

PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL

THE Pulaski County Council met in regular session Monday February 10th 2025 6:00PM at the Pulaski County Highway Garage training room. Council members present were Michael Tiede, Sheila Hazemi-Jimenez, Jeffrey Richwine, Bradley Bonnell, Albert Gutwein, Tim Overmyer, and Jerome Locke with County Auditor Teresa Bryant and County Attorney Jacob Ahler.

Also present were Kathy Howard, Dennis Bope, Margarita Bope, Jason Fagner, Judge Mary Welker, Spencer Tanner, Michelle Frees, Ed Baptista, Isaiah Tidwell, Brian Young, Mike Sehstedt, Butch Sehstedt, Connie Ehrlich, Candy Myer, Ed Cotner, Gery Welker, Ken Becker, Sherry Fagner, Darrel Gudeman, Natasha Daugherty, Courtney Poor, Doug Metzger, Norman Welker, Jim Pierrou, Chris Brucker, Darlene Oher, Gail Lambert, Beverly Smith, Randy Davis, Terri Hansen, Raymond Hansen, Scott Fritz, Judge Crystal Kocher, Richel Fox, Bill Smith, Chris Schramm, Nathan Origer.

President Tiede called the meeting to order.

IN RE: SHERIFF, CHRIS SCHRAMM

Sheriff Schramm presented Jail Commissary Fund report for 2024, as follows:

Pulaski County Sheriff's Report
Receipts and Disbursements
Jail Commissary Fund

For the Period of 1/1/2024 thru 12/31/2024
Pursuant to IC 36-8-10-21, I, Chris Schramm, Sheriff of Pulaski County Indiana, certify that the following report is a true and accurate record of the receipts and disbursements of the Sheriff's Jail Commissary Fund for the period of 1/1/2024 thru 12/31/2024.

Balance ending December 31, 2023 \$76,784.47

Receipts

Inmate Phone	\$97,079.97
Employee Meals	0.00
Commissary Commissions	84,826.30
Inmate Reimbursements	0.00
Miscellaneous	1,298.42
Employee Reimbursements	75.01
Admin Kits	610.23
Expense Reimbursement	1,316.48
Donation	0.00
Inmate Drug Screens	0.00
Ticket Fees	0.00
Equipment	20,445.00
Uniforms	0.00
Training	0.00
Inmate Schooling/Classes	0.00
K-9 Maintenance	0.00
Surety Bond-Jason Woodruff Claim	3,000.00
Wages	0.00
Other Income	79.99

Total Receipts \$208,731.40

Disbursements

Deputies Cell Phones	0.00
Equipment	49,215.17
Training	7,757.79
Inmate Expense	88,597.44
Uniforms	2,200.63
Vehicles	31,766.64
Miscellaneous	2,484.98
Dues and Subscriptions	2,924.00
Office Supplies	2,494.44
Activity to Prevent Crime	346.57
Employee Meals	0.00
Donation	0.00
Software License	1,540.16
Printing and Advertising	3,165.25
Repairs to Jail Facility	9,829.45
Criminal Investigation Fee	0.00
Service Contract	10,901.54

K-9 Maintenance	8,345.17
Facility Supplies	1,350.58
Bond Payout-Surety Bond	3,000.00
Wages	0.00
Total Disbursements	\$225,919.81
Balance as of 12/31/2024	\$ 59,596.06
Chris Schramm, Sheriff	
Pulaski County Indiana	

Chris presented Ordinance 2025-01, establishing the approved uses of the Pulaski County Jail Commissary Fund for approval, which County Attorney Ahler wrote up. Sheriff’s Department recently received a good report from State Board of Accounts. Sheila Hazemi-Jimenez made a motion to approve and sign Ordinance 2024-01, Jerry Locke seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 2025-01

PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL
AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE APPROVED
USES OF THE PULASKI COUNTY JAIL COMMISSARY FUND

WHEREAS the PULASKI County Council is the fiscal body of PULASKI County, State of Indiana; and

WHEREAS the PULASKI County Sheriff’s Department (hereinafter “PCSD”) maintains the PULASKI County Jail (hereinafter “Jail”) established pursuant to I.C. % 36-2-2-24 and said Jail operates a commissary for the inmates; and

