee, Kristen Coleman. A settlement from the county for wages in the amount of \$19,754.88 is pending commissioner approval. This would dismiss the county of all current and future claims. Ms. Franks confirmed the settlement would be paid out of commissioners' budget in county general. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the

mediated settlement amount from the county in the amount of \$19,754.88. Duane Monroe seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Lastly, commissioners were asked to approve and sign a letter to the plan commission. The letter states the commissioners would not be requesting or requiring a road use agreement with Minnich Poultry for their proposed feed mill project and biochar facility. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve and sign the letter as presented. Doug Horn seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

With no further business, Doug Horn made a motion to adjourn at 4:06 p.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