

The claims docket for July was presented for commissioner approval. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the claims docket. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

A claim from ICAA registration for the Assessor in the amount of \$850 was presented. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the ICAA claim. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter claim for the Jay County Humane Society of \$13,750 was presented to commissioner approval. They hope to have the new facility open in mid-October. Mr. McGalliard has received many calls regarding the money spent to the Humane Society. He would like to make clear it would be much more costly for the county to take on the role of animal control. Animal control is required to be provided by Indiana law. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the Jay County Humane Society claim. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

With no further business, Rex Journey made a motion to adjourn at 10:30 a.m; Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Chad Aker  
Brian McGalliard  
Rex Journey  
Attest: Emily Franks  
Jay County Auditor

**AUGUST 14, 2023**

The Jay County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 14, 2023, in the auditorium in the courthouse. Attending was Brian McGalliard, Rex Journey, attorney Wes Schemenaur, auditor Emily Franks, and Chad Aker, president, presiding. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the minutes from July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**SHERIFF**

Larry Ray Newton, sheriff, came to the commissioners to discuss complaints his department had been receiving in regards to the three state detours currently in the county and trucks on prohibited roads. A list of calls and roads were presented to the commissioners for review. Mr. Schemenaur, county attorney, will draft an ordinance with higher penalties for the off-route truck ordinance during periods of state detours. Mr. Journey questioned if most of the trucks were hauling eggs. Mr. Newton stated it was all types of trucks contributing to the problem. He added the department would not cite those who needed to be on the roads for business purposes.

Mr. Newton also discussed the damaged van was turned in to insurance for \$1,584.50. They are currently working on a grant to purchase a real transport van for \$105,000. They will hear back in the next few weeks. He went on to discuss their radio system, he feels it is very bad right now and is looking at trying to get a new 800 MHz radio system. ERS wireless will be giving a presentation Thursday morning he invited commissioners to attend. The estimate for a system would be \$600,000 without the antenna, with the antenna \$800,000-\$900,000. They discussed using the county highway site to put one there but the airport area will not work due to height. The Dunkirk antenna was pointed in the wrong direction but has since been corrected. Mr. Aker expressed concern over waiting until other local emergency departments decide how they will handle the change. Mr. Newton believed the system could not wait that long adding when the system goes bad, we are going to have to replace it. Mr. Aker recommended a buyer's agent due to differing opinions of the salesman. Mr. Newton stated IPSIC has offered to help with that process. The county currently can get information through the cars but cannot communicate with other departments. They are still waiting on the new water softeners to be installed.

**UPPER WABASH RIVER BASIN COMMISSION**

Rick Imel and Doug Sundling, officers, provided the commissioners with information regarding the Upper Wabash River Basin Commission and request their funding be increased to \$2,000 for 2024. The northern part of Jay County from the Loblolly and the Limberlost ditches drain into the Wabash River. The membership is a separate municipal corporation, including the counties of Jay Adams, Wells, and Huntington. The membership includes each county commissioner and county surveyor. *"The mission of the commission is to support restoring and sustaining the Upper Wabash River and*

*watershed by providing regional leadership and promotion of flood damage reduction, healthy soil and clean water, and trails for the betterment of the river, our local communities and beyond.”* The commission averages for every dollar put in by Jay County, they put in \$8. Jay County has contributed \$19,500 from 2002-2019 and \$3,000 from 2020-2022.

Property owners can participate in programs for items such as cover crops and cost share programs. As an example, they conducted a phase 1 feasibility study. This phase paid for an engineering firm to find areas of retention which allowed them try for more grants. They will try for another 319 Grant - EPA Clean Water grant for phase 1, for Adams, and the Eastern Part of Jay for \$200,000 which would include hiring a watershed coordinator. The application is due in September of this year. The state legislature has received more money for clean water grants and have contacted them regarding applying for grants. Mr. Journey questioned how much of the \$100,000 cost share was utilized by Jay County. Mr. Sundling was unable to provide the information as he was not the coordinator, but could get the information from them. Mr. Journey asked what benefit the services provided to Jay County residents. Mr. Sundling added they could work out help this year instead of a FSA, which would take two years. The commissioners will take the requested increase to the budget from \$1,000 to \$2,000 under advisement for the 2024 budget.

