REGULAR SESSION

The Pulaski County Commissioners met in regular session Monday May 4th 2026 6PM at the Pulaski County Courthouse meeting room. Commissioners present were Donald Street Jr., Michael McClure with County Auditor Teresa Bryant and County Attorney Jacob Ahler. Commissioner Jennifer Knebel was present by ZOOM.

Also present were Kevin Ingram, Darlene Olds, David Olds, Don Clouser, Bob Barger, Franna Barger, Tom Thomas, Jason Creasbaum, Randy Davis, Ed Cotner, Karla Redweik, Brian Fagner, Jason Ross, Dennis Bope, Margarita Bope, Judge Mary Welker, Terri Hansen, Raymond Hansen, Isaiah Tidwell, Sherry Fagner, Brandi Larkin, Stephen Koona, Connie Ehrlich, Amy Bope, Billy Bope, Gery Welker, Cooper Niemeier, Kevin Lippelt, Leeann Wright, Ed Baptista, Gail Lambert, Karen Gudeman, Michelle Dobson, Natasha Daugherty, Beverly Smith, Jason ?, Chris Schramm, Megan Galbreath.

President Street opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: MINUTES

Michael made a motion to approve 4/20/26 regular 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 and payroll #9, Michael seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Authorizing Resolution 2026-09 from Pulaski County Humans Services (PCHS) was presented. Auditor explained that this is something required by the Federal Transit Administration and has been presented in prior years. Donald made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-09, Michael seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-09

Resolution authorizing the filing of a CY2027 application for a grant under Section 5311/5339 of the Federal Transit Act, as amended.

WHEREAS, the U. S. Department of Transportation is authorized to make grants to states through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to support capital, operating and feasibility study assistance project for nonurbanized public transportation systems under Section 5311 of the FTA Act of 1964, as amended.

WHEREAS, the Office of Transit, Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has been designated by the Governor to make Section 5311/4339 grants for public transportation projects.

WHEREAS, the contract for financial assistance will impose certain obligations upon each county obtaining services, including the provision by it of some portion of the 50% local share of project costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

1. **The Pulaski County Commissioners has designated the following non-profit organization to coordinate and provide 5311 funded rural public transit services within Pulaski County as well as each regionalized county service area that may be identified within the Pass-through Agreements executed between Kankakee Iroquois Regional Planning Commission and each of the following organizations:**
   a. **Jasper County Community Services, Inc.**
   b. **Newton County Community Services, Inc.**
   c. **Pulaski County Human Services, Inc.**
   d. **Starke County Community Services, Inc.**
2. **That Pulaski County Commissioners understands Michael Tiede, Chairman is the authorized official with Kankakee Iroquois regional Planning Commissioners that will submit the Section 5311/5339 Grant Application to INDOT and furnish such additional information as INDOT may require in connection with the Application.**

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Title Officer, Donald Street Jr., of the Pulaski County Commissioners certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Pulaski County Commissioners held on 05/04/2026.

/s/ Donald street Jr.

IN RE: CONFERENCE REQUEST

No conference request were presented.

IN RE: CDC, ISAIAH TIDWELL/BRANDI LARKIN

Isaiah Tidwell and Brandi Larkin appeared for Nathan Origer.

I. FACADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM: Redevelopment Commission has been working on program guidelines, an application and a scoring rubric for a matching-grant program. They were seeking a general blessing from Commissioners asking for any general thoughts, questions, concerns they may have and pre-approval to spend above Community Development's per-invoice threshold exclusively for grant applications approved by the Redevelopment Commissioners once program underway. As currently proposed, the maximum grant amount would be $10,000. and a 50/50 matching-grant application. Unless Council will release solar-project economic development-payment cash already on hand, their intention is to fund grants awarded this year out of Economic Development appropriation in the Community Development and then have a conversation with Council regarding 2027 as part of the budget process. Donald asked for an example. If a business owner gets a new awning, he would submit the application and go through the process. Program would reimburse him 50% up to $10,000. Brandi said this is still in the ideation stage but wanted Commissioners approval before expending any more time on this. Michael made a motion to continue with the Improvement Grant Program, Jennifer seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

II. COUNTY FLAG DESIGN COMPETITION: An idea that Nathan proposed. Specifics still need to be developed but judges would be selected, Commissioners would have final say in approving design. Aligned with Pulaski County American events. Flags would be produced to raise on County properties and available to the public. One of the flags would be included in the next time capsule going in the ground early 2027.

Donald presented Part 2 of CDC's report.

