

**MINUTES FOR THE
CLINTON COUNTY SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
September 23, 2025**

The Clinton County Council met in the Commissioner's Meeting Room at the Clinton County Courthouse, Frankfort, Indiana on September 23, 2025, at the hour of 8:00 a.m. a special Council meeting, pursuant in accordance with law and publication as evidence by proof of the minutes of the last meeting, and any other business that may come before it. On call to order the following members were shown to be present or absent.

PRESENT	ABSENT
Alan Dunn	
Mary King	
Jeff Chynoweth	
Joe Mink	
Mike Hensley	
Carol Price	
Todd Corrie	

Clinton County Deputy Auditor, Janet Lloyd, was present to record the proceedings of the Council. Others in attendance were as follows: Sesaly Reifert, Marcia DeLaCroix, Jordan Brewer, Bert Weaver, Rich Kelly, Ashley Kelly, Jerri Sexton, Brett Todd, Josh Winrotte, Matt Myers, Renee Crick, Chris Guajardo, Kialee Mitchell, Stephanie Harshbarger, Liz Stitzel, and others as mentioned in the Minutes.

Tim Elston was initially present to setup the livestream of the meeting.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Federal Inmate Program- Council President, Alan Dunn, started by asking Sheriff Kelly and Matron Kelly about statements that were made at the September 17, 2025, Merit Board meeting regarding the present state and future plans of the Federal Inmate program. He noted that the Sheriff had told the Merit Board that they were unsure if the program would be around after his administration left office. The Sheriff had stated in that meeting that he hadn't filled open Merit Deputy positions due to his uncertainty about the Federal Inmate funding and if the Council would support paying for those deputies out of another fund if that contract was discontinued. Also, in said meeting, the Sheriff had indicated that his administration would be unwilling to cooperate with a newly elected Sheriff to facilitate the continuation of Federal Inmate funding. President Dunn stated that these statements and information make it very difficult for the Council to go forward with approving the 2026 Federal Inmate budget as presented.

In response to President Dunn concerns, Sheriff Kelly stated that he felt confident that the Federal Inmate Housing contract would be renegotiated in June/July of 2026.

In light of these developments, President Dunn proposed reducing the Federal Inmate Fund budget for 2026 as follows: remove \$400,000 vehicle amount; cut deputy line in $\frac{1}{2}$, reducing from \$462,144 to \$231,072; and move the Crime Scene Investigator position, budgeted for \$59,450, to the Public Safety LIT Fund.

Upon motion by Council member Price, seconded by Council member Hensley, a motion to approve the aforementioned Federal Inmate Fund budget changes was approved 7-0.

Matron Salary/Commissary Compensation – Council all agreed that they felt the current budgeted amount of \$69,673 was adequate compensation for all the Matron duties listed in the newly adopted job description.

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner President, Jordan Brewer, took this opportunity to address statements made by Sheriff Kelly and Matron Kelly regarding the Federal Inmate Fund at the September 17, 2025, Merit Board meeting.

Regarding the proposed consolidation of all General Fund departments fuel expenses into one line in the Commissioner's budget, Commissioner Brewer stated that they were in favor of doing so in order to simplify billing. The fuel provider will be able to provide each department with a monthly detailed report of the usage for their department, as a whole, as well as details regarding usage of each individual employee. The Auditor's office will move those budgeted fuel expenses into the Commissioner budget. This will result in no overall difference in the total General Fund budget as amounts will just be shifting from one department to another. The Council and Commissioners will be notified of that amount once it is known.

EXTENSION PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Josh Winrotte was present to represent the Extension Office and answer any questions the Council might have. After some discussion, all agreed that the benefits for the new full-time Program Assistant position should be paid out of the Council's General Fund budget. Upon motion by Council member Mink, seconded by Council member Corrie, a motion regarding said benefits passed 7-0.

