

**MINUTES  
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COUNCIL  
January 8, 2024  
9:00 a.m.**

The following Fountain County Council members were present at the meeting: Dudley Cruea, Tom Booe, Dale White, Kelly Carlson, Denise Crowder, Jim McKee and Jeff Fishero.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Dale White to appoint Dudley Cruea as President of the Fountain County Council for 2024.

Vote: 6-0-1  
(Dudley Cruea abstained)

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Denise Crowder to appoint Kelly Carlson as Vice-President of the Fountain County Council for 2024.

Vote: 6-0-1  
(Kelly Carlson abstained)

**ABC APPOINTMENT**

A motion was made by Jim McKee to appoint Bill Williams to the Alcohol & Beverage Commission for 2024. Kelly Carlson seconded the motion.

Vote: 7-0

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson to appoint Tom Booe to the Fountain County Solid Waste Management Board for 2024. Dale White seconded the motion.

Vote: 7-0

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

A motion was made by Denise Crowder and seconded by Kelly Carlson to appoint Jeff Fishero to the Emergency Management Advisory Council for 2024.

Vote: 7-0

**INSURANCE COMMITTEE**

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Tom Booe to appoint Denise Crowder to the Insurance Committee for 2024.

Vote: 6-0-1  
(Denise Crowder abstained)

Brenda Hardy  
Commissioner

Denise Crowder  
Council Member

Colleen Chambers  
Auditor

Kim Johnson  
Payroll/HR Deputy

**JRAC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Jim McKee to appoint Kelly Carlson to represent the Fountain County Council on the JRAC Advisory Committee.

Vote: 6-0-1  
(Kelly Carlson abstained)

**APPOINTMENTS**

**COUNCIL ATTORNEY**

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Tom Booe to appoint Taylor Powell as the Council Attorney for 2024.

Vote: 7-0

**TRUSTEES OF FOUNTAIN COUNTY EMPLOYEE BENEFIT TRUST**

The Commissioners appointed Brenda Hardy as a trustee for the employee benefit trust. The council will appoint a member along with the auditor and the payroll clerk. A motion was made by Kelly Carlson to appoint Dale White as trustee and motion was seconded by Tom Booe. Vote: 6-0-1  
(Dale White abstained)

**Planning Commission (Council Member)**

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Kelly Carlson to appoint Jim McKee to the Planning Commission. Vote: 7-0

**Board of Zoning Appeals**

A motion was made by Dale White and seconded by Kelly Carlson to appoint Rodney Norman to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Vote: 7-0

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Dale White and seconded by Kelly Carlson to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2023 meeting as presented. Vote: 7-0

**Report of Collections – as submitted**

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Kelly Carlson to acknowledge the Report of Collections for the Health Department and Recorder for the month of November 2023 along with the report of collections for the Ambulance, Clerk and Sheriff for December 2023. Vote: 7-0

**Review & Acknowledge Clerk’s Monthly Report for November, 2023.**

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Kelly Carlson to acknowledge the Clerk’s Monthly Report for November, 2023. Vote: 7-0

**Invoices – ARP Funds**

Auditor is seeking permission to pay invoice 6194550 dated December 28, 2023 in the amount of \$4,953.90 from Cameron Starnes of Taft Stettinius & Hollister for work on the County Annex BOT agreement. A motion was made by Denise Crowder and seconded by Kelly Carlson to pay the invoice from ARP – Capital Outlay. Vote: 7-0

**ENCUMBRANCES**

**MVH**

\$2,402.77	Gas/Oil	1176-0533-22501
\$7,979.56	Other Repairs & Maint	1176-0533-33601

**CEDIT - COMMISSIONERS**

\$22,973.15	Telephone	1112-0068-33500
\$6,231.85	Internet	1112-0068-33505

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Tom Booe to approve the above encumbrances. Vote: 7-0

**Caliber System**

Council had approved to pay \$85,000 from the 2023 budget for a portion of the Caliber System. However, they have not submitted an invoice to encumber the money from the 2023 budget. Dana has been in contact with them and they should be submitting the invoice.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**Highway Department – Jason Lewis**

Jason handed out information from USI on the Community Crossing Grant application. They have a new pilot program for 2024. We could possibly receive up to \$1.5 million. Jason will be using these funds to pave Stringtown Road to 840 S with the potential to tie in CR 500 W. This would include lines and striping on the road way, which has been a big concern. The match from the county would be approximately \$491,000. The Council gave him their blessing to continue with the application.

#### **E-911 – Dana Stonebraker**

She is fully staffed at the present time and has filled a part time position.

#### **Geenex Solar**

Wayne DeLong and Jennifer Hartley stated that they will meet with Roger Azar next week in regards to the findings on the permit application review.

#### **Council – Tom Booe**

He would like to see caution signs at CR 50 S and US Highway 41 alerting traffic of emergency vehicles. It was also discussed about cleaning up the hillside along the property ditch and fencing. Jason Lewis will talk to INDOT to see what can be done.

#### **Health Dept – Jenny Eads**

Jenny stated that they have hired a new nurse, Jessica Ricketts. She starts today.

#### **Salaries for E-911 Director/EMA Director**

Taylor Powell stated that the Council could call an executive session if they were going to discuss job performance. It was decided to not have an executive session at this time. The Council would like for the E-911 Board and the Emergency Management Board to make a recommendation to the Council prior to their February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting in regards to the salaries.

Colleen Chambers gave an update on the payout of comp time. Also, Dudley reported that Jason Semler will be at the next council meeting to go over the financial report and EMS LIT.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE  
MONDAY, February 12, 2024  
AT 9:00 A.M.**

A motion was made by Dale White and seconded by Kelly Carlson to close the meeting.

Vote: 7-0

Colleen Chambers  
ATTEST

Dudley Crow  
Tom M. Booe  
Dale A. White  
Denise Crowder  
James McFar  
Jeff Stuber