

JANUARY 20TH 2026

REGULAR SESSION

PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Pulaski County Commissioners met in regular session Tuesday January 20th 2026 8:30AM EST due to Martin Luther King Day on Monday at the Pulaski County Courthouse meeting room. Commissioners present were Donald Street Jr., Jennifer Knebel with County Auditor Teresa Bryant. Commissioners Michael McClure was absent.

Also present were Jack Burger, Pam Burger, Franna Barger, Bob Barger, Natasha Daughtery, Gary Kruger, Karla Redweik, Dan Knebel, Brandi Larkin, Darrel Gudeman, Laura Wheeler, Randy Davis, Andrew Fritz, Rudy DeSabatine, Mark Gourley, Nathan Origer, Tim Hollandsworth.

President Street opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Donald made a motion to approve and sign 1/5/2026 regular session minutes, Jennifer seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: APPROVE AND SIGN

Donald made a motion to approve and sign "revised" Commissioners' Meeting Schedule, Jenny seconded. Revision is due to incorrect date for February's second meeting, which was revised to Tuesday, February 17 Monday is President's Day). With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

At January 12th 2026 Joint session, Commissioners approved "Title VI ADA Transition Plan". This was incorrect as Council approved the transition plan. Jennifer made a motion to approve "Title VI Implementation Plan", Donald seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer made a motion to approve claims and payroll #2, Donald seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Donald made a motion to approve and sign Consulting Agreement with Paramount EMS Consulting Group LLC, Jennifer seconded. Paramount will do a feasibility study to help improve EMS' efficiency. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer made a motion to approve and sign submitted bond, Donald seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

SOIL AND WATER: Michelle Fox, District Support Coordinator, \$15,000.

IN RE: CONFERENCE REQUEST

Donald made a motion to approve submitted Conference request, Jennifer seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

ASSESSOR: Theresa Calloway, Assessor Level III class, Ft Wayne, 2/8/26

Commissioners meeting was recessed at 8:34AM for Board of Finance meeting

Board of Finance minutes are available at Treasurer's Office

Commissioners meeting was resumed at 8:44AM.

IN RE: KARLA REDWEIK, BUILDING INSPECTOR

Karla requested Abby Dickey, who is the Commissioner appointed Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) member, be reappointed as her term expired 1/1/2026. Jennifer asked if this appointment could be put out to the public to give other citizens a chance to apply. Karla said the Advisory Plan Commission just lost a member, Ray Franko, and a few people have expressed an interest in his position. Donald and Jennifer both agreed that future appointments need to be advertised. Karla said once Abby is reappointed, the BZA will appoint her to the APC. Due to closeness of next APC meeting, Donald made a motion to reappoint Abby Dickey as Commissioners Appointed BZA member, Jennifer seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: MARK GOURLEY, DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mark is NW District Service Officer with Indiana Department of Veterans Services. He presented Commissioners with "Service Officer Accreditation Standards" that were just approved in December. Pulaski County's Veterans Service Officer Roy Mullis currently meets all requirements and is in full compliance. They are working on getting Roy's Personal Identity Verification (PIV) card, which is a long process. Roy is working on getting all paper info on the computer.

IN RE: BRANDI LARKIN, LESSONS LEARNED REGISTER

This is regarding information on solar projects, that can be used by all stake-holders. She is trying to get this usable for County. Missing 180 minutes on website. Brandi created spreadsheet regarding different situations. This will help different departments get the same information. Brandi suggested sharing with other departments to get their input. Jennifer and Donald both shared their appreciation to Brandi for her work.

IN RE: NATHAN ORIGER, CDC

1. *Sharing Closet:* There has been so many donations that they are running out of space in the former Building Department office. They have requested access to an additional room on the upper floor of the east annex. This would be for overflow storage and clients will not be taken up there. Both Donald and Jennifer were in favor.
2. *Courthouse-Project Updates:* Tonn & Blank, Arctic and technical consultants were here Friday to address concerns with the new HVAC system. Part of the problem has been addressed and they are expected back today to finish the work. Our first-floor, north entrance storm windows and permanent doors should be installed by end of February. At this point, Tonn & Blank will be ready to settle accounts and release remaining construction-contingency funds.

Almost ready to place a second order with Sweetwater for additional sound system equipment. Nathan wants to replace the 6 old microphones, with Shure omnidirectional microphones, with some of the new ones. He hopes to supplement the 6 in-ceiling speakers with a couple of units closer to the ground to improve in-room sound quality. Also looking into the possibility of installing aesthetically complementary acoustic paneling to soften some of the surfaces. ATN is waiting for parts and will install a new port on the east wall so he can run a separate webcam for virtual attendees to avoid some of the legal compliance gray areas providing required meeting information on YouTube.

Nathan place a small "day-four" furniture order with RJE for Treasurer's and Surveyor's Office. Signs should be arriving soon. Will be placing a second order soon to address some of the ADA related concerns.

Mr. Miehl, our ADA consultant, has provided a proposal for a comprehensive ADA evaluation on the Courthouse, cost just over \$18,000. Nathan does not have the funds until Tonn & Blank releases construction contingency but would like to proceed with the evaluation later this winter/early spring without asking the County to dip into operations funds unless absolutely necessary. Donald made a motion to proceed with Mr. Miehl's evaluation, Jennifer seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

3. *Revolving Loan Fund Updates:* All documents have been updated and posted online. Ad will run in this week's Journal and will do so on a quarterly basis and he will push awareness on social media. Application documents have been delivered to one potential borrower. RLF will be a topic at the next Francesville's Uptown Project Main-Street organization. Two of our active borrowers have made their January payment and the third is in good standing (payment due later in the month). Nathan misreported a key data point as RLF has more than \$370,000, not the \$290,000. he has been sharing.

