

February 6, 2024

Council Chambers  
Vigo County Government Center  
Terre Haute, Indiana

**Roll Call:**

**Present:** Chris Switzer, Mike Morris and Mark Clinkenbeard

**Others Present:** County Attorney Terry Modesitt, James Bramble, Tammy York-Allen, Diana Winsted-Smith, Chris Eldridge, Jordynne Shelton, Josie Thompson, Tona Bean, Adam Grossman, Joni Wise, Amanda Bales, Larry Robbins, Kevin Gardner, Ricky Hammond, Vickie Albright, Scott Swan, Tony Cassiseah, and several members of the public.

**Pledge of Allegiance.**

Chris Switzer called the meeting to order and Human Resources Coordinator Jordynne Shelton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Review of Minutes/Claims.** Auditor James Bramble presented the Board with payroll for February 2, 2024 in the amount of \$1,320,528.89 for approval. Mark Clinkenbeard made a motion to approve the February 2, 2024 payroll. Mike Morris seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Bramble then presented the Board with expenditures for the period of January 27, 2024 through February 2, 2024 in the amount of \$2,003,361.22. Mark Clinkenbeard made a motion to approve the January 27, 2024 through February 2, 2024 claims in the amount of \$2,003,361.22. Mike Morris seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Bramble then presented the Board with meeting minutes for January 30, 2024 for approval. Mike Morris made a motion to approve the minutes as presented for January 30, 2024. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

**Solar Energy Matters - Commissioners.** County Attorney Terry Modesitt presented an engagement letter for Rick Hall of Barnes & Thornburg to represent the County on solar matters. Mr. Hall previously represented Sullivan County in these types of matters. He basically negotiates an agreement where the County gets a certain amount of money long term. Mr. Modesitt thoroughly checked him out before Sullivan County engaged him. Mr. Hall deals with these matters throughout the State and knows how to deal with these matters effectively. He also has the solar companies pay all of his fees which results in no cost to the County. Chris Switzer said there are several solar companies potentially interested in partnerships with farmers in the northwest and northeast part of the county. Mr. Modesitt said Mr. Young was the expert in these matters and it would be good to have him involved in any negotiations for Vigo County. Mike Morris said these matters are coming pretty steadily and it would be good to have some expert advice. Mike Morris made a motion to approve the retention of Barnes & Thornburg for representation for solar matters. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

**Vigo County Community Corrections Planning Study – Commissioners & Bill Watson.** Chris Switzer said the Commissioners would like to enter into a contract with DLZ to do a feasibility study on a new Community Corrections Center. Several other offices are located on the second floor of the current building, including E911 and E911 will remain in the building. Phase I would be project recognition, Phase II would be needs assessment, Phase III would be a facility program development, and Phase IV would be project development and an implementation plan. Bill Watson talked about how the needs had changed over the years and the current need to provide more services for substance abuse and mental health. The 130-bed capacity facility

has been full for some time now. They also have a waiting list from the jail for placement. It is not possible to expand at the current location. Funding at the state level is becoming available that would help with an expansion. He and the Commissioners are currently working on that. Moving the facility closer to the jail would benefit with transport issues and also put everything in a more centralized location and benefit everyone. The cost for the study could be paid by Community Corrections from their budget. The total cost for the study would be \$12,750. There was a short discussion. Mike Morris made a motion to approve the contract. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

**Highway Surplus for Auction – Neil Costello.** Larry Robbins explained that the surplus vehicles were actually Building Maintenance vehicles but since he was familiar with the process of listing them on GovDeals.com, he was helping them out in getting this accomplished. There are 2 vehicles that will be listed. Mark Clinkenbeard made a motion to declare these vehicles as surplus. Mike Morris seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed. It was also noted that a 2001 John Deere tractor had initially been put in the public notice but has since been rescinded and will remain with the Vigo County Highway Department to be used for parts.

**Appointment Drainage Board – Commissioners.** Chris Switzer appointed Mike Terrell to the Drainage Board for a 1-year term that will expire on December 31, 2024, and read the appointment into record. Mike Morris made a motion to accept this appointment. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

**Close Jones Drive on April 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Commissioners.** Chris Switzer said that Kyle Arnold, Terre Haute Miss Softball America President, had reached out to request a portion of West Jones Drive (just past the residential section) be closed on April 8 in conjunction with the solar eclipse. This will be used as a viewing location. Mark Clinkenbeard made a motion to allow closing of a section of Jones Drive from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on April 8. Mike Morris seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

**Public Comments.** There were none.


**Comments from the Commissioners or Other Elected Officials.** Diana Winstead-Smith, Vigo County Recorder, introduced Maci Riley as a new county employee. Adam Grossman gave a brief review of what the Parks Department had planned for the Solar Eclipse. Fowler Park will serve as the main hub. There will be a daytime and night time Griffin Bike Park ride. Eclipse camping is open for all three parks. There will be a 4-day minimum for site rental. The village will be open and all the cabins. There will be food vendors and other activities going on at Fowler Park. They are working on a parking plan to park as many people as possible. The annual Pancake Breakfast is coming up on the 17<sup>th</sup> and tickets can be purchased on line. Chris Switzer said the deadline for filing for candidacy for the upcoming elections is this Friday at noon.

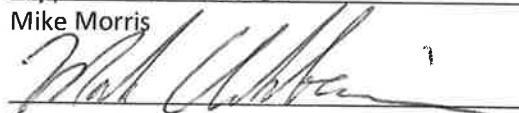
The meeting recessed at 9:16 a.m.

Attest:

  
James Bramble, Auditor

Chris Switzer

  
Mike Morris

  
Mark Clinkenbeard