

**MARSHALL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 21, 2025**

The Board of Commissioners of Marshall County, Indiana, met for a regular meeting in the Commissioner's Meeting Room 203, 112 W. Jefferson Street, Plymouth, Indiana at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, January 21, 2025. Present were Commissioners, Stan Klotz, President; Jesse Bohannon, Vice President; and Adam Faulstich, Member; County Attorney, Sean Surrisi; as well as County Auditor, Angela C. Birchmeier. The meeting was opened, streamed live at <http://www.youtube.com/@MarshallCountyIN>, the Pledge of Allegiance was given, and the business at hand was heard.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No public input on agenda items was heard.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Department Superintendent Jason Peters presented two right-of-way cut requests from Northern Indiana Public Service Company as follows:

- 1) Work Order #53552-912-PRP: Replacement of one utility pole on 4th Road, between County Line Road and Beech Road, in German Township, for the purpose of replacing aging infrastructure and improving system reliability.
- 2) Work Order #53313-912-PRP: Replacement of four utility poles on 5th Road, between Fir Road and Gumwood Road, in German Township, for the purpose of replacing aging infrastructure and improving system reliability.

Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to approve both right-of-way cut requests from Northern Indiana Public Service Company as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

Superintendent Peters presented a request from Brightspeed at 20766 S. Lake Drive, between County Line Road and N. Underwood Road, in Polk Township, for the installation of an aerial fiber optic cable. **Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to approve the request from Brightspeed at 20766 S. Lake Drive, between County Line Road and N. Underwood Road, in Polk Township, for the installation of an aerial fiber optic cable. Motion carried 3-0.**

Superintendent Peters presented a request from Stone Excavating, Inc., on N. Michigan Road, between 1st Road and Tyler Road, in North Township, for the purpose of connecting to the Town of LaPaz sewer. **Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to approve the request from Stone Excavating, Inc., on N. Michigan Road, between 1st Road and Tyler Road, in North Township, for the purpose of connecting to the Town of LaPaz sewer. Motion carried 3-0.**

Superintendent Peters provided an update on the following projects:

Bridge 1, Ule Road (Local Project): The letting date will be January or February 2025.

Bridge 232, Randolph Street: Homer Tree Service has cleared the right-of-way and will be grinding and removing the stumps this week. The contractor plans to begin removing the bridge next week.

Bridge 231, Center Street, Bremen: No updates.

Bridge 88, 12th Road east of Olive Trail: The letting date is January 14, 2029.

Bridge 108, East 7th Road: No updates.

Bridge Inspections 2022-2025 Phase II: Due to an update on bridge standards, non-complaint signs have been replaced.

Mill Pond Dam Improvements: No update.

Call for Projects (Notice of Funding Availability NOFA) – Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Countywide Striping Initiative: The presentation was given on January 8th. The Request for Proposals (RFP) needs to be scored by the Commissioners and returned to INDOT for review. Once INDOT completes the review, the county may select the consulting firm.

Call for Projects (NOFA) Safety Grant – Digital Speed Limit Trailer: The presentation was given on January 8th.

Call for Projects (NOFA) – Safety Guardrail Installation: The presentation was given on January 8th.

Call for Projects (NOFA) – Linden Road: The presentation was given on January 8th. INDOT suggested the county investigate options for a railroad grant.

Call for Projects (NOFA) – Michigan Road Bridge #2540: The presentation was given on January 8th. INDOT requested that we investigate the rehabilitation of the superstructure also. A new financial commitment letter will be required to reflect the additional costs.

Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG): The charging station has been received.

