





Part, Chad Aker, Brian McGalliard and Cindy Bracy voting for the motion. Harold Towell voted against the motion and the motion passed by majority vote.

A discussion for how to pay for the project will be discussed at a later date to look into more possibilities for funding.

With no further business, Chad Aker made a motion to adjourn at 6:36 PM; Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

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

**FEBRUARY 12, 2024**

The Jay County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, February 12, 2024, in the auditorium of the courthouse. Attending was Rex Journey, Brian McGalliard, attorney Wes Schemenaur, auditor Emily Franks, and Chad Aker, president, presiding. Rex Journey made a motion to remove by avoiding collections, and approve the minutes from January 22, 2024 and the joint sessions from January 25, 2024 and February 5, 2024. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**ALLEY VACATION**

Randy Fisher and Greg Bailey, landowners, came to the commissioners for permission to vacate Second street from 200 S to Ruth Street. It is considered a 50 ft open alley, but there are 100-year-old trees on the area. Mr. Fisher explained most use Ruth Street for access to any utilities. The vacation notice will be published in the newspaper for a public hearing at the next commissioners' meeting February 26, 2024. If approved at the hearing, an ordinance will be signed with both owners receiving 25 feet. All the fees associated with the vacation will be paid by the landowners. The commissioners gave their approval to publish the public hearing.

**PENNVILLE PARK BOARD**

Tanner McClain, John Gibson, Deb Hidy, Pennville Park Board members, came to the commissioners to request funding as part of a grant match. They have partnered with Trademark Architects out of Carmel for a plan based on a public survey in the summer of 2023. Their current request is for phase 1 of the project including removing the baseball field to make more space for the Pennville soccer program. This change would allow them to accommodate up to 13-14-15-year-olds. Phase one also includes renovating the basketball courts including new lines, nets, and goals. They have received old skate equipment from the City of Portland and are working with a company in Missouri for restoration. A pump track will be added for use of roller blading, skateboarding or bicycling.

The total cost for phase one is estimated at \$100,800. They have spent the last year raising money towards the project through various fundraisers including purse bingo, cow pie bingo, BBQ in the park, summer soccer program, JR park board and Green Tree Plastics initiative for a total raised of \$35,530.43. They have also been working with Nathan Kimball for various grant opportunities including READI 2.0 and a Norfolk Southern grant. They are looking at working with Patronicity as part of the Indiana Housing and Community Development Grant. Patronicity will match the raised funds, but take a 5% fee of \$2,500.

Their request to the county would be \$35,000 towards the project. Patronicity will not allow more than \$10,000 to come from a single source. They would like to see three payments of \$10,000 and one payment of \$5,000 come from four different county funds. Mrs. Martin stated money could come from any source but the town of Pennville. Phase two of the development is to replace gravel, a new slide, and a water feature or a soccer complex.

Mr. Journey questioned if the project would be done this year. Mrs. Martin stated that was the plan, but they will have to wait until after the soccer season to start the project. The commissioners were for the project, and forwarded it to the council for funding approval. Mr. McGalliard questioned how soon do they need the approval and offered the Jay County Redevelopment Commission. He also

asked if it was going to be okay to have all the checks from the county. Mrs. Martin believed it would be acceptable.

### **LIFESTREAM**

Kevin DeCamp, transportation manager, came to the commissioners to receive approval for the purchase of four new buses for a total cost of \$473,780. Mr. Journey questioned how many buses were in service currently. Mr. DeCamp explained they have 22 buses serving the area with 7 dedicated to operating in Jay County. They have been working to trade out their vans as some now have almost 300,000 miles. Mr. McGalliard asked if the purchase was covered by grant money. Mr. DeCamp confirmed it was paid through funding outside of the county. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the purchase of the four new buses. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote. Lastly, Mr. DeCamp reported they passed their recent INDOT audit with flying colors.

### **SHERIFF**

Larry Ray Newton, sheriff, came to the commissioners to discuss various topics. He first requested three approvals of a county credit card. They have been using a Sam's Club card separate from the county for purchases. He will be looking to cancel those cards. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the credit card applications. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Newton's second request was for the purchase of equipment from APB Consulting Solutions LLC to improve correctional officer safety. There has been an increase in destruction of property by inmates and are looking for alternatives to a Taser. The total quote of \$4,684 including a glove, Arm E-Band, and Sound shield with cover. The bands do record data to prevent misuse. The sound shield emits a high-pitched noise. The band requires a code to remove and is very durable.