**ASSESSOR**

Robin Alberson, assessor, came to the commissioners to discuss the purchase of a new copier for her office. It would replace their current copier which is now seven years old. An estimated cost of replacement between the three quotes was between \$4,500-\$5,000. Mr. Journey questioned which of the quotes was preferred. Mrs. Alberson stated she would prefer the quote from 4-U Office Supplies in Celina for \$4,694.80. The quote from Progressive would change the type of copier to a Weber which she would like to avoid. The copier can be paid out of her budget. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the purchase of the copier from 4-U. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**DRUG FREE MONIES-JCDPC CCP**

Kimbra Reynolds, director Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition, came to the commissioners for approval of the 2023 Indiana Criminal Justice Comprehensive County Plan and the claims for the monies. The claims for Justice, Prevention, Intervention, and Administration include Dunkirk Farmer’s Market/Living in Joy for \$1,500, Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition \$11,608.37, Youth Service Bureau \$4,000 and A Better Life Brianna’s Hope \$3,000. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the plan and claims as presented. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**HIGHWAY**

Eric Butcher, superintendent, came to the commissioners to provide them with his monthly report. They have chip and sealed 104 miles, with 6 miles converted. They are hoping to get 2 more miles converted by the end of the season. They did a pre building spec on the new trucks with an estimated completion date of the end of August or the first of September. Mr. Butcher believes that will end up being sometime in October. WA Jones has been awarded the quote for a new truck. A large reason was due to logistics as LINCO is not user friendly to make the six hour round trip to Chicago. They can make it to WA Jones in around one hour.

Mr. Butcher updated the commissioners on various other items including looking at changing Dump Truck 111 into their distributor which would require extensive frame work to make the transition. They have put a stop ahead sign on 250 W at 550 S approximately .2 miles before the intersection and a stop sign on the other side of the road. The department is also contemplating staying on the 4 day a week work schedule. Their hours would run 7-5 Monday-Thursday with Fridays off. Rex Journey questioned what they would do in inclement weather on a Friday. Mr. Butcher said they would still be available to plow 7 days a week. Mr. Schemenaur cautioned the commissioners to think about what the change would mean for other offices to request a 4-day work week. Mr. Aker questioned if the highway office being closed Friday-Sunday would be an issue for residents- and questioned about the office only being open 4 days a week and if that would be an issue. Mr. Butcher did not believe it would be an issue since they still had employees on call for emergencies. Rex Journey made a motion to turn the matter over to the personnel committee for their review and recommendation. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**BUILDING & PLANNING**

John Hemmelgarn, director, came to the commissioners to give them a quarterly update. There have been 9 new home permits with 1 in the city of Portland. The majority of the new home permits have been in Bearcreek Township. Mr. Aker asked for an update on the downtown project in reference to the buildings owned by Juan Marentes at 208 & 210 N Meridian St. Portland. Mr. Hemmelgarn thanked Mr. Schemenaur for his assistance in the matter as his only concern is the safety of the

building. Mr. Schemenaur stated they have assisted in outreach for absentee owners with resources to help.

Mr. McGalliard added he would like to see a fine or fee on commercial buildings that are vacant as they do in Coldwater Ohio. Wes Schemenaur stated the county could for unincorporated areas but the incorporated areas would be the jurisdiction of the cities and towns. He added maintaining or demolishing buildings can be expensive and it would be a commitment to the county. Mr. McGalliard believed blight grants might be a better option. Mr. Schemenaur stated there have been additional stipulations added on blight grants that make them not as appealing to use. Also adding smaller communities do not have the money in their budgets to deal with the problem.

