

**Commissioners Meeting
March 19, 2024**

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

Meeting was called to order by President Gries at 3:01 P.M.

Minutes

Brown made a motion to approve the minutes for the Commissioners dated March 5, 2024. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Claims

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

Insurance Renewal / Chris Middleton

Middleton presented two (2) 2024 Final Bids for the renewal. They are as follows:

Bliss Mcknight / Burnham & Flower - \$352,261. \$25,000 property deductible on all losses other than wind / hail and then that is \$100,000 for wind / hail.

ASTRA - \$347,000. \$5,000 flat deductible on property. Deductibles are based on occurrence.

Brown motioned to accept the bid from ASTRA. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

VSO / Butch Meredith

For week of March 4, 2024, total Veterans assisted this week was 7 and phone calls totaled 59.

For week of March 11, 2024, total Veterans assisted this week was 9 and phone calls totaled 73.

Health Department / Mindy Spinks

"Nursing Update" for February 2024:

There were less than five (5) animal bites reported. There were less than five (5) communicable diseases reported. There were one hundred three (103) vaccines administered.

Environmental Inspector Report for February 2024:

There were four (4) On-Site Systems Permit issued. There were four (4) new residential on-site system permits. There are ten (10) septic systems permitted but not installed. There were four (4) spec's issued and a total of ten (10) waiting on design.

There were zero (0) new commercial on-site system permits issued.

Yearly On-Site System Permit Totals:

Residential – Eight (8) new

Commercial – Zero (0)

There were two (2) complaints. One (1) Animals and (1) Trash

Retail Food Establishment Inspection Reports for February 2024:

Routine Inspections: Seven (7)

Complaints: One (1)

Preoperational Inspections: Two (2)

Training: Four (4)

Spinks discussed using shelving to create a display in the courthouse for some equipment she has in the health department.

Spinks discussed Kim Hay retiring on May 15, 2024.

Sheriff's Department / Sherri Heichelbech

Heichelbech provided an update on the Flock Camera Systems. She is going to the County Council to request funding.

Heichelbech discussed a traffic issue on Fulda Shortcut. Some issues include the GVWR (Gross Vehicle Weight Restriction) on the road and signage. Claybourn will review the ordinance. Brown motioned to address the issue and ordinance. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Highway Department
No Report

Planning Commission / Kay Erwin

February 2024 Permits issued:
Residential (4) \$1,156,000

Accessory Buildings (10) \$302,000

Totals for 2024:
Residential: \$1,906,000
Addition / Remodel: \$0
Duplex: \$0

Accessory Buildings: \$450,000
Cell Tower: \$0
Vacation: \$0

Building Inspector / Todd Hays

"County Inspection Report for February 5, 2024 through February 29, 2024" - Total

Inspections:		
Five (5) Footers	Five (5) Post Hole	Six (6) Foundations
Six (6) Framing	One (1) Underground Plumbing	Six (6) Concrete
Seven (7) R.I. Electric	Three (3) R.I. Plumbing	Three (3) R.I. HVAC
Sixteen (16) General	Seven (7) Electric Meter	Three (3) Gas
Thirteen (13) Final	Zero (0) Temporary Electric	Zero (0) Cell Tower
One (1) Tie Down (mobile or modular)		Four (4) Firewall
Mileage driven for month: 1325		

Economic Development

R.J.L presented a "Project Proposal" Community Economic and Prosperity Plan. There was discussion regarding the scope of work and timeline. The cost is \$144,000 per year. There are sixteen (16) full-time employees. **Seiler motioned to approve R.JL to go to County Council. Gries seconded the motion. Brown opposed. Motion carried with 2-1 vote.**

Circuit Court / Michaela Claise

No Report

Community Corrections / Sylvia Holbrook

No Report

Coroner / Layla Thayer

Thayer discussed a need for nine (9) pagers totaling \$4,236.00 and four (4) radios plus base totaling \$16,790.32. **Brown motioned to approve funding through Cares Act. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Thayer asked for the next ambulance scheduled to be replaced to be used as her removal vehicle. The new ambulance is expected to arrive in the first quarter of 2025. The ambulance being retired is No. 7491. **Seiler motioned to approve contingent upon County Council funding. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Harmoni Tower

At the last meeting, 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. Harmoni Tower countered with an additional \$10,000. Again, after further discussion, the Commissioners decided to keep the agreement the same.

Bunner discussed a grant opportunity for the county with IOT (Indiana Office of Technology). This grant is called the Indiana State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program Round 2 Opportunity. There is no cost to the county. **Brown approved pursuing the grant. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Mowing Bids

Brown motioned to approve the mowing specs for the 2024 Spencer County Mowing Contract. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion carried. The specs will be advertised, and the bid opening will be at the next meeting on April 2, 2024.

Legal Report

At the last meeting, Claybourn discussed House Bill 1158 and that it has passed Senate. This bill will allow Commissioners to adopt an ordinance to require certain items in all contracts. Since that meeting, the Governor has signed it. He is working on an outline / approach to present to the Commissioners. This does not go into effect until summer, so there is time to review and devise a plan.

There was an Executive Session to discuss the litigation issues.

There was a discussion regarding the Saint Meinrad project. The solar panels will be on their property and is intended only to serve them. This is not a commercial solar project. They do plan to use the Economic Development as a pass through which allows them to get a lower rate. There is a meeting soon to discuss it with the Economic Development Commission. At some point as the legislative body, they will need to approve as well. There is no liability for the county.

The Town of Santa Claus has appointed Chris Sigler to the Spencer County Economic Development Commission for the term of 1/1/24 – 12/31/27. **Brown motioned to approve this appointment. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Old Business

Gries was asking about the progress of selling the chairs that are stored in the basement. No progress so far. The chairs have been posted for sale.

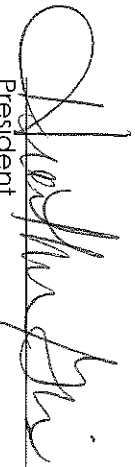
Kyle Lenn, Spencer County Resident, was asking about the Flock cameras and who authorizes the placement of the cameras.

Gary Shoemaker, Spencer County Resident, requested a road closure for Old 66 at County Road 100 on May 4, 2024. **Seiler motioned to approve. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried.** This will be from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

New Business

No Report.

Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 P.M.



President

Attest:



Auditor, Melissa L. Bunner

