

**FOUNTAIN COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Date: 04/13/2026

Time: 09:00AM

1. Call to Order:

Call to order the April 13th meeting of the Fountain County Council

Council President: Kelly Carlson

Time: 09:00 AM

2. Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance:

3. Roll Call:

Council Members Present

Kelly Carlson

Jeff Fishero

Denise Crowder

Dudley Cruea

Jeff Carver

Jim McKee

Todd Hegg

Also, Present

Kim Johnson, County Auditor

Lisa Spiering, Secretary, Auditor's Office

Ethan Myers, County Attorney

4. Approval of Agenda:

Action Required: Approve agenda as presented/amended – (added Letter of support from Council to art & cultures)

- Motion by: Denise Crowder
 - Second by: Dudley Cruea
 - Vote: 5-0 Passed Failed
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5. Approval of Minutes: Meeting Date: 03/09/2026

Action Required: Approve agenda as presented/amended

- Motion by: Dudley Cruea

- Second by: Jeff Carver
- Vote: 4-0 Passed _____ Failed

6. Elected Official & Department Reports:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Auditor, Kim Johnson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health Department, Jenny Eads |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer, Tiffany Wells | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Highway Superintendent, Jason Lewis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assessor, Amber Roarks | <input type="checkbox"/> Landfill, Greg Robinson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clerk, Patty Smith | <input type="checkbox"/> Sheriff, Terry Holt |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recorder, Nikki Allen | <input type="checkbox"/> Deputy Sheriff, Andrew Krout |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coroner, Kayla Holt | <input type="checkbox"/> Prosecutor, Daniel Askren |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EMA Director, Tina Holmes | <input type="checkbox"/> Vet Services, James Wynne |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EMS Director, Wayne Laswell | <input type="checkbox"/> 911 Director, Dana Stonebraker |

- Part time employee – Plan Commission/Auditor/Recorder
The Auditor, Plan Commission, and Recorder will be hiring a part time employee that will be split between the departments. Each department does have money in their budget to pay the employee.
- Jenny Eads – Health Department
Jenny stated that Friday was the last day for the Public Health Nurse. She is currently still going to work PRN 30 hours a month (which is in the budget) for the County until they can find someone. Jenny has posted the position and only had one applicant.
- Jason Lewis - Highway Department
Jason informed the Council that Bridge #202 right of way has been finalized. The bidding will be moved from July to October due to environmental reviews taking longer. Construction is looking at late fall, possibly even spring. Bridge #66, the one located on State street, currently has stage three plans and utility coordination ongoing. They are looking at construction in 2029. The HSIP projects or striping signs will be scheduled soon. Bridge #39 application was just submitted and got rewarded. Jason will be receiving 2 letters from HWC Engineering and USI Consultants. Jason also stated that a couple employees are retiring. Jason has asked SBOA if new employees could get their CDL paid for by account 1135. He has discussed with the Auditor. The cost of a CDL is \$4,500 roughly.
- Tina Holmes – Emergency Management
Tina discussed the sirens in Kingman, Cates and the one at the lake. She has reached out to all of them and let them know they would be responsible.
- Wayne Laswell – Ambulance
Wayne discussed outside billing company. He said there is training on the billing and will be more efficient. He needs to have 2 monitors replaced. Dudley Cruca said he is worried due to the collection amounts being lower. Wayne said because it was voted on at the 12/31/25 meeting, it was going to take 3 months to get back.

- Kim Kalweit – WEGA
Kim informed the Council about 2 projects she is working on with funding from the Readi 2.0. These projects have been going on for roughly 4 years. She is not asking for any money. Veedersburg wanted to restore their downtown historical buildings. There is a group at the Covington Public Library that did a small art studio through the community foundation. It was a hit and many people are still asking for classes. They don't have the space to serve the people. Kim stated this whole project will encompass all of that. She will be submitting tomorrow. She is asking for a letter of support.
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7. Unfinished Business:

- Maternity Leave – 8 weeks
- Motion by: Denise Crowder
- Second by: Dudley Cruea
- Vote: 5-0 Passed _____ Failed

Quarterly Commissary Report March 31, 2026 - TABLED

- Motion by: Dudley Cruea
- Second by: Jim McKee
- Vote: 5-0 Tabled _____ Failed

Treasurer's Monthly Report for February 2026

- Motion by: Dudley Cruea
- Second by: Denise Crowder
- Vote: 5-0 Passed _____ Failed