A list of recent disruptions with inmates was cited to the commissioners as a need for the equipment, including an incident requiring four employees to get an inmate restrained. Mr. McGalliard questioned what Mr. Schemenaur knew about the proposed equipment. Mr. Newton explained they had been using the gloves since last year instead of a Taser. He added anyone using the devices would be required to go through training and complete a certification process. Mr. McGalliard asked how many years the equipment had been out and what other departments use it locally. Mr. Newton stated the technology had been out for several years, but was unaware of any using it locally. He added his goal was to avoid people being hurt.

Mr. McGalliard asked for more time to review before voting on the purchase. Mr. Newton reiterated the gloves were currently in use. Mr. Journey stated he was comfortable with the purchase if the sheriff was comfortable with the decision to which Mr. Aker agreed. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the purchase of the equipment from APB Consulting Solutions LLC. Brian McGalliard abstaining from the vote due to lack of education on the subject. Chad Aker seconded the motion and the motion passed by majority vote.

A claim for \$4,317 to VideoTec Corporation for updates to their video system was presented for commissioners' approval. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the claim to VideoTec. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

A Motorola Change Order related to the GIS map function for the Spillman system was presented. The change order did not impact the financial portion of the contract. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the Motorola Change Order. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Robin Alberson, assessor, came to the commissioners to ask for the commissioners to transfer the 2015 Ford Explorer from the sheriff's department. They will use the vehicle for new construction, and reassessment, rather than using the employee's vehicle and paying them mileage. Rex Journey questioned if she believed the vehicle would serve her purposes. Mrs. Alberson confirmed it would meet their needs. Mr. Aker informed the sheriff the Retirement Center was also interested in a surplus vehicle to replace theirs. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the 2015 vehicle be transferred from the sheriff to the assessor. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **HIGHWAY**

Bob Howell, road foreman, came to the commissioners to give their monthly operation report. He reported residents have requested stone be added on various roads. They are grading and placing gravel in pot holes until the weather allows. Truck #124 is currently at WA Jones getting updated and the wrecked truck is still at Arms waiting to be repaired. The new trucks #123 and #223 had to be taken back to LindCo due to an improperly installed hydraulic valve. Mr. Journey questioned how long the trucks would be out for service and if they are used for snowplowing. Mr. Howell confirmed

they were used for snowplowing and was unsure of the timeline, but it had already been a week and a half.

Mr. Howell is working on transitioning into the superintendent position. They will start interviews for the road foreman position later this week. A credit card application for Bob Howell was presented for commissioners' approval. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the application. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

A right of way easement from a utility company was presented to the commissioners for several roads where they will be replacing poles. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the right of way easement as presented. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **CLERK**

Jon Eads, clerk, came to the commissioners to discuss arrangements for meetings during early voting. He would like to have early voting in the auditorium this year due to the presidential election. There will be three meetings impacted by the change. April 22<sup>nd</sup>, October 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. They will be done in the room at 4:30 p.m. and the room would be available at 5:00 p.m. The commissioners discussed moving the meetings on those days to 5:00 p.m. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the change for those three meetings. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Missy Elliott, 1<sup>st</sup> deputy, discussed an issue where an attorney sent the wrong case number on a document. The money was remitted to the wrong party due to the error. The mistake was caught with the party agreeing to refund the money. However, they have not refunded the money in a reasonable amount of time. The county attorney has sent the request certified mail. The party has since agreed to pay the money back in \$100 increments per month. In the meantime, the person who should have received the money is now requesting payment as his case is satisfied. They asked the commissioners to allow them to pay the correct party ahead of the repayment. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the claim of \$958.21 to the correct party. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **TREASURER**

Paula Miller, Treasurer, and Jonelle Foreman, 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy, came to the commissioners to discuss contracting with L & D Mail Masters to print and mail tax bills for the 2023 pay 2024 tax season. The estimate from the company was \$6,078.47 which did not include postage. However, it should be the same cost as printing in house. Mrs. Miller reported there are 63 out of the 92 counties currently using the company. Mr. Aker believed the process and \$1,200 savings would benefit the county. Mr. McGalliard asked if additional help was hired by the county. Mrs. Miller confirmed they did bring in help seasonally. Rex Journey made a motion to approve L & D Mail Masters subject to approval for the contract by the county attorney. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

#### **PURDUE EXTENSION**

Allison Keen, extension educator, came to the commissioners to discuss their speed test initiative. Their data is due to the FCC by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. They are requesting for financial help to send out notices to every resident in the county. Mr. Aker encouraged the efforts as it would help with the county's broadband project. Mr. Aker questioned the cost for mailing with Mrs. Keen estimating a cost of \$1,300, but was waiting on more information. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the expenditure not to exceed \$1,500 for the mailer out of the EDIT fund. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Keen discussed some of the youth projects they have been working on in the last several months. The projects include STEM, Cooking Club, Nature of Teacher, Ag in the Classroom with Farm Bureau, Ag Breakfast, Ag Outlook, Sleep Education, partnering with Firefly and Drug Prevention Coalition. They are looking at partnering with Farm Bureau to introduce 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to farming.

