FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting – February 17, 2026

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 Munson, Tracie Bever, and Dale Strong, and Chief Deputy Auditor Haylee Weston and County Attorney Geoff Wesling of said County and State.

Commissioner Munson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

MINUTES:
Commissioner Bever moved to approve the minutes of February 3rd regular meeting, Commissioner Strong seconded the motion, and motion carried 3-0.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

911:
911 Director Sam Caldwell presented a 144 for the hire of two part time dispatchers, Madison Handcock and Heather Edwards.

Commissioner Strong moved to approve the 144 request for the hire of Madison Handcock and Heather Edwards, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, and motion carried 3-0.

Discussion was held surrounding ideas to attempt to limit or eliminate overtime. 911 Director Sam Caldwell presented two different mock schedules that she is requesting the Commissioners allow her to try before making official changes to the SOP.

Sam Caldwell is making attempts to hire more part time employees in attempt to reduce overtime and comp time hours. In the meantime, Sam is informing Commissioners that she has submitted an additional appropriation that she will be presenting to Council at their March 3rd meeting.

Highway
Chris Gettinger updated that The Highway Department is currently working on gravel roads, cold patching, and getting the trucks back up and running after the snow storm.

Chris Getting requested a letter of commitment to move forward with purchasing two truck replacements. One truck that he is looking to replace is from 1999 and the other is from 2001. Chris shared that he needs to order the trucks now so that they will be ready by September/October in preparation for next winter. Chris shared that there is money in the budget to order one truck, however he is requesting to purchase a total of two trucks. Each truck will cost $268400 a piece.

Commissioner Bever made a motion to write a letter of commitment approving the purchase of up to two trucks, Commissioner Strong seconded the motion, and motion carried 3-0.

Sheriff/Jail
Sheriff Zac Jones shared that he had been working with Maintenance Director Josh Jarboe to figure out why there were two dumpsters behind the jail. One dumpster was being paid for by the jail, the other from the Courthouse. Zac Jones presented the option of getting a larger dumpster from Rumpke, removing the dumpster from CGS, which would save $150-$250 per month.

Commissioner Bever made a motion to approve Zac Jones recommendation of getting a larger dumpster from Rumpke and to do away with CGS contract for the dumpster behind the jail, Commissioner Strong seconded, and motion carried 3-0.

Sheriff Zac Jones updated that there have been plumbing issues at the woman's center. Sheriff Jones stated that there is a yearlong warranty with Thor construction and Thor has been working on getting the plumbing issue fixed.

Discussion was held regarding Sheriff's Department vehicles. Sheriff Zac Jones stated that he is hoping to purchase both a new truck and Durango for the Sheriff's department this year. Sheriff Jones stated that he will get inventory of what can be given to other departments and Commissioners agreed that they will explore vehicle needs for county departments and make a decision on who will get which vehicles.

Extension Office
Stephanie McCurdy presented an updated office manager job description.

Commissioner Bever made a motion to approve the presented job description pending the review from Human Resources ensuring that the job description is within the boundaries of the County Handbook, seconded by Commissioner Strong, motion carried 3-0.

Surveyor
Bill Macke presented the annual drain assessments that needed to be signed by Commissioners.

Discussion was held regarding progress on the bridge on 50 north. Bill Macke updated that the bridge will be built next year, but he is unaware of progress on gaining the right of ways. County Attorney Geoff Wesling advised that a number has been presented to be settled, however due to pending litigation that was not a topic to get into detail about on camera.

Commissioner Strong made a motion to approve the drain assessments, seconded by Commissioner Bever, motion carried 3-0. All Commissioners then signed on camera.

Animal Shelter
Dave Ryckman is requesting permission to go to council to request an appropriation of $30,000 out of the donation account to cover the cost of spaying and neutering animals.

Commissioner Strong made a motion to allow Dave to go to council to request an additional appropriation, with their recommendation, from his donation funds and into veterinarian, Commissioner Bever seconded, motion carried 3-0.

