

MINUTES
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COUNCIL
January 13, 2025
9:00 a.m.

The following Fountain County Council members were present at the meeting: Kelly Carlson, Denise Crowder, Jim McKee, Jeff Fishero, Todd Hegg, and Jeff Carver.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

A motion was made by Denise Crowder seconded by Jim McKee to appoint Kelly Carlson as President of the Fountain County Council for 2025.

Vote: 6-0

A motion was made by Denise Crowder and seconded by Todd Hegg to appoint Jeff Fishero as Vice-President of the Fountain County Council for 2025.

Vote: 6-0

Kelly Carlson stated that they are currently short a member. Dale White has resigned. She then read Dale White's resignation letter. Dale resigned effective December 31, 2025. She stated there will be a caucus by the end of January 2025. You can reach out to Paula Copenhaver or Patty Smith.

ABC APPOINTMENT

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson to appoint Dudley Cruea to the Alcohol & Beverage Commission for 2025. Jeff Fishero seconded the motion.

Vote 6-0

Covington/Veedersburg Public Library Board Appointment

A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Todd Hegg to appoint Yessinia Girdler to the Library Board for a term beginning January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2028.

Vote: 6-0

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero to appoint Jeff Carver to the Fountain County Solid Waste Management Board for 2025. Denise Crowder seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

A motion was made by Denise Crowder and seconded by Jim McKee to appoint Jeff Fishero to the Emergency Management Advisory Council for 2025.

Vote: 6-0

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

A motion was made by Todd Hegg and seconded by Jeff Carver to appoint Denise Crowder to the Insurance Committee for 2025.

Vote: 6-0

Aaron Fruits
Commissioner

Council Member

Kim Johnson

Lisa Spiering

JRAC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Denise Crowder to appoint Todd Hegg to represent the Fountain County Council on the JRAC Advisory Committee.

Vote: 6-0

APPOINTMENTS

COUNCIL ATTORNEY

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Denise Crowder to appoint Ethan Myers as the Council Attorney for 2025.

Vote: 6-0

TRUSTEES OF FOUNTAIN COUNTY EMPLOYEE BENEFIT TRUST

The Commissioners appointed Aaron Fruits 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 Jeff Fishero to appoint Kelly Carlson as trustee and motion was seconded by Jim McKee.

Vote: 6-0

Planning Commission (Council Member)

A motion was made by Denise Crowder and seconded by Todd Hegg to appoint Jim McKee to the Planning Commission.

Vote: 6-0

Board of Zoning Appeals

A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Todd Hegg to appoint Daye Phillipo to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Vote: 6-0

MINUTES

A motion was made by Denise Crowder and seconded by Jim McKee to approve the minutes of the December 30, 2024 meetings as presented.

Vote: 4-0

(Hegg & Carver effective 1/1/25)

COMMISSARY REPORT December 2024

A motion was made by Denise Crowder and seconded by Jeff Fishero to acknowledge the Commissary Report for July 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. The balance is \$124,727.41.

Vote: 6-0

Review & Acknowledge Clerk’s Monthly Report for December, 2024.

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Denise Crowder to acknowledge the Clerk’s Monthly Report for December, 2024.

Vote: 6-0

Report of Collections – as submitted

A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Todd Hegg to acknowledge the Report of Collections for the Sheriff, Ambulance and Clerk for the month of December 2024.

Vote: 6-0

ENCUMBRANCES

MVH Restricted

\$124,893.45	CCMG	1173-0000-44945
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County Coroner

\$10,000.00	Out of County Autopsy	1000.0007.33646
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Ambulance

\$245,385.00	County Farm	4924.0301.44446
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Jail

\$4,183.87	Utilities	1000.0380.33550
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Sheriff

\$9,285.38	Tire, Gas, Oil & Lube	1000.0005.22030
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Circuit Court

\$22.61	Operating Supplies	1000.0232.22020
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\$235.13	Law Books	1000.0232.22100
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\$134.73	Other Supplies	1000.0232.22260
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\$2,303.78	CSI Case Management	1000.0232.33200
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LIT Special Purpose

\$81,500.00	Jail/Sewer Grinder	1114.0000.44901
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A motion was made by Todd Hegg and seconded by Denise Crowder to approve the above encumbrances. Vote: 6-0

Emergency Mgmt

\$4,365.00	Trailer	1000.0361.44101
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A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Denise Crowder to approve the above EMA encumbrance. Vote: 6-0

Aaron Fruits would like to have a joint meeting. He would like to discuss the Highway garage and the Community Crossings Grant. Aaron wanted to make sure the public knows that the match for the grant has been paid last year. This wasn't budgeted but it will need to be paid to fix roads. Community Crossings for this year will be from 800 South from 41 to Sugar Mill Road and Schoolhouse Road. Kelly Carlson explained how the State gives \$1.5 Million and the county has to match 25%. She explained how this got cut and why. She explained the money is there, it was just budgeted differently. The Council would like to meet with the Commissioners after their next meeting. They would like to continue the joint meetings for at least 3-6 months. Jeff Fishero and Aaron Fruits wanted to introduce KW Rice to the Warren County Commissioners. They would like to discuss 911. They are going to attend their meeting and hopefully build a good relationship. This Tuesday they would like to meet with the Commissioners after their morning meeting. The following months will be in the evenings at 6:00pm.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Ambulance – Garth Kagels