**EMAIL SERVER**

A quote from Matrix Integration for a new email server was presented for commissioners' approval after confirming the server was purchased in 2017. The quote is for a virtual email server which will be required by Microsoft by the end of 2025. Matrix Integration already provides the county's barracuda back up and email spam filter. The Recorder has agreed to purchase the new server from her Recorder's Perpetuation Fund (1189). Rex Journey made a motion to approve the purchase of a new email server from Matrix Integration for \$31,410.80. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**FUNDING REQUEST**

An ARPA funding request from the Firefly Children and Family Alliance was presented for commissioners' review. Representatives from the organization were not present for questions. Mr. Journey questioned if any services provided would be duplicated in the county. Mr. McGalliard questioned the personnel fees included in the proposed budget and how they would fund that in the future. Brian McGalliard made a motion to table the funding request until members could attend a meeting to ask questions. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**ORDINANCE 2023-08**

The personnel committee has made a recommendation to allow departments to fill open positions if there were already budgeted for that year. It was determined the ordinance should be repealed in its entirety. Rex Journey made a motion to approve 2023-09 repealing joint Ordinance 2022-11. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**A JOINT ORDINANCE OF THE JAY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND THE JAY COUNTY COUNCIL REPEALING ORDINANCE 2022-11**

WHEREAS, the Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council, respectively, passed a Joint Ordinance requiring the Personnel Committee to review and approve full-time employee vacancies;

WHEREAS, the Commissioners and Council deem it necessary to repeal said Ordinance in its entirety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ESTABLISHED:

Effective upon adoption by the Board of Commissioners and County Council, Joint Ordinance 2022-11 is hereby repealed.

The ordinance will go to the council on August 16<sup>th</sup> for their approval.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Heath Butz, administrator, came to the commissioners for approval of several items. The first item was the approval of their grant application of the Health Bioterrorism Grant 2023-2024 for \$25,000. He also presented with the grant application a memorandum of contract for the Health Bioterrorism Coordinator for commissioner approval. The contract has not increased from the prior year and is with Amy Blakley. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the grant application and contract for the Health Bioterrorism Grant. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**RESOLUTION 2023-05**

Heath Butz, health department administrator, presented resolution 2023-05 for the county to opt in to the new state health funding. The final amount of funding is yet to be determined but there have already been 75 counties to opt in. Due to the large numbers, they county will most likely receive the low end of the estimated range. Mr. McGalliard questioned if Mr. Butz believes he could provide the minimum health requirements to receive funding. Mr. Butz believed they could and it would be a benefit to the county moving forward. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-

05. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion was approved by unanimous vote. The two new positions will need to be approved by the council at their next meeting.

**HELP! PROGRAM**

The updated Jay County Strategic Investment Plan for the HELP! program was presented to the commissioners for their approval. The additional projects included the land purchase. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the updated SIP as presented. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**JCDC**

The contract negotiations between the County and Jay County Development Corporation had reached a recent agreement. A contract through the end of 2023 was presented for commissioner approval. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the contract between Jay County and Jay County Development Corporation. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. The contract will be updated with a new dollar amount at the conclusion of the 2024 budget with the council.

A claim to Jay County Development Corporation for the second half of the contract of \$41,127.49 was presented for commissioner approval. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the claim for JCDC. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Following the recent contract agreement, Brian McGalliard made a motion to remove himself from the JCDC Executive Board and appoint Chad Aker, Commissioner President to the executive board. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Rex Journey made a motion to appoint Brian McGalliard to the READI 2.0 board. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**LAND PURCHASE**

The request for quotes received at the prior meeting related to the county's recent land purchase was discussed. The quotes were from Butler, Fairman and Seufert, Rundell Erstenberger Associates was not to exceed \$395,000, and RQAW's quote was for \$145,000 Brian McGalliard made a motion move forward with RQAW for the project as the county already has a relationship with the county and came in the cheapest. Rex Journey questioned what all services each company would be providing the county for their fee. Mr. Schemenaur stated the final information had not been received before the weekend and had not been able to reviewed. He would need more time to review the requests to answer all questions. Brian McGalliard rescinded his motion and made an amended motion to table awarding the planning project for the 68A parcel until the county attorney could review all documents. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

A new capital improvement plan was presented by commissioners for their adoption. Their capital improvement plan is a list of projects they would like to complete including broadband, highway extension, JC Solid Waste Management New Building, Public Safety Building, Gateway Development, and EMS Sheriff Radios. They recommend adopting this plan every two years instead of every five years. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the capital improvement plan. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Jay County  
Capital Improvement Plan**

1. Broadband project with Main Stream Fiber. Initial loop in the county.

Approximately 233 miles of fiber to loop the entire county.

