COMMISSIONER MEETING
MAY 6, 2025
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 TONY CARDWELL, 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.

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY COMMISSIONER MARSHALL.

CARDWELL LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. PRESTON SHELL GAVE THE PRAYER.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER EWEN. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CARDWELL. MOTION PASSED.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **KEN TEMPLE – PAVING BID**
  MR TEMPLE ADDRESSED THE COMMISSIONER REGARDING THE PAVING BIDS THAT ARE ON THE AGENDA TO SELECT. THE BIDS WERE OPENED AND READ ALOUD AT THE LAST COMMISSIONER MEETING WITH C & R CONSTRUCTION BEING THE LOW BID. HE STRESSED THAT HIS EMPLOYEES WORK AND PAY TAXES IN THIS COUNTY THEREFORE IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE REVENUE IN THE COUNTY. MR TEMPLE EXPLAINED THE DIFFERENCE IN HIS ASPHALT PLANT VERSUS C & R CONSTRUCTIONS PLANT.

- **KEVIN AND LINDA BAIRD – ALTERNATIVE ENERGY**
  MR AND MRS BAIRD CAME AGAIN TO ASK THE COMMISSIONERS TO ADOPT A MORATORIUM FOR ALTERNATIVE ENERGY UNTIL A PLAN CAN BE ADOPTED BY THE PLAN COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT GUIDELINES. COMMISSIONER EWEN IS ON THE PLAN COMMISSION AND IS IN FAVOR OF A MORATORIUM.

- **RANGER POWER – OWEN SPETH & COLIN SNOW**
  MR SPETH AND MR SNOW EXPLAINED WHAT RANGER POWER DOES. THEY ARE THE SOLAR POWER COMPANY THAT IS SIGNING LANDOWNERS UP TO LEASE THEIR LAND TO PUT SOLAR FARMS ON. THEY ARE FINE WITH HAVING A MORATORIUM IN PLACE AND BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE GUIDELINES TO FOLLOW.

- **LUCY BRENTON COUNTY ISSUES**
  CAME AGAIN TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE COUNTY.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL 7, 2025 AND APRIL 15, 2025**
  COMMISSIONER MARSHALL ASKED FOR A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE TWO MEETINGS. CARDWELL WANTED MORE INFORMATION IN THE MINUTES. AUDITOR STEPHENSON STATED THAT SHE IS ONLY REQUIRED TO GIVE A SUMMARY OF WHAT WAS STATED AND SHE HAS CONSULTED WITH ATTORNEY GELTMAKER WHO SAYS THEY HAVE MET THE REQUIREMENT. COMMISSIONER EWEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 7, 2025 AND APRIL 15, 2025 COMMISSIONER MEETINGS. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARSHALL. MOTION PASSED WITH CARDWELL OPPOSING.

- **APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND PAYROLL**
  COMMISSIONER EWEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CLAIMS AND PAYROLL. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CARDWELL. MOTION PASSED.

- **KELLY SARGENT – RADIO EQUIPMENT AT JAIL**
  RADIO EQUIPMENT AT THE JAIL IS IN NEED OF AN UPGRADE. MR SARGENT HAS SPOKE WITH ECS ABOUT THE RADIO EQUIPMENT AND IT IS OUTDATED AND THERE ARE NO REPLACEMENT PARTS. THE DEPARTMENT HAS HAD TROUBLE WITH THE RADIOS DURING THE LAST STORM BUT ECS WAS ABLE TO GET THEM BACK UP AND RUNNING. MR SARGENT HAS WORKED WITH SHERIFF MILLER TO FIND FUNDING TO PURCHASE NEW RADIOS. THEY WOULD LIKE TO PAY FOR THEM OUT OF THE PSAP FUND WHICH IS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY. THE RADIOS ARE IN STOCK AND CAN BE SENT UPON

APPROVAL. CARDWELL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF NEW RADIO EQUIPMENT. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER EWEN. MOTION PASSED.

- **FOOD ESTABLISHMENT AND/OR BED AND BREAKFAST ESTABLISHMENT ORDINANCE**
  THE ORDINANCE WAS PROVIDED AND READ AT THE LAST MEETING BY THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER EWEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CARDWELL. MOTION PASSED.

- **COMMUNICATION TOWER EASEMENT**
  ATTORNEY GELTMAKER PROVIDED AN EASEMENT FOR THE LAND OWNERS THAT OWN THE PROPERTY ONE OF THE GUIDEWIRES SITS ON AT THE COMMUNICATION RADIO TOWER. THE ACKERETS OWN THE LAND AND HAVE NOT HAD AN EASEMENT FOR THE COUNTY. ATTORNEY GELTMAKER PREPARED THE EASEMENT WHERE THE COUNTY WILL PAY THEM $1,000.00 A YEAR FOR ACCESS TO THE LAND. COMMISSIONER EWEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE EASEMENT. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CARDWELL. MOTION PASSED.

