

**FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Monday, November 20, 2023**

**Meeting Called to Order** at 6:00 p.m. with Pledge to the Flag. Present: Bryan Lewis, Rick Ranstead, David Sommers, County Attorney Holli Shorter-Pifer.

**FEDCO** – Michael Ladd introduced a representative of Commonwealth Engineering regarding the interlocal agreement with the town of Kewanna in the amount of \$500,000. The funds are scheduled within the agreement to be returned to the county by June 1, 2024 bearing 0.00% interest. Commissioner Lewis read the agreement aloud. Commissioner Sommers motioned to approve pending Council approval, Commissioner Ranstead seconded; carries. Michael updated on the READI II progress; he attended a meeting last week in Kokomo regarding housing, the industrial park, a mobile clinic the hospital wants for Fulton and Kewanna two days per week. There is a meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> in Kokomo with all six counties in the region will gather to reduce from 10 to 5 programs per county. The state will then review the 30 regional projects. The state will be in the region on the 11<sup>th</sup> to visit all five sites in Fulton County.

**AMBULANCE CONTRACT** – Commissioner Lewis read aloud from Ritter Strategic Services a summary of the bids received for EMS services. Commissioner Ranstead motioned to enter into contract negotiations with Lutheran, Commissioner Sommers seconded; carries 3-0.

**HIGHWAY** – John Geier presented an oversize/overweight permit. Commissioner Ranstead motioned to approve, Commissioner Sommers seconded; carries 3-0. John updated on the department activities. John discussed a fuel contract with CERES Solutions for 2024. Commissioner Ranstead motioned to approve, Commissioner Sommers seconded; carries 3-0. John presented a task order from USI for community crossings projects and a supplement agreement for on-call projects. Commissioner Sommers motioned to approve the Authorization to Proceed with USI in the amount of \$25,000, Commissioner Ranstead seconded; carries 3-0. Commissioner Sommers motioned to approve the supplemental on-call agreement with USI, Commissioner Ranstead seconded; carries 3-0. John reviewed the need and cost of a new backhoe that is 10 years old; Commissioners approve John to approach Council. John planned for a truck in 2024 and another in 2025. There is money set aside in the bond. If he orders now he can get one in December of 2024 and one in January of 2025. He set aside \$200,000 for each truck, the cost of a single axle truck is now around \$290,000. Commissioner Ranstead would like to sit down and review the bond money. John has 13 months to figure out how to pay for the trucks. Commissioners approve contingent to Council approval. John requests part-time help to cover an employee who is out temporarily; Commissioners approve.

**SHERIFF** – The monthly reports were sent prior to the meeting; no questions or comments. The department invoiced \$61,636.52 for out-of-county inmate housing for the month of October. An ordinance has been drafted to allow for public donations for K-9 program. Previously the money received had been funneled through the FOP. Merit Deputy applications are being accepted through the end of the year to fill an open position. The two new Tahoes are being outfitted and expected to arrive by the end of the year. An animal control warden recommendation will be given at the next meeting. Quality Correctional Care have scrubbed the 89% of the medical bills.



**COMMUNICATIONS/EMA** – Gail Karas has worked through LEPC to put together a plan to have all units in the county on the 800 system radios by the end of 2025. She would like to put together one large invoice for the county. She is not planning to purchase all new radios, they will be rotated out. The price per radio (\$26,273) is expected to increase 3-6% if not ordered by the end of the year. The Hazard Material Emergency Response Plan needs to be approved by LEPC. She has never seen it approved by LEPC to be presented to Commissioners. There are three plans that need to work together. In the last few months she has worked with IDHS, there is also a mitigation plan. She will have that agreeance ready for Commissioners because there is a grant coming from FEMA to work to update that plan and also the CEMP plan. All these plans work together and they need to be voted on, some of those by LEPC and then they are presented to Commissioners for adoption in a resolution. There has been a resolution to the mitigation plan but she didn't see anything in there where a signed agreement for your hazmat plan with our Tier 2 groups and that needs to be implemented so that will be coming to Commissioners. She signed herself and Josh up for a conference on December 18<sup>th</sup> regarding cybersecurity through IDHS. Myra and the SBR has been challenging but it was submitted last week. She has been working with other counties in district 2 there seems to be a problem with that as well. As the collaboration continues she thinks all the counties together for district 2 will push that and be a strong force again until it's adequate and correct. One thing on the 800 system, she does know a lot about communications, yesterday she had an issue with the tower at 200 S and SR 25 that is rented operated by an external entity. For redundancy she is going to ask them to piggyback on our 300' tower and it seems like every 10-11 months that tower site loses power and we lose communications totally and the inoperability and channels did not work, they were up and down so we need redundancy. With Commissioner's permission she will include them on the letter to the state; Commissioners approve. She hired two new employees, one is full-time and is part-time. The part-time employee will be paid from 1222. She received 75 applicants through Indeed. She knows the wage should be recommended from Commissioners to Council; she will request to meet with a Commissioner at the beginning of the year to discuss wages and then move to the wage committee.

**SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT** – Megan Malott stated that she applied for a Clean Water Indiana grant and it was approved to pay for a part-time staff and an education trainer. In the office they are trying to expand within the building and they anticipate an increase in rent. They are proposing that the county budgeted funds be advanced. Commissioners grant their blessing to move on to Council with the request.

