COMMISSIONER MEETING
MARCH 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 SPECIFICALLY IN WRITING, I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(D) A REAL PROPERTY TRANSACTION BY THE GOVERNING BODY UP TO THE TIME A CONTRACT OR OPTION IS EXECUTED BY THE PARTIES.

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY COMMISSIONER MARSHALL.

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

COMMISSIONER MARSHALL ASKED FOR A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PROVIDED. COMMISSIONER EWEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARSHALL. CARDWELL OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **WES BOWERS – 4-H PROJECT**
  QUESTIONED HOW A BOT COULD BE USED FOR THIS PROJECT, IF THERE ARE PLANS FOR THIS PROJECT, AND IF THEY WILL BE REQUESTING PROPOSALS. COMMISSIONER EWEN ASSURED MR BOWERS THE COUNTY WOULD BE TAKING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND ALSO INFORMED HIM THE COUNTY WOULD LIKELY BE USING A DESIGN BUILD VERSUS A BOT.

- **RHONDA GREENE – DAVID LYLES POLITICAL AFFILIATION ON PLAN COMMISSION**
  RHONDA GREENE CAME BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS ONCE AGAIN TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE PLAN COMMISSION BOARD MEMBERS POLITICAL AFFILIATION. SHE STATED DAVID LYLES IS NOT A DEMOCRAT. ATTORNEY LISA FLEMIING HAD CONTACTED CLERK STEPHANIE ROCKEY PRIOR TO THE APPOINTMENT OF DAVID LYLES TO THE BOARD AND WAS TOLD HE WAS A DEMOCRAT WHEN IN FACT HE HAS VOTED REPUBLICAN FOR MANY YEARS. MS GREENE ALSO STATED THAT LORI GILSTRAP VOTED REPUBLICAN IN THE LAST PRIMARY BUT SHE HAD VOTED DEMOCRAT IN MANY YEARS PRIOR. SHE CLAIMS THE PLAN COMMISSION HAS BEEN ILLEGAL FOR EIGHT YEARS.

- **ADAM DUFOUR – PLAN COMMISSION**
  NO COMMENT

- **LUCY BRENTON – PROPERTY AND ZONING**
  LUCY BRENTON COMPLAINED AGAIN ABOUT THE ZONING ORDINANCE THAT WAS PROPOSED. THE PLAN COMMISISON HAS TABLED THE PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCE AND ARE PLANNING TO REWORK THE ORDINANCE.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  COMMISSIONER MARSHALL ASKED FOR A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 4, 2025 MEETING. CARDWELL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER EWEN. MOTION PASSED.

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

- **COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT APPROVAL**
  CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER MYRA ALBERTSON PROVIDED THE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT FOR APPROVAL. COMMISSIONER EWEN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARSHALL. MOTION PASSED.

- **RADIO TOWER**
  SHERIFF BRENT MILLER DISCUSSED THE MAINTENANCE NEEDED AT THE RADIO TOWER SIGHT. THERE IS A LOT OF TREES THAT NEED TO BE REMOVED AND THE AREA NEEDS CLEANED UP. THE COUNTY DOES HAVE AN EASEMENT TO GET TO THE TOWER SIGHT. ONE OF THE ADJACENT LANDOWNERS IS IN AGREEMENT TO LET SOMEONE COME ON HIS PROPERTY TO CLEAN UP THE TREES. COMMISSIONER EWEN HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE OTHER LANDOWNER WHO IS NOT BEING AS AGREEABLE. COMMISSIONER EWEN AND COMMISSIONER MARSHALL ARE ALL IN AGREEMENT THAT THE AREA NEEDS CLEANED UP BEFORE A TREE FALLS ON ONE OF THE LINES AND TAKES OUT THE RADIO COMMUNICATION WHICH POSES A PUBLIC SAFETY RISK. COMMISSIONER MARSHALL AND COMMISSIONER EWEN WILL CONTINUE WORKING WITH BOTH LANDOWNERS TO GET THE AREA CLEANED UP.

