OCTOBER 26th, 2026

The Jay County Commissioners met in session on Monday, October 26th, 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. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the minutes from October 13th, 2026. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

LIFESTREAM SERVICES

Kevin DeCamp, project manager, came before commissioners for approval of a claim to INDOT for four new buses in the amount of $380,400.28. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the claim as presented. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE

Katie Jordan, IDVA Northeast District Service Officer, gave commissioners an update on analytics for the county. In the state fiscal year 2026, Cliff Moser, Jay County's VSO started 35 new veterans accounts and has added 8 new veterans in the first quarter of 2027's fiscal year. He is still credited through IDVA and attended both fall and annual state trainings. Lastly, she reported FY25 saw $8 million in direct expenditure, up $719,000 from FY24. The amount of indirect expenditure in FY25 was $7 million which included medical car, community care and burial benefits.

ECI REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT

Michelle Badders, Director of International Economic Development, and Jacob Thomas, Director of Economic Development, came before commissioners to seek a letter of support to become a federally recognized Economic Development District. Mr. Thomas provided data including grant funding, dues collection and return on investment by county, by year. It was reported Jay County has paid $95,228.50 in dues since 2009, with a return on investment of $18.15 per $1 of dues. The designation would strengthen ECI Regional Planning District's ability to implement the 2025-2029 Comprehensive Economic Strategy (CEDS) and provide economic development assistance to communities throughout the region.

The commissioners from Delaware and Grant counties along with Blackford and Jay are included in the region. Mr. Thomas noted the designation would cut back the slated increase to dues for next year. Mr. Horn questioned how the effort for each county is coordinated, with ECIRPD asking for a list of projects in the county to help identify funding avenues. Mr. Aker believed the ROI more than proved the benefit to the county and the region. He then made a motion to approve the letter of support for the Economic Development District Designation. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

ROSE GOLD- AMENDED EDA

Andrew Buroker, legal counsel for Rose Gold Solar came before commissioners for approval of an amended Economic Development Agreement (EDA). The amended agreement would be approved based on the county council's approval at the October 14th meeting, which changed the abatement schedule to a 10-year, 75% abatement. This would have the EDA payment double to $3,975,000 and have the first payment at the start of construction no later than December 2029. Also, outlined in the amended agreement would be an additional payment of $10,000 for each million exceeding the estimated $160 million project investment.

Sam Brooks, Senior Development Associate for Leeward Energy, gave a brief overview of the delay with the project. They originally applied in 2020 with PJM to connect to the grid. In 2023, they thought the application would be approved imminently, which is when they received their first amendment and extension. PJM paused their process through 2024. The first amendment had a start date of mid-2027 to be on the grid by end of 2028. The proposed 2nd amendment has construction completion in 2030.

Duane Monroe questioned if the planning commission and landowners would also need to approve extensions to their agreements. Mr. Brooks explained that contracts with landowners are confidential but typically payments are required to be started by a specific date. It was then discussed with John Hemmeglarn, Building & Planning administrator, regarding the amendment going before the plan commission for approval. They also discussed whether the amendment would change which ordinance would govern the project. Mr. Schemenaur believed it would still fall under the original ordinance if they were not changing the scope of the project. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the agreement as presented. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JAY COUNTY FFA/ COUNTY HOME

Matt Slavik, Katie Loy and Ava Stockton, agriculture teachers at Jay County High School, came before commissioners to discuss utilizing the agricultural facilities at the county home not currently being rented. It would be used as part of the Jay County FFA Community Protein Project. The project would be estimated to start for the 2027-2028 school year with the livestock being processed through a one unit sold = one-unit donated model. This would work towards addressing 1,500 families in the county with food insecurity.

Mrs. Loy explained the organization would maintain repairs and maintenance of the buildings. They would also like to add a pasture back if the program moves forward. Ms. Stockton went through some logistics of the program as students would have access to the barns from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. for daily chores. The students would submit photos of daily chores being completed and must clock in using a keycard system. Cameras will be utilized throughout the barn and only contract students and parents will be permitted. They would collaborate with local farmers for waste and work with local veterinary services.

