

Roll call:

Present: Mark Clinkenbeard, Mike Morris, Chris Switzer

Others present:

Auditor Larry Hutchings, Chief Deputy Auditor Morgan Elkins, Brady Harp, Terry Modesitt, Tammy York-Allen, Jordynne Shelton, Suzanne Reick, Katie Bartlett, Kara Wright, Chris Eldredge, Adam Grossman, Larry Robbins, Vicki Albright, Tona Bean, Bill Watson, Shannon Giles, Scott Barbour, Katie Bundy, Mandy Puller, Joni Wise, Danielle Isbell, Bruce Allen, Josie Thompson, Tony Tanoos, Richard Shagley, Kevin Gardner, Jared Baylor, Norm Loudermilk. Bob Murray, Jim Hunter, and three members of the public.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Marl Clinkenbeard called the meeting to order at 9:05am and led the pledge of allegiance.

Review of Minutes/Claims.

Auditor Larry Hutchings presented the Board with the minutes for the meeting from February 4th for approval. Mike Morris made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion passed.

Mr. Hutchings then presented the claims docket dated January 30, 2025 through February 6, 2025 in the amount of \$841,922.71. Chris Switzer made a motion to approve the claim docket dated January 30, 2025 through February 6, 2025. A vocal vote of 3-0 was then held and the motion passed.

Board of Health Appointment – Commissioners

Appointment to Vigo County Board of Health Mark Clinkenbeard said the commissioners are appointing Micah Thompson to the Vigo County Board of Health as follows: "This is to certify that you, Micah Thompson, appointed to the Vigo County Board of Health, effective the 31st day of January 2025, for a four year term, expiring on December 31st, 2029. Testimony whereas the Vigo County Board of Commissioners have hereunto set their hands and seal this 31st day of January, 2025." Mike Morris said Board member Dr. Turner stepped down this year, and Micah Thompson has stepped up. Mike Morris made a motion to appoint Micah Thompson the Vigo County Board of Health. Chris Switzer seconded the motion. With a voice vote of 3-0 the motion passed.

Alley Vacate Blackhawk – Scott Barbour

Scott Barbour then took the podium and explained a request for an alley vacate in the town of Blackhawk. He said his request this meeting would be for preliminary approval so he could advertise and begin the period where people could state if they have any issues with vacating the alley. The 16ft alley is near S. Indiana St. and State Road 159 and near railroad tracks.. He said the petitioner owns both sides of the

alley. He said approval would mean he would need to get back on the agenda in the future for actual approval after 10 days. Scott said a public right of way would still exist near the alley if the alley was vacated. Chris Switzer made a motion to approve the request. Mike Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0 after a vocal vote.

Credit Card for Group Homes – Norm Loudermilk

A request for credit cards for Group Homes was then briefly discussed. These would be credit cards for Kathryn Bartlett-Hagen and Norm Loudermilk for Group Homes. Chris Switzer made a motion to approve the requests. Mike Morris Seconded the motion. With a vocal vote of 3-0, the motion passed.

Update Parks Department – Adam Grossman

Adam Grossman then took the podium to give an update on the Vigo County Parks Department. Adam said a skid steer needed repairs and the funds would be taken from new equipment. He said the department would buy a little less equipment this year and he would make a request related to this before the Vigo County Council later this year.

Adam said the department still did not have a permit from the state for an overlook at Dewey Point, he said six weeks were needed and the project would probably be delayed to fall to make sure there was no water underneath. He expressed disappointment in the delay of the permit from the state.

Adam said West Terre Haute Little League Football has started clearing the football field in Dresser. He said he did get the permit for this project and started clearing the fence row and they will be doing some grading and fieldwork. He said there have already been a lot of parents and kids using the field last year for practices and a couple of games and work will continue. Adam said permits would need to be obtained for a connector trail in the works that would connect to the Wabashiki Trail, the pedestrian walkway, and parking area. Adam mentioned additional funding near \$70,000 would be needed to connect the trails.

