

CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES

Date November 6, 2023

I, Christina Sriver, duly qualified and acting County Auditor for the County of Fulton, Indiana, do hereby certify with regard to all proceedings of the date above; that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the County Auditor; that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting; that the minutes of the meeting were in written form and available for public inspection immediately following approval of the body which held the meeting; that all news media requesting notification concerning meetings of said body were provided with advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

Christina Sriver, Fulton County Auditor



**FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AND
FULTON COUNTY COUNCIL
Monday, November 6, 2023**

Meeting Called to Order at 6:00 p.m. Present: Deputy Auditor Chantal Rensberger, Lorie Hurst-County Council, Chayse Thompson-County Council, Phyl Olinger-County Council, Steve Fishburn-County Council, Ron Dittman-County Council and EMS Board member, Pete Karas-County Council, Randy Gundrum-County Council, Jeff Finke-committee member, Tom Butler-committee member, Rebecca Hartzler-committee member, Gail Karas-committee member, Dave Sommers-County Commissioner, Rick Ranstead-County Commissioner and committee member, and Bryan Lewis-County Commissioner.

CORONERS CONTRACT – The purposed contract was motioned for approval by Commissioner Sommers, seconded by Commissioner Ranstead; carries 3-0.

TRAVEL AUTHORIZATIONS – Travel requests that were tabled at the Commissioner's meeting this morning were motioned for approval by Commissioner Ranstead, seconded by Commissioner Sommers; carries 3-0.

MINUTES – The minutes of the October 2nd Commissioner meeting were motioned for approval by Commissioner Sommers, Commissioner Ranstead seconded; carries 3-0.

CLAIMS –

Payroll 10/20	\$ 257,843.87
Payroll Deductions 10/20	\$ 115,847.05
Insurance Disbursements 10/12-10/18	\$ 9,346.22
Utilities	\$ 23,772.33
Misc. Claims 11/6	\$ 1,822,104.86
Credit Card Docket	\$ 10,237.01
LIT Distribution	\$ 733,015.09
Payroll 11/3	\$ 256,484.72
Payroll Deductions 11/3	\$ 92,938.26

TRANSFERS –

Department	Fund	From Account	To Account	Amount
Annex	County General	Equip. Repair/Maint.	Building Repair	\$20,121
<u>Window for the annex building</u>				
Annex	County General	Snow removal	Landscaping	\$1,000
<u>Landscape redo in front of annex building</u>				
Health	Health	Well Testing	Mileage	\$1,000
<u>Mileage for the rest of the year due to inspections and meetings</u>				
Health	Health	Animal Testing	Professional Fees	\$150

To cover nursing license renewal for Public Health Nurse and Part-time Nurse				
Communications	LIT PSAP	Office Supply	Uniforms Purchased	\$700
Covering cost of uniforms				
Commissioners	County General	Dues	Vehicle Registration	\$25
To pay for registration for TRANSP van				
Commissioners	County General	Legal/Lawsuit	St. Mtg. & Conference	\$953
To pay for Commissioners annual conference				
Cleaning-\$3,000				
X-Ray & Lab-\$3,000				
Service & Supply-\$1,000				
Coroner	County General	Transport-\$1,000	Deputy Coroner	\$8,000
Remaining quarter to pay deputy coroner contractual services				
Coroner	County General	Dues	Cont. Ed	\$150
Paying stipend to coroner for required travel				
Coroner	County General	Transport	Mileage	\$400
Paying mileage to coroner				
Highway	CSLFRF	Signage	Construction	\$3,008
To place encumbered funds for sidewalk construction into appropriate account number				

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS – Approved as submitted

Department	Fund	For	Amount
Highway	CSLFRF	Construction	\$4,816
To cover amount due for the museum sidewalk and ramp that exceeds the quoted amount.			
Highway	MVH	Repair Bldg & Equip	\$10,000
For future expenditures through the end of the year			

Commissioner Sommers motioned to approve transfers and additional, Commissioner Ranstead seconded; carries 3-0.

AMBULANCE SERVICES – Barry Ritter of Ritter Strategic Services, a public safety consulting firm, stated that he was hired to conduct a planning study for EMS ambulance services in Fulton County. In the midst of the project the current provider of EMS services notified the county that they were ending the current agreement. The county then expedited the RFP process for EMS service in the future. There have been meetings in multiple communities for input the specifications for the project were drafted. Elected Officials from cities, towns, townships and the county have provided comments and feedback into this process. The first responder community meeting attended in Akron was one of the larges fire association meetings Barry has attended in Indiana. The specifications that were drafted for Fulton County as requirements included continual training, replacement of consumer-based supplies, advanced training for EMRs that want to become an EMT or have a paramedic recertified. Those requirements were written into specifications for a couple reasons: they arrive on scene faster than the ambulance and secondly it provides a feeder system for potential new employees down the road. There has been discussion in meetings of loss of paramedics and EMTs in the State of Indiana since COVID, every provider has faced that. We wanted to ensure there was a feeder system of some sort for patient care and those providers in those specifications.

