COMMISSIONER MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2025
WASHINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUILDING
806 MARTINSBURG RD
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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

LUCY BRENTON – PLAN COMMISSION COMPLAINT

RHONDA GREENE REQUESTED TO BE ON THE AGENDA BUT WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND. LUCY BRENTON REQUESTED TO SPEAK ON HER BEHALF. MS. BRENTON WANTED ONCE AGAN TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE STRUCTURE OF THE PLAN COMMISSION. SHE, LIKE RHONDA GREENE, BELIEVE THE BOARD IS ILLEGAL AND THE PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCE IS VIOLATING PROPERTY OWNERS RIGHTS. SHE ASKED THE COMMISSIONERS TO MAKE A MOTION TO DISBAN THE PLAN COMMISSION. THE COMMISSIONERS WANT TO ALLOW THE PLAN COMMISSION TIME TO WORK FURTHER ON THE ZONING ORDINANCE. ATTORNEY APRIL GELTMAKER DONE A LOT OF RESEARCH TO ADDRESS THE COMPLAINTS RHONDA GREENE HAD BROUGHT UP AT THE LAST MEETING, STATING A LOT OF THE INFORMATION MS GREENE SPOKE ON WAS INCORRECT AND SHE WAS GIVING OUT A LOT OF FALSE INFORMATION.

DAVID KOLLE – SNOW REMOVAL REIMBURSEMENT

MR KOLLE CAME AGAIN TO REQUEST THE COUNTY REIMBURSE HIM FOR SNOW REMOVAL THAT HE PAID FOR. MR KOLLE LIVES IN HARDINSBURG AND PAID SOMEONE TO DO SNOW REMOVAL IN THE ALLEY BEHIND HIS HOUSE. HE ALSO ADDRESSED THE COMMISSIONERS ABOUT ADOPTING ALL THE ROADS IN HARDINSBURG. SUPERINTENDENT VOYLES SPOKE AGAIN ABOUT THE STREETS IN HARDINSBURG ADDING THAT A LOT OF THE STREETS ARE SIMPLY NOT STREETS BUT MORE LIKE ALLEYS AND NOT WIDE ENOUGH FOR DUMP TRUCKS TO ACCESS. SOME OF THE STREETS ARE BLOCKED OFF BY BARRICADES OR HAVE BUILDINGS IN THE MIDDLE OF THEM. THE SNOW REIMBURSEMENT WAS NOT DISCUSSED AGAIN AND NO DECISION WAS MADE.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS, PAYROLL, AND MINUTES

COMMISSIONER EWEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CLAIMS, PAYROLL AND MINTUES.

MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CARDWELL. MOTION PASSED.

PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY

ATTORNEY GELTMAKER PROVIDED A PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY FOR THE COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL. THE PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY PROVIDES GUIDELINES AND RULES FOR ANYONE WISHING TO SPEAK TO THE COMMISSIONERS ABOUT A PROBLEM. INDIANA CODE 5-14-1.5 ALLOWS THE PUBLIC TO OBSERVE PUBLIC MEETINGS, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. WHILE THERE IS NO SPECIFIC STATUTORY AUTHORITY THAT GUARANTEES THE RIGHT TO SPEAK AT THESE PUBLIC MEETINGS, A GOVERNING BODY HAS DISCRETION

WHETHER TO ALLOW PUBLIC COMMENT AND MAY SE REASONABLE RULES THAT GOVERN THE CONDUCT OF THE MEETING. SPEAKERS WHO WISH TO SPEAK AT A COMMISSIONER MEETING MUST SIGN UP WITH THE AUDITOR NO LATER THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING. THE PUBLIC WILL BE ALLOWED THREE MINUTES TO SPEAK. COMMISSIONER MARSHALL MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSION EWEN. MOTION PASSED.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENT

THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP ADVISORY BOARD HAD A VACANCY DUE TO THE DEATH OF NORMAN SOUDER. CLERK STEPHANIE ROCKEY HAS RECOMMENDED CHRIS HUNT OR CHUCK WILLIAMS. COMMISSIONER EWEN MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT CHUCK WILLIAMS TO THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP ADVISORY BOARD. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARSHALL. MOTION PASSED.

