

  
Chad Aker

  
Doug Horn

Attest:   
Jay County Auditor

**MARCH 9th, 2026**

The Jay County Commissioners met in session on Monday, March 9th, 2026, at 9:00. a.m. in the courthouse auditorium. Attending was Doug Horn, Chad Aker, auditor Emily Franks, attorney Wes Schemenaur, and Duane Monroe, president, presiding. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the minutes from February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER REAL ESTATE**

The commissioners opened the meeting up to a public hearing for the transfer of certificates held after the tax sale in September 2025. All applications from non-profit organizations were required to be submitted by March 6<sup>th</sup>. There was no comment from the public regarding the matter and a vote was taken.

Resolution 2026-05 for 301 E Bell Ave and 19 S Ash St. Redkey as the other two properties advertised had since been redemmed. The only application received was from Redkey Economic Development Corporation Inc. Chad Aker made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-05 as presented to transfer the certificate to REDC. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Resolution 2026-06 for 123 N Meridian St. Portland. The only application was submitted by Portland Economic Development Corporation. Doug Horn made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-06 as presented to transfer the certificate to PEDC. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Resolution 2026-07 for 110 S Broadway in Pennville. There was only one application submitted from Pennville Economic Development Corporation Inc. Doug Horn made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-07 as presented to PEDC. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**COURTHOUSE**

Monte Shrack, superintendent, came to the commissioners with several items. The first was a quote of \$7,489 from Allied Mechanical for repairs to the courthouse chiller. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the quote as presented. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Mr. Shrack noted Millwright Solutions will fix the issue with front walk as part of their warranty and a quote from them to put cuts in the sidewalk was presented to commissioners. The commissioners asked Mr. Shrack to obtain opinions from other concrete companies regarding the matter.

Mr. Shrack also presented commissioners with a quote to remove the wax from the marble floors in the courthouse. The commissioners agreed with the project but asked it be put in the budget moving forward. Lastly, the roof at the courthouse and extension office have been inspected by a roofing company. It is a rubber/plastic type of roofing with areas containing splits. He will be getting a quote for just patching but highly recommends replacement in 2028.

**HIGHWAY**

Stephanie Klarer, assistant superintendent/ERC, asked commissioners to sign the small structures agreement with USI Consultants as approved at the prior meeting. It has been reviewed by the county attorney and was signed by commissioners. Robert Howell,

superintendent, reported that the new dump truck will be delivered today. Quotes through Sourcwell to build out the truck were presented to commissioners. WA Jones was the most responsive at \$113,342 with an estimated completion date of June. An additional appropriation will be submitted to council to cover the complete cost. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the build from WA Jones as presented. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Howell reported no impending issues. They will meet with INDOT regarding the 26 E detour route for a bridge replacement. The detour and truck enforcement was discussed, with more information available after the meeting with INDOT. Bids for the 2026 Community Crossings Grant were opened. The two bids were from Brooks Construction at \$825,318 and DV Paving for \$994,173.68. Chad Aker made a motion to take both bids under advisement. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **ARCH BRIDGE KROOZERS**

Gary Johnston, Arch Bridge Kroozers, came to the commissioner to request use of the courthouse on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, from 12-5 p.m. Mr. Shrack believed both restrooms would need to be available for the event. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the use of the courthouse for the event with the courthouse department responsible for the event. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **SHERIFF**

Larry "Ray" Newton, sheriff, came before the commissioners to review and submit the annual Jail Report for 2025. He noted number of arrests, warrants served, staffing levels, and transports by staff. Various programs provided by the jail and the inmate work program were also discussed. Lastly, a list of unfunded needs and projects were discussed including jail policies, resurfacing concrete floors, stripping and repairing coating in cell pods, replacing all speakers and key fob readers, and installing a water management system to prevent excessive water usage by inmates.

Mr. Newton presented a quote from Havel Brothers for preventative maintenance for jail equipment. The contract would be for 3 years, 2026-2028 at \$36,408 per year. Mr. Aker questioned if this was in his budget, which Mr. Newton confirmed. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the three-year agreement with Havel Brothers. Muhlenkamp Construction is scheduled to start work on the parking lot next week, weather permitting and All Circuit has started delivering materials. The contract with Muhlenkamp Construction was presented for commissioners' approval. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the contract as presented. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Samantha Rhodahanel, director, came to the commissioners to give a quarterly update on operations. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting for the HMEP Grant has occurred. The consulting company will now draft that plan. A contract with JH Consulting LLC for \$9,800 was presented for commissioners' approval. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the contract as presented. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. The first milestone report for the SEED Grant has been submitted. She is still waiting to hear from the federal level regarding the salary reimbursement grant.

A list of other meetings and training attended was provided to commissioners including countywide radio project, cybersecurity, POET regarding the carbon sequestration, COOP of government tabletop training and an airplane incident training with the airport. This is severe weather awareness week with a statewide tornado drill Tuesday at 10:15 a.m. pending weather. The January snowstorm must be in the top 10% of historical snowfall and the state will not be pursuing federal funding.

