

**MARCH 30th, 2026**

The Jay County Commissioners met in session on Monday, March 30th, 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 March 9<sup>th</sup> and the Joint Session on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**SHERIFF**

Larry “Ray” Newton, sheriff, came before the commissioners with a quote for additional work needed to separate new the radio equipment from the remaining addition. Motorola would like to see a “building within a building” including a fireproof wall. The cost to finish the area is approximately \$12,475 with two separate heating/AC units and an additional quote of \$2,241.25 from All Circuit for the electrical work. Mr. Aker questioned whether additional space was needed by the department. Mr. Newton explained that the space would be needed for additional storage of his IT equipment. He added that the money was available in his budget for the additional costs. With no additional monetary request, Chad Aker made a motion to approve the additional costs to the building from the sheriff’s budget. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Newton also provided three quotes for a mini split air conditioning unit as requested at a prior meeting. The first quote was from Dave’s Heating and Cooling for \$5,278, the second quote from Laux Plumbing of \$8,192.90. Havel would not provide an updated quote, with the original quote of \$16,887. After speaking with the tech from Havel, he would like to purchase the unit from the lowest quote. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the purchase from Dave’s Heating and Cooling for \$5,278. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**COMCAST**

Jason Thomas, a representative from Comcast introduced himself to the commissioners. He explained he provides a white glove service for all agencies and can provide lower rates negotiated by their contract with the State of Indiana. Commissioners agreed to have him meet with the auditor to review accounts. They also requested he investigate burying the cable causing damage to the outside of the sheriff’s department. Mr. Thomas agreed to investigate the matter.

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT**

Yvette Weiland, director, and Gary Hendershot, deputy director, came before commissioners to approve their 2027 DOC grant application. This will be for them to start the application process. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the letter as presented and sign the grant application. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Hendershot gave commissioners an update on their building damage. The heavy winds damaged the roof last year and a patch was completed by the landlords. The patch work was removed by the heavy winds a few weeks ago. There have been no repairs completed by the landlord resulting in water in the building. They have not lost operations or had damaged equipment but believed it was only a matter of time with impending weather. Mr. Aker stated they had been looking for a temporary alternative location for the department. Mr. Hendershot explained they needed a new permanent location as a temporary location would not be sufficient. The commissioners agreed to review the situation to look for solutions.

**PLAN COMMISSION ORDINANCES**

John Hemmelgarn, director, and Pati McLaughlin, administrative assistant, Jay-Portland Building and Planning, came to the commissioners on behalf of the plan commission. The commission held a hearing on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 regarding amending the Windfarm and Solar Ordinances and the creation of a Data Center and Battery Storage Ordinances. The ordinance for carbon sequestration is still being reviewed. The wind and solar ordinances mirror each other in the changes regarding increase to setbacks and permitting costs \$1,750 per megawatt to \$2,500. They also added a review of development plans by the plan

commission. Commissioners discussed the road use agreement moving forward requesting stronger language be in the new ordinance for road repair related to damage after the original installation.

Mr. Schemenaur explained the commissioners will have 90 days to approve, reject, or amend the recommendations from the plan commission. Mrs. McLaughlin stated the commission requested a response from the commissioners sooner than later as there are currently moratoriums on Windfarms, Solar Farms, and Battery Storage until a new ordinance is approved. The commissioners agreed to a hearing at their meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

#### **JEMS**

Gary Barnett and Kyle Gerlach, shift supervisors, gave monthly update on operations. An ambulance had a catastrophic engine failure requiring immediate repair to get back in service. Mr. Barnett asked the claim to St. Myers Repair LLC for \$4,353.45 be approved for payment ahead of the claims schedule. Mr. Aker asked that a 5<sup>th</sup> ambulance be considered with a new public safety building. He then made a motion to approve the claim as presented. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **RECOVERY HOUSE**

Kimbra Reynolds, Director JCDC, gave commissioners an update on their Recovery House. The first phase is estimated to be completed by June 2026 with the second phase estimated to start July 1<sup>st</sup>. As such, they are requesting a \$40,000 drawdown of Opioid Settlement monies for work completed. The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase will turn the garage into 4 bedrooms, with laundry and bathroom to be completed Fall 2027. If it goes as planned, there will be five residents after phase 1 and fifteen with a house manager at the end of phase 2. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the drawdown. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REQUEST**

James Phillips, Redkey Resident, came to commissioners to request economic development dollars for a veteran's cemetery in Redkey. The commissioners explained READI monies had already been allotted. However, he could apply for county economic development funds this summer for the 2027 budget. Ceann Bales, JCDC, agreed to help with the application.

