

MINUTES OF THE CLINTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 15, 2025

9:00 A.M.

The Clinton County Commissioners met for a regular meeting on July 15, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner Meeting Room, at 125 Courthouse Square, Frankfort, IN 46041.

Commissioner Jordan Brewer called the meeting to order with the following members shown to be present or absent:

PRESENT

Jordan Brewer

Kevin Myers

Bert Weaver

ABSENT

Others in attendance were Rick Campbell, Liz Stitzel, Grace Gouveia, Rich Kelly, Shawn Mayfield, Stephanie Harshbarger, Carol Price, Owen Lucas, Renee Crick, Nancy Elsea, Genie Newhart, and others are shown to be present in the minutes. Commissioner's Assistant Jerri Sexton recorded the minutes.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Brewer led the pledge of allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received.

IN THE MATTER OF VALLEY OAKS MENTAL HEALTH

Dan Arens of Valley Oaks introduced himself and stated they are the newly designated CMHC (Community Mental Health Center) for Clinton County. They have a team ready to serve the community. Their contact information is through their website or phone: 866-6valley. They are currently looking for a temporary space to serve the community and then a more permanent space.

IN THE MATTER OF ANIMAL CONTROL ANNUAL REPORT

Owen Lucas, Cheyenne Taylor, Dean Newhart, and Nancy Elsea gave the annual animal control report and 2024 stats. The cost to shelter and provide for an animal is around \$10-\$15 per day. Owen broke down the cost of animal control and gave two proposals. The first proposal is full 24/7 animal control coverage with a total expense of \$171,997.00 per year. The second proposal is without Saturday evening, and all day Sunday animal control coverage with a total cost of \$165,487.97 per year. Nancy stated they continually do things to try to raise money along with grant money. Commissioner Brewer stated they will take all this information into consideration as we prepare our 2026 budget.

IN THE MATTER OF THE TEMPORARY RELOCATION OF THE KIOSK AGREEMENT

Stephanie Harshbarger presented the temporary relocation agreement of the kiosk to the library. Commissioner Myers motioned to approve the agreement and Commissioner Weaver seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

IN THE MATTER OF AREA PLAN UPDATE

Liz Stitzel stated she didn't have anything new to report.

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY UPDATE

Rick Campbell presented the notice to proceed for community crossings and the close out documents for community crossings. Commissioner Weaver motioned to approve the close out documents. Commissioner Myers seconded. Motion carried 3-0. The notice to proceed was approved at the last meeting.

Rick reported they were mowing right now. Reith-Riley is patching and getting ready to pave on gasoline.

IN THE MATTER OF OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Brewer summarized the fuel bids stating Newton Oil's bid was \$2.30 for gasoline and \$2.55 for diesel. Heritage Petroleum's bid was \$2.35 for gasoline and \$2.59 for diesel. That equates to \$5,000 between high and low bidder. Commissioner Brewer stated we have been utilizing the tracking on the new system. The original bid was for 80,000 gallons of gasoline and 110,000 gallons of diesel fuel. Right now we are on pace to utilize 60,000 gallons of gasoline and 95,000 gallons of diesel. We will have some carry over volume into 2026 and he has spoken to the bidders and they are willing to work with us in terms of the start date for 2026. Also adjusting our volume down to contract to 45,000 of gasoline and 80,000 of diesel, that way we don't have

multiple years where we are carrying over large volumes into the following year. Commissioner Myers motioned to approve Newton Oil. Commissioner Weaver seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Brewer reminded department heads who utilize fuel that those numbers don't reflect the tax. For gasoline it's about \$.40/gal. and diesel is \$.60/gal and for Rick who has on road and off road it's about \$.40/gal.

IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Brewer stated he has stepped down from his appointed position on Area Plan Commission at their last meeting. Commissioner Weaver motioned to appoint Commissioner Kevin Myers to the Area Plan Commission. Commissioner Brewer seconded. Commissioner Myers abstained. Motion carried 2-0.

Commissioner Weaver motioned to approve the EMS Clinical Site Agreement with Sheridan. Commissioner Myers seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Melissa Ostler gave a brief update, stating the fair is going on and daily rounds of food safety checks are being made and she thanked the commissioners for allowing the contractual agreement for the food inspector. She is working with the fair team focusing on sanitation. They are still struggling with the hand washing stations especially around the animal barns, and bringing public awareness.

Melissa stated the Health Department is working closely with the Humane Society on animal bites. She is seeing there is a gap in the animal bite process with tracking and enforcing the laws. She sees areas to make improvements and will be working with the Humane Society and law enforcement for a safer community and give them her support. The Board of Health meets next Tuesday and Melissa extended an invitation to the commissioners.

Renee Crick reported she requested assistance from the National Weather Service for the week of the fair for tracking. She's also made that request for the Hot Dog Festival, Colfax Festival, as well as Rossville's. Renee stated she's completed the SEAR (Special Event Assessment Rating) report that is due at the end of August. She is signed up for public assistance and damage assessment training at the end of October.

Commissioner Brewer addressed Rich Kelly stating he has heard there are open deputy positions and asked how many and what is the plan for filling these positions. Sheriff Kelly stated there are two positions and he was holding off talking with council two meetings ago to see what the budget looks like for 2026 until later this year possibly this fall. Commissioner Brewer stated they fully support filling these positions and want it known to the merit deputies and staff that it's not getting held up with the commissioners and support filling these positions as soon as possible.

Commissioner Weaver agreed and stated that community safety is their first priority and they don't want to cut back on emergency services.