#### **COUNTY HOME**

John May, repair and maintenance, came to the commissioners to give an update on operations. The permitting is due for both the chair lift and elevator. He asked

commissioners whether to move forward with permitting or submit it as out of service. It is estimated to be \$477 for the chair lift inspection and \$120 permit fee to DHS for the elevator. The permit for the boilers will be every two years. The commissioners agreed to put them out of service. Mr. May would also like to see a different maintenance plan now that the facility is shut down from TK Elevator. Goodhew roofing will come out and look at the leaks from the roof this week as it should be guaranteed.

Lastly, a couple of items noted by the structural engineer were discussed including venting and electrical. The commissioners agreed the items should wait until an agreement with Journey Home could be negotiated.

#### **JEMS**

Gary Barnett, shift supervisor, came to the commissioners to discuss a change order for the new ambulance remount. Penn Care found additional items to be replaced once they started on the remount. The total change order is an additional \$2,003 for five items including the ALS doors (\$1600) Doug Horn made a motion to approve the change order as presented. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **ARR UPDATE/RADIOS**

Emily Franks, auditor, informed there would be a joint session on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 5:30 with the county council to discuss the remaining ARP funds. If the county wants to proceed with reallocating funds from the 68 Acres, there would only be two options as presented by Baker Tilly. The county could reallocate the expenses back to employee benefits in 2024 or assign them to another county project. The only other project still open is the countywide radio project. There has been no guarantee on either option from State Board of Accounts. The benefit to option one would be to stop the clock on the expenditure deadline of December 31<sup>st</sup> and the money would be in County General until after audit. Option two would pay down on the principal for the radio project.

#### **INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT- EMERGENCY RADIOS**

**2026-08 A resolution** of the Board of Commissioners approving an interlocal cooperation agreement with the City of Portland for the Purchase of Emergency Radio Equipment was presented for commissioners' approval. The Resolution was accompanied by the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Portland. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the resolution as presented and to sign the interlocal Agreement. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**2026-09 A resolution** of the Board of Commissioners approving an interlocal cooperation agreement with the Town of Pennville for the Purchase of Emergency Radio Equipment was presented for commissioners' approval. The Resolution was accompanied by the Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Pennville. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the resolution as presented and to sign the interlocal Agreement. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **MEETING CHANGE**

The clerk notified the commissioners early voting will start on April 7<sup>th</sup> in the courthouse auditorium. Chad Aker made a motion to move the meetings to 5:30 p.m. for their two meetings in April. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting for March 23<sup>rd</sup> was previously moved to March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

The treasurer's report for February 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.

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

An emergency claim was presented for Circuit City Reporting Inc in the amount of \$440. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the claim 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 10:38 a.m; Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Duane Monroe

Chad Aker

Doug Horn

Attest:

Jay County Auditor

**MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

The Jay County Council and Commissioners met in joint session on Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 5:30 PM, in the auditorium at the Jay County Courthouse. Attending was Randy May, Bryan Alexander, Harold Towell, Faron Parr from the council, Chad Aker, Duane Monroe, and Doug Horn representing the commissioners, auditor Emily Franks, county attorney Wes Schemenaur. Absent council members Cindy Bracy, Michael Brewster. They met in joint session to discuss ARPA obligations related to the 68 Acres.

**ARPA OBLIGATIONS**

Duane Monroe explained he would like to move forward with option #4 provided by Baker Tilly, entering a replacement contract/subaward post-12/31/24 obligation deadline. This would see the money be spent directly on Motorola for the public safety radios. Mr. Alexander agreed, adding if they needed to pay the money back, they could sell the ground. Mr. Aker recommended the money still be used towards the 68 Acre project as originally obligated. He voiced his support for a project that could generate revenue in the future such as housing. Mr. Alexander expressed concerns with spending the ARPA monies before the end of the year deadline. Mr. Horn explained he was in favor of option #4 as the county would already be spending money on the project. While he was in favor of the 68 acres, not enough partners came forward to get momentum on the project. Harold Towell, Randy May and Faron Parr stated they had no opinions to add. When asked about the matter, Wes Schemenaur explained the county had tried to get opinions from federal and state officials along with Baker Tilly. He could offer no additional guidance on the matter, explaining it was the council and commissioners' decision. Matt Minnich arrived at the meeting around 5:50 p.m. and voiced his support for option#4.

Doug Horn made a motion to go with option#4 as provided by Baker Tilly to go towards the purchase of the public safety system with the remaining \$1,271,491.37 from the 68-acre project with the Jay County Redevelopment and the remaining \$106,378 remaining with the REA contract for the 68-acre project. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by majority vote with Chad Aker voting against the motion. Doug Horn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:52 p.m. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Duane Monroe

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Jay County Auditor