#### **HIGHWAY**

Bob Howell, superintendent, provided a quote to repair the roof on the salt building from Structures Unlimited LLC for \$18,480. The company was recommended by the original installer. Mr. Howell noted the quote did not include the price to rent equipment locally. There will also be a purchase of lumber for around the base to protect it moving forward. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the repair from Structures Unlimited LLC out of Infrastructure. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ms. Klarer requested the establishment of fees for permits be looked at to counteract costs. Mr. Schemenaur agreed to put a draft ordinance together for all parties to review and submit changes. Ms. Klarer also updated the commissioners on Bridge #93; it was originally to be let in July. However, due to the condemnation issues, it will not be ready for next month, but will try for November to get it back in line with Bridge #110. The 2025 Operational Report was submitted for commissioner approval. Chad Aker made a motion to approve as presented. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Lastly, Ms. Klarer, requested authorization to proceed with USI Consultants for the 2026 CCMG 400 S paving project between Hwy 67 and State Road 1. The contract covers construction inspection including awarding, verifying correct quantities and materials not to exceed \$37,000. Mr. Monroe questioned if the services would be required for the project. Mr. Aker believed it was necessary due to recent cracking on other projects. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the contract. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Ceann Bales, executive director JCDC, came before commissioners to discuss starting the process of applying through OCRA to create a comprehensive plan for the county. OCRA will fund up to \$60,000 for a county our size with the total cost estimated at \$120,000. JCDC will look for matching funds for the remaining cost. If awarded, the first step will be to publish an RFQ for 30 days with the vendor requirements specified by OCRA. An interview committee will be established to include one commissioner.

Once chosen, the firm would not be hired until funding from OCRA was approved. The last plan on record was from June 1990 but is needed to apply for some grants. Mrs. Bales did caution that the county can only have three open OCRA grants at one time. Chad Aker made a motion to approve applying for the grant. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous approval. The commissioners also decided Doug Horn will be the one to serve on the interview committee, if the grant goes through.

**SCOUT- PE APPROVAL**

Scout Clean Energy for Bitter Ridge Windfarm provided commissioners with a proposed PE as the decommissioning agreement requires an update eight years from when the permit was issued. It would be the same firm UL Solutions that will review costs. Mr. Schemenaur explained the decommissioning agreement will most likely be updated by the new cost and the bond will be updated too. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the engineer as presented. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**EMERGENCY DECLARATION- BURN BAN**

Commissioners signed a Local Disaster Emergency Declaration on a recently issued Burn Ban March 21, 2026 that was since terminated. Chad Aker made a motion approve the declaration. 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 March was presented for commissioner approval. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the claims docket as presented. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

An Emergency Claim was presented to Christopher Burke Engineering for .80 cents. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the claim as presented. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Chad Aker to approve the transfer of funds for the retirement center in the amount of \$65.60. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioners reminded those present their meetings in April will be moved to a 5:30 p.m. start due to early voting in the auditorium.

With no further business, Chad Aker made a motion to adjourn at 10:56 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

April 1st, 2026

The Jay County Commissioners and Council met in joint executive session on Wednesday, April 1st, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the courthouse auditorium. Attending was Doug Horn, Chad Aker, auditor Emily Franks, attorney Wes Schemenaur, and Duane Monroe, president. Also, council members: Cindy Bracy, Bryan Alexander, Faron Parr, Harold Towell and Matt Mimnich, president. They met in executive session to discuss a real property transaction per IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(D)(vi).

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

**JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Duane Monroe



Chad Aker



Doug Horn



Attest:

Jay County Auditor