Garth passed around a report for the end of the year numbers for 2024. He said the new office secretary has a different approach and has been getting more collections. The Ensure program is also helping with collections. The remount is looking like March, but could possibly be the end of February. Garth spoke with representative from Horton's to see how they could possibly get another one before 2027. He would like to look at different options and possibly get a rebuilt one. Garth also discussed the AFG Grant he has applied for which is used for purchasing equipment. He put in for 6 new monitors. The federal grant would be for roughly \$494,232.00 and the County match would be 5% which is roughly \$23,534.86. Staffing is okay. The overtime for 2024 was around \$660,000.00. They are working to hire more part time staff. Garth said roughly 8-10 have used the PHI service.

Highway – Jason Lewis

Jason passed out of the proposed project list for this year. The tandem they purchased last year should be in around end of March. Grader should be in at the end of February. Once weather is better, he will work on roads. Pacer ratings only for main roads.

Sheriff- Terry Holt

Terry said he felt that the Grinder project was currently on a stand still. He has not had anybody contact him and he hasn't seen anyone out there.

Garth said they have marked all the utilities except the Sparklight.

They have 56 inmates, 0 out of County, 13 from Vigo County and they lost 5 to RDC.

911- Dana Stonebraker

Dana said they are fully staffed. She would like to do some in house training. Also look into a floating position.

Coroner- Joshua Whittington

Joshua and Jenny worked on LOSS. This is of Suicide Survivors. They have won a \$10,000.00 Grant. They will do online trainings and get a team together. There will also be an in-person meeting in April or May.

Landfill- Greg Robinson

Greg stated the end of the year wells were down like they wanted. Roger is reviewing, but no red numbers. Everything is looking better.

Jeff Fishero wanted to discuss the Greenway Trail. Dale White had asked last month if they would continue their funding. On April 10, 2023 the Council did vote to fund the project. This is a match. READI money will also fund along with County and Community Foundation. Dale has bids of roughly \$600,000.00 for construction only. This would have to be advertised because it was not in the budget. Also, because it wasn't budgeted, which fund would this be taken out of? Kelly stated the public has asked who is monitoring the trail and the safety. Jim McKee stated we made a commitment and we need to honor that. Denise also agreed. Kelly said the original vote was if we had the funds available, we would fund it. She said it needs to be definitive.

Carol Owens asked if they could use READI grant funds. That is split between Attica, Covington and WEGA. For that grant, the project had to be ready to go, not in the planning stage. Jeff Fishero said maybe they should do some time to research and discuss with the Commissioners. The Council does not like going back on their word. Kelly stated she agrees and we need to take in the thoughts and concerns of the taxpayers. It was asked how long this would be. Jeff Fishero stated .8 or .9 miles. This is along the Wabash. Todd Hegg said this would be raised up around 3 feet so it wouldn't flood that often. He is going to talk to Lori Jordan and see if he can get some numbers regarding how many people use it. Larry Schrock said he and his wife use this trail quite often and weather makes a difference on how many people use it.

Carol Owens wondered if a disclaimer should be on the YouTube channel. Ethan said he thought that was implied. She also wondered when we could expect an increase of taxes from Ranger Power. Denise said they will pay taxes on the real estate since it is now commercial solar. She wasn't sure when it would take effect, whether the date they started or the date it became operational.

Jeff Fishero welcomed Todd Hegg and Jeff Carver to the Council. He said he appreciates their commitment to the County.

Carol Owens wondered why 3 buildings for Highway. It is 2 buildings and a fuel building. Kelly said we will be using the ARPA money and if they sell Maple Corner, that money will also be applied to the highway building. She

spoke with Jason and he would like to have both buildings but could use the old one for a while for cold storage.

Kelly said also looking into a 911 Building. Nothing is set in stone. The Council would like to renegotiate the contract with Warren County and look into the deficit. Warren County looks like they are willing to work together

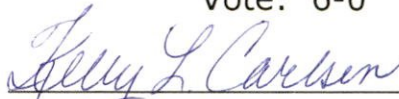
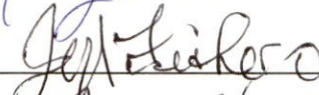
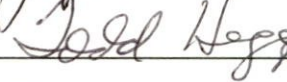

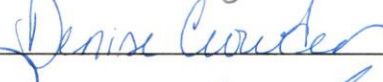

Carol Owens wondered if the Sheriff's Pension is set by the state. Denise said yes, to a point. Some of the rules and years are set by the County.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE A
February 10, 2025
AT 9:00 A.M.**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Denise Crowder

Vote: 6-0


ATTEST

<<Subject to Change >>