

## PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Pulaski County Commissioners met in regular session Monday March 16<sup>th</sup> 2025 8:30 AM at the Pulaski County Courthouse meeting room. Commissioners present were Donald Street Jr., Michael McClure, Jennifer Knebel with County Auditor Teresa Bryant and County Attorney Jacob Ahler.

Also present were JoLynn Behny, Becky McLeroy, Kathy Wyatt, Anita Messer, Steve Messer, Sheila Hazemi, Kevin Mitchell, Theresa Calloway, Michael Ryan, Dennis Bope, Jason Creasbaum, James Faler, Daniel Wirick, Ryan Barkey, Keilan Helton, Bill Kocher, Brandi Larkin, Travis Williams, Norman Welker, Ed Baptista, Gary Kruger, Karla Redweik, Andrew Fritz, Jim Stacy, Gail Lambert, Rich Anderson, Richel Fox, Edwin Buswell, Natasha Daugherty, Billy Bope, Amy Bope, Ryan Brown, Laura Wheeler, Janet Onken, Nathan Origer, Josh Stamper

President Street opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### IN RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Michael made a motion to approve 3/2/2026 regular session and 3/12/2026 executive session minutes, Jennifer seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

### IN RE: APPROVE AND SIGN

Jennifer made a motion to approve and sign claims & payroll #6, Michael seconded, With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer made a motion to approve and sign Resolution #2026-05 regarding Commissioners' Sale, Michael seconded. Auditor explained these are for properties that did not receive a bid at tax sale.

#### RESOLUTION 2026-05

#### A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE INTENT TO CONDUCT A COMMISSIONERS' SALE TO SELL TAX SALE CERTIFICATES FOR PROPERTIES THAT ARE SEVERLY DELINQUENT IN PAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES.

WHEREAS, there are several properties in Pulaski County that are severely delinquent in the payment of property taxes, having been offered for tax sales and which received no bids equal to or in excess of minimum sale price. The parcel numbers of those properties being attached to this resolution as "Exhibit A", and

WHEREAS, there is an assessed value associated with these properties for taxation purposes, but no taxes are being collected, therefore causing a lower than expected tax distribution to those taxing units and taxing districts within which the properties are located, and

WHEREAS, the Pulaski County Commissioners desire to have these properties back on the tax rolls with taxes being collected, and

WHEREAS, IC 6-1.1-24-6, et seq. allows for the Pulaski County Commissioners to acquire a lien on those delinquent properties and receive issuance of the tax sale certificates for those properties, without taking title to the properties, therefore limiting the liability and cost normally associated with taking title,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Pulaski County Board of Commissioners that the County Executive shall acquire liens and receive tax certificates of the properties list on Exhibit A that are severely delinquent and sell said certificates at a properly advertised Commissioner Tax Certificate sale. PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Pulaski County Board of Commissioners this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2026.

### IN RE: CONFERENCE REQUEST

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

AUDITOR: Teresa Bryant, Auditor Spring Conference, Indianapolis, May 19-21  
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER: Roy Mullis, CVSO Regional Meeting, Plymouth, April 16

### IN RE: PERFORMANCE SERVICES, JAMES STACEY

Been in business for 27 years. Will do comprehensive facility assessments of County buildings. Would look at east annex, west annex and County Highway and can add the Knights of Columbus location. Will produce building condition scoring and budget. No charge to County until they enter into project contracts. This is on hold until decision reached on moving forward with Knights of Columbus.

### IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING, EDWIN BUSWELL

Public hearing was for Pulaski County's application for a Public Facilities Program Grant for the construction of the White Post Township fire station. Although a Township project, the County makes the application as townships cannot. They had applied last year but withdrew as issue with local match. Total project estimated at \$1,700,500. with \$750,000. grant and \$950,750 local match. Public comment was opened: Donald thinks this was a very good idea and James Faler said it is really needed. With no further public comment, Jennifer made a motion to close the public hearing, Michael seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried

unanimously. Donald made a motion to move forward with grant process, Jennifer seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously. The award will be in August.

