OCTOBER 13th, 2026 EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Jay County Commissioners met in executive session on Tuesday, October 13th, 2026, at 5:15 p.m. in the courthouse auditorium. Attending was Doug Horn, Chad Aker, auditor Emily Franks, attorney Wes Schemenaur, and Duane Monroe president, presiding. The purpose of the meeting was for discussion related to the implementation of security systems per IC 5-14-1.5-6.1 (b)(2)(C).

With no further business, The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Duane Monroe

Chad Aker

Doug Horn

Attest: **Jay County Auditor**

OCTOBER 13th, 2026

The Jay County Commissioners met in session on Tuesday, October 13th, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the courthouse auditorium. Attending was Doug Horn, Chad Aker, auditor Emily Franks, attorney Wes Schemenaur, and Duane Monroe president, presiding. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the minutes from September 28th, and October 7th, 2026. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORP (JCDC)

Angela Paxson, board president, and Ceann Bales, executive director reported their board approved a contract for services in 2027 for $267,181. A contract will be drawn up once approved by commissioners. The remaining $80,000 of the budget will be funded from other entities. Mr. Aker noted he would like to see more funding diversification with Mrs. Bales confirming that would be their focus in 2027. Their hope would be to lower the request to the county for 2028. The commissioners approved a contract to be prepared with the amount requested.

Mrs. Bales updated commissioners on current projects. The countywide comprehensive grant from OCRA has been awarded with the county's cost at roughly 34%. They have received two out of the four federal designations through Census tracks. This has created "opportunity zones" that would be pushed out through local attorneys and CPAs regarding deferring capital gains. The first READI draw has been completed for the Dunkirk 10-acre housing project. They have continued work with Dunkirk In-Fill housing with DIDC to develop or sell off the parcels. Colby Cline has been working with a housing developer and with the downtown housing project. At the same time have continued work with Portland and Redkey parks and helped Salamonia with a Portland Foundation grant request. Lastly, she thanked commissioners for their contribution to the Launch Jay Pitch competition.

PUBLIC HEARING- PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCE

A public hearing was opened to rezone parcel# 38-04-09-300-007.003-032 located at 7518 E SR 67 Bryant from Commercial to Agricultural Residential. The log cabin was previously used as a sales office. The hearing was opened for comment, with no one present wishing to speak, Doug Horn made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-16 as presented. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

EMA GRANT APPLICATIONS

Samantha Rhodehamel, director, came before commissioners for approval of three grant applications. The first was the EMPG Salary Reimbursement grant of $23,500. The second was a Hazard Mitigation (HMEP) grant for three First Responder/Public Safety Hazmat training for $13,000. The last grant was mitigation funding from IDHS to reimburse 75% of the cost of training up to $1,249.50. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the grant

applications as presented. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

AMENDED COURTHOUSE SAFETY PLAN

Sam Rhodehamel, EMA director, presented commissioners with an amended Courthouse Safety & Security Plan following a recent meeting of the Safety Committee. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the amended Courthouse Safety and Security Plan. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

HEALTH DEPT CHARGES- ORDINANCE 2026-17

Elasha Lennartz, administrator, came before commissioners to present Ordinance 2026-17 to update fees for the department. The fee change has already been approved by their board effective January 1, 2027. Doug Horn made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-17 as presented. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

HIGHWAY

Bob Howell, superintendent, came before commissioners with a monthly update on operations. They have stabilized and placed a base on 450 S and will see what happens over the winter before reevaluating in June. They will do the same on 550 W after working on soft spots. The road narrows up between 650 N and HWY 18. They will put a plate in there to catch the stone and possibly put a guardrail in. Mr. Howell explained they have gathered quotes through Sourcewell for a new manual dump truck due to issues with automatics.

Stephanie Klarer, assistant superintendent/ERC, came before commissioners to discuss proposals for bridge #249. She believed the two quotes were not comparable as the proposal from United Consulted included the worst-case scenario. They also discussed the possibility of turning it in as a federal grant with Mr. Aker noting it would be a 5-year process slated for 2031. Mr. Monroe stated his opinion that the bridge proposed by United Consulting was still too high cost and elaborate for the area, suggesting the county go with the lower proposal from ERI. This would allow the county to maximize CCMG funding by putting the bridge replacement with a rehab or paving project.

Mr. Aker agreed, adding while he understood the department was looking to set a standard size bridge, the current size was satisfactory for the area. Ms. Klarer noted that the lower proposal might require supplemental agreements or change orders moving forward. Doug Horn made a motion to approve ERI for the Bridge #249 project. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. A contract will be provided to commissioners at their next meeting.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Amanda Randall, director, came before commissioners to request use of the courthouse on November 20th, 2026 starting at 5:30 p.m. for Christmas at the Courthouse. The event will kick off their Winterfest. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the event. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

SUNCHIEF SOLAR FARM

Spencer Micali, project manager, came before commissioners to request amendments to the road use agreements Map#2 Driveway Entrances and Map#3 Underground Collection Crossing Map and the contact information sheet. On Map#2 has the addition of driveway #13 and #14 on 500 S to create more entrance/exit points to alleviate traffic on 600 W and 700 W. On map# 3 requested to add added #12 on 500 S and #13 on 800 W for the low voltage crossings which should be bored and not trenched. Lastly, the contact information updated the transportation coordinator to Pat O'Brien from Energy Project Solutions. They are hoping to mobilize their full project team this week. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the amendments to the road use agreement as presented. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

FLAGS AT COURTHOUSE

Mike Leonhard, President Evening Optimist, requested commissioners put back the flags around the courthouse recently been taken down. He noted they had been supplying and maintaining the flags since 1992. Mr. Monroe explained the flags were removed since 38 out

of 40 flags were damaged. They had received 10 from the Optimist which had since been placed out front. Once replacement flags are received, they will put back up.

DUNKIRK LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT

The Dunkirk Library board requested commissioners appoint Linda Hardwick to a 4-year term. Chad Aker made a motion to appoint Linda Hardwick to a 4-year term. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

EQUIPMENT QUOTES

The commissioners reviewed a quote from LEAP IT regarding a new firewall and equipment for community corrections for $4,364.54. Chad Aker made a motion to approve. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The commissioners also reviewed a quote to install cameras at the county home for $710.95. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the quote as presented. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

CORONER DESIGNATION LETTER

Brayden Fields, coroner, submitted a designation letter to the commissioners to make Jessica Curtis designated as his chief deputy. The letter requested she be able to sign payroll and claims in his absence. Chad Aker requested the auditor verify if Mrs. Curtis would be allowed to become his chief deputy January 1, 2027, as she is also an EMS shift supervisor. Chad Aker made a motion to allow Jessica Curtis to sign payroll and claims in the coroner's absence. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

SUN CHIEF SOLAR FARM COMPENSATION

The commissioners recommended tabling discussion of Solar Farm Inspector reimbursement and compensation to gather more information. Chad Aker made a motion to table the discussion. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

2027 COUNTY CALENDAR

A proposed calendar for 2027 was presented to commissioners for approval. It was discussed when to observe Christmas as Christmas Eve falls on Friday. Chad Aker made a motion to observe Christmas on Friday and Christmas Eve on Thursday for Monday-Friday departments and Wednesday and Thursday for the highway. 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 clerk's report for September was presented for commissioner approval. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the report as presented. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The treasurer's report for September was presented for 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.

With no further business, Chad Aker made a motion to adjourn at 6:28 p.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