#### **HODSON ENERGY- RESOLUTION 2024-03**

Mr. Schemenaur presented the commissioners with the final road use, decommissioning and economic agreement with Hodson Energy for their solar project. The economic development agreement paragraph D is projecting December 15, 2027 as the construction date. If payments go as scheduled, the first payment would be in 2028 through 2031. Resolution 2024-03 will be the approval of all three documents. They are still waiting on the planning commission for their meetings and approvals. Mr. Aker questioned if it was okay to go ahead and approve the agreements ahead of the plan commission. Mr. Schemenaur stated the agreements could be approved as the council has already approved the abatement. Mr. McGalliard expressed concern about this being the county's fourth solar farm and when have we reached capacity. Mr. Journey questioned if the way forward would be a moratorium resolution on future solar farms. Mr. McGalliard added he believed landowners should be able to do what they want on their own property; the county shouldn't offer

abatements to do it. Rex Journey made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-03. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**YODEL COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Travis Richards, JCDC director, came to the commissioners to discuss renewal of the Yodel Community Calendar. The JCDC board had approved the \$4,800 expenditure at their recent meeting. Mr. McGalliard questioned if there were any other companies who provided a community calendar. Mr. Richards has spoken with another company, but not in the last year. Mr. McGalliard asked if the money would not be better spent marketing with local radio and newspaper. Mr. Richards believed the amount of effort put into the system would determine if it was successful. Mr. McGalliard requested clarification on who would be putting in the effort. Mr. Richards explained it would be between the county's marketing company, JCDC, ECI, Jay County Tourism Bureau and Jay County Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Richards stated his belief the calendar was a good tool for determining dates for events in the county. Mr. Aker questioned if time could be devoted to making the calendar successful. He added he did not want to waste the money on something that was not being used. Mr. Richards believed it went back to the marketing discussion for the county and what that should look like. The annual payment to Yodel is due this month, if renewing.

Mr. McGalliard asked when the last time Mr. Richards had worked on the calendar. Mr. Richards explained the organizations update their information or Yodel can pull items from the organizations social media to update it. Mr. Journey asked what other sources the county could use to put all the events together. Mr. McGalliard believed Spotted Monkey Marketing, local newspaper or radio also does a great job. He added the county was only reaching a handful of people for \$400 a month per Yodel. Mr. Richards believed the calendar was beneficial in being able to advertise multiple events simultaneously.

Mr. Aker clarified his issue was in the lack of people visiting the site. He would like to find the best way to market events. Mr. Journey agreed the site was not being used, but was not sure if it had been marketed the way it needs to be marketed either. Mr. McGalliard stated he would not make a motion to approve at this time. Mr. Journey made a motion to approve the renewal, but asked for a sit down with JCDC, Nate Kimball, ECI Regional Planning and the Commissioners. Mr. Aker seconded the motion subject to all three organizations getting on the same path with Mr. McGalliard opposing the motion. It was agreed a meeting between the three parties would be a good first start.

Mr. Aker addressed the bills that had been forwarded to commissioners for payment. He clarified the commissioner's agreement with the city does not include any payment of utilities. If there are any issues with the utilities, he suggested they be addressed with the City of Portland as the lessor. The commissioners agreed to pay for the mats and the supplies for the restroom. The postage and copier paper are being used through the Building and Planning department. Brian McGalliard made a motion to reimburse JCDC the two claims, Walmart \$12.55 and Cintas \$11.81. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**CITIZEN CONCERN**

Stan Pitman, resident, came to the commissioners to express concern over the most recent Solar farm, Hodson Energy. He has a family member who will be surrounded by the proposed solar farm and was unaware of the project until a recent article in the Commercial Review. Mr. Schemenaur explained the county requirements and the noticing requirements of the Plan commission. The plan commission will most likely be meeting in March or April and will be notifying adjacent landowners before the meeting.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

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

The county home report for January was presented for commissioners' approval. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the county home report. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

A claim for Stryker to pay for the four power cots of \$111,582.80. Brian McGalliard made a motion to approve the claim to Stryker. Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The clerk's monthly report was presented for commissioner approval. Rex Journey made a motion to approve the clerk's monthly report. Brian McGalliard seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

With no further business, Brian McGalliard made a motion to adjourn at 11:24 a.m; Rex Journey seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

JAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Chad Akers

Brian McGalliard

Rex Journey

Attest: Kim Franks  
Jay County Auditor