

JULY 27TH, 2026

The Jay County Commissioners met in session on Monday, July 13th, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the courthouse auditorium. Attending was Doug Horn, auditor Emily Franks, attorney Wes Schemenaur, and Chad Aker, vice president, presiding. Duane Monroe attended the meeting remotely per county policy. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the minutes from July 13th, 2026. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

ADA/TITLE IV COUNTY POLICY

A public hearing was held for the updated county ADA and Title IV policies as prepared by USI Consultants. The hearing was opened up for public comment with no comment made Doug Horn made a motion to approve the policies as presented. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Resolution 2026-10, Appointing the ADA & Title VI Coordinator and Adopting Procedures was then presented for commissioner approval. Doug Horn made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-10 as presented. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

OPIOID SETTLEMENT- SOBER LIVING HOUSE

Kimbra Reynolds, Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition Executive Director, came before commissioners to request another drawn down of \$100,000 for the Sober Living House. She gave a brief update on progress including walls complete and cabinets for the kitchen in phase one. The second phase has started with the plumbers navigating the tear down and expansion of the facility. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the \$100,000 draw down pending council approval. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JAY COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION

Dillon Muhlenkamp, treasurer, came to commissioners to request they consider establishing a dedicated maintenance and improvement fund for the Jay County Fairgrounds. The request would be for \$50,000 annually, with \$10,000 dedicated to the 4-H council. While the county leases to the Jay County Fair Association, the Association has a sub-lease with the 4-H Council. Type of events hosted annually were read including: 4-H programs, Facility Rentals, Auctions and Educational Programs. The benefits were read including preserving county-owned property, reducing deferred maintenance and encouraging tourism. Mr. Muhlenkamp explained there would be some accountability as each project would be proposed to the county with quotes/estimates and the expected benefit. The commissioners were in favor of the addition to the budget but would like the council to review.

JEMS

Gary Barnett and Jessica Curtis, shift supervisors, came before commissioners to give a monthly update on operations including financials. The fourth ambulance has arrived and is working order. Mrs. Curtis gave an update on training she has been providing, 11 from the current graduating class are already fully certified. The department has hired one student.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Elasha Lennartz, administrator, came before commissioners with a few requests. The first request was for a county credit card. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the request and Duane Monroe seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Mrs. Lennartz then requested they be allowed to sell their 1997 F150 Truck (Blue). Doug Horn made a motion to advertise and accept sealed bids for the truck. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Lastly, the department requested they be allowed to purchase old cell phones. It was decided an estimated value will be obtained before moving forward on a decision.

MIDWEST PET REFUGE

Jan Rittenhouse, treasurer, and Tara Drumm, president, came before the commissioners to discuss their denied EDIT funding request. They provided commissioners with statistics which see the organization take in and adopt around 200 cats annually. The facility currently houses around 180 cats with another 80 being fostered. The commissioners thanked the

organization for the work they are doing in the county but still did not see the economic development benefit in the request of gutting for their building. Doug Horn made a motion to deny the request. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

EXIT INTERVIEW/STATUS OF BENEFITS

The updated Exit Interview/Status of Benefits was presented for commissioner approval. It removed the employee questions which makes it more streamlined for department heads to complete and submit to the auditor's office. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the form as presented. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

EMPLOYEE TRAINING SCHEDULE

An employee training schedule as requested by the county's worker's compensation carrier advisor was provided to commissioners for approval. Most training courses should take 15 minutes to no more than an hour. Department head training could potentially be up to two hours. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the training schedule for employees. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

SOLID WASTE LOAN AGREEMENT

The commissioners requested an agreement be drawn up with the Jay County Solid Waste District regarding the \$300,000 county EDIT loan for their new facility. The terms of the agreement would be \$30,000 annual payments over 10 years starting in 2028. If it goes to plan, Jay County Solid Waste will try to pay it down quicker. Once the agreement is drawn up, it will be approved by both parties.

CO₂ GEOLOGICAL CARBON SEQUESTRATION

The public hearing was opened for commissioners to consider a recommendation from the Jay County Plan Commission to adopt Ordinance 2026-11, creating Section 222 CO₂ Geological Carbon Sequestration Storage Facility Standards at 9:45 a.m. The meeting was then opened to public comment limited to two minutes.

Adam Homan, General Manager POET Biorefining, came before commissioners to speak in support of the ordinance. He explained the ordinance was developed to make sure it is safe and feasible on top of EPA requirements. The project will be a significant investment from POET which will impact the assessed value and lead to future investments at the plant. Tom Hopkins, resident, then spoke against the ordinance concerned about the safety of the project. Mr. Schemenaur explained the drilling is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and is permitted at the state and federal level through a multi-year process. A safety plan is also in place through the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Hopkins also expressed concern about carbon being transported to the facility and again brought up the safety of the carbon seeping through into water reserves. John Hemmelgarn, director Jay-Portland Building and Planning, explained the ordinance only allows for local carbon to be injected. He added there is never a guarantee that the carbon will not escape, but there is a strong likelihood that it will not occur, and a safety plan is in place.

Tony Muzzin, DTE Vantage, hired by POET to construct the sequestration process on their behalf, explained their process. The main protection is a cap rock seal above an area of rock with no other activity and a Chrome 25 casing in the well. An EPA Class 6 permit is required as protection to drinking water and the EPA will have their own hearing regarding the permit. They shot seismic in 2024 to get an underground depiction and then drilled to test the rock samples to ensure a safe and effective project. They have set aside \$15 million toward correcting any issues in the \$75 million dollar investment. He reported they have discussed testing measures through the City of Portland Water Department for early detection. Lastly, they have a 90% rate of reaching out to any landowner that could potentially be affected.

Ed Nixon, resident, spoke in favor of the ordinance noting POET was good for the farmers and community in the area. He added the company would not risk their business over it unless it was safe for residents. Jane Brewer, resident, questioned if a map could be provided of the areas potentially impacted by the carbon. She also expressed concerns about potential water issues down the road and how they would be addressed. The meeting was then closed to public comment.

Mr. Aker explained that the EPA is heavily involved in process and the county had taken all precautions imaginable in the proposed ordinance. Mr. Horn agreed that significant research had been completed over the last eighteen months, and then made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-11 as presented. Mr. Monroe explained he had the same questions in the beginning but believed the people backing the project and those more advanced in the topics. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

INSURANCE MID YEAR REVIEW

Jessica Clayton, Senior Broker-One Digital, came before commissioners to give a mid-year review of the county's employee insurance. The county is trending at 92% of and is cautiously optimistic for renewal. They are already looking at insurance for self-funded insurance options. Mrs. Clayton asked the county to help factors that are looked at during renewal such as avoidable ER Utilization and lack of preventative care measures. Mr. Horn summed up the message noting everything employees do or don't do factors into the renewal.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

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

An emergency claim to Schwartz Building Supply and Construction for \$22,827.94 for the highway roof repair was presented to commissioners for approval. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the claim as presented. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

At the end of the meeting Stephanie Klarer presented an emergency claim to INDOT for Bridge #110 in the amount of \$208,289.37 representing the county's 20%. INDOT will hold the money until the project is complete. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the claim as presented. Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

With no further business, Doug Horn made a motion to adjourn at 10:40 a.m.; Duane Monroe seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Duane Monroe



Chad Aker



Doug Horn

Attest:


Jay County Auditor