WHEREAS the PULASKI County Council previously established a Commissary Fund under the Administration of the PCSD pursuant to I.C. %36-8-10-21; and

WHEREAS. the Sheriff or the Sheriffs designee, without appropriation by the PULASKI County Council, is authorized to disburse money from the Commissary Fund in accordance with the statute and the provisions herein established.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the PULASKI County Council, County of PULASKI, State of Indiana that the Commissary Fund may be utilized for the following:

- A. Commissary operating expenses, to includes, but not limited to, obtaining merchandise for resale to inmates, maintenance of PCSD and Jail facilities, and compensation of personnel;
- B. Training for employees;
- C. Equipment purchase and rental, to include but not limited to: vehicles, computers, computer software, communications devises, office machinery, office furnishings, cameras, photographic equipment, animals, animal training, holding and feeding equipment and supplies for animals and, attire used by an employee in the course of their official duties;
- D. Any activity provided to maintain order and discipline amount the inmates;
- E. Any supplies, activities, or programs deemed by the Sheriff to be beneficial to the morale or well-being of inmates;
- F. Replacement of lost or damaged inmate property;
- G. Inmate transit costs;
- H. Supplies and postage for indigent inmates;
- I. Shipping cost for equipment and evidence;
- J. Replacement of damaged county employee property;
- K. Investigation and special detail expenses (including controlled drug buys);
- L. Advertising and sponsorship costs;
- M. Matching funds for grants;
- N. Professional, technical, and legal consulting fees;
- O. Special events for employees (e.g., award banquets);
- P. Special event training and meetings;
- Q. Travel costs for employees attending conference and professional meetings associated with the duties of the Sheriff’s Office;
- R. Gifts and awards;
- S. All statutorily authorized uses;
- T. Supplies or equipment to promote educational activities for inmates;
- U. Expenses associated with hosting training events;
- V. Payment of reimbursement for towing and storage for vehicles that may have been erroneously towed/impounded; and
- W. An activity or program of the sheriff’s department intended to reduce or prevent occurrences of criminal activity.

Passed and adopted by the County Council of PULASKI County, Indiana, this 10th day of February, 2025

IN RE: SUPERIOR COURT, JUDGE CRYSTAL KOCHER

Judge Kocher requested transfers from the Community Foundation Grants for contracted services and equipment. She wants to purchases 3 new computers this year that are on the list to be replaced next year. This would still be County equipment. Due to being grant funds, these amounts need to be advertised but will be reimbursed by FSSA and Community Foundation Grant. Requested transfers are needed to cover the approved 2025 Matrix salary. Jeffrey Richwine made a motion to advertise Superior’s Courts Additional and transfers and he added advertising for the Sheriff’s 911

upgraded, Sheila Hazemi-Jimenez seconded and motion carried unanimously. (It was later determined that Sheriff’s request did not need to be advertised as commissary funds).

ADDITIONAL:

9189-0201 Community Foundation Grant (Contracted Services)	\$35,000.00
9189-0201 Community Foundation Grant (Office Supplies)	\$15,938.50

TRANSFER:

38010 Contracted Services to 14300 Court Bailiff	\$1,000.00
38010 Contracted Services to 10208 Court Administrator	\$350.00
38010 Contracted Services to 10206 Court Reporter	\$360.00

IN RE: EMA, RICHEL FOX

Richel said that when she submitted 2025 budget request, any items she left blank would automatically be at 2024 amounts so there were several lines that did not get budget. She requested additionals to put funds in several lines at the 2024 amounts. Bradley Bonnell made a motion to advertise the requests, Jeffrey seconded and motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL:

1000-0361 County General/EMA (overtime)	\$3,812.95
1000-0361 County General/EMA (Tires & Tubes)	795.56
1000-0361 County General/EMA (Disaster Preparedness Supplies)	200.00
1000-0361 County General/EMA (Training)	300.00
1000-0361 County General/EMA (Printing & Advertising)	75.00
1000-0361 County General/EMA (Service & Maintenance/WTH)	500.00
1000-0361 County General/EMA (Dues & Subscriptions)	50.00

IN RE: COUNTY ATTORNEY CONTRACT

Attorney Jacob Ahler explained he would charge a base amount of \$6,000. Anything he bills Council will be at \$202. /hour and goes against the \$6,000. If it goes over \$6,000 during the year, it has to be approved by Council. Albert questioned if Council should retain a different attorney, as Jacob is also the attorney for Commissioners. Bradley asked if this would need to be advertised. Albert volunteered to look into other attorneys. Jerome made a motion to hire Jacob as Council Attorney, Jeffrey seconded and motion carried 5-2. Sheila, Mike, Tim, Jerry and Jeff were in favor and Albert and Bradley opposed.