Adam said the department had closed the old AMVETS property a couple of weeks before the meeting. He said more there would be more discussion in the future about the building.

Adam then gave an update on Griffin Bike Park. He said the jump lines have been removed to make room for a new building and the jump lines would be redrawn this summer. He thanked the Health Department for assisting with programming at Griffin Bike Park. He said attendance at programs offered at the park has been great. Adam said the hope was that late June into July the new building would be ready.

Adam discussed the Hawthorn Park overlook. He said renovations would be coming to the overlook and a metal roof would be added.

Disc golf courses coming to Prairie Creek Park and Fowler Park were discussed. He said the Prairie Creek course would be done in the spring if the skid steer was repaired. He said they've had donors contribute \$120,000 to make the course happen. He said they've applied for a \$50,000 grant and have been fundraising to help make the Fowler Park course happen. He said the Fowler Park course design has been paid. He said the goal for completion for the Fowler Park course would be March and April into May.

He said the cabin rentals are in place and noted that more and more people would be reserving cabins as the word spread about them. He noted that the cabins would be contributing the 8% innkeeper's tax.

Adam mentioned complaints about the turnaround at Prairie Creek Park to the lower lake. He said the turnaround would be redone this year. The incline is very steep that washes out regularly.

He said the department is looking onto an automated kayak rental kiosk at Hawthorn Park.

Adam said this is the year they delineated to make sure there was an accessible path to every playground in the Vigo County Parks. He noted there would be a new playground planned for March 4th at Fowler Park. He mentioned that syrup produced at Prairie Creek Park has been selling out consistently.

Adam said this year's Pancake Breakfast was successful. He said over 400 people attended.

He mentioned work beginning on a new park outside of Riley. Adam said the plan for a grand opening would be late Spring. He said the park would be near the Riley Spur Trail and hopefully they could connect the trail to the new park over the next year or two. He then opened the floor to questions.

Mike Morris asked what the Parks Department is doing for marketing that is allowing for successful programming at Griffin Bike Park. Adam said they have been working with The Boys and Girls Club and Chances and Services for Youth to help bus people to the park.

Mark Clinkenbeard asked about the AMVETS property and future plans for the acquisition. Adam said they were in the early planning stages.

Public Comments.

Shannon Giles with Tobacco Free Vigo took the podium. She said the preceding Thursday at the City Council Meeting an amendment passed to the Terre Haute City Code Chapter 4, Article 24 regarding placement of retail tobacco and vaping establishments. She briefly explained the efforts the tobacco industry takes to market to Indiana residents. She said this marketing has adverse impacts on area youth.

Shannon said the original proposed ordinance was designed mostly around aesthetics, limiting their ability to open an establishment primarily for tobacco and vape products within a mile of each other. She said the ordinance was expanded includes restricting tobacco and vaping establishments within 1,000 feet of religious institutions, community parks, and community centers. She said there was a question at the city council meeting about schools, but she clarified there was already a state law restricting the placement of Tobacco and vaping establishments near schools. She then opened the floor to questions.

Mike Morris asked what the price of cigarettes were. Shannon said the average price was about \$5 per pack with some varieties of cigarettes being more expensive.

Comments or other business from Commissioners or other Elected Officials.

Chris Switzer then brought Indiana House Bill 1628 to the attention of the Board. He said the bill was authored by Representative Craig Snow. Chris Switzer said he was adamantly opposed to the proposed legislation. He briefly explained the bill would attempt to remove local government control over the deployment of infrastructure or equipment used in the storage of electricity, gases or fluids, or water. He said the proposed bill states that "multi-jurisdictional project" would not need to obtain a permit or any other use or zoning approval from local government bodies. He said Vigo County supports development, but he said local government bodies should have a say. Chris said the Indiana County Commissioner's Association is testifying in Indianapolis against the bill.

The next meeting will be February 18th 2025. The meeting recessed at 9:29am.



Mark Clinkenbeard




Chris Switzer



Mike Morris

Attest:



Larry T. Hutchings II, Auditor