

FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting – May 6, 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 Auditor Jane Downard 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 April 21st regular meeting, Commissioner Strong seconded the motion, and motion carried 3-0.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

EDG:

EDG Director Brad Colter spoke regarding the data center moratorium. He wanted to come and give some context to the issue. Last year, he asked commissioners to resolve that they were not against data centers or any other big development. There has been no discussion of a data center, no discussion of a deal, no non-disclosure agreement in place. Brad said he thinks it is a good idea to do a moratorium because our ordinances are antiquated and do not address this type of development. He said he knows a few people on Area Planning would like an impact study done on how these types of development would affect Fayette County. A lot of surrounding counties have already done these types of studies, but there are parts that would have to be county specific. He wanted to lend his support to a moratorium.

APC:

Bill MacDaniel has two things for commissioners. The highest priority is the proposed ordinance putting a moratorium on the approval of new data center projects. Ordinance 2026-03 to Establish a Moratorium on the Approval of New Data Center Projects was presented for approval. Commissioner Strong moved to approve the Ordinance, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

Ordinance 2026-04 To Amend the Area Zoning Code of Fayette County was presented for approval. The proposed changes were to Accessory Uses, Yard Exceptions, Manufactured Homes, and Temporary Uses. Commissioner Bever moved to approve Ordinance 2026-04 as presented, Commissioner Strong seconded the motion, and motion carried 3-0.

911:

Samantha Caldwell presented a 144 to hire two part-time dispatchers, Kaylee Fohl and Olivia Loft. Commissioner Strong moved to approve the 144 as presented, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, and motion carried 3-0. Samantha did a transfer from Overtime pay to the Employee pay line to cover. She got called at 1:00 a.m. Tuesday because there was water pouring in the basement and the radios were down. She had to have portable radios brought in. She is waiting on a quote to replace the radios and is hoping it will be covered by insurance. Commissioner Munson asked if she had anything worked out with RAVE, and she said there will be a meeting with them tomorrow.

SURVEYOR:

Bill Macke presented the contract for right-of-way for Bridge 533. After some discussion regarding what appeared to be a discrepancy in fees, it was recommended that Bill get with Butler Fairman and get clarification on the contract amounts then bring the contract to the next meeting.

MAINTENANCE:

Josh Jarboe presented a 144 to hire Mona Taber for a part-time position as a custodian to work 12 hours per week. Commissioner Strong moved to approve the 144 as presented, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, and motion carried 3-0.

He presented quotes for a water softener for the courthouse. Lainhart quoted \$8,010.58 for the softener and would subcontract plumbing to Powell's. Powell's quoted \$7,741.53 for both equipment and labor, and the softener tank is larger. The softener would be going in the basement. There will be 2 years warranty on the unit. He had originally requested from a third business but did not have an additional quote to present. Commissioner Strong moved to approve the bid from Powells, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

Josh had previously emailed a quote to commissioners to replace an air handling unit at the courthouse annex through North Mechanical. Commissioner Bever moved to approve the replacement, Commissioner Strong seconded the motion, and motion carried 3-0.

One of the boilers at the jail had a heat exchange fail this morning, and it flooded the basement. The warranty expired in March, and the replacement part is \$10,000. To purchase a similar boiler would be \$20,000. He said he would get more exact quotes.

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

Geoff Wesling did not have anything at this time.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:

No council representative was present.

MAIL:

Commissioner Strong received a letter from the Library Director regarding one of our appointments to the library board who has resigned. Commissioners will need to appoint a new person prior to June 30th when that appointment expires. If anyone is interested in serving on the Library Board, they will need to contact commissioners. It is a four-year term, and meetings are held once a month.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Strong moved to table the OOR bids due to a lack of recommendation from Kleinpeter Consulting, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, and motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

The highway union contract renewal was presented for approval. Commissioner Strong moved to approve and ratify as Ordinance 2026-02, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, and motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Strong said he has been asked about closure of a right-of-way. There is a right-of-way that deadends to Route 1, and the State of Indiana would not allow a curb cut. These four property owners have asked what the proper way to initiate the action to close the roadway. Attorney Wesling said it would be the same as filing a petition for an alley closure. They would file a petition then we would hold a public hearing.

Commissioner Bever shared that she had met with representatives from the Amish community and they gave her a check for 83 buggies at a cost of \$65 per buggy for a total contribution to the wheel tax fund of \$5,395 this year. This is the third year they have contributed money to that fund. She said they had given her permission to speak on their behalf and she wanted to correct some rumors and misinformation. They are tax paying citizens and pay taxes like everyone else. They did not pay wheel tax because they do not purchase license plates, but they are contributing to that fund through their per buggy donation amount.

PATRON CONCERNS:

None

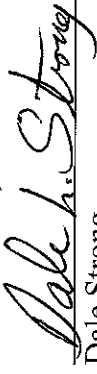
PAYROLL AND CLAIMS:

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

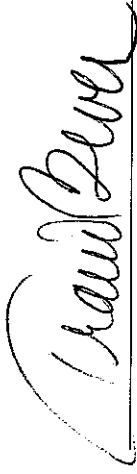
ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Bever moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Strong, and motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

Dale Munson, President



Dale Strong



Tracie Bever, Vice-President



Attest: Jane Downard, Auditor