

JANUARY 12, 2026

The Jay County Commissioners met in session on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 9:00. a.m. in the courthouse auditorium. Attending was Doug Horn, Duane Monroe, auditor Emily Franks, attorney Wes Schemenaur, and Chad Aker. Duane Monroe made a motion to approve the minutes from December 22, 2025, Special and Executive session minutes from January 6, 2026. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Doug Horn made a motion to nominate Duane Monroe as commissioner president for 2026. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Duane Monroe made a motion to appoint Chad Aker as commissioner vice president for 2026. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Cambria Sparks, Indiana Central East District Service Officer, came before commissioners to discuss service officer accreditation standards that have been established by the State. Service officers are required to be open for at least 1,000 office hours annually and with hours required to be posted. Mr. Moser is now required to obtain a PIV or Personal Identity Verification Card and a smart card reader for his office. He is also required to utilize the claims management system and complete all annual training and exams. Any noncompliance will result in corrective action or loss of accreditation. The officer would have 30 days to submit a corrective action plan and 60 days to remediate. If that is not completed, a hearing will take place with the IDVA, where their majority vote is final. Ms. Sparks will periodically update the commissioners on key performance indicators.

ECI REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT

Bill Walters, executive director, came to the commissioners to give an update on grants. They have started developing an EDA grant for Grant County as they were designated as a disaster area. There is around \$500,000 available for Brownfields for the entire area. A presentation was completed in Detroit regarding a \$1 million EDA revolving loan fund to clean up anything in the region. It would allow money for the clean up to help developers close the gap. They are also working with the Department of Transportation regarding a culvert grant for work in all four counties. It could cover survey and engineering costs for bridges and undersized culverts. As well as help for community crossings grants or used directly for the bridge.

The Safer Streets for All (SS4A) Grant's data is being compiled and will be taken to the full board for adoption. It will then be presented to commissioners with a full report of the areas identified. They are continuing work with the USDA Best 6 programs with workshops at John Jay Center for Learning for businesses and entrepreneurs. This is in conjunction with Ted Baker from the Innovation Connector at Ball State to help put together business plans.

Duane Monroe questioned a recent \$3,000 invoice submitted for work towards the community crossings grant for Salamonia, Bryant and Pennville. Mr. Walters explained the work included making sure the inventory and road asset management plan is complete. As well as working with the community on estimates for roadwork, bid packets and closing out of the grant. They have been working with Bryant and JCDC to see if there is something they can do in their area. Mr. Monroe mentioned most communities did not have funding available to use as match money for projects. Mr. Walters explained most communities had money available such as MVH Restricted funds but could work with the towns to try to locate match monies. The commissioners asked for a motion to be made before work is completed in the future. Chad Aker made amotion to approve the claim to ECI Regional Planning District for \$3,000 related to work for 2026 CCMG. 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 renewal of the jail medical contract for 2026. A contract renewal from Quality

Correctional for \$288,300 covered included the additional amount allotted by council for 2026 would be to have a medical technician for Saturday and Sunday for a total of 16 hours each day. The prior contract already included a nurse from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. throughout the week. Mr. Newton explained his goal is to get the medical away from the correctional officers. A quote for medical services out of Kentucky came in at \$288,600 that covered 1 nurse for 12 hours a day, for six days a week. Mr. Newton asked the county to continue to go with Quality Correctional Care. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the contract with Quality Correctional Care. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Lastly, Mr. Newton asked commissioners to request he be allowed to spend \$8,000 annually from his contractual services for the Indiana Sheriff's Association to review standard operating procedures policies for jailers. It would include training, monthly testing and certifications. He will look at doing the same for merit deputies next year and will pay for it out of his county corrections fund. Chad Aker agreed it would be good for liability purposes. Doug Horn made a motion to allow the expenditure. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

HIGHWAY

Bob Howell, superintendent, updated commissioners on operations. They have the road closed on 300 N between 400 E and 450 as the box culvert has been received. The work is expected to be completed by the end of the week, pending weather delays. They will have a stone backfill for two weeks before the concrete work. The department continues to work on keeping potholes at a minimum and preparing gravel roads as they can due to freezing and thawing. Lastly, the Boss Plows should be received by the department next week.

United Consulting contracts for bridge #93 and #110 were briefly discussed. The department questioned whether commissioners would like to discuss contracts first or send them to INDOT for their approval ahead of commissioners. Chad Aker made a motion to have the contracts go before INDOT first for approval. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. A special session might have to be set up to discuss the finances with any contract negotiations being discussed in executive session.