When questioned about the liability of the project, Ms. Franks explained insurance would not charge additional liability insurance within the first year. However, it would probably require an additional cost/policy after the first year. Insurance did request to review any contract presented to the county for the project. The commissioners were in favor of moving forward with discussion regarding the project. Mrs. Loy explained their next step would be bringing the project before school administration.

SHERIFF

Larry "Ray" Newton, sheriff, came before commissioners to discuss various items. He reported they recently passed the state jail inspection on October 15, 2026. The state fire marshal inspected the security center on October 6, 2026 and found no violations. Mr. Newton requested approval of the donation of three Polaris Off Road Generators received from Fear Powersports in Berne. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the donation. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Lastly, Barnett's Wrecker service donated $600 for the Sheriff's Christmas Party. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the donation as presented. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JEMS

Gary Barnett and Kyle Gerlach, shift supervisors, came before commissioners to give a monthly update on operations. Mr. Barnett provided the updated financials for the month including runs. Mr. Gerlach presented four quotes for new rugged laptops to replace the Microsoft surface pros. The quotes were for four laptops with same setup and warranty: MRC (Mobile Rugged Computers) $15,400, MPS (Midwest Public Safety) $16,417.12, Mobile Tech Sales $18,496.20 and Brite $19,452.48. Chad Aker questioned if they would be able to go on a data plan. Mr. Gerlach agreed to check into it. Mr. Aker then made a motion to approve the purchase from Mobile Rugged Computers for $15,400 out of Cum Cap Development. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORP (JCDC)

The 2027 contract for services in the amount of $267,181 was presented for approval. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the 2027 agreement as presented. Chad Aker seconded the

motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Ceann Bales, executive director, presented two other contracts related to the Jay County comprehensive plan. The first agreement was with HWC Engineering to prepare the plan for a cost not to exceed $120,000. The second contract presented was between the county and Jodi Hayes as the administrator for the OCRA grant. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the agreements as presented. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

ONEDIGITAL INSURANCE RENEWAL

Jessica Clayton, Senior Benefit Consultant, presented commissioners with the 2027 renewal plan study. The claims continued to trend well and PHP originally came back at a 5% increase but agreed to lower it to a 2.5% increase with a wellness credit in January to create a 0% increase renewal. United Health Care submitted a proposal with only a 3% decrease from current plan. Mrs. Clayton presented a self-funding option using Pareto Captive that offers no new lasers and a 30% rate cap on stop loss insurance. If the county would go with that option, they would recommend no changes to benefits for the first year.

The other coverage through Principal including Vision, Life/AD&D, Accident and Critical Illness would not increase. However, the dental plan came in at a 5.5% increase. A county provided short term disability proposal was presented for an estimated $47,325 annually. If the county would agree to the proposal, Principal would waive the 5.5% increase to the dental plans. It was agreed to hold a special meeting on November 4th, 2026 at 3:45 p.m. to discuss the options presented.

HIGHWAY

Bob Howell, superintendent, presented a professional services agreement with ERI for Bridge #249. The agreement is not to exceed $134,100. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the agreement as presented. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. A task order agreement with SJCA not to exceed $4,500 was presented for commissioner approval. The agreement is to help prepare applications for INDOT Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for bridge #6 (650 E up around New Corydon), bridge #103 (CR200 N on SR1), and Bridge #157 (CR200 S between 125 W & Mt Pleasant). Doug Horn made a motion to approve the task order as presented. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Howell briefly discussed a change that would add road signs to existing stop sign posts. They will first need to study the weight with the winds, but if it would work, they could recapture posts for replacements. It would cost roughly $1,800 for 5" or 12" for half the quantity. If moving forward, the change would be gradual. The commissioners saw no issue with the change. Two quotes through Sourcewell for a new manual dump truck cab and chassis were presented to commissioners from Western Star $148,893 and Kenworthy $146,487. However, Kenworthy could not meet the clearance specifications. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the purchase of the Western Star as presented. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

