MEETINGS A MONTH TO GET IDEAS. IT WAS DECIDED TO MEET EVERY FIRST AND THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. STARTING IN APRIL. SEVERAL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE STRESSED HOUSING IS AN ISSUE AS WELL AS JOBS AND TRADE SKILLS EDUCATION. THE COMMISSIONERS WILL WORK ON FINDING A CONSULTING GROUP TO HIRE BEFORE THE FIRST MEETING IN APRIL. THE AUDITOR'S OFFICE WILL KEEP THE MEMBERS INFORMED VIA TEXT AND EMAIL. THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 1, 2024 FROM 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

WITH THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS AT HAND. COMMISSIONER EWEN MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROBERTS. MOTION PASSED.

COMMISSIONER PHILLIP MARSHALL

COMMISSIONER TODD EWEN

COMMISSIONER RICK ROBERTS

ATTEST: Kyra Stephenson
AUDITOR, KYRA STEPHENSON

COMMISSIONER MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2024
WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
99 PUBLIC SQUARE, SUITE 200
SALEM, INDIANA 47167

THE EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WAS HELD AT 8:00 A.M. PRESENT WERE COMMISSIONER PHILLIP MARSHALL, COMMISSIONER TODD EWEN, COMMISSIONER RICK ROBERTS, ATTORNEY APRIL GELTMAKER, AND AUDITOR KYRA STEPHENSON. THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFY THAT THE ONLY ITEMS DISCUSSED WERE I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(B) INITIATION OF LITIGATION OR LITIGATION THAT IS EITHER PENDING OR HAS BEEN THREATENED SPECIIFICALLY IN WRITING, I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1-(9)

THE MEETING WAS OPENED WITH THE PLEDGE TO THE FLAG BY COMMISSIONER ROBERTS FOLLOWED BY A PRAYER LED BY COMMISSIONER EWEN.

COMMISSIONER ROBERTS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CLAIMS, PAYROLL, AND MINUTES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER EWEN. MOTION PASSED.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT

THE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT REQUEST IS OPEN FOR 2025. CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER MYRA ALBERTSON ASKED THE COMMISSIONER TO SIGN A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE 2025 COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT. COMMISSIONER ROBERTS MADE A MOTION TO SUPPORT THE 2025 COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT REQUEST. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER EWEN. MOTION PASSED.

OPIOID APPROVAL

THE JRAC BOARD RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM THE EMS DEPARTMENT REQUESTING FUNDING FOR A VASCULAR DRILL AND SUPPLIES. THE COST OF THE DRILL AND SUPPLIES WAS $12,594.77 AND WILL COME OUT OF THE RESTRICTED OPIOID FUND. THE DEVICE PUT THE NEEDLE INTO THE BONE IF THEY ARE NOT ABLE TO INSERT IT VASCULARLY. THE ONLY COST TO THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE THE NEEDLES WHEN THE SUPPLIES RUN OUT. COMMISSIONER ROBERTS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR THE VASCULAR DRILL AND SUPPLIES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER EWEN. MOTION PASSED.

JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

THE COUNTY WAS INFORMED THE JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER IN KNOX COUNTY WILL BE CLOSING MARCH 29, 2024. CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER ALBERTSON HAS TALKED WITH THE JUDGES AND SHERIFF AND AT THIS TIME THEY DO NOT HAVE A PLAN WHERE THEY CAN TAKE JUVENILES. THEY WILL BE WORKING TOGETHER TO COME UP WITH A PLAN.

TARA FAWBUSH

MS. FAWBUSH CONTACTED THE AUDITOR'S OFFICE TO REQUEST BEING TAKEN OFF THE AGENDA AFTER IT WAS POSTED.

TERRY COTTONGIM – GARBER BUILDING

COTTONGIM ENTERPRISES HAS BUILT A BUILDING FOR THE GARBERS THAT IS NOT IN THE 60' SET BACK. MR COTTONGIM EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF THE REQUIREMENT. COMMISSIONER EWEN MADE MENTION THAT THE ORDINANCE FOR THE 60' SET BACK WAS PUT IN TO PLACE IN 2003 DUE TO A LAWSUIT. HE CONTINUED TO INFORM HIM THAT HE WOULD NEED TO GO BEFORE THE BZA BOARD AND GET A VARIANCE FOR THE PROPERTY. COMMISSIONER EWEN STATED HE DIDN'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH WHERE THE BUILDING IS LOCATED AND DIDN'T SEE A PROBLEM WITH THE BZA APPROVING IT.

COTTONGIM ENTERPRISES IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON TEARING OUT THE DAMAGED BLEACHERS AT THE FAIRGROUNDS DUE TO A STORM THAT BLEW A TREE OVER ON THEM. MR COTTONGIM STATED IT WOULD BE MAY BEFORE HE WOULD BE ABLE TO GET THE NEW ALUMINUM BLEACHERS IN.

THE RADIO TOWER THAT SITS ON THE COTTONGIM PROPERTY HAS SOME TREES THAT NEED CUT DOWN. THE COUNTY CURRENTLY PAYS COTTONGIMS AN EASEMENT FEE TO ACCESS THIS TOWER. COTTONGIMS WILL WORK ON CUTTING DOWN THE TREE ON THEIR PROPERTY BUT AN ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER HAS A TREE THAT SITS CLOSE TO THE TOWER THAT NEEDS TRIMMED OR CUT DOWN. THE ADJACENT OWNER DOES NOT WANT THE TREE CUT DOWN. IF THIS TOWERE WERE TO GET KNOCKED DOWN IT WOULD TAKE OUT ALL OF THE 911 SYSTEM FOR THE COUNTY. ATTORNEY GELTMAKER SUGGESTED TO MR COTTONGIM THAT THEY CONTACT THEIR ATTORNEY OR INSURANCE COMPANY TO SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

THE RECENT SNOW EVENT REQUIRED A FULL CALL OUT OF EMPLOYEES. THE EMPLOYEES WERE CALLED IN AROUND 7:30 P.M. AND WERE DONE AROUND 2:00 A.M. ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2024. THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT DID NOT RECEIVE ANY COMPLAINTS AND HAVE ALL MATERIAL'S RESTOCKED IN CASE OF ANOTHER SNOWSTORM. THEY ARE CURRENTLY DOING CULVERT WORK IN THE DISTRICTS.

WITH THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS AT HAND. COMMISSIONER ROBERTS MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER EWEN. MOTION PASSED.

COMMISSIONER PHILLIP MARSHALL

COMMISSIONER TODD EWEN

COMMISSIONER RICK ROBERTS

ATTEST: _____
AUDITOR, KYRA STEPHENSON