4. *Redevelopment Commission Bonds:* Indiana Code requires the seven redevelopment commissioners be bonded annually for \$15,000, each costing \$100. Jennifer made a motion to approve Redevelopment Commission bonds, Donald seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: GARY KRUGER, HIGHWAY

LaPorte Construction Co., Inc. submitted the only bid for "Multi-Bridge Rehabilitation Project" that is the 2026 Community Crossings Grant. Engineer's estimate was \$801,000. and LaPorte Construction bid \$789,865.50 for work on 17 bridges. Gary also reported that Highway will be buying a used truck from the Sheriff, which Commissioners approved. Donald made a motion to approve LaPorte Construction Co., Inc. bid, Jennifer seconded. With no other discussion, motion carried unanimously. Jennifer asked if Gary had put up one-way sign at Recycling and Gary is waiting to talk to John Kegarise, manager.

IN RE: JENNIFER KNEBEL, COMMISSIONER

Jennifer attended EMA, MHMP (Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan) and ADA meetings last week, that were very well attended. EMA and MHMP were regarding emergency plans. The MHMP was last updated in 2018. ADA covered temporary events like fairs. Also well attended. Jennifer has been contacted by citizens regarding recycling, that is only available in Winamac. Donald had talked to Francesville in late 2025 and they were not interested. County discontinued recycling to Medaryville, Francesville and Monterey as people were using to dump trash. Recycling manager has been asked to go to the town boards and tell them what is offered. It is up to the individual town boards to offer recycling. Nathan suggested a dumpster at West Central school which is more centralized and people might be more adverse to just dumping there. Donald will suggest to John to go to West Central.

IN RE: TIM HOLLANDSWORTH, VS ENGINEERING

Will be having progress meetings with Mayapple and Bottlebrush in the next 2 weeks. Mammoth very slow due to weather. Employee numbers reduced from 1600 to 750. Expecting 3 over-sized deliveries at each location in March/April. Still have issues with Surveyor and fence issues around ditches. Developer has contracted with Town & Country for road repairs. Number of comments are down. Jennifer said traffic is noticeably down. Recent payments from Mammoth have come in and have been documented. Donald asked about road use agreements and Jennifer asked about water being pumped out of a pond near 700W/200S. Tim will look into.

IN RE: DISCUSSION

Farm Bids: Sealed bids were received to rent County's 111.3 acres, as follows:

Thadeus Alexander: \$250. per acres plus bonus of \$1.00 if over 150. bushels of corn and \$2.00 if over 45 bushels of soybeans.
 Austin Clark: \$180.00 per acre
 Luke Anspach: \$211.00 per acres ½ April 15th, ½ December 15th
 Mike Kraft: \$200.00 per acres, \$22,260. (Only used 100 acres)
 Andrew Fritz/Corey Hintz: \$28,000. Total

All bids were accompanied by \$1000.00 check to be cashed upon bid acceptance. Remaining checks will be returned. Bid will be awarded at next Commissioners' meeting.

NUP Media Contract/Services: Council approved a service agreement between Pulaski County Economic Development Corporation and NUP Media LLC. to be paid out of CDC's budget. Council does not approve contracts, Commissioners do. Scope of Service includes: Social Media Management, Email Communications, Website and Blog Content, Podcast Services, Narrative Strategy and Risk Management, Responsiveness. Jennifer is not in favor of this and spoke of her reasoning. Donald said other counties are using them but Jennifer said only Huntington County actually has a contract with them Jennifer made a motion to table this matter, Donald seconded. With no other discussion, motion carried unanimously.

East/West Annex: Jennifer has received comments regarding which annex is better to preserve. "Performance Services" are looking at the west annex for upgrades. To make ADA compliant, the elevator in east annex would need to be built on outside of building. Quote a year ago had this cost at \$1,000,000. This is still in very early stages.

IN RE: PUBLIC COMMENT

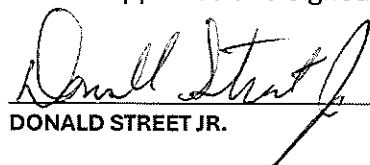
Brandi Larkin: Appreciates changes made to board appointments. This really advocates for transparency. ADA comments were good but NUP contract is concerning. Would be good to look at other resources.

Pam Burger: Would like to see the east annex updated due to sound structure and historical standing. Does understand the ADA issues.

Darrel Gudeman: Watched recent Council meeting on internet. \$5,750. to NUP monthly seems excessive. Every Councilmember should understand before they vote and at least 3 did not know. Trust and transparency go a long way.

With no other business to discuss nor public comment, Donald made a motion to adjourn at 9:59 AM, Jennifer seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Approved and signed this 2nd day of February 2026 by the Pulaski County Commissioners.


DONALD STREET JR.

absent
MICHAEL MCCLURE


JENNIFER KNEBEL

ATTEST: 
TERESA BRYANT, AUDITOR, PULASKI COUNTY, IN