IN RE: CDC, NATHAN ORIGER

Nathan present Resolutions No. 2025-05 and 2025-06, both of which are preliminary resolutions for economic-revitalization-area (ERA) designations. #05 is for adjustments to the already approved Mammoth Solar project, while #6 is for the proposed Mammoth Grazing Lands project. Adopting a preliminary resolution neither confers ERA status on any parcel nor awards an assessed-value deduction. What adoption does is trigger the process that will lead to the ERA designation and granting of an abatement. Will have economic-and-tax-impact studies completed by a 3rd party consultant (paid by solar company), the Economic Development Commission’s (EDC) review of the application, impact studies and other relevant materials and recommendations to Council and then Council would hold a public hearing.

A. Resolution 2025-05, Mammoth Solar: Doral has 684.56 acres across 11 parcels that it wishes to move from Mammoth project to the proposed Mammoth Grazing project. This requires a new permitting process and Doral has begun working with our building inspector on this. It also requires a new Council tax-abatement process if the added parcels are to be subject to the EDA. There may be some concerns about the order of operations given that the building permit has not yet been awarded. Council, as a directly elected governing fiscal body, is not subject to the rules stipulated in the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). Indiana Code gives Council wide latitude when it comes to bestowing an ERA regardless of the zoning in place. Section 7.18.A.2.a does address Council; it specifically anticipates Council will undertake the tax-abatement process parallel to, rather than after, the permit process. The Board and Council must sign the EDA agreement before any building permit is issued. The applicant may withhold building-permit payment and any guaranteed payment by the EDA until Council has noticed and conducted a public hearing pertaining to tax-abatement incentives and adopted the require resolutions.

B. Resolution 2025-06, Mammoth Grazing Lands: Doral intends to develop a second Pulaski County project, Mammoth Grazing Lands, on 7,686.7844 acres across 137 parcels.

Dennis Bope, a Pulaski County resident and landowner, currently has ground under Mammoth in Starke County. He talked about having sheep grazing under the panels and farming outside of the fencing. Wildlife is thriving. Area in Pulaski County is not highly populated.

IN RE: PUBLIC COMMENT

James Pierrou: Talked about how hard it is for farmers to make a living these days and solar offers a profitable alternative for them.

Connie Ehrlich: County has many farmers already grazing livestock so why is Mammoth entitled to a tax abatement for grazing. Nathan explained that tax abatement would not be for grazing but for new solar panels on the new parcels.

Bob Barger: Neither against nor in favor of solar but upset his taxes have gone up and not solar's. Mike commented that even though solar has gotten tax abatements, they are making Economic Development payments, which amount to almost as much plus 100% goes to the County. Over 15 years, County should receive \$24,000,000 minimum. Solar ground will also be reassessed from agricultural to utility. Why isn't Karla (Building/BZA) here? Karla is involved in permitting.

Margarita Bope: They have ground in Starke County solar project. Taxes in 2023 on 144 acres were around \$3,000 and went up to almost \$19,000 in 2024.

Chris Brucker: Also asked why Karla is not here being more involved. At 2025 budget hearings, Jeff talked about readdressing Assessor's request for new software that would make tracking solar ground easier. Maybe several departments could get together with the software. Chris thinks this is happening too fast. Sheila added that Karla was sick today.

Candy Myer: Is money being taken away from schools and libraries since solar is making an Economic Development payment and not paying taxes? This is not reducing any funds for schools and libraries.

Gery Welker: Farmers have been using solar energy for a long time. Farmers are now diversifying.

Gale Lambert: If they are applying for tax abatements on solar panels only, take out grazing.

Public Comment closed.