Commissioner Brewer stated that Chief Deputy Mayfield stated at the last meeting that they haven't ordered any vehicles for 2025. Sheriff Kelly replied that they had ordered vehicles from Kelly Chevrolet and talked with them but didn't know where they were going to be for 2025, but they always order extra and they come in at times. They've had that conversation and he knows that's not specific for us but they did have extra vehicles for us. He stated the Chief deputy talked with a GM representative and found 3, but they are very far and few between this year but they didn't know where we were going to be with vehicles this year. He stated they are working on it and have 3 up in Ohio that can be transferred over to Kelly. Commissioner Brewer stated we should move forward with that and presented the minutes from July 2, 2024, that shows the commissioners approved one Traverse in 2024, two Traverses in 2025, and 4 Tahoes for 2025. He stated he didn't want it said that the commissioners held up vehicles for the department when they approved all of that last summer.

Commissioner Brewer stated he had heard there was an issue with the part-time janitorial service at the jail and asked if Sheriff Kelly was aware of the situation. Sheriff Kelly asked what the issue was because he didn't think there was an issue. Commissioner Brewer stated the individual that has been cleaning the jail and dispatch area has been told they are no longer allowed to clean the dispatch area. Sheriff Kelly stated he didn't think that was the case and the situation is that dispatch is totally separate from the Sheriff's office even though it's in the same building. He said that's not a part of their budget to have one of the employees at the sheriff's office going to clean that area. He thinks there are personality issues that created an issue and he asked Renee to have an open conversation here. There were some personality issues from within dispatch not Renee as far as individuals and the cleaning person was made to feel very uncomfortable with the expectation from some of the personnel in dispatch. He said if her job description says clean dispatch and she was until there was a personality issue.

Commissioner Brewer asked if he would rather the job description be amended to say clean the facility or would he rather have this part-time position have the hours reduced and Renee pay for her own out of her

budget. The sheriff stated from the perspective of the budget he can pay for his portion of the cleaning and Renee can pay for her portion. They are agreeable to this option.

Commissioner Weaver stated we shouldn't have to change the job description over minor issues.

Commissioner Brewer stated that things should have been figured out internally so that the commissioners didn't have to get involved in the solution.

Renee Crick stated she had no problem helping to fund that position. She thinks the disconnect was when the janitor came to her with the complaint of her people walking after she was mopping, and Renee agreed and said she would take care of it. Then she didn't see her for a couple days and Renee talked to her and said she thought they were ok after that Monday, and the janitor replied she didn't have to clean dispatch anymore. Renee stated she hadn't heard that from anyone but her. She stated she has no issues paying for her time in dispatch and her problem was there was no communication from the sheriff's office.

Commissioner Brewer asked the sheriff who has access to the commissary area and if civilians could walk into the commissary area. The sheriff stated they would have to unlock it and allow them access to the commissary area. Commissioner Brewer read from Brett Todd's story last week "they (assuming that meant Rich and Ashley) also state that despite the commissioners public awareness of her role and compensation, they fail to provide her a formal contract and she's not been paid for commissary work since September 15, 2021. Commissioner Brewer showed the minutes and the contracts that have been offered for 2021, 2023, and 2024. He stated his other point is the article stating that she has not been compensated is not factually accurate and asked Tim to play a video from March 5th 2025 at 2:08 p.m. displaying Ashley Kelly doing commissary work as she is clocked in at the Matron (Commissioner Brewer held up her time sheet from that date). The video also displayed Brett Todd in the Commissary room with her.

Sheriff Kelly stated these things still have to be done regardless if they have an agreed upon contract. Commissioner Brewer stated but to say she has not been compensated while she is clocked in doing the work is not accurate. He said he feels we just need to amend the Matron's job description to include doing commissary work. The sheriff stated that's something we need to discuss and should. Commissioner Brewer stated he would be glad to have that discussion.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Brewer stated the Clinton County Fair is going on and encouraged people to get out there. He stated sometimes we take for granted the volunteerism that goes into making the fair happen. The builders for the barns worked tirelessly to get those completed in time for the fair. There were tons of people that volunteered hours to make the fair function. The commissioners are appreciative of all those who volunteered to make the fair happen.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS

Commissioner Weaver motioned to approve the following claims as submitted, Commissioner Myers seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Friday claims dated July 11, 2025 in the amount of \$34,661.78
Bi-weekly claims dated July 15, 2025 in the amount of \$1,059,623.63
Court claims dated July 15, 2025 in the amount of \$13,256.81

IN THE MATTER OF PAYROLL

Commissioner Weaver motioned to approve the payroll as submitted, Commissioner Myers seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll dated June 27, 2025 in the amount of \$612,365.78
EMA Payroll dated June 27, 2025 in the amount of \$1,242.00

The next meeting will be August 5th.

Commissioners allowed Jerry Lysko to speak regarding comments he made about animal control. He went to various departments to complain about the Humane Society. Since making those complaints he learned a little about how that entity works and how it takes a special kind of individual to work with the animals and also the public and comply with the rules and regulations. He stated he met with the staff and they were very professional and willing to work with him and find a solution for his issue. He felt since he took time to create a problem for them, he should take the time to say some good things about the Humane Society.

Commissioner Brewer suggested Melissa get in touch with Tammy Sander, our PR Consultant. Melissa spoke briefly regarding public awareness.

Without any further business to come before the Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Myers motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Weaver at 10:07 a.m. Motion carried 3-0.

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CLINTON COUNTY


Jordan Brewer, President


Bert Weaver


Kevin Myers

ATTEST:


Britt Ostler, Auditor