MARSHALL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 6, 2026

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 8:30 a.m., Monday, April 6, 2026. Present were Commissioners, President Stan Klotz, Vice President Jesse Bohannon; and Member Adam Faulstich; County Attorney Sean Surrisi; and County Auditor Angela C. Birchmeier. The meeting streamed live at http://www.youtube.com/@MarshallCountyIN. Brandon Richie gave the invocation, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, the President called the meeting to order, and the matters at hand were heard.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

The attendees did not have public input on agenda items.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Bid Opening - Community Crossing 2026-01: The Auditor received three sealed bids. The bids were opened for the following four projects:

Item 1: 12B Road, Town Limits to US 30
Item 2: 14B Road, State Road 17 to County Line
Item 3: 15th Road, Railroad to County Line
Item 4: Muckshaw Road, State Road 10 to 18B Road

	Milestone Contractors, LP	E & B Paving	Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc.
Item 1	$229,517.78	$206,141.65	$237,931.47
Item 2	$479,178.43	$451,933.25	$530,949.20
Item 3	$234,166.82	$215,265.29	$255,911.99
Item 4	$398,554.12	$369,982.76	$451,506.96
Total	**$1,341,417.15**	**$1,243,322.95**	**$1,476,299.62**

Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to accept the bids for the Community Crossings 2026-01 Projects and take them under advisement. Motion carried 3-0.

Highway Department Superintendent Jason Peters provided an update on the following projects:

Bridge 2540, Michigan Road Rehabilitation: DES No. 2501452. The Notice for Proposals was posted, two letters of interest were received, and one firm respectfully declined. The score sheets have been sent to the Commissioners for scoring. Once the score sheets are returned to the Highway Department, the top ranking firm will be submitted to the Indiana Department of Transportation for review.

Emulsion Tank: Superintendent Peters stated that a transfer request, from Bituminous into Highway Equipment, in the amount of $51,000 has been submitted for Council consideration to purchase an emulsion tank. The emulsion tank will be used in conjunction with the total patchers. **Adam Faulstich moved, second by Jesse Bohannon, to proceed with the funding process to purchase the emulsion tank. Motion carried 3-0.**

Bridge 231, Center Street, Bremen: The date of letting is August, 2027. Superintendent Peters presented the following written memorandum from Laurie Johnson of DLZ:

(1) Since the INDOT Historic Bridge Program Administrator, Kelyn Alexander, indicated that we should proceed with a project that presumes the bridge to be reclassified as Select, we met with Breanne Freese, INDOT – LaPorte District, LPA Program Director on Thursday, March 26, 2026, to review the change in scope and revised Schedule.

(2) As a result of that meeting, we assisted in preparing a letter addressed to INDOT to move the Right-of-Way matching funds to FY2028 and the Construction Funds to FY2029 or 2030. We await a response from INDOT on the request.

(3) Next steps will be to prepare a supplemental agreement based on the projected schedule noted below:

Activity	**Date Range**
Update HBAA	March 2026 – May 2026
Submit to INDOT for Review	May 2026
HBAA Approval	June 2026
Move forward with Section 106	June 2026
Consulting party meetings	
Finalize 106	March 2027
Update CE and receive approval for a Public Hearing	June 2027
Advertise for Hearing	July 2027
Conduct Hearing	July 2027
Public Comment Period	August 2027
Submit for Hearing Certification	August 2027
Receive Hearing Certification	September 2027

Bridge 88, 12th Road east of Olive Trail: The date of letting is January 14, 2029. Superintendent Peters stated that the quarterly report was completed on April 2, 2026.

Bridge 108, East 7th Road: The date of letting is February 12, 2030. Superintendent Peters stated that the quarterly report was completed on April 2, 2026.

Bridge Inspections 2022-2025 Phase II: DES No. 2101055. No updates provided.

Bridge Inspections 2026-2029: DES No. 2300183. No updates provided.

Bridge 232, Randolph Street: No updates provided.

Bridge 87, 11th Road: DES No. 1702839. No updates provided.

Mill Pond Dam Improvements: No updates provided.

Projects: Small Structure Improvements: No updates provided.

HSIP Countywide Striping Initiative: DES No. 2401543/Contract #T-46041. Superintendent Peters stated that a preconstruction meeting has been scheduled for April 13th at 11:00 a.m.

Road Work: The crews have been patching potholes, working on gravel roads, cutting tree brushes along the roadways, placing high-water signs, closing roads, and debris cleanup.

Equipment: Superintendent Peters stated he has received two estimates from Republic First National. The first estimate is for three pickup trucks, one new tandem truck, one new single axle truck, two used tandem trucks, and one loader, in the total amount of $1,215,000. There would be six payments; the first payment in 2027 would be for interest only in the amount of $55,331.10 and beginning in 2028 the annual payment would be $271,281.03. The second estimate is for three pickup trucks, two new tandem trucks, two new single axle trucks, two used tandem trucks, and one loader, in the total amount of $1,733,000. There would be six payments; the first payment in 2027 would be interest only, in the amount of $78,920.82 and beginning in 2028 the annual payment would be $386,938.29.