- **OPIOID APPLICATION AMENDMENT**
  THE COMMISSIONERS HAD APPROVED A REQUEST PER RECOMMENDATION OF THE JRAC BOARD FROM WASHINGTON COUNTY CAST IN THE AMOUNT OF $50,000.00 OUT OF THE UNRESTRICTED OPIOID FUND. THE REQUEST HAD AN INCORRECT END DATE AND NEEDED TO BE AMENDED TO STATE MAY 31, 2026. CARDWELL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED ENDING DATE. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER EWEN. MOTION PASSED.

- **PTABOA APPOINTMENT**
  ASSESSOR SHERRY WINGLER HAS TWO OPENINGS ON THE PTABOA BOARD. SHE HAS RECOMMENDED LARRY PURLEE, AND EVAN GOODMAN. LARRY PURLEE HAS SERVED ON THE BOARD BEFORE BUT HAS NO CERTIFICATIONS. EVAN GOODMAN HAS HIS LEVEL II CERTIFICATIONS. THE COMMISSIONERS TABLED A DECISION UNTIL THE MAY 22, 2025 MEETING TO MAKE SURE BOTH CANDIDATES MEET THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS.

- **PLAN COMMISSION**
  THERE WAS A RESOLUTION PRESENTED SEVERAL MEETINGS AGO TO DISBAN THE PLAN COMMISSION AND APPOINT NEW MEMBERS. AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION, AND FACT FINDING BY THE PLAN COMMISSION ATTORNEY LISA FLEMING, ALL CURRENT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN SWORN IN. CARDWELL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION. WITH THERE BEING NO SECOND THE MOTION DIED.

- **GREEN ENERGY MORATORIUM**
  THE COMMISSIONERS DISCUSSED AGAIN THE NEED TO PUT SOMETHING IN PLACE UNTIL THE PLAN COMMISSION CAN PUT TOGETHER A GUIDELINE FOR SOLAR COMPANIES WANTING TO INSTALL SOLAR PANELS IN THE COUNTY. A RESOLUTION WAS PRESENTED FOR A 2-YEAR MORATORIUM. CARDWELL MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RESOLUTION. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER EWEN. MOTION PASSED.

- **COMMUNITY CROSSINGS PAVING BID AWARD**
  SUPERINTENDENT RICK VOYLES PROVIDED A BID TABULATION FROM FLECK ENGINEERING. SUPERINTENDENT VOYLES RECOMMENDED TAKING THE LOWEST BID FROM C & R CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF $1,899,757.00. CARDWELL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE BID FROM C & R CONSTRUCTION. MOTION DIED DUE TO LACK OF A SECOND. COMMISSIONER EWEN STATED HE WOULD NOT SECOND THE MOTION DUE TO COUNTY MONEY BEING SPENT WITH AN OUT OF THE COUNTY COMPANY. COMMISSIONER MARSHALL STATED HE DID NOT LIKE HAVING COUNTY REVENUE GOING TO A COMPANY OUTSIDE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY. COMMISSIONER EWEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE HIGHER BID FROM TEMPLE AND TEMPLE. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARSHALL. MOTION PASSED WITH CARDWELL OPPOSING.

REPORTS

- **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT PROJECT UPDATE**
  PAUL ECKART WITH TEMPLE AND TEMPLE GAVE AN UPDATE ON THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT PROJECT. THE GAS AND WATER LINES SHOULD BE RUN BY THE END OF THE WEEK. THEY WILL BE STARTING ON INSTALLING THE INSULATION AND THE DRYWALL FOR THE OFFICE. MASONRY WORK WILL START IN ABOUT 2-3 WEEKS. ELECTRICAL WORK ON THE TRUCK LEAN-TO IS ALMOST DONE. THE FIRE ISSUES ON

THE MECHANICS GARAGE HAVE BEEN APPROVED. THEY WILL BE INSTALLING THE SEPTIC SYSTEM WHEN THE WEATHER BREAKS AND IT DRIES UP.

- **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**
  SUPERINTENDENT VOYLES HAD LEFT THE MEETING.

BOARD COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

- COMMISSIONER EWEN REPORTED WORK IS BEING DONE AT THE FAIRGROUNDS TO CLEAR UP THE VIOLATIONS BY THE FIRE MARSHALL.
- PAM LOCKART FROM THE HARDINSBURG SENIOR CENTER HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH CARDWELL FOR A FEW WEEKS WANTING THE MOWING DONE AT THE SENIOR CENTER. CARDWELL HAS FAILED TO GET ANYONE TO DO THE MOWING. SHE REQUESTED THIS BE DONE SOON AS THE GRASS IS GETTING HIGH.

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

COMMISSIONER PHILLIP MARSHALL

COMMISSIONER TODD EWEN

COMMISSIONER TONY CARDWELL

ATTEST:
AUDITOR, KYRA STEPHENSON