Equipment: 2020 Vermeer Hydro Vac Trailer: The council did support an additional appropriation submission from the Cum Bridge Fund to pay for the new equipment. Superintendent Peters requested the payment be authorized as a prepay. Attorney Surrisi requested approval of Resolution 2025-1: Written Determination of the Marshall County Board of Commissioners Regarding Purchase of Hydro Vac Trailer Through Special Purchasing Methods. **Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to approve Resolution 2025-1: Written Determination of the Marshall County Board of Commissioners Regarding Purchase of Hydro Vac Trailer Through Special Purchasing Methods. Motion carried 3-0.**

Adam Faulstich moved, second by Jesse Bohannon, to approve the payment to Brown Equipment Company in the amount of \$122,000 for the purchase of a 2020 Vermeer Hydro Vac Trailer and to allow as a pre-payment. Motion carried 3-0.

Community Crossings 2025-01: The Council did support funding the Community Crossings grant match. The following roads were presented for approval:

9 th Road, Pioneer to County Line	\$1,150,000
Nutmeg Meadows, Nutmeg to Nutmeg	\$168,000
16C Road, Redwood to Pear	\$495,500
3 rd Road, King to West Shore	\$315,000
Total Cost	\$2,128,500

Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to approve the projects for Community Crossings 2025-01 as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

GIBSON INSURANCE

Gibson Insurance Client Manager/Commercial Risk Manager Stephen Swihart, CAWC, AINS, and insurance consultant Mike Miley presented the 2025-2026 Commercial Risk Insurance Proposal. Discussion was held concerning a premium adjustment to the civil rights liability policy by increasing the deductible. **Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to approve the increased deductible on the civil rights liability policy from \$2,500 to \$10,000. Motion carried 3-0.**

Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to approve the 2025-2026 Commercial Risk Insurance Proposal with an annual premium of \$820,738. Motion carried 3-0.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Health Department Administrator Sandy Dunfee presented the following items for approval:

Memorandum of Understanding-Dustin's Place: The purpose of the agreement is to provide financial sponsorship for 20 children throughout Marshall County to receive grief support. The support will be provided through peer-to-peer grief support groups at a rate of \$1,511 per child.

Clinical Affiliation Agreement with Marian University: The purpose of the agreement is for the Health Department to provide access to its clinical facilities two days per week and assist the school in the assessment of learning and performance. There will be no monetary consideration.

Memorandum of Understanding-The Ladybug Foundation: The purpose of the agreement is to bridge a gap in pre- and postnatal care and to provide education to decrease infant mortality with evidence-based yoga and holistic living practices. The offering is for women in the first, second, or beginning of the third trimester. The funding request is for the sum of \$5,600 for 20 sessions to be held in Culver. The MOU will be effective upon approval of the parties and remain in effect for three years.

Attorney Surrisi and insurance consultant Mike Miley have reviewed the agreements, and discussion was held concerning the insurance requirements.

Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Dustin's Place, pending acceptance of insurance. Motion carried 3-0.

Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to approve the Clinical Affiliation Agreement with Marian University, pending acceptance of insurance. Motion carried 3-0.

Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with The Ladybug Foundation, pending acceptance of insurance. Motion carried 3-0.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Grant: Administrator Dunfee stated that she intends to confirm her intent to participate in the PHEP grant for the second year. The grant period is July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. The anticipated award is \$25,000 and supports a portion of the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator's salary.

Administrator Dunfee presented a listing of 2024 statistics on environmental, nursing, and vital records.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources Administrator Jennifer Daake presented a revised 2025 Employee Benefit Insurance Plans/Premiums for approval. She explained the employee contributions did not increase; however, the county share for medical did increase. **Adam Faulstich moved, second by Jesse Bohannon, to approve the 2025 Employee Benefit Insurance Plans/Premiums as presented. Motion carried 3-0.**

MARSHALL COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Marshall County Economic Development Corporation President Greg Hildebrand provided the 2024 Year in Review. He highlighted the estimated capital investment, unemployment rate of 4% for the county, 4.1% for the State of Indiana and 4.2% for the U.S., and average hourly wages of \$24.12 for the county, \$28.90 for the State of Indiana, and \$34.91 for the U.S. He also highlighted several projects, READI 2.0, US 30 and US 31 PROpel study and recommendations, housing studies, utility information, Regional Cities, Stellar, and READI 1 projects. He explained the area of focus for 2025 include industrial sites for development, housing, entrepreneur & development, county comprehensive plan, regional partnership, and county development for the future.

