

FEBRUARY 23, 2026

The Jay County Commissioners met in session on Monday, February 23rd, 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 9th, 2026. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

LIFESTREAM

Kevin DeCamp, project manager, presented commissioners with the 4th Quarter operating claim to close out the year for the public transit grant for \$199,053. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the claim as presented. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

COURT STREET CLOSURE REQUEST

Gavin Clay and Kenzie Tobe, Jay County Business Capstone Students, came to request Court Street be closed on May 16th from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This would be in conjunction with the Arch Bridge Kroozers event. Chad Aker made a motion to approve their request. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

LITTLE SALAMONIA CHURCH

Susan Kaelin, board member, came to the commissioners to bring awareness of the demolition of the Little Salamonia Church. Wes Schemenaur explained the church would fall under the jurisdiction of the city of Portland as it is in the 2-mile radius. The county does share building and planning with the city, but local code does not require any permitting. There may be additional permits required through state agencies such as IDEM. Lastly, Mrs. Kaelin reported the nearest grave is close to 30 feet and believes the law requires a minimum of 300 feet.

PROPERTY ORDINANCE

Randy May did not attend the meeting, and the matter was not discussed.

SHERIFF

Larry "Ray" Newton, sheriff came to commissioner for approval to purchase a mini-split air conditioner unit for the upstairs IT room. The unit went out last year and was believed to be 15 years old. The quote presented was from Havel Brothers of \$16,887. Mr. Aker requested three quotes be provided as the quote seemed a little high. Mr. Newton explained the current service agreement with Havel Brothers would cover work on any equipment purchased from them. While commissioners understood the purpose of vendors, the county policy requires three quotes be obtained. Chad Aker made a motion to request three quotes before deciding the matter. Duane Monroe seconded the motion. A vote was taken with Duane Monroe and Chad Aker voting for the motion and Doug Horn voting against the motion. The motion passed by majority vote.

HIGHWAY

Stephanie Klarer, assistant superintendent/ERC, came to the commissioners for a signature on the title page on stage #3 plans related to Bridge #93 and Bridge #110. Chad Aker made a motion to approve signing the title page as presented. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Ms. Klarer presented an award letter for Bridge #64 (on 400 N, East of 700 E) that was submitted in December. The award covers the utilities, construction, and inspection up to \$1,888,000. An RFP for preliminary engineering and right of way will be put out soon.

Lastly, a contract with USI Consultants for inspections of small structures was presented for commissioner approval. The department has located an inventory list for 2016 that will serve as the base list of around 150 structures. The report will provide the department with a list of those structures close to failing at a cost of roughly \$60,000, \$350 per structure. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the contract with USI Consultants pending approval from the county attorney. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

ADA/TITLE VI

A contract with USI Consultants to create an ADA transition plan, Title VI plan including annual maintenance for two years was presented for commissioners' approval. The company will ensure all goals and accomplishments will be submitted timely for the length of the contract. An ADA plan requires a major update every three years, during that time they will come out to the facilities and inspect them. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the contract with USI Consultants not to exceed \$35,000. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

REDEVELOPMENT REQUEST - RADIOS

Duane Monroe presented fellow commissioners with a request to approach the Jay County Redevelopment Commission for up to 800,000. The money would be used to cover the cost of volunteer radios/equipment currently estimated at \$758,076. They will still be required to pay the maintenance annually but most entities thought it could be covered. Mr. Aker clarified the county would be purchasing the equipment, but entities would be responsible for maintenance and up keep. Chad Aker made a motion to approve a request not to exceed 800,000 to the Jay County Redevelopment Commission. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JEMS

Gary Barnett, Kyle Gerlach, and Jessica Curtis, shift supervisors, came to the commissioners to give an update on monthly operations and provided the financial report for January. The department was not aware their copier lease was not going to be extended. Three quotes were provided to commissioners for comparable copiers. Mr. Barnett would like to purchase the Ricoh IM C2510 for \$106.59 per month with a 60-month lease. Doug Horn made a motion to go with the department's request. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

ECl REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT APPOINTMENT

Chad Aker made a motion to reappoint himself and Ceann Bales to the East Central Indiana Regional Planning District (ECIRPD) for another term. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

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

The clerk's monthly report for January 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.

Emergency Claims were presented for TKE Elevator \$600.16 and a claim to Donald and Christine Whitenack for \$5,308. Chad Aker made a motion to approve both claims as presented. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Emily Franks, auditor, asked for a policy to be set to replace mishandled timecard badges at a cost of \$5. The commissioners agreed to policy excluding due to wear and tear.

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