

**Hancock County Board of Commissioners  
Joint County Council Meeting  
May 30, 2023**

Commissioner President Spalding called to order the May 30, 2023, Hancock County Commissioners Board meeting at 5:17 PM. Those present were Board of Commissioners, Bill Spalding, John Jessup, Gary McDaniel, Auditor Debra Carnes, Executive Liaison Administrator Chyan Gilaspy, and County Attorney Scott Benkie.

Council President Jeannine Gray called to order the May 30, 2023, Hancock County Council Meeting at 5:17 PM. Those present were Councilmembers James Shelby, Mary Noe, Jeannine Gray, Kent Fisk, Robin Lowder, Scott Wooldridge, Keely Butrum, and Financial Administrator Mary Bowmer.

**Public Hearing: Additional Appropriation**

Council President Gray opened the public hearing at 5:17 PM and asked for public comment, no comment. Council President Gray closed the public hearing at 5:18 PM.

Councilmember Shelby motioned to approve the additional appropriation of \$300,000 for Food and Beverage. Councilmember Noe seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

**Highway Department**

County Engineer Gary Pool presented an archaeology supplemental agreement for SJCA for \$9,000 for signatures. Engineer Pool also discussed the updated road closures map, ADA and Title VI updates, Pennsy Trail water main hit, a new mechanic was hired, needing a towing waiver for snow and solar eclipse, CIRTA 2023 and 2024 contributions, and the interstate justification study is on schedule. Council approved advertising additional appropriations for lines 1135-44102 for \$300K for awarded CCMG money and 1112-40027 for \$350K for 600W ROW.

Commissioner Jessup motioned to approve the Supplemental Agreement No. 1 between Hancock County Commissioners and SJCA Inc. with an amount not to exceed \$430,805. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Pennsy Trails Update**

Pennsy Trail Board President Mary Ann Wietbrock discussed Pennsy Trail expansion updates, Skillman property for purchase, NineStar will donate property if Pennsy Trail builds a fence, building the trail along US 40, and asked for guidance regarding applying for the Next Level Trails Grant. Councilmembers and Commissioners had discussion regarding the grant.

Councilwoman Butrum motioned to approve the Skillman property purchase for \$5,530.40 to be paid from fund 8666. Councilwoman Noe seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Councilwoman Noe motioned to approve the fence purchase for \$11,900 to be paid from fund 8666. Councilwoman Butrum seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

**Zoey's Place Update**

Executive Director Katie Molinder thanked the County for their annual contribution and provided updates for Zoey's Place including one case resulting in an arrest.

### **McCordsville MOU and EDC Appointment**

Attorney Gregg Morelock, McCordsville Town Council President Greg Brewer, and McCordsville Town Manager Tim Gropp discussed a proposed MOU between the County and McCordsville regarding economic development projects. Councilmembers and Commissioners had discussion about MOU language, TIF boundaries, annexation, and were not ready to vote so they asked McCordsville representatives to return with an updated MOU.

Councilman Shelby motioned to appoint Chris Creighton to the McCordsville EDC on May 30, 2023. Councilman Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

### **Sheriff's Department: Pension Discussion and Salary Matrix**

Sheriff Burkhart presented two trustee agreements for police retirement funds for Council signature and discussed the differences in the salary matrix for Hancock County deputies compared to Greenfield and Bartholomew County. Councilmembers had discussion.

Councilman Fisk motioned to approve the Trust Agreement for the Hancock County Police benefit plan. Councilman Shelby seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Councilman Fisk motioned to approve the Supplemental Trust Agreement for the Hancock County Police benefit plan. Councilwoman Lowder seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

### **Pro's Consulting Update**

Pro's Consulting President Leon Younger discussed the Hancock County action plan for the development of a county parks and recreation system. Commissioners and Council had discussion regarding utilities, impact fees, and department vs. board set-up for parks department.

### **Insurance Update**

Walker Hughes representative Kevin Mandrell discussed insurance changes, prescription costs, problematic claims, and an Anthem claim refund. Commissioners had discussion.

### **Public Hearing: Vacation of Public Street/Alley 200N/700W**

Hancock Regional Hospital representative Harold Gibson discussed the vacation petition, performance bond agreement, and asked the Commissioners to waive the surety bond.

