

FEBRUARY 3RD 2025**REGULAR SESSION****PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

The Pulaski County Commissioners met in regular session Monday February 3rd 2025 6:00PM at the Pulaski County Highway Department training room. Commissioners present were Donald Street Jr, Jennifer Knebel with County Auditor Teresa Bryant. Commissioner Michael McClure was absent.

Also present were: Gary Kruger, Isaiah Tidwell, Chris Brucker, Kathy Wyatt, Darrell Gudeman, Judge Mary Welker, Wanda Smolek, Tim Harmsen, Sara Harmsen, Randy Davis, Ross Davis, Rich Knebel, Tina Knebel, Bev Smith, Bill Smith, Logan Wuetrich, Bob Barger, Franna Barger, Ben Smith, Gail Lambert, Diane Cervenka, Mark Cervenka, Natasha Daugherty, ?, Lynn Darda, Don Darda, Brandi Larkin, Bryant Larkin, Michael Tiede, Patricia Tiede, Terri Hansen, Raymond Hansen, Jason Fagner, William Kocher, ?, Scott Becker, Tom Thomas, Terry Young, Brian Young, Dennis Bope, AJ Gutwein, Raquel Gutwein, Norman Welker, Edwina Guffey, Amanda Messer, Levi Messer, Josh Stamper, Sherry Fagner, Aaron Heims, Brenda Krulik, Joe Krulik, Dale Chu, ?, Darlene Olds, Dave Olds, Phillip ?, Anita Goodin, Andrew Fritz, Janice Gudeman, Joshua Leszcynski, Kathy Spurgeon and Brian Smith.

President Street opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: HEALTH, EDWINA GUFFEY

Edwina wants to install wood vinyl planking in three offices and 2 patient room hand washing sinks. She estimates total project will be around \$15,000 with labor and new water lines. Funds will come from an old CARES grant. Health Department is now doing blood draws for TB, STD and lead testing. Last year Commissioners approved an Emergency Preparedness Coordinator position and Health has hired Kenneth Boswell, who started in January. Jennifer made a motion to approve Health Department spending grant funds for flooring and sinks, Donald Street seconded and motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: EMS, NATASHA DAUGHERTY

Final paperwork presented for the USDA grant reimbursement on recently purchased ambulance. County will receive \$95,000 as total cost was \$303,424.08 (includes stair chair and ventilator). Parts are now available on one ambulance needing repairs. Natasha requested an extra phone with recording and a dedicated phone line for hospital transfers. Right now if hospital calls and no one at the base, the calls are forwarded to the director's phone and Natasha wants to be sure these calls are handled quickly. Jennifer made a motion to approve a dedicated transfer line, Donald seconded and motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: COMMISSIONERS, JENNIFER KNEBEL

Jennifer gave updates on industrial solar/BESS. She recently met with Senator Banks' regional Director Max Engling. He was touring various counties and surprised at the large scale of projects. He expects that property taxes will continue to increase some annually. There is concern about safety of school buses/children with heavy equipment moving around the projects. Jennifer asked that people contact their representatives regarding HB 16-28 which will let large scale projects move forward without having to apply for a permit. This would take control away for local government. This bill was presented before and did not pass.

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS

Donald Street Jr. made a motion to approve and sign claims, payroll #1, 2 and 3, Jennifer seconded, and motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer made a motion to approve and sign 01/21/2025 regular session minutes, Donald seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Donald made a motion to approve and sign Resolution 2025-03, which designates the President of the Board as the authorized person to sign grant paperwork for County Highway. Jennifer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

PULASKI COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2025-03
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PULASKI COUNTY, INDIANA,
DESIGNATING A SIGNATURE FOR CERTAIN GRANT APPLICATIONS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS
FOR THE PULASKI COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, from time to time, the Pulaski County Highway Department ('Highway') may apply for grants to supplement funds held by Pulaski County ('County') for the purpose of constructing, repairing, and maintaining roads, bridges, and other structures under Highway's jurisdiction or for other purposes that support such efforts or otherwise are within Highway's statutory bailiwick;

WHEREAS, pursuant to *Indiana Code (I. C.) 36-2-2-2*, the Board of Commissioners ("Board") is the county executive;

WHEREAS, pursuant to *I.C. 8-17*, the Board exerts ultimate authority over the highway within the County through Highway;

WHEREAS grant applications usually require the authorization of the Board;

WHEREAS the president of the Board most commonly serves as signatory to grant applications on behalf of the Board; and

WHEREAS, from time to time, the holder of the role of president of the Board may change, or the serving president may be absent from a meeting.

now, therefore, so be the following resolved by the Board:

- 1. The president of the Board at the time at which any grant application is being submitted shall be authorized to sign such application and any related documents on behalf of the Board.
- 2. In the event that the president is incapacitated or otherwise absent from a meeting at which the submission of a grant application is approved, the vice-president of the Board shall be authorized to sign such application of behalf of the Board.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 3rd day of February 2025.