- Total project cost - \$10M
- Match requested - \$2M
- Possible Funding – ARP, EDIT, Solar/Wind.

2. Highway Garage improvements

New garage extension to get trucks in and out of the weather and prepared to operate.

- Total Project Cost -\$2.2M
- Possible Funding – Bonding, OCRA grant, Solar/Wind

3. JC Solid Waste Management District New Building

New State of the art building to retain responsible and reasonable cost for the County.

- Total Project Cost - \$1.6M
- Possible Funding – USDA grant, OCRA grant.

4. Public Safety Building (EMT).

New and updated building to provide services.

- Total Project Cost - \$3M
  - Possible Funding – USDA grant, OCRA grant
5. 68 Acre County Development Planning Project.

New gateway development coming into the country and the City of Portland.

- Total Project Cost - \$200K
- 6. Body Cameras - \$102K
- 7. EMS, Sheriff Radios - \$475K

**ECI- REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT**

An agreement for services with East Central Indiana Regional Planning District was presented for commissioners' approval. The agreement includes a 60 day out clause if the county decides they are no longer requiring their services. Services will be provided in exchange for 24 equal monthly payments of \$8,333.33 beginning August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 ending August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Rex Journey questioned what the process would be in regards to applying for grants. The process will be the entity going to the district and stating they would like to apply for the grant and determining what they can do to help. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the agreement for services with the ECI Regional Planning District. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**2024 BUDGET**

The Upper Wabash River Basin Commission was discussed on whether the amount budgeted for them be increased to the proposed \$2,000. The commissioners decided to leave the budgeted amount at \$500. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the 2024 budget as presented for council review. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

The payroll docket was presented for commissioner approval. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the payroll docket. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Jay County Country Living Report for July was presented to the commissioners for their approval. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the report. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

A letter of support to the Department of Family & Social Services administration in regards to a Delaware County Mental Health facility as a regional mental health facility was presented for signature. Rex Journey made a motion to approve and sign the letter of support. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Clerks Monthly report for July was presented to the commissioners for approval. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the monthly report. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

A claim for the Indiana Bond Bank fuel budgeting program for July 2023 was presented to commissioners for approval. The claim of \$892.20 was for the administration fees. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the claim. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.




Various credit card policies were signed by the commissioners.

With no further business, Brian McGalliard made a motion to adjourn at 11:31 a.m; Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**



**Chad Aker**





  
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**Brian McGalliard**  
  
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**Rex Jounray**  
  
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**Attest: Jay County Auditor**

**AUGUST 14, 2023**

The Jay County Commissioners met in executive session on Monday, August 14, 2023, in the auditorium in the courthouse. Attending was Brian McGalliard, Rex Jounray, attorney Wes Schemenaur, auditor Emily Franks, and Chad Aker, president, presiding. The purpose of the meeting was to interview prospective employees pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(a)(5).

With no further business, Rex Jounray made a motion to adjourn at 11:55 a.m.; Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
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**Chad Aker**  
  
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**Brian McGalliard**  
  
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**Rex Jounray**  
  
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**Attest: Jay County Auditor**

**AUGUST 21, 2023**

The Jay County Commissioners met in special session on Monday, August 21, 2023, in the auditorium in the courthouse. Attending was Brian McGalliard, Rex Jounray, attorney Wes Schemenaur, auditor Emily Franks, and Chad Aker, president, presiding. The purpose of the meeting was to meet with Jason Semler from Baker Tilly in regards to possible funding of the capital improvement plan. Also invited was Bill Walters and Nate Kimball from ECI Regional Planning District.

**BAKER TILLY**

Jason Semler, partner, presented the commissioners with schedules for potential financing through the county's TIF area. They also took a look at the Economic Development fund with around \$200,000 to \$250,000 left after EDIT funds after potential expenses and solar and windfarm economic development payments. Mr. Semler looked at possibly creating a TIF area in the windfarm and solar farm areas to generate extra money for the county to use. The state capped the maximum levy for the next two years through this spring's legislation which has limited potential growth.

