COMMISSIONER MEETING
MAY 20, 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. COMMISSIONER EWEN GAVE THE PRAYER.

COMMISSIONER EWEN REQUESTED THE AGENDA BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE THE TOWN OF HARDINSBURG SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT. COMMISSIONER EWEN MADE A MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CARDWELL. MOTION PASSED.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **LUCY BRENTON - COUNTY BUSINESS**
  SPOKE ONCE AGAIN TO COMPLAIN ABOUT COUNTY BUSINESS.

- **DAVID KOLLE – HARDINSBURG ROADS & PROPERTIES**
  MR KOLLE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE NOISE ORDINANCE AND POSSIBLY HAVE IT REVISED.

- **COLIN SNOW & OWEN SPETH – SOLAR ORDINANCE/MORATORIUM**
  MR SNOW AND MR SPETH WITH RANGER POWER DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR AN ORDINANCE IN ORDER FOR THE PROJECTS THEY HAVE TO PROCEED. THEY WILL TALK WITH THE PLAN COMMISSION TO GET SOMETHING WRITTEN UP.

- **DISCUSSION ABOUT TOWN OF HARDINSBURG**
  STEVEN COOTS VOICED HIS OPINION ABOUT RE-INSTATING THE TOWN OF HARDINSBURG. HE STATED THE TOWN HAD PREVIOUSLY HAD AN ILLEGAL BOARD AND BELIEVES IT IS BETTER TAKEN CARE OF BY THE COUNTY. RESIDENTS TAXES HAVE LOWERED AND THE ROADS ARE BEING TAKEN CARE OF. HE SUGGESTED THERE BE A REFERENDUM ON THE NEXT ELECTION BALLOT TO GET A CONSENSUS FROM THE TOWN MEMBERS. HE STATED HE DID NOT FEEL CARDWELL WAS A GOOD REPRESENTATIVE OF THAT AREA BECAUSE HE BELIEVES HE HAS NOT ASKED EVERY PROPERTY OWNER IN THE TOWN LIMITS WHAT THEY WANTED, AND WAS NOT HIS REPRESENTATIVE AS HE WOULD ASK COMMISSIONER EWEN AND COMMISSIONER MARSHALL TO NOT RE-INSTATE THE TOWN.

  DENISE COOTS SPOKE SECONDING WHAT MR COOTS HAD SAID. SHE WOULD LIKE THE COMMISSIONERS TO GET MORE REPRESENTATION FROM THE CITIZENS OF THE TOWN.

  PAM LOCKHART ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THE SENIOR CENTER. SHE CLAIMS THE TOWN NEVER TOOK CARE OF THE SENIOR CENTER BEFORE AND WORRIES IT WILL GO BACK TO THAT. THE TOWN WAS SUPPOSED TO GIVE THEM A DEED TO THE BUILDING THEY ARE IN AND THAT NEVER HAPPENED.

  LUCY BRENTON DOESN'T LIVE IN THE TOWN LIMITS BUT WANTS THE TOWN GIVEN BACK.

  RON BLACKMAN BELIEVES THE TOWN CAN SUSTAIN ON ITS OWN. HE BELIEVES THE TOWN IS BEING PROVIDED INADEQUATE SERVICES.

- **DENI STEMPOWSKI – EMA UPDATE**
  FEMA DID NOT APPROVE FUNDING FOR STORM DAMAGE BASED ON THE NUMBERS SENT IN. AFTER WORKING WITH JACKSON COUNTY REMC, SHE WAS ABLE TO RESUBMIT THE AMOUNT AND IT IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING.

  EMA SUBMITTED FOR A GRANT FOR A THERMAL IMAGING DRONE. THE GRANT HAS BEEN ACCEPTED AND SHE WILL BE PURCHASING THIS DRONE WHICH WILL HELP SEVERAL OF THE OTHER DEPARTMENTS IN THE COUNTY.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 6, 2025**

COMMISSIONER EWEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 6, 2025 ~~COMMISSIONER MEETING. CARDWELL DID NOT LIKE THE COMMENT IN THE MINUTES THAT HE FAILED TO FIND SOMEONE TO DO THE MOWING AT THE SENIOR CENTER IN HARDINSBURG.~~ 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 WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A CLAIM TO MURPHY ELEVATOR SERVICE. THEY WOULD LIKE TO REVIEW THE CLAIM TO MAKE SURE IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE UNDER WARRANTY. CARDWELL SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED.