Jennifer made a motion to approve and sign Resolution 2025-04, which approves a work location in the event of a Federal Government shutdown for Soil and Water. Jennifer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #2025-04

Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Pulaski County, IN
Approving Work Location for the Soil and Water Conservation District
in the event of a Federal Government Shutdown

WHEREAS, the expectation for Pulaski County employees is to be available and to serve the citizens of Pulaski County, and

WHEREAS, the employees of Pulaski County for the Soil and Water Conservation District conduct business in the USDA office in Winamac, Indiana, and

WHEREAS, in the event that the US Government shuts down and requires the USDA office in Winamac, Indiana to close,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PULASKI COUNTY, INDIANA, that the employees of Pulaski County be directed to work from an office in the Pulaski County highway garage.

Adopted this 3rd day of February 2025.

Donald made a motion to appoint Al Breyfogle to the Pulaski County Economic Development Commission, Jennifer seconded and motion carried unanimously. His term is from February 3, 2025 until January 31, 2029.

Jennifer made a motion to approve and sign presented bonds, Donald seconded and motion carried unanimously.

CORONER: Jennifer Johns, \$30,000.
BUILDING: Karla Redweik, \$15,000.

Donald made a motion to approve conference requests, Jennifer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

AUDITOR: Trynity Wheeler, 2025 SRI Tax Sale Seminar, Carmel, February 21st
 VETERANS: Roy Mullis, NW District Quarterly Training, Valparaiso, March 20th

Jennifer made a motion to approve Prosecutor's purchase of 2 flock cameras through the Sheriff's Department, Donald seconded and motion carried unanimously.

When County's Health Insurance was written through CIGNA, County also paid for RX Helps, which aids employees with their prescription coverage. At a recent meeting with County's broker EPIC, they informed County that "Carelton" is embedded in their current policy with Anthem, which provides same service as RX Helps. At this time, no employees are using RX Helps but it is costing the County \$300 per month. Donald made a motion to cancel the RX Helps, Jennifer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

VS Engineering is to gather more information and plans to put information on County's website for the public.

EPIC will soon start working on health insurance renewal quote, including quotes with other companies. County is not self-insured.

Sheriff's Department takes care of the Verizon phones and they recently were able to purge some unused numbers.

IN RE: PUBLIC COMMENT

Dale Chu: She asked why there is only one particular point of view on industrial solar from the Board that isn't shared by everyone. Max Engling is not a farmer. Republicans are supposed to be for less government but Jennifer wants more government oversight. The first lawsuit brought against County, of which Jennifer was a part, cost the County \$300,000.

Dennis Bope: There are 2 teams—anti-solar vs farmer's property rights. Jennifer has never said anything good about the other side.

Logan Wuetrich: Supposed to be representing all constituents.

Levi Messer: There have been 2 sides in Pulaski County for too long. Need to "Love Thy Neighbor".

Silas Messer: (Levi's son) He does not want to grow up looking at solar panels. He loves Pulaski County and wants to live here and raise his family. Progress is not always the best.

Darrel Gudeman: He spoke against solar at the last Commissioners meeting. Where will the solar farms be located and how many acres? Darrel would like to talk to some neighbors of solar and tour a large solar farm. He is concerned about noise pollution, fire protection and effects on wildlife. County needs the moratorium.

Ross Davis: Put a pause on solar, nothing will be missing if paused.

Teresa Hansen: Teresa presented papers from Mammoth Solar responding to Jenny Knebel's statements at the last Commissioners' meeting. She asked if Jennifer has a conflict of interest on solar. Mammoth Solar will be happy to come to a meeting. Teresa said she has neighbors that will not speak to them anymore. County needs to come back together.

Jennifer Knebel: Jennifer responded that she was elected to represent Pulaski County and help protect property rights. What one person does on his property does affect the neighbors. There is nothing that can be done to projects that have been approved. Almost 30,000 acres are under lease for solar and no one in the County has any answers on the effect on the county.

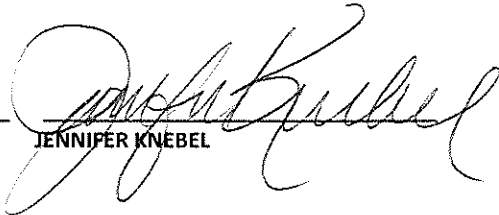
Donald Street: He rounded out the meeting by saying, "I appreciate the respect and dignity that has been shown among everyone this evening and we must continue that. Obviously there are differences, but we have to be civil to one another." He also stated that he is against HB 16-28 which would take away local controls.

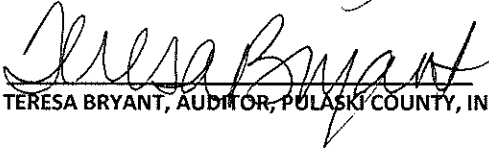
Donald thanked those for public comment and with no other business to discuss nor public comment, Jennifer made a motion to adjourn at 6:56PM, Donald seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Approved and signed this 18th day of February 2025 by the PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.


DONALD STREET JR

ABSENT
MICHAEL MCCLURE


JENNIFER KNEBEL

ATTEST: 
TERESA BRYANT, AUDITOR, PULASKI COUNTY, IN