1 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FIRM RECOMMENDATION: Last week, the Comprehensive Plan Selection Committee interviewed five firms who submitted proposals. The top-performing firm is HWC Engineering and Nathan requested that Commissioners approve hiring of HWC Engineering pending final negotiations, specifically regarding the project budget, or table if questions. Negotiations are required as their proposal included some services as add-on cost that others included in their base price. Cost should be under $120,000. that Council approved. Donald made a motion to approve HWC Engineering for Comprehensive Plan, Jennifer seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

2 PULASKI COUNTY CELEBRATES AMERICA (PCCA) 250 REQUESTS:

A. Lighted Sign: PCCA requested permission to display their lighted sign on the courthouse square for the duration of this month. It would need to be installed near the veteran-monuments memorial on the northwest lawn where there are electrical outlets. Nathan will coordinate with Maintenance. Michael asked why they would not want it there until July 4th. Donald said they can always ask for an extension. Donald made a motion to give permission for the lighted sign as requested, Jennifer seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

B. Use of Front Steps and Meeting Room: PCCA250 will hold a reading of the Declaration of Independence with local youth and requested permission to use front stairs for a group photo (will remove information stand temporarily) and use the meeting room for the actual reading. Donald made a motion to give permission as requested, Jennifer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: SHERIFF, CHRIS SCHRAMM

This is Correctional Officers week. Per SBOA, he can use the federal inmate money to purchase vehicles. He wants to replace the jail van and Jail Commander's vehicle, looking at a Pacifica. Michael asked if they would be a handicap van-NO. He has not had much need for one and it would be expensive. It can be contracted out. Will go before Council next week for additionals.

IN RE: NATASHA DAUGHERTY, EMS

Natasha presented 10 hardship applications (16 different bills). These are co-pays people owe, totaling over $12,000. Some go back to 2020. Billing company will set up payment for as low as $25./monthly but collections will not process anything under $200. 100% of poverty level is usually discounted and 200% of poverty level is usually written off. Donald asked Jacob to work on an ordinance. Donald made a motion to approve Natasha's recommendations, Michael seconded. With a short discussion, motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: KARLA REDWEIK, BUILDING/PLANNING

Karla read proposed Ordinance 2026-04 amending the Pulaski County zoning ordinances to place a moratorium on commercial energy systems for twelve months. This was approved by APC after a public hearing 4/20/2026. Donald asked Jacob if there were any request for an EDA agreement and Jacob said no new ones. This does not affect any projects already permitted. Michael made a motion to deny the moratorium, Donald seconded. Jennifer asked what was the reason for denying the moratorium. Donald said there were no ordinances in place regarding battery storage and data centers but there are ordinances regarding solar in place. Jennifer said the ordinances for solar in place are too weak. With no further discussion, motion carried 2-1 with Jennifer opposed.

IN RE: TIM HOLLANDSWORTH, VS ENGINEERING

Kiewit/AEP Underground Fiber project will be breaking ground in June in their switch yard, connecting 2 substations. Copies of all agreements are being reviewed by their legal team. Commissioners will need to sign approval.

AEP/Mayapple: Working on setting up a progress meeting with Mayapple. Will break ground late summer.

Bottlebrush: In process of setting up a meeting.

Mammoth: Central is nearing substantial completion. Fencing was not up to standards. South Mammoth 65-76% complete. Had complaint of a truck on a non-solar road on a Sunday and it was determined to belong to a future solar company.

Bonds: All but 2 have been verified.

Fines: Fines are going into General Fund.

Emergency preparedness training last week.

Pastures/Grazing Project: Still working with attorney.

IN RE: KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Both appraisals have been above the asking price and inspection came out as really good. Jacob explained that Council has passed a resolution so public hearing needs to be on agenda. Legal notice is required at least 48 hours before meeting. Michael likes the idea but Jennifer has reservations as she would have like it to stay as an event center. Donald made a motion to move forward with public hearing 5/18/2026 8:30 AM, Michael seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: PUBLIC COMMENT

Dennis Bope: Talked about different soil types in Franklin Township. Asked for no solar moratorium.

Jason Ross: From SBA division of Disaster Recovery. Pulaski County was declared a disaster from March 10th and 11th storms (not a FEMA declaration). Disaster Recovery loans are available—not grants. Businesses can receive up to $2,000,000. loan and homeowners/renters up to $500,000. Website is SBA.gov/disaster.

Bob Barger: He thought taxes were going down but his assessment is going up $45,000.

Margarita Bope: She has copy of Starke County study of property values when in proximity to solar project, which shows the values have not decreased. She is concerned about the lies regarding money. Jennifer said she spent time reviewing the Starke County survey and none of the properties touch solar.

Kevin Ingram: How did they do solid issues years ago? He saw the solar fields, so many. Can't please everyone but need to find common ground.

Brandi Larkin: She has continuing concerns about Commissioners' disregard for the work APC has done and their recommendations. Need to talk to everyone, have a meeting.

With no further public comments, Michael made a motion to adjourn 7:05PM, Donald seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Approved and signed this 18th day of May 2026 by the Pulaski County Commissioners.

DONALD STREET JR | MICHAEL MCCLURE | JENNIFER KNEBEL

Attest: TERESA BRYANT, AUDITOR, PULASKI COUNTY, IN