It was requested that reports be provided more frequently and be given to the Marshall County Council. Discussion was held concerning the revenue sources of MCEDC.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Matt Hassel presented a request to apply for the Marine Patrol Grant through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in the amount of \$20,000. This grant funding assists in funding the marine patrol of Lake Maxinkuckee. The grant period is from Memorial Day through Labor Day. **Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to approve the Sheriff applying for the Marine Patrol Grant as requested. Motion carried 3-0.**

ATTORNEY REPORT

Tower Lease: Attorney Surrisi reported that he has been in communication with John Grolich on this issue. A copy of the tower lease was provided by the MD7 representative. The document is currently being reviewed, and a report will be given at the next meeting.

Bowen Center Building: The work has begun with Bowen's attorney, Keith Mundrick, to structure the deal for the acquisition of the building. Depending on the direction we take on the deal structure, we may need to seek additional approval from the Council at their next meeting before obtaining the Commissioners final approval.

AUDITOR REPORT

January 6, 2025 Minutes: **Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to approve the January 6, 2025 minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0.**

January 13, 2025 Executive Session Meeting Minutes: **Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to approve the January 13, 2025 executive session meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 3-0.**

Accounts Payable Claim: **Adam Faulstich moved, second by Jesse Bohannon, to approve the accounts payable claims as presented. Motion carried 3-0.**

Payroll Claim: **Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to approve the payroll claims as presented. Motion carried 3-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sharon Mrozinski, 4057 Olive Road, Plymouth, explained that a petition was presented at the September 16, 2024 Commissioner meeting requesting that the Olive Road and 4th Road intersection become a 4-way stop, instead of a 2-way stop, and to post speed limit signs for a residential community. The Commissioners explained that MACOG placed a traffic counter and they would provide her with the results.

Marvin Houin, 5017 W. Shore Drive, Bremen, presented Marshall County Resolution 2010-07 and requested clarification on who are Lake of the Woods lake front property owners and questioned the verification of landowner signatures. Attorney Surrisi explained the court has scheduled a hearing for the establishment of Lake of the Woods Conservancy District tomorrow. The attorneys for the petition have requested a motion to continue. All the issues raised are for the judge’s determination.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Out of State Travel Request: Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to approve the request for out of state travel. Motion carried 3-0.

Board Appointments: President Klotz presented the following list of board appointments for consideration:

Board	Appointee	Term	Term Expiration
Marshall County BZA – Matt Miller Resigned	Don Nunemaker	Unexpired Term	December 31, 2026
Marshall County BZA Alternate	Michelle Mieras	1 year	December 31, 2025
Marshall County Plan Commission – David Hostetler Resigned	Larry Houin	Unexpired Term	December 31, 2026
Board of Health	Sandy Orsund	4 years	December 31, 2028
Koontz Lake Sewer District	Steve Giese	4 years	December 31, 2028
Tourism Commission – Angel Balsley Resigned	Jill Houin	Unexpired Term	December 31, 2026
Fair Board	Adam Faulstich	1 year	December 31, 2025
Extension Board	Jesse Bohannon	1 year	December 31, 2025

Fire Protection Grant: President Klotz explained that Council President Harman requested approval of implementing the Fire Protection grant funding. Attorney Surrisi explained that he did not have the details but would work with Council President Harman.

Vehicle Bids: President Klotz stated that a county owned pickup truck was involved in an accident and he would like permission to seek quotes in the event the insurance carrier determines the vehicle is totaled. **Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to seek bids for a ¾ ton regular cab pickup truck for use by the Maintenance Department. Motion carried 3-0.**

Pending Legislation: Discussion was held concerning the bills for the 2025 session.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the board **Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 am. Motion carried 3-0.**

Stan Klotz, President

Jesse Bohannon, Vice President

ATTEST: _____
Angela C. Birchmeier, Auditor

Adam Faulstich, Member