**IN RE: CLERK/ELECTION BOARD, JOLYNN BEHNY AND BECKY MCELROY**

JoLynn presented contract with Willie DeGroot of DeGroot Technology to provide IT services to the election board during primary and general election this year. After this year, the County's IT will take over. Jennifer made a motion to approve contract, Michael seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

During last election, County Highway was used as Courthouse was under construction. Resolution needed to designate Security Room in Courthouse now as an annex to the Clerk's Office. Donald made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-06, Michael seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION #2026-06**

**A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING EXTENDED COUNTY CLERK OPERATIONS**

WHEREAS, the Pulaski County Vote Center Plan was adopted on August 17, 2015;  
 WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners of Pulaski County unanimously approves the designation of Pulaski County as a vote center county and, WHEREAS, the  
 county properly drafts a vote center plan for Pulaski County, and the plan is properly filed with the  
 Indiana Election Division, WHEREAS, Indiana Code 3-11-10-26.3 requires that  
 one satellite be in an area of the clerk's office, and  
WHEREAS, the currently designated satellite location, the Pulaski County Highway  
Department, was in use during the Pulaski County Courthouse Renovation Project,  
 which, said project has been completed and operations are back in effect in said Pulaski  
 County Courthouse, BE IT SO  
**RESOLVED AND CERTIFIED BY THE PULASKI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS and** **THE PULASKI**  
**COUNTY ELECTION BOARD designating that the Security Room in the** **Pulaski County Courthouse**  
 constitutes an

**ANNEX OF THE PULASKI COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE**

During any early or in-person absentee voting period as designated by the Secretary of State/ Indiana Election Divisions.

Adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026.

JoLynn discuss prohibiting campaign signs on County-owned property during early election. Donald asked if this was done in the past and JoLynn said no. They had problems in the last election with some out-of-county candidates. Jennifer made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-02, Michael seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION #2026-02**

**POLITICAL CAMPAIGN SIGNS ON COUNTY-OWNED PROPERTY DURING EARLY VOTING**

WHEREAS, the right of free speech and political expression is fundamental to the democratic process; and  
 WHEREAS, early voting is an essential component of ensuring accessible and fair elections; and  
 WHEREAS, county-owned property is to be maintained as neutral public space free from partisan displays to ensure equal access and non-discrimination; and  
 WHEREAS, the placement of political campaign signs on county-owned property during early voting can create an appearance of endorsement and influence voters' choices; and  
 WHEREAS, to preserve the integrity and neutrality of county property, it is necessary to establish guidelines governing the placement of political campaign signs during the early voting period.  
 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County adopts the following policies.

1. Political campaign signs shall not be placed on county-owned property during the early voting period.
2. Campaign signs intended for placement shall be restricted to private property and designated campaign offices.
3. Local election officials shall monitor and ensure compliance with this policy.
4. Any signs found on county property during early voting shall be promptly removed by authorized personnel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this policy aims to uphold the principles of fairness, impartiality and integrity in the electoral process.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Pulaski County Board of Commissioners this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

Postage meter contract is currently with Quadient, which is now Postal Source. Contract expired several weeks ago and JoLynn and Auditor have been discussing with Pinnacle (Pitney Bowes) and their system would do away with the green certified cards. Will be back when quotes are received.

**IN RE: ASSESSOR, THERESA CALLOWAY**

Theresa wants to purchase a tablet and software from XSoft. Total of \$9,752.00 (\$6,260.00 for software and support, \$2,052.00 for tablet, \$1,440.00 for security). This will help with fieldwork as improves efficiency. Mike Ryan, who works for NEXUS and would be using the tablet, explained some of the features. Cost thereafter will be \$2,700.00 annually for support and security. Theresa has the money in her budget, Jennifer made a motion to approve purchase, Michael seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

**IN RE: STAR CITY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT, LAURA WHEELER**

On behalf of Star City Regional Sewer District Board, Laura asked that George Klein be reappointed to a 4-year term ending 12/31/2029 and Dalton Grandstaff to a 2-year term ending 12/31/2027. Michael made a motion to approve the reappointments, Jennifer seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

**IN RE: VEREGY, RICK ANDERSON**

Veregy conducts facility assessments and is similar to Performance Services but concentrates more on utilities.

**IN RE: HISTORICAL SOCIETY, JANET ONKEN**

An historical marker was removed from the courthouse lawn during the construction project and the Historical Society wants to reset in the same spot. It needs repairs before replacing. Janet was told to work with maintenance.

**IN RE: VS ENGINEERING, AMBER**

Reviewing changes to landscape on Mammoth South/Central, Still working on fence setbacks. Collaborating with Auditor on violations. Discussed vegetation buffering. Developer sent to VS and VS is reviewing. Road use kick-off meeting with Bottlebrush was 2/18. Next meeting with Mayapple is 3/25. Jennifer made a motion to approve contract between VS and Kiewit, Michael seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously. (Agreement is a Task Order under County's existing On-Call Professional Consulting Services Agreement with VS Engineering related to coordination support for the Kiewit/AEP underground fiber project).

**IN RE: DISCUSSION**

*Tower Clock Co. Proposal:* County received proposal from The Tower Clock Co. for an Annual Preventative Maintenance Agreement in the amount of \$900.00. Auditor read the services they would provide. Right now the bell is not working. Donald will look into this further.

**IN RE: PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Steve Messer:* Lives in Starke County, works in Pulaski County. In charge of hiring for solar project. At peak, had 1900 employees but now down to 750. These are good paying union jobs and includes a lot of Pulaski County people. They spend money here: restaurants, lodging, etc. Have 3 Pulaski County people in preapprenticeship training. Reconsider moratorium on solar. At peak, 3.2% were Pulaski County residents.

*Dennis Bope:* Pulaski County resident. He has neighbors signed up for Mammoth grazing lands. Please do not do moratorium as it benefits the county.

*Jason Creasbaum:* From Merrillville, Local 150. Pulaski County is the largest project in their jurisdiction. Asked Commissioners to continue projects. Most of the operating engineers are from Indiana.

*James Faler:* Pulaski County Resident, member of Local 150. This project is great for families-keep projects moving forward.

*Bill Bope:* Pulaski County resident. Extended an invitation to Commissioners to come and look at Mammoth project. Has sheep and chicken on farm and daughter/son-in-law both work on farm.

*Nick Pollock:* Carpenters Union. Courthouse looks great. 700 new people in the union due to solar project. New careers for people. 65 people from Pulaski County.

*Kevin Mitchell:* Union #274 from Lafayette. 1200 members, 12 from Pulaski County. At peak, 72 apprentices.

*Bob Barger:* Pulaski County Resident. Following severe storm on March 10<sup>th</sup>, boxes, paper, plastic is blowing around. Not right that residents have to pick up.

*Josh Stamper:* Pulaski County Resident. Talked about the March 10<sup>th</sup> storms in Newton, Jasper and Starke County. Emergency planning is needed for disasters in order to get federal help.

*Sherry Fagner:* Pulaski County resident. We are very unprepared for a disaster. Asked Richel Fox, EMA Director, if CEMP (Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan) is updated. Richel said no. Too much time devoted to solar and should focus on what County needs. Jennifer asked Richel if County has a plan—working on it.

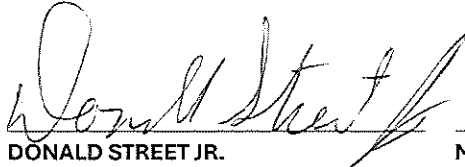
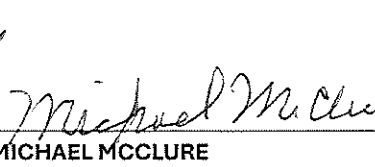
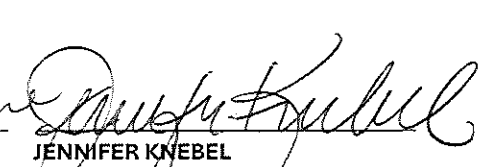
*Natasha Daugherty.* EMS Director. Chase vehicle is needed.


*Ryan Brown:* From Local 130 (Plumbers). Lives in Seymore but his kids live here. Workers are worried about their jobs.

*Gail Lambert:* Pulaski County resident. Heard that we are a cash cow for unions. Pulaski County does not have strong ordinances. Concerned about moratorium. Is there a moratorium on this Friday's APC meeting? If not, why? Karla Redweik of Building/Zoning said it is not as there was not enough time to advertise. Their attorney has drafted a moratorium. Gail hopes for a special session for APC.

With no other business or Public Comment, Michael made a motion to adjourn at 9:58 AM, Jennifer seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Approved and signed on this 6th day of April 2026 by the Pulaski County Commissioners.

		
DONALD STREET JR.	MICHAEL MCCLURE	JENNIFER KNEBEL

ATTEST:   
TERESA BRYANT, AUDITOR, PULASKI COUNTY, IN