Commissioner Spalding opened the public hearing at 7:18 PM and asked for public comment, no comments, public hearing closed at 7:18 PM.

Commissioner Jessup motioned to accept the performance bond agreement between Hancock Regional Hospital and Hancock County and waiving the surety bond. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Jessup introduced ordinance 2023-5D. Commissioner motioned to suspend the rules to allow adoption upon the day of introduction for Ordinance 2023-5D. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner motioned to adopt Ordinance 2023-5D, as presented. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### **Plat Approval: Phase 3 Hancock Gateway Park**

Commissioner Jessup motioned to approve the secondary plat for Hancock Gateway Park Phase 3 Section 1 with 8.9 acres of ROW, as presented. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### **E911 Building Remodel/Rekey Project**

Emergency Operations Director John Jokantas discussed the 911 remodel project, presented a quote from ICS for \$13,979, and requested an account be set up with Central Indiana Hardware with a credit line of \$100,000 for the rekeying project.

Commissioner Jessup motioned to approve the quote from ICS for \$13,979 for 911 office remodeling to be paid from the 911 2022A GO Bond. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Jessup motioned to allow 911 Director John Jokantas to set up an account with Central Indiana Hardware with a credit line of \$100,000 for the county rekey project. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. Commissioner Jessup explained the need for the rekeying project. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### **Behavioral Health Travel Request**

Court Treatment Coordinator Kevin Minnick presented an out of state travel request for signature.

Commissioner Jessup motioned to approve the out of state travel request for Kevin Minnick, Hailey Feltner, Tracy Shaw for the NADCP conference in Houston, Texas from June 25-29, 2023. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### **Opioid Initiative Discussion**

Councilwoman Butrum discussed not receiving the state grant and proposed still using the Hancock County match for the projects within the grant application.

Councilwoman Noe motioned to continue to use the funds allocated to support the projects within the application. Councilman Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Commissioner Jessup motioned to move forward with the opioid initiative plan using ARPA funds if CRT remains omitted. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### **Public Comment: Property Taxes**

Patricia Beaty discussed issues with the Assessor's Office, issues with the appeal process, land assessment increases, grade changes, the Assessor's manual, and the County hiring property tax lawyers. Councilmembers and Commissioners had discussion.

Larry George asked Commissioners and Councilmembers to do something about the rate increases and discussed his rise in property taxes.

Rachael Ferryman discussed how property tax increases negatively impact renters in the county.

Debi Dishman discussed filing an appeal and the impact property taxes are having on her marriage and keeping her childhood home.

Assessor Cindy Roberts addressed public questions, the state's process for property taxes, and encouraged anyone to file an appeal.

**Commissioner & Council Business**

Commissioner Jessup motioned to approve claims and payroll as presented. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Jessup motioned to approve minutes for 5-16-2023 as presented. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Jessup motioned to pay the 2023 partner contribution for the Central Indiana Regional Transportation Authority in an amount not to exceed \$15,983. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Jessup motioned to appoint Lacey Willard to the Board of Zoning Appeals from the Plan Commission, with term dates to be set later. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Jessup motioned to allow Commissioner President Spalding to sign the RQAW 179D tax deduction letter. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Jessup amended his motion to appoint Lacey Willard to the BZA with a term from January 2, 2023-January 5, 2026. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Jessup motioned to approve the release between Hancock County and Arthur Crop LLC, as presented. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Jessup motioned to approve the quote from Greenfield Fencing for 580' of chain-link fencing in an amount not to exceed \$11,900, to be paid from fund 8666. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Council President Gray asked to put the wheel and excise tax discussion on the August agenda.

Commissioner Jessup motioned to adjourn until the next regularly scheduled meeting. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**The Hancock County Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.**

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Commissioner Bill Spalding, President

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Commissioner Gary McDaniel, Vice-President

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Commissioner John Jessup

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor

**Adjourned 8:50 PM**

Councilmember Wooldridge motioned to adjourn until the next regularly scheduled meeting.  
Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

**Approved this day:**

**COUNCIL**

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James Shelby

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Robin Lowder

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Keely Butrum

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Kent Fisk

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Mary Noe

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Wooldridge

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Jeannine Gray

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor