

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monday, April 1, 2024

Meeting Called to Order at 9:00 a.m. with Pledge to the Flag. Present: Bryan Lewis, Rick Ranstead, David Sommers, County Attorney Holli Shorter-Pifer. and Auditor Christina Sriver.

NORTHERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL – Steven Ray gave an update of the last nine years. The regional comprehensive plan needs updated and requires a resolution for the County Commissioners to approve. Steven also presented a contract for 2024 at \$0.77 per capita for Commissioner’s consideration. Currently the services are being paid for by FEDCO. Commissioners will check to see if the cost is included in the 2024 FEDCO budget. READI II will be awarded April 11th and projects will be announced.

INDOT – Alex Lee updated on the US 31 North PEL study. There will be an overpass at CR 700 N and an interchange at SR 110 and SR 10 (Argos). These are currently planned for 2027 and separate from the study. Level II planning is currently underway. There are 8 primary intersections that will be addressed in Level 3; of the 8, 6 are in Fulton County. County Road 100/6th Street will be part of the Level 3 screening as well as the SR 25 interchange.

TITLE VI/ADA POLICY PUBLIC HEARING – Having no public comments for the updated plan Commissioner Ranstead motioned to approve the nondiscrimination plan, Commissioner Sommers seconded; carries 3-0. A resolution was provided to establish the Title VI coordinator. Commissioner Lewis read the proposed resolution aloud. Commissioner Ranstead motioned to approve, Commissioner Sommers seconded; carries 3-0.

COUNCIL ON AGING – Commissioner Lewis read aloud 04012024B, a resolution authorizing an application for a grant for public transit. Commissioner Ranstead motioned to approve, Commissioner Sommers seconded; carries 3-0.

WORK FROM HOME – Commissioner Ranstead motioned to approve a two-week extension for an employee working from home, Commissioner Sommers seconded; carries 3-0.

COMMUNICATIONS/EMA – Gail Karas stated that the solar eclipse should begin around 2:00-2:30 p.m. and she and volunteers will be working at the local schools. Bloodborne pathogens training was held last week. Gail stated that 911 funds will pay for the radio for the EMA truck. All radios have been distributed. She will meet with the Job Classification Committee Wednesday morning to discuss moving a part-time employee to full-time.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT – Denise Ostafin gave an update on the department. She has ordered 16 AED machines for the schools at a cost of \$41,000. Indiana Immunization Coalition and other counties are having a health fair coming up. Indiana Immunization Coalition will also be providing immunizations for the county. She is looking into being able to charge for immunizations.



IT – Josh Sriver has been working on the website. There will be a meeting on the 26th. He will take the drone out to get new photos for the website once there is color in the landscape. The panic buttons should be fully functional by the end of the week.

SHERIFF – Sheriff Heishman announced the JCAP graduation that took place last week. There are 69 inmates this morning. A new deputy started today and she should be on the road in about 9 months. He introduced the new animal control warden. Commissioner Ranstead motioned to approve the rehire, Commissioner Sommers seconded; carries 3-0.

HIGHWAY – John Geier presented permit request 24-14 for Commissioner’s consideration. Commissioner Ranstead motioned to approve, Commissioner Sommers seconded; carries 3-0. John presented permit request 24-15. Commissioner Sommers motioned to approve, Commissioner Ranstead seconded; carries 3-0. John updated on the department activities. US 31 S has been prepped for the upcoming project. A preconstruction meeting was held for Old US 31 S will be repaved in the spring one mile at a time. SJCA held a meeting on Bridge #33 that is slated for construction in 2029. John would like to open bids at the May 6th meeting for an upcoming project. John presented a contract for mowing at the highway department for \$30 per mow. Commissioner Ranstead motioned to approve, Commissioner Sommers seconded; carries 3-0.

CORONER – Jeri Good reported that she has served 12 families so far this year and reported deaths for the county.

FEDCO – Michael Ladd discussed an opportunity to bring \$13-\$15 million into the county. He presented a resolution for the county to participate in being stellar community. He is working with the State of Indiana and a private company to identify sites. He has applied for two grants from Duke Energy. Bizgrow gave \$16,000 toward stabilizing the Putts building. Commissioner Lewis read the proposed stellar community resolution aloud:

RESOLUTION NO.: _____

In accordance with Indiana Code 36-1-7-1 et. Seq., Fulton County, City of Rochester, Town of Akron, the Town of Fulton, and the Town of Kewanna, all of which entitles are located in Fulton County, Indiana, enter into this interlocal Government Agreement (the “Agreement”) and agree as follows:

Whereas, The Indiana Stellar Pathways program is a multi-agency partnership designed to recognize smaller communities and regions to assist in community and economic development;

Whereas, through annual designation, the Stellar Pathways program provides resources for transformative quality of place, community and regional improvements by fostering regional collaborative behaviors and investments;

Whereas, the Stellar Pathways Designees have the opportunity to apply for funding support from various Indiana agencies which funding includes, but is not limited to:

Program	OCRA	INDOT	IHCDA	ISDH	DNR	ISDA	IDDC
CDGB Planning	\$8,000,000 \$200,000						
Rural Federal Aid Program		\$3,000,000					
Health & Wellness Program				\$75,000			
Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) vs. Home Renters			\$1,500,000 Per Community Housing Development Organization				
Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)					Bonus Points: 5% to LWCF		
Historic Preservation Fund (HPF)					Bonus Points: 20 to HPF		
Indiana Agricultural Grant Program						\$100,000 per community towards agricultural initiatives	
Indiana Destination Marketing Package							\$50,000 - \$100,000 of marketing in-kind services

Whereas, Fulton County, the City of Rochester, the Towns of Akron, Fulton, and Kewanna (hereinafter referred to individually as a “regional partner” and collectively as “the Regional Team”) have come together as a region to apply for the Stellar Pathways program.

Whereas, the implementation of a successful Stellar Pathways program requires other resources including the sustained commitment of a staff and of the governing bodies of the Regional Team; and

Whereas, the Regional Team members now desire to enter into this Interlocal Government Agreement (“Agreement”) which will ensure that the sustained commitment exists to provide the support and structure necessary to successfully apply for and implement the Stellar Pathways program.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the common council of the County of Fulton, Indiana that:

1. The County of Fulton, Indiana has partnered with Fulton County – Working Together for participation in the Stellar Pathways program creating Fulton County – Working Together.
2. Fulton County Working Together has attended a mandatory Stellar Pathways program workshop.
3. If chosen as a Stellar Pathway participant, develop a Strategic Investment Plan with a qualified consulting team.
4. Present the Region’s Strategic Investment Plan to the Stellar Pathways Committee
5. If chosen as a Stellar Pathways Designee, implement Strategic Investment Plan projects and programs with the use of set-aside funding, bonus points, and annual funding rounds within five years of designation.
6. Attend quarterly meetings during those years to measure project completion, success, and obstacles.

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

EMS – Commissioner Ranstead updated on the progress of EMS services. Lutheran is no longer interested in providing ambulance services for the county. Heartland increased the cost of services over what they initially bid earlier this year. Parkview is now being considered for providing EMS services.

MINUTES – Commissioner Sommers motioned to approve the minutes of March 18th, Commissioner Ranstead seconded; carries 3-0.

CLAIMS- Approved as presented

Payroll 3/22/24	\$ 272,409.21
Payroll deductions 3/22/24	\$ 120,331.83
Insurance disbursements 3/14-3/20	\$ 14,711.41
Insurance disbursements 3/7-3/13	\$ 17,055.99
Credit card	\$ 9,653.95
April 1 Misc Claims	\$ 255,165.92
Reimbursement to 8897	\$ 9,589.24
Supplemental LIT to Kewanna	\$ 10,000.00
Solid Waste	\$ 33,333.33
Council on Aging reimbursement	\$ 62,025.00
Wheel/Sur tax	\$ 86,510.08
Utilities	\$ 23,157.80

TRANSFERS – Approved as presented

Department	Fund	From Account	To Account	Amount
Communications	LIT PSAP	Repair & Maint.	Office Supplies	\$15.00

Claim used the wrong account; transferred to cover the cost

Prosecutor	County General	Comp. Maint. Software	Transcripts/Depositions	\$2,742.54
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To cover witness prep and conduct a trial deposition for use in State v. Rentchler set for trial 4/23/24

Coroner	County General	Repair & Maint.	Trash removal	\$1,000.00
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Early termination charge charged to credit card

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS- Approved as presented


Department	Fund	For	Amount
Sheriff	County General	Vehicle	\$10,898
funds received from the auction of 2 vehicles and the insurance payout to use toward the purchase of a replacement vehicle.			
EMA	LEPC	Training	\$2,825
Covering a portion of the 2023 training caused the 2024 training budget to be short. 2024 training will be covered by a grant.			
Commissioners	Rainy Day	Contract	\$26,300
ADA transition plan and Title VI implementation plan updates			
Auditor	Plat Book	Preservation Services	\$1,640
Invoice from 2023 that was received in 2024 for binding and repairing plat and transfer books.			

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

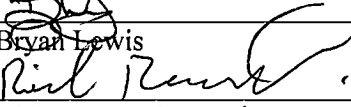
OLD/NEW BUSINESS – Holly will advertise for the disposal of the property in Akron that escheated to the county. Mayor Odell reported that RDP granted funds for the Putts building stabilization. The timing of stoplights is being studied as traffic is backing up. Gail Karas is working with Rochester City regarding dispatch services. The City is committed to working with the county concerning ambulance services.

RECESS – Commissioner Ranstead motioned to recess at 10:21 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Sommers; carries 3-0.

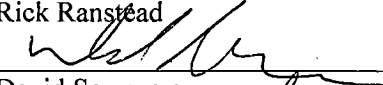
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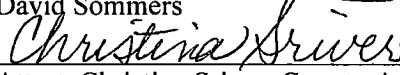
Bryan Lewis



Rick Ranstead

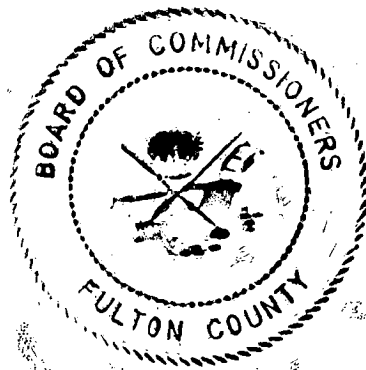


David Sommers



Christina Sriver

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