The first option started on page 4 of the report, with bonding the current county TIF. It showed there is only 13 years left on the Premier TIF and it cannot be extended. The fund receives an average \$585,000 in tax money annually. He would recommend no more than an average of \$466,000 in bond payments. This would cover a total principal bond of \$4,590,000 bond with a net to the county of \$3,925,000. The total bond with interest would be estimated at \$6,069,103 with an estimated 13 year income of \$7,600,450. He cautioned TIF bonds are risky to begin with and in this case it includes only one taxpayer and most of the assessed value from depreciable equipment. If something were to happen to the taxpayer, the county would need to move money from county general or create a special levy to cover remainder of the bond. the \$4.6 million dollars bond with a net to the county of \$3,925,000.

An estimated coverage started on page 6 of the report. If the county went with the above figures, there would be an estimated \$115,000 remaining each year to fund other projects. The tax rates have the potential to trend downward and this would allow some flexibility. The coverage of 125% is normally sufficient to cover any downturns. Rex Jounray questioned if the company would like to update their equipment, could they ask the county for money. Mr. Semler indicated they could come to the county and ask but they could also finance it themselves. Brian McGalliard questioned if the money left at the end TIF period could be disbursed to the units or could still be used for projects that benefit the TIF area.

Mr. Semler confirmed either option was possible but the projects would have to be in or serving the TIF district. Mr. McGalliard questioned if he believed a new JEMS/Health Building would that benefit the TIF area. Mr. Semler believed the county could show benefit to the TIF. Mr. McGalliard then questioned if new housing would qualify as serving the TIF district. Mr. Semler believed that might be too tenuous of a benefit



but the current TIF area could be expanded to include the housing subdivision. However, it would not change the old TIF area 13-year term but the new area would be on its own 25-year term. Mr. McGalliard questioned if this would be better for the bond to have more taxpayers. Mr. Semler confirmed it would be more beneficial to have a larger taxpayer base.

The next schedule was in regards to using the Economic Development Income Tax of the county with a property tax backup. There were three scenarios including a 10-, 15- and 20-year term. A 20-year term is the most they recommend. At 25 years, the county would be paying more in interest than it would be worth. A 10-year term would have a net proceed of \$1,585,000 with a total bond of \$1,755,000. A 15-year term would have a net proceed of \$2,200,000 with a total bond of \$2,375,000. A 20-year term would have a net proceed of \$2,670,000 with a total bond of \$2,815,000. All of the bonds would average an annual payment of \$216,000. The county could always have the choice of putting more or less towards the bond payment.

The third scenario provided by Baker Tilly included Windfarm and Solar Farm economic development payments. The county is estimated to receive a total of 5 million dollars in economic development payments from the three solar farms. Sun Chief Solar agreed to \$1,300,000 in four annual payments, estimated 2026-2029. Rose Gold Solar agreed to \$1,950,000 in four annual payments, estimated 2024-2027. Skycrest Solar agreed to \$1,750,000 in five annual payments, estimated 2027-2031. His recommendation would be a \$2,640,000 net to the county with a total bond of \$3,565,000. All of these payments depend on the construction and completion on the solar farms. Brian McGalliard noted none were currently under construction. As such, Mr. Semler did not recommend this scenario as the revenue stream is not firm yet. He concluded the three scenarios were the most prominent funding streams for county projects.

Mr. Aker questioned if he believed the TIF scenario would be the best way to fund projects. Brian McGalliard concurred wanting to make sure this would not take any monies away from operating budgets. He added the county had an asset of 300 acres of farm land that could be sold or ARP monies available. Mr. Semler cautioned outright selling the land as it was a potential asset to the county. The county could sell the land to a potential buyer for residential or industrial development or have it for another county asset. Mr. McGalliard questioned if that should be last resort to sell the land. Mr. Semler recommended the county keep the land at this time.