RECORDER

The Recorder had asked to have the salary of her 2nd Deputy position increased to that of other comparable positions (Auditor Property Deputies). The Council agreed that this is one of a few positions that got overlooked in the salary survey last year. Upon motion by Council member Price, seconded by Council member Mink, a Motion to give this position the same hourly rate as other like positions was approved 7-0. That hourly rate is currently \$22.39.

CLERK OF THE COURTS

Discussion was held regarding if the 1st Deputy position should be paid a \$3000 stipend out of the Registration of Voters Fund to compensate her for extra hours worked during voting years. HR Director Sesaly Reifert helped to explain how the 1st Deputies current salary was calculated at 80% of the Clerk's salary, including her 2 stipends. So, in reality, the 1st Deputy got paid an "additional" stipend built into her salary since it had been calculated in that manner. All of the Council agreed that they felt it was actually in her best interest to leave the calculation of her salary as is for 2026. Upon motion by Council member Price, seconded by Council member King, a motion to deny the additional 1st Deputy stipend passed 7-0.

CENTRAL DISPATCH/911

During the first Budget hearing, Council was entertaining the idea of moving the Motorola Lease payment of \$94,552 from the Central Dispatch Fund 4958 to LIT Public Safety (1170) to help alleviate a major expense in that fund.. Upon motion by Council member Chynoweth, seconded by Council member Hensley, it was agreed 7-0 to move said expense. That change will take place in the form of an Additional Appropriation at the January 2026 Council meeting.

AREA PLAN

The Inspector Position is currently vacant. Council agreed that the position is needed and that the current budgeted salary range is appropriate. No changes are necessary to the presented budget.

2026 SALARY/RAISES AND HEALTH INSURANCE

President Dunn stated that he felt it was going to be difficult to budget for the Health Insurance cost as well as raises due to not having responses back from insurance companies after taking the County's policy to Market. Currently, the budgeted amount for insurance and benefits is a 10% increase from last year. Most likely, that amount will end up being much higher due to the County's poor claims history for the past couple of years. The County has continued to bear the burden of the majority of these costs; passing very little to the employees to pay for.

Council member Corrie expressed his concern about deciding on an amount without having all the proposal information back yet from the insurance companies. President Dunn suggested having another special meeting toward the end of October to make a final decision on health insurance amounts for the 2026 budget since the budget doesn't have to be submitted till October 31st. All Council members agreed to leave 8:00a.m. on October 28th available for such a meeting if necessary.

Regarding the recommendations for 2026 salaries, President Dunn recommended a 1% raise for all employees at or above the salary survey mid-point amount and 2 1/2% for all other employee salaries not previously approved at either of the Council budget hearings. Upon motion by Council member Mink, seconded by Council member Price, a motion approving said proposed raises was approved 7-0.

PARKVIEW

HR Director, Sesaly Reifert reminded the Council that she had emailed them yesterday regarding the need to review the Groundskeeper/Maintenance position since additional duties have been added to the job description in June, taking it to a different classification/pay scale. At the time, it was agreed by the Salary Committee to leave the 2025 salary as is and reflect the new classification in the 2026 budget. After a brief discussion, it was agreed to take his 2026 salary to \$24.19/hr, with a 2.5% raise, the total being \$51,573.08. Council member Chynoweth motion, seconded by Council member Mink, to approved said revised 2026 salary amount. Motion carried 7-0.

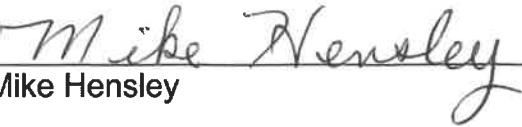
Meeting adjourned: 10:37 a.m.

Clinton County Council



Alan Dunn, President

Mary King

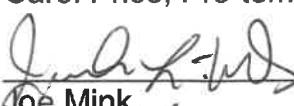


Mike Hensley

Todd Corrie



Carol Price, Pro-tem



Joe Mink



Jeff Chynoweth

ATTEST:


Britt A. Ostler, Clinton Co Auditor