OPIOID APPLICATION

MYRA ALBERTSON REPRESENTING THE JRAC BOARD SUBMITTED AN APPLICATION FOR THE OPIOID FUNDS. THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED WAS FROM OUR PLACE DRUG AND ALCOHOL EDUCATION SERVICES, INC.. THE JRAC BOARD HAS REVIEWED THE APPLICATAION AND FOUND IT APPROPRIATE TO FUND. THE TOTAL FUNDS WILL BE FOR ONE YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF $81,221.94. THE FUNDS WILL BE USED TO HIRE AN ADDITIONAL CASE MANAGER WHO WILL EXPAND PROGRAMMING CURRENTLY PROVIDED IN THE WASHINGTON COUNTY JAIL AND ALSO WORK WITH THE WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE ASSESSEMENTS AND INTERVENTION TO STUDENTS WHO VIOLATE SCHOOL POLICY. MONEY WILL BE USED FROM BOTH THE RESTRICTED AND UNSTRICTED FUNDS. THE AMOUNT OUT OF RESTRICTED FUNDS WILL BE $27,997.70 AND THE AMOUNT OUT OF UNRESTRICTED FUNDS WILL BE $53,224.24. COMMISSIONER MARSHALL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FUNDING REQUEST PER THE JRAC'S RECOMMENDATION. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CARDWELL. MOTION PASSED.

WEST WASHINGTON SCHOOLS HAD APPLIED FOR MONIES FROM THE OPIOID FUND. THE JRAC BOARD AND THE COMMISSIONERS HAD APPROVED IT AT A PREVIOUS MEETING BUT THE SCHOOL HAS SINCE FOUND ANOTHER FUNDING METHOD AND WILL NOT BE USING THE OPIOID MONEY.

TOURISM APPOINTMENT CLARIFICATION

SUSAN LLOYD WITH THE TOURISM BOARD AND ANGIE BUCHANAN WITH ECONOMIC GROWTH HAVE BEEN GOING OVER THE TOURISM BOARD APPOINTMENTS AND BYLAWS. DURING THE COMMISSIONERS APPOINTMENTS IN JANUARY THEY REAPPOINTED JANA EWEN AND RAYMOND LEE, HOWEVER THEIR TERMS DO NOT END UNTIL 2026. BONITA PURLEE AND LAURIE JACKSON WERE DUE TO BE REAPPOINTED FOR 2025. COMMISSIONER MARSHALL MADE A MOTION TO REAPPOINT BONITA PURLEE AND LAURIE JACKSON TO THE TOURISM BOARD FOR 2025-2027.

MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CARDWELL. MOTION PASSED.

CODERED LAUNCH

EMA DIRECTOR DENI STEMPOWSKI ANNOUNCE THE LAUNCH OF CODERED. THE COUNTY WEBSITE HAS A LINK CITIZENS CAN NOW GO TO, TO SIGN UP. ONCE SIGNED UP, IT CAN BE CUSTOMIZED TO ALERT INDIVIDUALS ON WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO BE NOTIFIED ABOUT.

THERE IS ALSO AN APP THAT CAN BE USED ON ANY SMART PHONE THAT WILL SEND ALERTS.

REPORTS

HIGHWAY PROJECT – PAUL ECKART

PAUL ECKART WITH TEMPLE AND TEMPLE GAVE AN UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT. THE PLUMBING AND HVAC HAVE BEEN ROUGHED IN. THE ELECTRIC AND INTERNET WILL BE ROUGHED IN NEXT WEEK. THE SIGN SHED IS CONSTRUCTED AND READY TO BE INSULATED. THE TRUCK LEAN TO IS ABOUT 80% COMPLETE. THE FRAMING OF THE FUEL SHED WILL BE BEGIN SOON IF THE WEATHER HOLDS. THE FOOTINGS AND FOUNDATION ARE INSTALLED. THE FOUNDATION IS ALL THEY HAVE PERMITTED TO DO SO FAR.

THEY ARE WAITING ON PERMITS TO FINALIZE THE BUILD OF THE MECHANICS GARAGE. INDOT WILL BE WORKING ON CLEARING THE BRUSH AND TREES BEHIND THE TRUCK LEAN TO AND THE BYPASS SOON. DUKE ENERGY IS APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS OUT FROM RUNNING ELECTRIC TO THE LAND. PAUL HAS BEEN TALKING WITH MIDWEST GAS AND HAS CALLED IN FOR LOCATES FOR THE GAS MAIN FROM BECKS MILL ROAD DOWN TO THE SITE.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

SUPERINTENDENT VOYLES REPORTED THEY ARE GETTING MORE MATERIAL HAULED IN FOR THE INCOMING WEATHER.

DANIELLE WALKER – LUCY BRENTON MISQUOTE

DANIELLE WALKER WANTED TO CLARIFY WHAT MS BRENTON HAD SAID EARLIER IN THE MEETING WAS NOT IN FACT WHAT SHE HAD TOLD MS BRENTON IN A MEETING A FEW WEEKS AGO. MS WALKER HAD MET WITH MS BRENTON AND A COUPLE OTHER CITIZENS OF THE COUNTY TO TALK ABOUT THE PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCE.

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

Todd M. Ewen

COMMISSIONER TODD EWEN

COMMISSIONER TONY CARDWELL

ATTEST: Kyra Stephenson

AUDITOR, KYRA STEPHENSON