

**MINUTES  
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OCTOBER 7, 2024  
9:00 A.M.**

The following Fountain County Commissioners were present at the meeting: Brenda Hardy, Aaron Fruits and Tim Shumaker.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Aaron Fruits and seconded by Tim Shumaker to approve the minutes of the Commissioner’s meeting of September 16, 2024 as presented. Vote: 3-0

**CLAIMS 1–193 (\$650,904.77), Unpublished Claims and Payroll Claims**

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Aaron Fruits to approve all claims. Vote: 3-0

**Report of Collections – as submitted**

A motion was made by Aaron Fruits and seconded by Tim Shumaker to acknowledge the Report of Collections for the Ambulance, Clerk, and Sheriff for September. Vote: 3-0

**Review and Acknowledge Treasurer’s Bank Reconciliation & Monthly Comparison Report**

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Aaron Fruits to acknowledge the Treasurer’s Bank Reconciliation for September 2024 along with the Monthly Fund Comparison Report. Vote: 3-0

**Review & Acknowledge Clerk’s Monthly Report for August 2024**

A motion was made by Aaron Fruits and seconded by Tim Shumaker to acknowledge the Clerk’s Monthly Report for August, 2024. Vote: 3-0

**Transfer**

**Local Road & Street**

From:	1169-0000-22320	Gravel	\$4,885.36
To:	1169-0000-33130	Contractual Services	

To cover USI invoice for Fountain County 2024-1 CCMG Construction Assistance

**Co General – Commissioners**

From:	1000-0068-33020	Soldier Burial	\$5,000.00
To:	1000-0068-33490	Liability Insurance	

To cover any expenses between now and the end of the year.

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Aaron Fruits to approve the transfers and send it on to the Council. Vote: 3-0

**Jim Ratcliff – Subdivision Plat – Grubb Lane**

County Attorney, Kent Minnette, gave a background of the history on the Grubb Lane Subdivision. The plat was first approved by the City of Covington and then the city turned the area over to the county. Kent stated the plat does meet the standard requirements.

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Aaron Fruits to approve the subdivision plat of Grubb Lane. Vote: 3-0

**Pro-Pest Control – Estimate**

Ross Miller and Rob Clodfelder presented a proposal on pest control for the Courthouse. They will come monthly; bi-monthly and quarterly to exterminate the inside and outside of the Courthouse building. A motion was made by Aaron Fruits and seconded by Tim Shumaker to approve the service agreement with Pro-Pest Control. Vote: 3-0

**Highway Safety Improvement Project**

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Aaron Fruits to approve the grant for retro reflective signs and pavement markings. The counties match will be \$25,000 for 2025 and 2026. Vote: 3-0

**Smart Contractors Inc – Snow Removal and Salting**

An estimate was received for snow removal and salting at the Courthouse from Smart Contractors. A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Aaron Fruits to approve the estimate. Vote: 3-0

**Opioid Settlement – Contract with Turning Point Residential Recovery Solutions d/b/a Johney’s House**

A motion was made by Aaron Fruits and seconded by Tim Shumaker to approve the contract with Johney’s House. Vote: 3-0

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**Ambulance – Garth Kagels**

Garth has filled the vacant position in his department. He is now fully staffed. He did inform the Commissioners that he has become a member of the Indiana EMS Association. They provide training; lobby legislature for funding, reimbursement of Medicare/Medicaid payment amounts plus many other things.

**E-911 – Dana Stonebraker**

Dana also informed the Commissioners that she is now fully staffed. The loud music under the window of the E-911 Department during Apple Fest will be remedied for next year. It was a misunderstanding in communication.

**WEGA – Rod Bannon**

He stated that WEGA communicates with a newsletter. They do not use social media. It can be found at WEGA website (wegaworks.com). He reported that work on the exterior of the building is set to begin on October 21, 2024. He said taxpayers should see a lot of new activity in the next 2-3 months.

**Commissioner – Brenda Hardy**

She informed everyone that she is not going to work for WEGA after January 1. What is on social media is not true. They are false statements. Rod Bannon said that he does plan to hire 2-3 additional people next year.

**Council – Jeff Fishero**

He also was addressing some items on social media. Jeff reiterated that Brenda Hardy is not working for WEGA. He said Rob Bannon did not write the Comprehensive Plan. He asked the Commissioners if they were in support of the HFI funding for the Health Department and to not cut out the overlap of the two budgets. The Commissioners are in support and are not interested in cutting the budget. He also asked the Commissioners about their thoughts on WHIN – do they support it? Brenda Hardy said they do a lot more than what we are using it for. It is a positive thing. Aaron thought

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it was more useful before we received fiber optic in many communities. Kelly Carlson made reference to R2K that is available to everyone.

Jeff Fishero also wanted to address the concerns regarding three people. 1) Roger Azar – He is doing what is asked of him. He is very talented and a good source. It does come with a price. He is not concerned that he is not a resident of Fountain County. 2) Kent Minnette – He gives us legal advice. He would not jeopardize his license or do anything unethical. He is a good citizen. He is on the school board and works with many kids. 3) Dudley Cruea – He has been asked about making him a consultant to the Council for the budget. He would only be a consultant. He will not be a member of the board and cannot vote or run the meeting. Tim Shumaker asked Jeff to broaden their horizon. There are other consultants and vendors to help with this task.

Jeff said he did not know why anyone would want to be in public office the way things are on social media.

**Council – Kelly Carlson** stated everyone is entitled to their opinion. She asked that if people had questions or concerns to call her. She is an “open book” and is available to talk, email or text with anyone who wants to. Get the facts first before going to social media. It is a thankless job but she cares for her county.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Bill Brewer** – He stated that IC 36-9-27-31 says if a county does not have an elected surveyor the board may hire a full or part time - surveyor or engineer. The board shall employ and fix the compensation of a part time or full-time engineer or surveyor. They must be registered. They do not have to be a resident of the county only a resident of the State of Indiana.

**Carol Owens** – Does Roger work for Ratcliff? He is the designer for some of his subdivisions. He does not work for him. He pays him as a consultant not an employee. Carol wanted to know if the roads will be widened. It is now a private road but could be turned over to the County in the future. The Commissioners would have to approve the roads before accepting them. She also asked about the match on the Readi 2.0 grant. Rod Bannon explained the match. He also explained the Readi 1 grant with the City of Attica and Covington.

**Jeffery Marquez** - Asked about the process to vacate an alley way in the town of Cates. Kent Minnette asked him to meet with him and the Auditor after the meeting for the necessary paperwork to start the process.

#### **Tim Shumaker – Commissioner**

He said the County has been blessed to have Kent and his firm as their attorney. They are very knowledgeable in county government.

**Brenda Hardy** – She had a question about the Plan Commission meeting in regards to some of their members need to be reappointed. Kent stated the commissioners need to vote on the comprehensive plan at their next meeting. They will need to ratify or reappoint the members of the plan commission board.

**Sandy Seyfert** – She asked if yellow lines are going to be put on Stringtown Road.

**Sue Spurling** – She does not have Facebook and has not seen the negative comments. She would like for them to put the positive things about the

County on social media. Brenda said they have tried but are attacked when doing so.

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE MONDAY,  
October 21, 2024  
AT 9:00 A.M.**

A motion was made by Tim Shumaker and seconded by Aaron Fruits to close the meeting. Vote: 3-0

Brenda Hardy

Ben J

Tim Shumaker

Cecilia Chambers

ATTEST