SUN CHIEF SOLAR FARM COMPENSATION

The previously tabled discussion regarding compensation for Sun Chief Solar was discussed. The previous windfarm had the $30,000 reimbursement figured $5,000 for the surveyor, $10,000 for the Building & Planning Administrator and $15,000 to the county engineer. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the same pay structure with the $15,000 going to the highway superintendent. After a brief discussion between the building & planning administrator and highway superintendent, it was decided to divide the compensation equally. Chad Aker then rescinded his previous motion and made a motion to pay each position $10,000 for 2027. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

EMA SEALED BID-TRAILER

Sam Rhodehamel, EMA director, requested permission to seek sealed bids for their 2006 Fabrique "Forest River" Travel Trailer. The trailer is being replaced by the one transferred

from the highway. Chad Aker made a motion to approve advertising for sealed bid. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

SKYCREST SOLAR FARM

The two engineering firms, Westwood and Stantec returned estimates for the decommissioning bond. The estimate from Westwood came in at $5,759,227 and Stantec at $4,971,601, both after salvage costs. Since the difference is more than 10%, the bond, it is figured at 90% of the higher amount, $5,183,304.30. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the decommissioning amount. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

EAGLEVIEW ASSESSOR CONTRACT

Angela Moeller, deputy assessor, presented an agreement between the county and Eagleview to provide the department with 3D flyover data for their CAMA system. The contract would be $40,300 annually over six years. The current company no longer hires two photographers, but the new flyover would eliminate door to door, except new construction. If the contract is signed, the flyover will be completed in early December. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the contract as presented. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

TRUE ROLL CONTRACT

Emily Franks, auditor, presented a three-year contract between the county and True Roll for a cost year one of $14,750. The contract would provide monitoring and database services to identify ineligible property tax deductions and potential properties eligible for deductions. Doug Horn made a motion to approve the contract as presented. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

The claims docket for October 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 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.

With no further business, Chad Aker made a motion to adjourn at 7:40 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

NOVEMBER 4TH, 2026

The Jay County Commissioners met in special session on Wednesday, November 4th, 2026, at 3:45 p.m. in the courthouse auditorium. Attending was Doug Horn, Chad Aker, auditor Emily Franks, and Duane Monroe president, presiding. The meeting was held to discuss employee insurance elections for 2027.

The commissioners reviewed the 2027 employee health insurance renewal with PHP from their prior meeting. Commissioners discussed the option of partially self-funded while maintaining employee premiums and coverage. Pareto Health would be a captive manager and stop loss insurance would safeguard some of the risk. Ms. Franks provided county budget numbers to show the various scenarios provided by Pareto with the best case at a savings of $692,900 to a $37,000 shortfall with the worst-case scenario. She also provided data showing increase in premiums and expenditures to the county since 2022 noting the county has been trending at the standard of 8% annually.

Chad Aker spoke in favor of the change since the county currently had no lasers or high-risk employees. He added the city of Portland had been self-insured and received positive feedback. Doug Horn stated he would like the county to try the partially self-funded option to see if there could be any savings. Duane Monroe expressed concerns if the county were to face the worst case with high level claims. The commissioners noted the county could go back to the fully insured option. Ms. Franks requested the county contributions to the HSA be increased to meet the increase in the HRA from $125 a quarter for employee only, to $150. Likewise, employee/child, employee/spouse and family be increased from $250 a quarter to $300. Chad Aker made a motion for the county to switch to partially self-funded with Pareto Health and increase the county portion of the HSA as presented. Doug Horn seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. The matter will go before the county council for final approval.

Two emergency claims to Veridus Group Inc for work on the public safety building totaling $14,216.56 were presented for commissioner approval. Chad Aker made a motion to approve the claims 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 4:07 p.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**