The business community was loud and clear in their specifications for EMS service in the county including school corporations, the local hospital and the EMS providers themselves. Each of them provided a great deal of information for the first time that we've had. The emails, phone calls and dialogue has been extensive. As clarification for those in tonight's audience, Commissioners will not be deciding on a contract tonight, the award will be made on or before November 20th. There was a stakeholder working group that was put together to do the assessment, evaluation and research, interviews, demonstrations, Q & A, and any proposals that were received. The specifications were published and there were three responses received from qualifying ambulance providers: Heartland EMS, Lutheran EMS and Parkview EMS. They were then scheduled for interviews and demonstrations and additional references were sought. The committee's primary responsibility was not cost, their primary responsibility was focused on service. Parkview is not listed in the information provided this evening; their understanding was that the county was to get back into the ambulance business and proposed the county buy ambulances and pay for capital expenditures in excess of \$500,000. Heartland's stipend request for 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027 is \$1.35 million. In their presentation the stipend covers personnel. Lutheran's proposal includes: 2024-\$0, 2025-\$400,000, 2026-\$420,000, 2027-\$421,000. However, in performing interviews with providers Lutheran corrected the 2027 proposal price to \$441,000. The expectation made by citizens is that there be three ambulances in Fulton County located in Rochester, Akron and Kewanna. In Lutheran's proposal there was an additional ambulance that is unmanned and unused and used as back-up and stationed in Rochester. As part of Heartland's proposal, they offer an additional paramedic chaser to support the three ambulances. Each vendor also submitted billing per patient per run as part of the cost. It does not consider what a provider would take on assignment, negotiation or what they would write off. Ambulance transportation from Woodlawn to another county was considered; the county was not in the position to require that but it was an ask. Heartland has a transport division and pledged to work with Woodlawn to utilize that branch of their company; Lutheran pledged their commitment to continue their services and relationship with Woodlawn for patient transfers.

A high-level SWOT (Strengths Weaknesses Opportunity Threats) analysis was done on each provider being considered. Strengths and weaknesses are all internal to the organization we are looking at. The opportunity and threats can be both internal and external. The same statement can be in more than one category. Barry reviewed the analysis of each provider.

The floor was opened for public comment:

Taxpayer 1: It seems to me everybody is scurrying around the elephant in the room to me which is \$5 million versus \$1 million and I don't even think there's a choice at that point. I don't want my taxes raised to cover this \$5 million bill. I don't even think there's a consideration to be made. Secondly, the people that (I) talked to in the community had no clue that Lutheran was doing this for free when all they hear about is they pull an ambulance out of Akron. Nobody wanted it to happen, including Lutheran. But since they work for profit and they weren't getting \$1 million a year for Fulton County it is what they had to do.

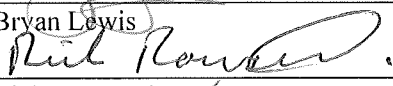
Taxpayer 2: As a taxpayer all of us are concerned about this \$4.1 million that has to come from someplace. As far as service, people in the Nyona area have had no problem. He estimates there have been 25-30 calls this year.


Commissioner Lewis thanked everyone for attending and input.

ADJOURN – Commissioner Ranstead motioned to adjourn at 7:25 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Sommers; carries.

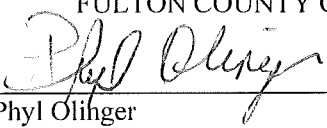
FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS


Bryan Lewis



Rick Ranstead



David Sommers


FULTON COUNTY COUNCIL


Phyl Olinger

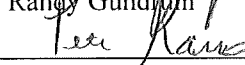

Ron Dittman

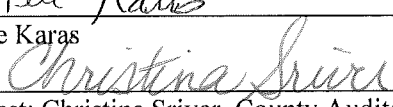

Steve Fishburn


Lorie Hurst


Chayse Thompson


Randy Gundrum


Pete Karas


Attest: Christina Sriver, County Auditor

I affirm under penalties of perjury, that I have taken reasonable care to redact each social security number in this document, unless required by law: Christina Sriver Prepared by: Christina Sriver