**2024 MEETING RESOLUTION** - Commissioner Lewis read the proposed resolution aloud:

**RESOLUTION # 11202023**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE COUNTY OF FULTON, INDIANA,  
ESTABLISHING MEETING TIMES FOR 2024**

**WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Commissioners have established that they will meet on the first and third Monday of each month at 9:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. respectively, in the Commissioner Meeting Room in the Fulton County Office Building with the exception of when a holiday falls on the first or third Monday, and other special circumstances as necessary.

**WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners have established times as set out under Indiana Code 36-2-2-6.

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Fulton County Commissioners that:

1. The Fulton County Commissioners have established that they will meet on the first and third Monday of each month at 9:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. respectively, and other special circumstances\*, in the Commissioner Meeting Room in the Fulton County Office Building located at 125 E 9th Street, Rochester, Indiana.
2. If there is a Monday Holiday, the Fulton County Commissioners will meet on the following business day.
3. A year-end meeting will be held on the last business day of the year at 9:00 a.m.
4. If other meetings are scheduled, public notice will be given.

2024 Commissioner meeting dates:

January 2 <sup>nd</sup>	July 1 <sup>st</sup>
January 16 <sup>th</sup>	July 15 <sup>th</sup>
February 5 <sup>th</sup>	August 5 <sup>th</sup>
February 19 <sup>th</sup>	August 19 <sup>th</sup>
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	September 3 <sup>rd</sup>
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	September 16 <sup>th</sup>
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	October 7 <sup>th</sup>
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	October 21 <sup>st</sup>
May 6 <sup>th</sup>	November 4 <sup>th</sup>
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	November 18 <sup>th</sup>
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	December 2 <sup>nd</sup>
June 17 <sup>th</sup>	December 16 <sup>th</sup>
	December 31 <sup>st</sup>

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

**TRAVEL AUTHORIZATIONS** – Travel authorization requests were motioned for approval by Commissioner Ranstead, seconded by Commissioner Sommers; carries 3-0.

**MINUTES** – The minutes of November 3 and November 6 were motioned for approval by Commissioner Sommers, seconded by Commissioner Ranstead; carries 3-0.

**CLAIMS-** Approved as presented

Jury Pay	\$ 4,191.78
Tourism 10/18/23	\$ 4,674.75
Misc. Claims 11/20/23	\$ 272,783.83
LIT Distribution	\$ 733,015.09
Utilities	\$ 12,386.26
Payroll for 11/17/23	\$ 294,067.40
Payroll deductions for 11/17/23	\$ 118,609.80
Wheel/Sur Tax September 2023	\$ 53,298.97

**TRANSFERS** – Approved as presented

Department	Fund	From Account	To Account	Amount
Courthouse Annex	County General	Trash Removal	Building & Repair	\$30.00
To cover expenses for the remainder of the year.				

Courthouse Annex	County General	Snow Removal	Utilities	\$5,000.00
To cover expenses for the remainder of the year.				
Drainage Board	County General	Publish Legals	Legal and Consult	\$167.00
For attorney representing drainage board				
Commissioner	County General	Exam Records	Bonds	\$2,000
To cover required surety bonds				
Surveyor	County General	Tires & Lube	Gas-Oil-Lube	\$229.00
Not enough funds available for gas				
Circuit Court	County General	Computer Maint.	Law Books	\$1,206.00
To pay outstanding invoice for Thomas Reuters for law books				
Superior Court	County General	Copier Supplies-\$1,200.00 Printing-\$429.96	Contract	\$1,629.96
For recording software contract				
Courthouse	County General	Elevator Maint.	Landscaping	\$455.00
Landscaping funds are low				
Courthouse Annex	County General	Elevator Maint.	Landscaping	\$1,486.00
Landscaping funds are low				
Vacant Admin Bldg	County General	Building Supply Rental	Cleaning Services	\$800.00
Cleaning supplies funds are low				

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS-** Approved as presented

Department	Fund	For	Amount
Convention, Visitor, Tourism	Convention, Visitor, Tourism	Publications-\$6,000 Advertising-\$3,300 Research & Grants-\$7,000	\$16,300
The 2023 budget was cut to begin the year; we have increased our overall income significantly and are advertising Fulton County more extensively. We are also seeing more organizations with events apply for grants.			
Highway	CSLFRF	Construction	\$4,816.00
To cover the amount due for the museum sidewalk and ramp that exceeds the quoted amount.			
Highway	MVH	Repair Bldg & Equip	\$10,000
To ensure future expenditures are covered up to the end of the year.			

**DNR DAM INSPECTION REPORT** – Commissioner Ranstead motioned to approve the invoice for the DNR dam inspection fee for Mount Zion Millpond, Commissioner Sommers seconded; carries 3-0.

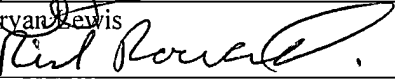
**OLD BUSINESS** – None

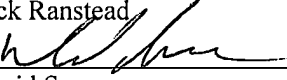
**NEW BUSINESS** – Phyl will have a funding request for an outreach program through United Ministries using ARPA funds.

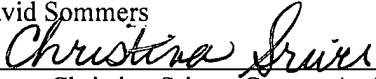
**RECESS** – Commissioner Ranstead motioned to recess at 7:07 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Sommers; carries 3-0.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bryan Lewis

  
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Rick Ranstead

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Sommers

  
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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