A capital asset list for the county home was presented to commissioners with items the highway department would like to transfer to them. The list included a 40-amp battery charger, Kobota Tractor, 60" country clipper and Bush Hog. Chad Aker made a motion to transfer items from the retirement center to the highway department. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

A claim to Jim and Kristen Schoenlein for the purchase of land for a right of way in the amount of \$1,750 was presented for commissioner approval. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the claim as submitted. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

COMMISSIONER BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

<u>Board / Committee</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>
Drainage Board	All
EDIT Advisory Board	All
Soil and Water Conservation Board	All
Solid Waste District Board	All
Tax Abatement Advisory Committee	All
Jay County Development Corp Board	Doug Horn
Personnel Committee	Duane Monroe
ECI Workforce Development Board	Duane Monroe
Internal Controls Board	Doug Horn
Jay County Chamber of Commerce Board	Duane Monroe
Jay County Regional Sewer District Board	Chad Aker & Duane Monroe

Jay/Portland Building and Planning	Duane Monroe
LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Commission)	Chad Aker
Jay Co. Plan Commission	Chad Aker
Road Committee	Duane Monroe
ADA Coordinator	Chad Aker
Flooding Task Force	Doug Horn

Doug Horn made a motion to approve the board assignments as presented. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION APPOINTMENTS

Mike Leonhard and Jane Spencer still need to be contacted to make sure they are interested in serving another term on the Jay County Cemetery Association. The commissioners agreed to move that appointment to their next meeting. Doug Horn made a motion to approve all other commissioner appointments as presented.

Department	Appointee
Cemetery Commission	Rex Pinkerton
Courthouse Superintendent	Monte Schrack
Emergency Management	Samantha Rhodehamel
Highway Superintendent	Robert Howell
JEMS	Gary Barnett, Kyle Gerlach, Jessica Curtis
Veteran's Services	Cliff Moser
County Commissioner Attorney	Wesley Schemenaur
Organization	Appointee
Alcohol Beverage Commission	Terry Hanks
Public Defender Board	Todd Penrod
<i>Jay County Cemetery Association (5)</i>	<i>Mike Leonhard, Jane Spencer</i>
Jay County Convention and Tourism Commission (2)	Jane Ann Runyon
Jay County Plan Commission - JC Commissioner (1)	Chad Aker
Portland Planning Commission - for Buffer Zone (4)	Chuck Denney
Jay County Regional Sewer District (3)	Duane Monroe
Jay County Redevelopment Commission (1)	Doug Horn, Carl Walker, Derek Rodgers
Jay Co. EDIT Advisory Board (1)	Cindy Shepherd

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS

Appointed Positions	Elected Officials		
Building & Planning Board	Chad	Assessor	Chad
Community Corrections	Doug	Auditor	Doug
Cooperative Extension	Doug	Circuit Court	Doug
Courthouse Building	Chad	Clerk	Doug
Emergency Management Agency (EMA)	Chad	Coroner	Duane
Health Department	Chad	Prosecutor	Duane
Highway Department	Chad	Recorder	Chad
Jay Emergency Medical Services (EMS)	Chad	Sheriff	Duane
Probation	Duane	Superior Court	Duane
Retirement Center	Duane	Surveyor	Doug
Veterans Affairs	Doug	Treasurer	Duane
Welfare	Duane		

The only changes from 2025 were the addition of the courthouse building assignment to Chad Aker and assigning Duane Monroe to the sheriff's department. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the department assignments as presented. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

John Hemmelgarn requested Kaleb Hemmelgarn be reappointed to the Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals. Chad Aker made a motion to appoint Kaleb Hemmelgarn. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION 2026-01

A Resolution to terminate Interlocal Agreement- WHEREAS, the Jay County Commissioners and the Jay County Redevelopment Commission entered into an interlocal agreement in December of 2024 to develop a 68-acre parcel of real estate owned by Jay County to encourage the development of commercial and residential real estate projects;

WHEREAS, the Jay County Commissioners committed certain ARPA funds to the Jay County Redevelopment Commission for use in said development project;

WHEREAS, both parties to said agreement have expressed mutual desire to terminate said agreement. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS that the December 2024 Interlocal Agreement between the Jay County Commissioners and the Jay County Redevelopment Commission be terminated.

Doug Horn made a motion to approve the Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

A claim to Donald and Christine Whitenack for \$5,308 and settlement agreement was presented. Doug Horn made a motion to sign the settlement agreement and approve the claim to Donald and Christine Whitenack for land related to cause 38DO1-2511-PL-13. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

The payroll docket was presented for commissioner approval. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the payroll docket as presented. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

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

The treasurer's report for December was presented for commissioner approval. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

A credit card request for Angela Byrum, Recorder, was presented for commissioner approval. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the credit card request. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Emergency Claims were presented for Jay County Humane Society for 4th Quarter Animal Control Services in the amount of \$17,078.75. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the claim as presented. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. A claim to Indiana County Assessor's Association for conference registration in the amount of \$1,125 was presented for commissioner approval. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the claim as presented. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

With no further business, Chad Aker made a motion to adjourn at 10:09 a.m; Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Duane Monroe

Chad Aker

Doug Horn

Attest:

Jay County Auditor