COMMISSIONER/COUNCIL JOINT MEETING
~~AUGUST 19, 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 SPECIFICALLY IN WRITING.

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY COMMISSIONER MARSHALL.

CARDWELL LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. COMMISSIONER EWEN GAVE THE PRAYER.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

- LUCY BRENTON – COUNTY ISSUES
  MS BRENTON SPOKE ABOUT WATER ISSUES.

- RANDY LEE – JOB
  MR LEE WAS NOT IN ATTENDNCE DUE TO HEALTH ISSUE WITH HIS WIFE BUT HE ASKED MS BRENTON TO SPEAK ON HIS BEHALF. HIS JOB AS GROUNDSKEEPER AT THE FAIR GROUNDS HAS BEEN ELIMINATED AND THE FAIR BOARD NOTIFIED HIM OF HIS TERMINATION. FEELS THIS IS A POLITICAL MOVE.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 5, 2025
  COMMISSIONER EWEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 5, 2025 COMMISSIONER MEETING. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CARDWELL. MOTION PASSED.

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

- WTH – AGREEMENT WITH CORELOGIC
  CORELOGIC REQUESTS YEARLY TO EXTEND THEIR AGREEMENT FOR ACCESS TO THE COUNTIES GIS MAPPING. COMMISSIONER EWEN MADE A MOTION TO GRANT ACCESS TO THE COUNTIES GIS MAPS. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CARDWELL. MOTION PASSED.

- WHEEL TAX DISCUSSION
  COMMISSIONERS AND COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE STATE PUSHING COUNTIES TO IMPLEMENT A WHEEL TAX IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE COMMUNITY CROSSINGS GRANT. THE IMPLEMENTATION WILL GO INTO EFFECT IN 2027. SUPERINTENDENT VOYLES EXPLAINED THE COMMUNITY CROSSINGS MATCHING GRANT THE COUNTY HAS ALWAYS USED IS STAYING THE SAME AS FAR AS ELIGIBILITY. THE HEA 1461 REQUIRES LOCAL UNITS TO ADOPT A WHEEL TAX/EXCISE SURTAX TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A DIRECT DISTRIBUTION OF COMMINITY CROSSINGS FUNDS VIA A LAND MILE DISTRIBUTION FORMULA. THERE IS A NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NAMED LANE MILE DIRECT DISTRIBUTION (LMDD) WHICH REQUIRES THE ADOPTION OF A WHEEL TAX. COUNCILMAN TODD ARMSTRONG STRESSED THAT THE COUNCIL DOES NOT WANT TO IMPLEMENT A WHEEL TAX AND WOULD ONLY CONSIDER DOING SO IF THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY TO GET GRANT MONEY FOR PAVING. COMMISSIONERS AND COUNCIL BOTH AGREE IMPLEMENTING A WHEEL TAX IS A LAST RESORT.

- ELIMINATION OF GROUNDSKEEPER POSITION AT FAIRGROUNDS
  THE COMMISSIONERS HAVE A MEMORADUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE FAIR BOARD. THIS MEMORANDUM STATES THE FAIR BOARD HAS THE RIGHT TO ANY DISIPLINARY ACTION UP TO TERMINATION. THE FAIR BOARD HAS MADE THE DECISION TO ELIMINATION THE POSITION. COMMISSIONER EWEN MADE A MOTION TO ELIMINATE THE GROUNDSKEEPER POSITION UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FAIR BOARD. MOTION WAS SECONDED. MOTION FAILED WITH COMMISSIONER

MARSHALL AND CARDWELL OPPOSING. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION IT WAS DECIDED TO TABLE THE ISSUE UNTIL FURTHER QUESTIONS COULD BE ANSWERED BY THE FAIR BOARD.

REPORTS

- **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT PROJECT UPDATE**
  PAUL ECKART REPORTED THE METAL WILL BE INSTALLED IN THE OFFICE BUILDING SOON. THE MECHANICS GARAGE IS UNDER ROOF AND THE METAL SIDING ON THE OUTSIDE WILL BE DONE BY THE END OF THE WEEK. SEPTIC INSTALL WILL BEGIN NEXT WEEK. THE CONDUIT FOR THE ELECTRIC AND FIBER IS BEING RAN. FUEL PUMPS WILL BE INSTALLED NEXT MONTH. THE COMPLETION OF THE SALT SHED WILL BE STARTED AFTER THE MECHANICS GARAGE IS DONE.

- **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**
  COMMUNITY CROSSINGS PAVING IS HALFWAY DONE. THE COUNTY PAVING IS COMPLETED AND THEY ARE STARTING TO DO DITCH WORK FOR NEXRT YEARS COMMUNITY CROSSING.

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

COMMISSIONER PHILLIP MARSHALL

COMMISSIONER TODD EWEN

COMMISSIONER TONY CARDWELL

ATTEST:
AUDITOR, KYRA STEPHENSON

COMMISSIONER PHILLIP MARSHALL

COMMISSIONER TODD EWEN

COMMISSIONER TONY CARDWELL

ATTEST:
AUDITOR, KYRA STEPHENSON