- **KELLY SARGENT – RADIO EQUIPMENT**
  MR SARGENT PROVIDED AN UPDATED QUOTE FOR THE RADIOS THAT WAS APPROVED AT THE LAST MEETING. THEY WILL BE ADDING MORE RADIOS TO BE REPLACED. THE TOTAL COST OF THE RADIOS IS $92,236.00 WHICH WILL BE PAID OUT OF THE PSAP FUND. COMMISSIONER EWEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF THE RADIOS IN THE AMOUNT OF $92,236.00. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CARDWELL. MOTION PASSED.

- **BID OPENING FOR GARRISON HOLLOW ROAD AND OLIVE BRANCH ROAD SMALL STRUCTURE**
  THE AUDITORS OFFICE ACCEPTED BIDS FOR A SMALL STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT ON GARRISON HOLLOW ROAD AND OLIVE BRANCH ROAD. ATTORNEY GELTMAKER READ THE SEALED BIDS ALLOWED AS FOLLOWS:

  GARRISON HOLLOW ROAD
  WALLS EXCAVATING - $93,600.00
  TEMPLE & TEMPLE - $58,400.00
  KLB EXCAVATING - $48,900.00

  OLIVE BRANCH ROAD
  WALLS EXCAVATING - $82,000.00
  TEMPLE & TEMPLE - $48,700.00
  KLB EXCAVATING - $46,500.00

  COMMISSIONER EWEN MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT ALL BIDS FOR REVIEW. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CARDWELL. MOTION PASSED.

- **KNAPP MILLER BROWN – VISION AND DENTAL RENEWAL**
  VISION AND DENTAL RENEWAL IS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025. LAST YEAR ZACK RICHARDS INFORMED THE COMMISSIONERS THE COUNTY WAS IN A TWO-YEAR RATE LOCK. THIS WILL BE THE LAST YEAR FOR THE RATE LOCK. THE AUDITOR'S OFFICE WILL BE SENDING OUT THE RENEWAL FORMS TO THE EMPLOYEES IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS. THIS WILL ALSO BE A TIME WHERE EMPLOYEES CAN SIGN UP FOR ADDITIONAL LIFE INSURANCE.

- **TOWN OF HARDINSBURG SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**
  THE COUNTY HAS BEEN IN A LAWSUIT WITH THE HARDINSBURG PAC. THERE HAS FINALLY BEEN A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT PROVIDED WHICH WOULD GIVE THE TOWN OF HARDINSBURG BACK. CLERK STEPHANIE ROCKEY BELIEVES THE TOWN NEEDS TO GO THROUGH THE PROPER STEPS TO RE-INCORPORATE THE TOWN AND HAVE THE TOWN BOARD MEMBERS VOTED IN THROUGH AN ELECTION. COMMISSIONER EWEN STATED THE TOWN WAS PREVIOUSLY BEING RAN AS TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION AND DOES NOT WANT TO SEE IT GO BACK TO THAT. CARDWELL BELIEVES MOST IN THE TOWN WANT IT RE-INCORPORATED. DENISE COOTS SPOKE UP AND STATED THEY WANT LEGAL REPRESENTATION. AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION, COMMISSIONER EWEN MADE A MOTION TO TABLE A DECISION ON THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARSHALL. MOTION PASSED WITH CARDWELL OPPOSING.

REPORTS

- **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**
  THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN CLEANING UP AFTER THE RECENT RAIN AND STORMS. THEY HAVE STARTED THEIR SUMMER SPRAYING AS WELL. SUPERINTENDENT VOYLES PROVIDED THE COMMUNITY CROSSINGS DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNATURES. THE COUNTY PAVING WILL BEGIN AROUND THE FIRST OF JUNE.

- **AUDITOR KYRA STEPHENSON**
  AUDITOR STEPHENSON SPOKE ON THE TOWN OF HARDINSBURG. SHE PROVIDED FACTS ABOUT WHAT TRANSPIRED TO LEAD TO THE TOWN BEING TAKEN OVER BY THE COUNTY DUE TO A LOT OF MISINFORMATION THAT HAS BEEN SPREAD.

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

COMMISSIONER PHILLIP MARSHALL

COMMISSIONER TODD EWEN

COMMISSIONER TONY CARDWELL

ATTEST:
AUDITOR, KYRA STEPHENSON