Rex Journey questioned if the county would have to have a bond or money in place before we apply for a large grant. Bill Walters answered they could look at OCRA or USDA grants with matching funds in areas of use for the county. Mr. McGalliard questioned if a bond could be used as a match for READI 2.0 which Mr. Semler confirmed. He would like to see ARPA funds used as a match for READI 2.0 to turn 2 million into 8 million. ARPA funds have to be obligated by the end of 2024. Mr. Semler believed they would have out the READI 2.0 information optimistically at the end of September but most likely the first quarter of next year.

Chad Aker questioned about ways to generate more income tax and how our rates compare to other counties. Mr. Semler would have to check on the average Economic Development rate but believed the county was still in the top half for the overall income tax rate. Emily Franks had presented an option at the council meeting August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to reduce the levy freeze rate by .15% and to use the reduction to create an EMS\_LIT rate. The Stabilization fund is slated to have \$4.6 million by the end of 2023. The amount in the stabilization fund cannot be used towards any county function but must remain in the fund until the time the county doesn't receive enough to pay the obligated amount. Mr. Semler gave background in LIT taxes as they were started in 2008. The reasoning being the introduction of Circuit Breaker rates with the state believing it would reduce the amount of property taxes. One of the rate options was Levy Freeze you could use to offset your property capped at 1%.

Brian McGalliard asked if they could walk through the process for the creation of a TIF area. Mr. Semler offered a general overview of the steps. The redevelopment commission starts the process, then it goes to the plan commission for a recommendation, then the commissioners will vote yes or no. It will then go back to the redevelopment commission for a public hearing. Mr. McGalliard questioned where the council would fit into the decision. Mr. Semler responded if you decide to issue a bond, the council would have to approve the bond.

Mr. McGalliard questioned if the county was sitting in a decent spot to capture additional revenue for state and federal grants. Mr. Semler offered another option in regards to the comprehensive plan with a lot of their clients issuing short term bonds of \$1-2 million every two to three years. These bonds could fund various capital projects determined by the county including sheriff cars or courthouse renovations. If the county took on this debt rate, the county could keep the tax rate level to constantly fund projects. Mr. Journey questioned if this would raise taxes. Mr. Semler stated it would be an increase to the taxpayers. Ms. Franks questioned if those bonds would have to go through a tax referendum process. Mr. Semler stated it was only required if over 1% of gross assessed value or 18 million. Mr. McGalliard added that adding additional burden on taxpayers would be a last option.

After all questions were asked to Mr. Semler, Mr. Aker asked Bill Walters and Nate Kimball what the next steps would be for funding. Mr. Walters informed the commissioners they would look at the grants and get a list of the grants available. The commissioners can then determine what they would like to pursue. Mr. Journey questioned if the restriction on how soon the county must spend the ARP monies would be a factor. Mr. Walters would fit that into decisions for grant availability. He believed by the end of April next year the that they should be able to see what we are available for. They believed money for projects that didn't go through might still be available. Mr. Journey just wanted everyone to understand the timeline of the period for when we have to have the money. Mr. Schemenaur advised the county to have a Plan A and a Plan B for the ARP monies.

Larry R. Newton spoke from the audience to stress his need for a new radio system. The department will get pagers for 800 MHz in the next couple of weeks. He believes the council and commissioners should look at it and look at it quickly as he doesn't think the department can wait until next year. Mr. McGalliard questioned if the sheriff had any quotes for them to start the process. Mr. Newton had some quotes from Motorola which is the company he would prefer. His concern is more for the radios then the antenna but could have Motorola come in for a discussion. Mr. Aker believed the county should take into account other departments including EMA, Fire, Police and Medics. Mr. Newton added he would still keep the Simulcast system but wanted to take care of our department first and the county. We finally made that decision that it is what we need to prioritize, the county. They have known for two years the system was failing and were waiting to see what happens. Mr. Semler added if the county was looking at Motorola Financing it might be a cheaper interest rate to get our own bond. However, the fees might be higher after hiring a consultant for the bonds, but if the county is considering that route it would be beneficial.

With no further business, Rex Journey made a motion to adjourn at 11:59 a.m.; Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chair Chad Aker

Brian McGalliard

Rex Journey  
Rex Journey

Attest: Emily Frank  
Jay County Auditor