Nathan asked Council to adopt Resolution 2025-05 adding 684.56 acres and 2025-06 adding 7686.7844 acres. Right now, there are about 18,000 acres under contract for solar with 15-16,000 acres with tax abatement. One project did not request an abatement. Bradley Bonnell made a motion to deny both resolutions, Albert Gutwein seconded. Bradley, Albert and Tim voted in favor of motion, Jeff, Mike and Sheila voted against, and Jerome abstained. Due to a tie, both resolutions were denied.

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS

Bradley made a motion to approve and sign 1/13/2025 regular session minutes, Albert seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Bradley made a motion to approve Prosecutor's additional and Assessor's transfer request, Jerome seconded and motion carried unanimously.

PROSECUTOR: ADDITIONAL

2501-0009 Pre-Trial Diversion to 44301-0009 Equipment \$5,000.00

ASSESSOR: TRANSFER

32500-0008 Schools, Meetings to 39100-0008 Dues \$62.00

PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL

The Pulaski County Council met in regular session Monday March 10th 2025 6:00PM at the Pulaski County Highway Garage training room. Council members present were Michael Tiede, Sheila Hazem-Jimenez, Jeffrey Richwine, Jerome Locke, Albert Gutwein with County Auditor Teresa Bryant and County Attorney Jacob Ahler. Council members Bradley Bonnell and Tim Overmyer were absent.

Also present were Natasha Daugherty, Judge Mary Welker, Isaiah Tidwell, Karla Redweik, Gary Kruger, Brandi Larkin, Joe Moyer, Connie Ehrlich, Chris Brucker, Leeann Wright, Randy Davis, Jenny Knebel, Chris Schramm, Nathan Onger and Megan Galbreath.

President Tiede opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF PULASKI COUNTY, LEEANN WRIGHT

Leeann presented the Pulaski County Strategic Visioning Plan. Ball State Indiana Communities Institute, following listening session throughout the county, prepared this final plan. This report is also available on Community Foundation's website under "reports tab".

IN RE: BUILDING INSPECTOR, KARLA REDWEIK

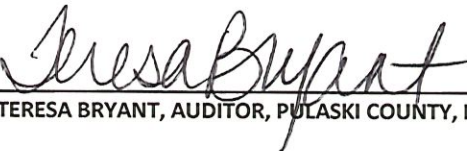
APC has been without an attorney for several months and voted to hire Jacob Ahler as their Board attorney. She requested an additional appropriation of \$7,000. for his fees. Jerome thinks they should look for a different attorney since Ahler already represents the Commissioners and Council. Karla has talked to a dozen different attorneys but they were all higher. Sheila wants more information. Karla will provide Council with list of attorneys contacted and matter was tabled.

IN RE: HIGHWAY, GARY KRUGER

Gary received quote on new truck for \$161,827. Delivery will be approximately the end of September and then fittings at Terry Trucking. Highway has the funds in its 2025 budget for truck and fittings will come out of 2026 budget. Albert made a motion to approve purchase, Sheila seconded and motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: SHERIFF, CHRIS SCHRAMM

Community Crossings awarded Pulaski County \$984,531.20 to use on 9 miles of roads. Chris is getting 2 new Durangos and 1 used vehicle. Money is in this year's budget.

ATTEST: 
TERESA BRYANT, AUDITOR, PULASKI COUNTY, IN

IN RE: CDC, NATHAN ORIGER

1. Courthouse Project
Albert Gutwein
Owner's contingency's current balance is just above \$196,000 less side walk cost. If we pay in full for sidewalk, will be just shy of \$20,000. We have about \$100,000 in future change orders. Tim & Brad retain construction contingency in the \$300,000's. There are a few lines in our budget that will likely have a bit of excess and can be reallocated to our contingency if needed.
MICHAEL TIEDE
BRADLEY BONNELL
TIM OVERMYER
JEROME LOCKE

Approved and signed this 10th day of March 2025 by the PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL.
We have \$60,180.90 in ineligible interest funds—cannot be allocated toward the project and may only be used for improvements to other County-owned facilities. Any interest from current CD will also end up in this fund.
With no other business to discuss nor board reports, Sheila made a motion to adjourn at 7:10PM, Albert seconded and motion carried unanimously.
B. Project Progress: Delta III connected the courthouse's plumbing to the Winamac water system last Monday. MEP installation continues, including hanging of more light. Although 2024 Encumbrances are on agenda, they were not available so the matter was tabled.