

**JUNE 10, 2024**

**JOINT SESSION**

**PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Pulaski County Commissioners and Pulaski County Council met in joint session Monday June 10, 2024 6:00PM at the Pulaski County Highway Department training room. Commissioners present were Charles Mellon, Maurice Loehmer, Michael McClure and Councilmembers present were Michael Tiede, Jeffrey Richwine, Sheila Hazemi-Jimenez, Bradley Bonnell, Jerry Locke, Tim Overmeyer with County Auditor Laura Wheeler and County Attorney Kevin Tankersley. Council President Kenneth Boswell present by Zoom.

Also present were Connie Neininger, Ross Neininger, Edwina Guffey, Jennifer Johns, Connie Ehrlich, Chris Brucker, Gary Kruger, Joe Moyer, Joe Beckman, Gail Lambert, Judge Mary Welder, Megan Galbreath, and Chris Schramm.

President Mellon opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IN RE: CORONER**

A new vehicle for the coroner's office discussed. The current vehicle is a 2012 Ford Van that is larger than needed and sits up too high, making loading difficult and causing multiple injuries. The cost for new cot and power lift is \$56,789.94 plus \$10,641.00 for a 3-year warranty plus \$817.29 for shipping. A used power cot is \$36,000.00 plus maintenance and shipping. A maintenance agreement is recommended, especially on used equipment. The coroner's office had 39 cases in 2023 and 15 so far in 2024. The coroner has no money in the 2024 budget for the cot so discussion followed on whether to use money from County General or ARPA funds. Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve purchase of cot & power lift for \$36,000.00 with no maintenance agreement, Michael McClure seconded but motion was later rescinded for additional information: size of cot, new vehicle fit, installation. Commissioners decided to table this discussion until June 17 Commissioners' meeting.

Dobson Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep quoted 34,500.00 for a 2022 Jeep Grand Cherokee, which has a third row of seats that can be laid down and provide more length for cot. This matter was also tabled for price comparisons.

**IN RE: PULASKI COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES**

Human Services is still in need of 20,000.00 for the purchase of two new public transit vehicles. Pulaski County committed \$8,000.00 per vehicle from ARPA funds several months ago. There is money available in the CDC-Economic Development fund. Maurice Loehmer made a motion to give \$20,000.00 from the CDC-Economic Development fund, Michael McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

**IN RE: HIGHWAY**

Bids were opened last week for two projects in Pulaski County for the Community Crossing Grant. After review of the bids, Central Paving recommended for the project as the lowest bid. Pulaski County received grants in the amount of \$325,000.00 for roads and \$650-700,000.00 for bridges.

**IN RE: CDC**

Dr. John Beckman, Assistant Director of cyberTAP, introduced. Two years ago, cyberTAP through Purdue University conducted a free cybersecurity assessment of Pulaski County and they would like to conduct another survey with a sit-down interview. Their objective is to help the counties and inform the State of resources available.

A 6-county regional consortium received a federal grant through KIRPC to develop a regional agricultural economic-development strategy—the rural economic development model (REDM). Two key partners were Purdue Center for Regional Development and Connie Neininger, who formerly held economic development positions with White and Cass Counties and the Indiana State Department of Agricultural. Through the Northwest Indiana Forum, we received round-one READI funds from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation to support the implementation of the strategy. Our group hired Connie Neininger and Lee Lewellen, recently of the Indiana Economic Development Association. Connie Neininger gave an over-view of the KIRPC Regional Ag Strategy.

The Courthouse Renovation bond sale closed Thursday with \$13,293,706.90 as the total amount received. After reimbursement to Fund 1112 for previously incurred costs and the disbursements to First National Bank of Monterey and our fiscal and legal advisors, the County will have approximately \$11,716,000.00 in available funds. About \$616,000.00 of that is our share of the contingency.

Any furniture and fixtures for which the County has no more need but is in decent shape, are in the Highway lobby and will be sold according to Indiana Code. Tonn & Blank carpenters have been removing anything that can be restored: wainscot, baseboards, door jambs, judge’s bench, etc. Demolition laborers have been removing everything that goes in the dumpster. MEP subcontractors are doing disconnecting/demolition. A 44-star flag that dates back to early 1890s was discovered plus a large number of empty wine bottles dating back more than a century. There is also more hardware floors than assumed, which may lead to some small changes in plans, depending on the condition. Tomorrow, Tonn & Blank have a meeting with roofing subcontractor and scaffolding team regarding their work. Saw-cutting into the slab will begin Wednesday and when done, installation of underground mechanics can begin. Project Superintendent is coordinating with masonry subcontractor to schedule removal of retaining wall.

Guidance requested on handling change orders. Commissioners stated that the discussion will continue at the June 17<sup>th</sup> Commissioners meeting.

IN RE: HEALTH

Since Pulaski County will be receiving HFI funding, they are required to offer Core Services such as an Immunization Nurse, Septic Permit Officer, and part-time EMR Preparedness Officer. These are all contracted positions. Commissioners stated that this discussion will continue at the June 17 Commissioners meeting.

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS

Maurice Loehmer made a motion on behalf of the Commissioners to approve the April 8, 2024 joint session minutes as presented, Michael McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Sheila Hazemi-Jimenez made a motion on behalf of Council to approve the April 8, 2024 joint session minutes as presented, Kenneth Boswell seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Approved and signed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August 2024 by the **PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** and **PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL**.

PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL

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KENNETH BOSWELL

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MICHAEL TIEDE

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JEFFREY RICHWINE

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SHEILA HAZEMI-JIMENEZ

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TIM OVERMYER

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BRADLEY BONNELL

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Jerome ‘Jerry’ Locke

PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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CHARLES MELLON

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MAURICE LOEHMER

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MICHAEL MCCLURE

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
LAURA WHEELER, AUDITOR, PULASKI COUNTY, IN