Clerk's Monthly Report for March 2026

- Motion by: Denise Crowder
- Second by: Jeff Carver
- Vote: 5-0 Passed _____ Failed

Report of Collections – Sheriff, Ambulance, & Clerk March 2026

- Motion by: Dudley Cruea
- Second by: Denise Crowder
- Vote: 5-0 Passed _____ Failed

Transfers

911 – \$3,007.00 - TABLED

1000.10212.0000.0303 Floater to 1000.10211.0000.0303 Lead Operators

- Motion by: _____
 - Second by: _____
 - Vote: _____ Passed _____ Failed
-

8. New Business:

Stryker Contract- COMMISSIONERS

- Motion by: _____
- Second by: _____
- Vote: Passed _____ Failed _____

911 Billing - COMMISSIONERS

- Motion by: _____
- Second by: _____
- Vote: Passed _____ Failed _____

Busse Excavating LLC - \$28,532.00 – NEED TO ADVERTISE (vote at May Joint Meeting)

- Motion by: _____
- Second by: _____
- Vote: _____ Passed _____ Failed

Public Hearing – Health Department Additional Appropriation Fund 1159 \$4,850.00

Beginning Time: 9:44 AM

- Public Comment
 - Motion by: Denise Crowder
 - Second by: Dudley Cruea
 - Vote: Passed 5-0 Failed _____
 - End Time: 9:45 AM
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9. Correspondence & Announcements:

10. Council Member Comments:

Jeff Fishero read a statement from Kelly Carlson retracting her previous comment regarding Mr. Pilecki. She stated after reviewing timeline and communications, the Council did not have full awareness of the insurance situation. Kelly stated she did not become aware of this situation until April 01, 2026, which was days before the April 04, 2026 renewal. She apologized to Mr. Pilecki and staff for her earlier remarks.

Jeff Fishero asked if the Council could move their next meeting (May 11, 2026) to a night meeting due to taxes being due that day. The Council agreed.

Jeff talked with Kelly about the prosecutor also. Daniel will be at the joint meeting on May 18, 2026 to discuss getting another deputy prosecutor due to increased work load. He has not replaced the deputy that quit. He would like to use that money to help pay the new deputy prosecutor's salary.

Jeff Carver asked about the 911 Budget. He wanted to know what happened with them changing the amounts. Dana found money to move around. This will be advertised and voted on at the May 11, 2026 meeting.

11. Public Comment:

- **Dana Harvey – Wallace Covered Bridge Graffiti**

Dana Harvey would like to see the graffiti at the Wallace Covered Bridge taken care of. She will need funding to get this bridge cleaned up. The vandalism is everywhere. She has spoken to the Sheriff. She has taken pictures. She has also talked to the Jackson Township trustee, Carol Freese, and Jason from the Highway department to see if anything can be done. She would like to know what her steps are to get this cleaned up. Dudley did say the Council did put in a covered bridge fund. He has been keeping track of these also. He has not received a final figure to of how much was available. He would like to see this bridge restored. He also believes they had to get a quote.

- **Carol Owens**

Carol stated she heard that Ranger put 7.9 Million back on the table. She asked if she heard wrong? Jeff Fishero stated she is right. From what he is told, they are making payments.

- **Larry Schrock**

Larry asked them to explain the situation with Ranger. Jeff stated that Ranger Power, Crossroads, are making their payments to the County, the five-year payments. They were originally granted a tax abatement and that tax abatement was rescinded. Jeff Fishero stated that according to what he was told, the state said you cannot rescind. He stated the county is getting their payments and the company is getting their abatement. He said that is what he was told.

- Carol Owens
Carol asked if we are getting enough grants. She wanted to know if anyone oversees the process. Denise Crowder said there are more out there, but Kim Kalweit is doing an excellent job of getting as many as possible.

12. Adjournment:


- Motion by: Denise Crowder
- Second by: Dudley Cruca
- Vote: 5-0 Passed _____ Failed

COMMISSIONER'S MEETING MONDAY APRIL 20, 2026 AT 9:00 AM

JOINT MEETING MONDAY APRIL 20, 2026 AT 9:00 AM

IN THE COMMISSIONER'S ROOM

SUBJECT TO CHANGE


ATTEST

