

**Commissioners Meeting
March 5, 2024**

Present: Jim Seiler, Tom Brown, Heather Gries, Auditor Melissa Bunner, Attorney Joshua Claybourn

Meeting was called to order by President Gries at 3:00 P.M.

Minutes

Seiler made a motion to approve the minutes for the Commissioners Meeting and Executive Session both dated February 20, 2024. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Claims

Brown made a motion to approve claims as presented. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

VSO / Ricky Biggs

For week of February 12, 2024, total Veterans assisted this week was 41 and phone calls totaled 5.

For week of February 19, 2024, total Veterans assisted this week was 54 and phone calls totaled 70.

Thursday, February 29, 2024 was Mr. Ricky Biggs last day and Mr. Butch Meredith's first day.

Health Department / Mindy Spinks

Spinks provided the proposed budget for the immunization grant (this grant is reimbursable and fiscal year). The Chairman of the Health Board has reviewed and Dr. Poos has signed the proposal. It has been submitted to the State and are expecting to hear back by the first part of May if they are awarded the funding.

Spinks is working on the contract with EMS regarding the transporting of vaccines.

Sheriff's Department / Sherri Heichelbech

Bid Opening – 2014 Ford Explorer VIN:9604 Mileage 229789. There was one (1) bid. Dustin Jones bid \$500. **Brown motioned to accept the bid. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Heichelbech presented information on a Casey's Grant and the Marathon Grant. She is asking if she can provide a list of her grants that are recurring every year, are small, and do not cost the county anything and get a blanket approval. **Seiler motioned to approve the Sheriff's list of grants that are of no cost to the county. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Heichelbech presented information regarding a grant for the purchase of bullet proof vests. These vests are state mandated equipment and have a lifespan of five (5) years. Twelve (12) vests are set to expire this year. The average cost per vest is \$900. There is a grant called the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership that is a reimbursable grant that will reimburse 50% of the cost of the vest. **Brown motioned to approve this grant. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Highway Department

No Report

Building Inspector / Todd Hays

There are two (2) property complaints being updated. 12015 N Old State Road, Gentryville, Indiana 47537 and County Road 500 N, Chrisney, Indiana 47611. Both homeowners have torn down the houses and are in the process of clean up.

For anyone who has a complaint, they need to contact the Planning Commission.

Appointments

The County Council nominated Shelby Lashley to the Economic Development Commission at the February 20, 2024 meeting. **Seiler motioned to accept the nomination. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Seiler motioned to appoint Derrick Allen to the Economic Development Commission. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Claybourn presented a list of the Carter Fire District Board of Trustees. They are as follows:
Ron Pund Four year term ending 1/1/24
Jack Troth Four year term ending 1/1/25
Kenneth Schaaf Four year term ending 1/1/26
Seiler motioned to approve all three (3) to the Board. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Seiler has asked Claybourn to verify the PTABOA appointment made by the Commissioners for Chris Blake is in compliance.

Dental Renewal

Bunner presented the Paramount Dental Renewal for April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024. There is an increase in rates. They are as follows:

	2023-2024	2024-2025	Difference
EO	\$23.10	EO \$24.26	\$1.16
Emp + Sp	\$49.88	Emp + Sp \$52.37	\$2.49
Family	\$83.48	Family \$87.65	\$4.17

Brown motioned to approve the changes. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Legal Report

Claybourn presented Ordinance 2024-03 regarding the Inkkeepers Tax. This is an amendment to Section 36.01. **Brown motioned to adopt Ordinance 2024-03. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

This ordinance is adopted at first reading by unanimous vote.

Claybourn presented Resolution 2024-01 "RESOLUTION OF THE SPENCER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OPPOSING CENTERPOINT ENERGY'S REQUEST FOR ELECTRIC RATE INCREASES". **Brown motioned to adopt Resolution 2024-01. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

This resolution is adopted at first reading by unanimous vote.

Claybourn discussed the current lawsuit against the county by the following: William Goldman, Darla Goldman, John Wayman, Janet Wayman, Douglas Carey, Albert Johnson, Judi E Johnson, David L Weber, KD Energy Farms LLC, Charles R Kinney and Patricia A Kinney. He is requesting an executive session to discuss the litigation. **Seiler motioned to have an executive session on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 2:30 PM. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Claybourn discussed House Bill 1158 and that it has passed Senate. This bill will allow Commissioners to adopt and ordinance to require certain items in all contracts. This bill is now going back to the House.

Claybourn discussed the Harmoni Tower offer. Currently, Verizon pays Spencer County annually for the use of land where the telecom tower is situated. Verizon proposes converting their term easement into a perpetual one. After discussion, the Commissioners decided to keep the agreement the same.

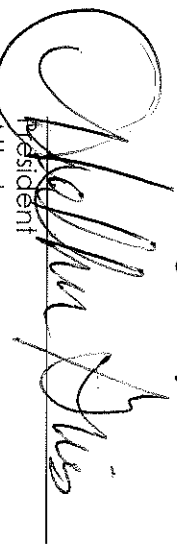
Old Business

No report.

New Business

ARPA – Brown motioned to give \$29,000 of ARPA funding to the Habitat for Humanity Hatfield Project. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 P.M.


President
Attest:


Ron Pund


Auditor, Melissa L. Bunner


Chris Blake