FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting – January 7, 2025

BE IT REMEMBERED:
That the Fayette County Commissioners of Fayette County, State of Indiana, met in regular scheduled session on the above date at 2:00 P.M. with the following present: Commissioners Dale Strong, Dale Munson, and Tracie Bever, and Auditor Jane Downard and County Attorney Geoff Wesling (via Zoom) of said County and State.

Auditor Downard called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:
The first item of business was the election of officers. Auditor Downard asked for nominations or declarations for the office of president. Commissioner Munson moved to nominate Dale Strong as President, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 2-0 with Commissioner Strong abstaining. Commissioner Strong then called for a nomination or declaration for the office of Vice President. Commissioner Bever moved to nominate Dale Munson as Vice President, Commissioner Strong seconded the motion, motion carried 2-0 with Commissioner Munson abstaining.

MINUTES:
Commissioner Munson moved to approve the minutes of December 17th regular meeting, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

BID OPENING:
Commissioners opened the sealed bids received for Highway Department supplies. Bids were received from the following companies:

Keystone Co-op of Richmond, Indiana
Terry Asphalt Materials of Hamilton, Ohio
R-Mix LLC of Cambridge City, Indiana
St. Regis Culvert Inc. of Indianapolis, Indiana
New Point Stone Inc. of Greensburg, Indiana
Irving Materials Incorporated
Asphalt Materials Inc. of Indianapolis, Indiana
Civil-Con Supply Company of Jeffersonville, Indiana

Commissioner Munson moved to take all bids under advisement for Highway Director Chris Gettinger to review and come back with a recommendation, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

AREA PLAN COMMISSION:
Bill MacDaniel presented the solar ordinance that the APC approved at their meeting. Commissioner Dale Strong said the State Director of Indiana's Center for Infrastructure and Economic Development had given a review and several recommendations regarding the proposed ordinance. Bill said once it is certified and forwarded to the legislative bodies, they have 60 days to act on the ordinance. They can adopt as written, they can amend, or they can reject. If they amend or reject, it has to go back to the APC. In that 60 day window, if it goes beyond 60 days, it is considered to be accepted and will go into effect. The proposed ordinance only goes back once. The moratorium is set to expire February 1st of this year. Commissioner Strong asked if there was time for APC to make recommended changes, and Attorney Geoff Wesling advised that he did not think there was time for APC to incorporate the changes, and that if we wanted to extend the moratorium we would have to have another public hearing. Dwayne Cox, one of the committee members requested a copy of the recommendations, and Commissioner Strong gave him an extra copy he had with him. Commissioner Munson asked if we passed the ordinance as is today, would they still be able to change it after that and Attorney Geoff Wesling said yes, they could. Commissioner Strong said in his opinion the overall tone of the ordinance as it stands is weighted heavily against solar development, and he would feel much better about it if it was more middle

of the road and was giving equal opportunity to both landowners. Nick Thomas said in the new draft an adjoining landowner can waive setbacks if they choose. He said they felt like it was important for each property owner to have that choice. Commissioner Strong said in thinking about some of his neighbors from the past he didn't know if they'd agree. Jan Wilhelm said that there have been some concerns regarding setbacks and she said they went off the same setbacks used for CAFOs. Bill MacDaniel clarified that the setbacks for CAFOs was 100 feet from the property line. Nick Thomas spoke again and addressed property values and said that solar companies should have to have "skin in the game" and guarantee property values. Commissioner Strong said he believes that all landowners should have equal rights. Commissioner Bever asked if this ordinance would be in effect during the 90 days they set for making amendments. Commissioner Bever said they want to pass the ordinance and make changes later, and Attorney Geoff Wesling said it can be amended at any time. Commissioner Bever moved to approve Ordinance 2025-02 as presented, Commissioner Munson seconded the motion. In further discussion, Attorney Geoff Wesling clarified that the motion would not include suggested changes. Any suggested changes could be forwarded to APC later through a resolution. Commissioner Bever thanked the committee and all their work in putting the ordinance together. Vote was taken and the motion carried 3-0.

Bill MacDaniel next presented the proposed parking ordinance. Bill said that the earlier concern regarding parking semi trucks had been revised to allow parking on gravel. Commissioner Strong said he was concerned about the language that requires a 6 foot fence around certain parked vehicles, and said he thinks there should be differentiation between some of the city rules and the county rules. Commissioner Bever moved to approve Ordinance 2025-01 as presented, Commissioner Munson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:
Director Chris Gettinger has reviewed bids and recommended that commissioners accept all bids and give him the discretion to use the lowest bid available at the time it is needed. Commissioner Munson moved to approve and accept all bids, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0. Chris said he thinks things have gone pretty well and that they are getting the roads in better shape. He said one of the trucks broke down and had to be in the shop about five hours for repairs so that slowed them down in the Orange area. He said he believes the wind has laid down so drifting shouldn't be such a problem.