- **READI 2.0 PROJECT LEAD**
  THE READI 2.0 GRANTED THE COUNTY $1.2 MILLION TO CONSTRUCT A NEW 4-H/EXTENSION OFFICE. THE COMMISSIONERS HAD BEEN WORKING WITH ANGIE BUCHANAN, WHO HAD BEEN THE ECONOMIC GROWTH DIRECTOR, TO FILL OUT THE REQUIRED PAPERWORK. MS BUCHANA HAS SINCE STEPPED DOWN AS THE ECONOMIC GROWTH DIRECTOR. COMMISSIONER EWEN HAS TALKED WITH MS BUCHANAN WHO HAS AGREED TO KEEP HELPING WITH THE PAPERWORK AND TIMELINES OF THE PROJECT. SHE WOULD LIKE TO BE PAID $5,100.00 TO FINISH OUT THE PROJECT. COMMISSIONER EWEN WOULD LIKE TO PROCEED ON WITH MS BUCHANAN'S HELP. COMMISSIONER MARSHALL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ANGIE BUCHANAN AS BEING THE PROJECT LEAD FOR THE WASHINGTON COUNTY 4-H/EXTENSION PROJECT. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER EWEN. CARDWELL ABSTAINED. MOTION PASSED.

REPORTS

- **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT PROJECT UPDATE**
  PAUL ECKART WITH TEMPLE AND TEMPLE GAVE AN UPDATE ON THE HIGHWAY PROJECT. THE OFFICE BUILDING HAS BEEN INSPECTED BY RONNIE VOYLES AND HAS PASSED THE INSPECTION AFTER DOING SOME BRACING. IT WILL NOW BE READY FOR INSULATION. THE SIGN SHED HAS DOORS UP AND IS SECURE AND READY FOR ELECTRIC. THE MECHANIC'S GARAGE HAD SOME ISSUES WITH THE FIRE MARSHALL BUT ALL HAS BEEN WORKED THROUGH. THE SEPTIC AND THE MIXED MATERIAL BUILDING WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE STATE FOR APPROVAL. MIDWEST GAS IS READY TO RUN THE GAS LINES DOWN 135 SOUTH. SOLUTIONS CONTRACTING WILL BE RUNNING THE LINES UNDERGROUND.

- **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**
  SUPERINTENDENT VOYLES REPORTED ABOUT 40 TREES NEEDED TO BE CLEANED UP AFTER THE RECENT WIND STORM.
  THE BRIDGE ON SHORTS CORNER ROAD HAS BEEN COMPLETED.
  THE COMMUNITY CROSSINGS 2025-1 GRANT HAS BEEN RECEIVED.
  SUPERINTENDENT VOYLES PROVIDED A LIST OF ROADS TO BE COMPLETED WITH THE GRANT MONEY. THE COUNTY PAVING WILL START IN JUNE.
  A HARDINSBURG RESIDENT HAS A HOLE THAT HAS APPEARED IN HER YARD. THE HOLE IS DUE TO A STORM DRAIN FALLING IN. THE RESIDENT LIVES ALONG MARENGO PIKE ROAD. SUPERINTENDENT VOYLES ASKED FOR GUIDANCE ON HOW TO HANDLE THIS DUE TO THE LAWSUIT AGAINST THE COUNTY.

BOARD COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

- CARDWELL MADE A MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER EWEN. MOTION PASSED.
- THE MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA WAS MADE TO TALK ABOUT THE PLAN COMMISSION. CARDWELL MADE A MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO

TALK ABOUT THE PLAN COMMISSION. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ~~COMMISSIONER EWEN. MOTION PASSED.~~

- CARDWELL AND ADAM DUFOUR CLAIM THE PLAN COMMISSION IS AN ILLEGAL BOARD BECAUSE NONE OF THE MEMBERS HAVE TAKEN AN OATH WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ANDREW DAVISSON. THE CLERKS OFFICE HAS NEVER HAD ANYONE ON THE PLAN COMMISSION TAKE AN OATH WHEN APPOINTED. ACCORDING TO CARDWELL AND DUFOUR THE OATH NEEDS TO BE TAKEN BY BOTH THE BZA AND THE PLAN COMMISSION. THEY CLAIM ALL MEMBERS WOULD NEED TO BE RE-APPOINTED. CARDWELL AND DUFOUR MADE UP A RESOLUTION THAT HAS NOT BEEN REVIEWED BY AN ATTORNEY THEREFORE, COMMISSIONER EWEN MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THE DISCUSSION. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARSHALL. CARDWELL OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED.

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