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

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:
Councilman Tim Patterson was present. Councilman Patterson asked Commissioners if there were any documents to support the direction that Commissioners are going with the changes to the Manlove Park Proposal. Commissioner Strong explained that the individual who wrote the plan was not familiar with the needs and operation of the park itself. Commissioner Strong stated that several months after the plan was filed with the DNR is when the Commissioners received a copy of the plan for the first time. He stated the conservation club wanted to weed out anything that hampered their ability to maintain Manlove Park in the way that they always have. Because of that, the decision was made to use the 10 acre lot on the west side of the lake so that the rented ground on the east side of the lake was not endangered because the rented ground has a direct impact on the funding for this project.

Commissioner Strong addressed the concern about the 10 acres on the west side of the lake not being large enough. Commissioner Strong pointed out that in the original plan there was an estimated 85,000 cubic yards of material that makes up the lake. Commissioner Strong stated if all 85,000 cubic yards were spread out at one time on a 10 acre lot, the pile of dirt would be approximately 6 foot tall. Discussion continued between Commissioner Strong and Councilman Patterson regarding the decision to place the material on the 10 acre lot.

Councilman Patterson requested to be provided documents that support the financial decisions regarding the Manlove Park project. Commissioner Strong agreed gather documents to provide him.

MAIL:
None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:
Kleinpeter – Resolution Approving Water and Storm Water Plan

Local Resolution Approving the Plan – Resolution 26-R-1

Mike Kleinpeter updated that the OCRA planning grant that was in the amount of $60,000 to help Everton look at water and storm water issues has now been completed. The OCRA grant requirements have been met. Including a second public hearing that was held on February 2nd. Mike stated that Everton is happy with the provided pan, however commissioners still need to officially approve the plan.

Commissioner Strong made a motion to approve Resolution 26-R-1 Local Resolution Approving the Plan for the Everton Storm and Water plan, Seconded by Commissioner Bever, motion carried 3-0.

Mike Kleinpeter stated that the next step in wrapping up the planning grant will be to email Auditor Jane Downard requesting to pull the remaining grant funds. After Jane responds with an approval, they will draw down the funds. Mike Kleinpeter is requesting permission to start the close out process for the grant after the approval from Jane is sent.

Commissioner Bever made a motion to approve the close out process for the grant, Commissioner Strong seconded the motion, and motion carried 3-0.

Kleinpeter – Radon Testing Contract for OOR Grant

Mike Kleinpeter updated that the selection process moving onto the next phase of the Owner Occupied Rehab Grant had been completed and that the next step in this process will be to obtain radon testing. He has presented two quotes for this testing and is requesting the Commissioners choose one.

Commissioner Bever made a motion to approve the radon testing through Hoosier Radon, seconded by Commissioner Strong, motion carried 3-0.

Mike Kleinpeter is requesting permission to have Dale Munson sign an extension letter in regards to the OOR grant so that bidder shoots can be completed and bids can be accepted and opened at the April 7th Commissioner meeting.

Mike Kleinpeter is requesting that Dale Munson sign a form giving him permission to speak to the state historic preservation office on the counties behalf regarding a required section 106 environmental review for the OOR Grant.

Trisha Dearth – Atkins – Transit Update
Trisha Dearth presented an update on trips that were taken in 2025 compared to 2024. Trisha gave insight to a conversation that has begun taking place about the possibility of a deviated route for Fayette County.

Linda Fitzgerald – Blue Zone Support
Linda Fitzgerald is requesting a letter of support on behalf of Fayette County for Health Fayette County. Linda provided an update that health Fayette County is not asking for funding from the County or City. Discussion was held regarding the grants that have been applied for and progress that had been made.

Commissioner Strong made a motion to have the letter signed by Commissioner President Dale Munson, Commissioner Bever seconded, and motion carried 3-0.

Cemetery Commission
Commissioner Bever presented the contract from Amanda Stevens for the Cemetery Commission requesting that they roll the contract.

Commissioner Strong agree to extend the mowing contract with Jay McAtee and the cemetery commission for another year, seconded by Commissioner Bever, motion carried 3-0.

PATRON CONCERNS:
None

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

ADJOURNMENT:
Commissioner Strong moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bever, and motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

Dale Munson	Tracie Bever
Dale Munson, President	Tracie Bever, Vice-President
Dale L Strong	Jane E Downard
Dale Strong	Attest: Jane Downard, Auditor