MAINTENANCE:
Josh Jarboe was unable to be present but he had requested approval of a quote for some work from Koorsen. Commissioner Munson moved to approve the proposal for repair in the amount of $2,645.95, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

RECORDER:
Lisa Witt said that the Recorder's office has completed 5,100 documents in the last two years, and their goal is to do at least 100 documents per month this year. All the plats are in, and they are working on military books.

HEALTH BOARD APPOINTMENTS:
Matt Sherck said that Dr. Tan, Dr. DuBois and Kristy Martin are all eligible for reappointment and are willing to continue to serve. He said that Alvin Day had given his two week notice as the Preparedness Coordinator so they will have that position open. Commissioner Bever questioned if the lab work was by appointment only, and Matt said it is not necessarily by appointment but can only be done at certain times based on when the lab will pick up the samples. Matt said that the lab work does not require a doctor's order. Commissioner Strong said the postcard flyer sent out recently was a very valuable and informative tool.

SHERIFF:
Zac Jones presented a recommended job description for a jail deputy that he would like the commissioners to approve. He said he had used a description from Wayne County as a starting point and had made some additions to fit our county. He said that six jailers would get this promotion. Commissioner Munson moved to approve the new job description as presented, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

COUNTY ATTORNEY:
Geoff Wesling did not have anything for commissioners at this time.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:
Councilwoman Kay Riker-Peyton was present but did not have anything for the board at this time.

MAIL:
None

OLD BUSINESS:
None

NEW BUSINESS:
Commissioner Strong gave the reminder that we will need to deal with the Cemetery Mowing Contract and the Farm Rent Contract soon.

Geoff Stinson was present for the highway union. An addendum to the union contract was drafted by the county auditor and presented for approval regarding a negotiated pay increase. Commissioner Bever moved to approve the addendum to give a $1.44 per hour pay increase effective with hours worked 1.1.25, Commissioner Munson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0. Geoff Stinson suggested we do an MOU to move expiration date of the current contract to January 31, 2026, and said he would prepare the MOU.

An agreement between commissioners and Kleinpeter Consulting was presented for their work on the OCRA Grant for Everton Water Corp. Commissioner Bever moved to approve the agreement as presented, Commissioner Munson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

The 2025 Mutual Aid contracts between the county and the three volunteer fire departments, Bentonville, Everton, and Glenwood, in the amount of $5,000 each were presented for approval. Commissioner Bever moved to approve the contracts as presented, Commissioner Strong seconded the motion, motion carried 2-0 with Commissioner Munson abstaining because he serves on the Glenwood Volunteer Fire Department.

Board Appointments for 2025:
- Everton Regional Sewer Board
  - Debbie Kidd 09/29/28
- Area Plan Commission
  - Dale Munson 12/31/25
  - Bill Macke 12/31/28
- Board of Zoning Appeals
  - Kari Simpkins 12/31/28
- Fayette County Community Development
  - Dale Strong 12/31/26
- Fayette County Health Board
  - Kristie Martin 12/31/28
  - Dr. John Tan 12/31/28
  - Dr. Brad DuBois 12/31/28
- Fayette County Board of Finance
  - Dale Strong 12/31/25
- Council of Aging & Aged
  - Dale Strong 12/31/26
- Cemetery Commission
  - Amanda Stevens 12/31/29
- Fayette County Economic Development Board
  - Dale Strong 12/31/25
- Fayette County Alcoholic Beverage Board
  - Ed Herrell 12/31/25
- Fayette County Extension Board
  - Tracie Bever 12/31/25
- Fayette County 4-H Council
  - Tracie Bever 12/31/25
- Fayette County E-911 Advisory Board
  - Dale Munson 12/31/25

Community Corrections Advisory Board
Tracie Bever 12/31/25
Fayette County Tax Abatement Advisory Committee
Jane Downard 12/31/25
Public Defender Board
Tracie Bever 12/31/25
Tourism Board
Amanda Stevens 12/31/26
Solid Waste Board
Dale Munson 12/31/28
Tracie Bever 12/31/28
Dale Strong 12/31/26
Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission
Dale Strong 12/31/25
Scott Bevington 12/31/25
Gertrud Whitaker 12/31/25
Dan Parker 12/31/25

Commissioner Munson moved to approve all appointments as discussed, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

PATRON CONCERNS:
None

PAYROLL AND CLAIMS:
Commissioner Munson moved to approve claims and payroll as presented, seconded by Commissioner Bever, motion carried 3-0. Commissioners then signed all paperwork on camera.

ADJOURNMENT:
Commissioner Munson moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bever, motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Dale L. Strong
Dale Strong, President

Dale Munson
Dale Munson, Vice-President

Tracie Bever
Tracie Bever

Jane E Downard
Attest: Jane Downard, Auditor