Highway Funding: Superintendent Peters stated that during the Highway Subcommittee meeting the members discussed the mandatory splitting of the MVH distribution payment equally between MVH and MVH Restricted. The MVH fund balance is declining and there is a limited amount of restricted work that can be completed at this time of year. Superintendent Peters reminded the Board members that pursuant to State requirements, restricted funds may only be used for construction, reconstruction, and preservation.

2026 Road Program: Superintendent Peters presented the first draft of the 2026 Road Program for the Board members to review.

Road Usage Agreement: Superintendent Peters discussed the need for a road usage agreement with NIPSCO for a line transfer at the Burr Oak Substation. The Board members discussed having Attorney Surrisi prepare an agreement and ratify at the next Commissioner meeting.

PUBLIC SAFETY GRANT REQUEST

Bourbon Fire Department: Bourbon Fire Department Chief Chad Stepp presented a request for the Marshall County Public Safety Grant Program Annual Support payment of $50,000. He explained that the funds would be used to reimburse the department for the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) cascade and fill station system. The estimate received is in the total sum of $56,041,45.

Argos Fire Territory: Argos Fire Territory Fire Chief Mark R. Dean presented a request for the Marshall County Public Safety Grant Program Annual Support payment of $50,000. He explained that the funds would be used to reimburse the department for the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) equipment. The estimate received is in the total sum of $59,821.20.

Following discussion that both departments have met the requirements of the grant,
Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to approve the reimbursement of $50,000 to both the Bourbon Fire Department and the Argos Fire Territory, as requested.
Motion carried 3-0.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources Administrator Jennifer Daake stated a request has been received for the use of 30 sick days to begin on April 10th. She stated that the applicant does meet all the required criteria.
Adam Faulstich moved, second by Jesse Bohannon, to approve the 30-day sick bank request.
Motion carried 3-0.

MARSHALL COUNTY JUDICIAL

Attorney Sean Surrisi stated that Council Attorney Marcel Lebbin has reviewed the latest agreements with CTi, a proposal for each court, and presented for the Board approval. The proposals were in the following amounts:

Court	Equipment & Implementation	2 Additional Years Complete Service Agreement	Total
Circuit	$105,867.00	$9,099.84	$114,966.84
Superior Court 1	$ 85,875.00	$7,328.61	$ 93,203.61
Superior Court 2	$ 83,958.00	$7,150.03	$ 91,108.03
Superior Court 3	$ 89,610.00	$7,709.85	$ 97,319.85
			$396,598.33

Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to approve the CTi Proposal for Courtroom Technology Modernization for each of the courts, with a two-year service agreement, and allow the judges to sign on behalf of the County. Motion carried 3-0.

CHESCO ENERGY, LLC

Chesco Energy LLC, Chief Executive Officer Reed Wills, and Project Manager Dave Hazel provided a PowerPoint Presentation, *Supporting the Transition to a Modern Electric Power Market*. Due to aging generation fleet and fast-growing power demand, many energy market leaders and institutions are raising concerns about grid reliability. Renewable energy projects have been the dominant new energy resource. Natural gas plants complement renewable energy production and are a clean and competitive solution that operates on demand using much less land than most technologies while providing the needed scale to meet current energy grid requirements. Chesco Energy has identified a site for the gas turbine power plant in Marshall County. It is 4.5 miles west of Bremen, three (3) miles east of LaPaz, and two (2) miles north of Lake of the Woods. The benefits to Marshall County include 200+ construction jobs, expect 10+ permanent jobs, reduces local taxes, potential to add new revenue, additional power supply, and community involvement.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Tamarack Solar Update: Attorney Surrisi advised that counsel in the Tamarack Solar BZA appeal, which is now pending in Allen County, have agreed to a modification of their briefing schedule. This will give the attorneys additional time to complete various briefs to better accommodate their schedules. The modifications will not affect the hearing before the court. The hearing is currently scheduled for July 9, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.

AUDITOR REPORT

March 16, 2026 Minutes: **Adam Faulstich moved, second by Jesse Bohannon, to approve the March 16, 2026 minutes, as presented. Motion carried 3-0.**

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Unsicker, 6246 Cedar Road, Bremen, provided input on the gravel road conditions and questioned how road improvement projects are determined.

Bill Woodward, 12094 Peach Road, Plymouth, questioned whether the Regional Sewer Board has received an insurance reimbursement and provided input on the Chesco Energy presentation.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Health Department / Cottage Watchman Prepayment Request: Health Department Interim Public Health Administrator Lisa Letsinger presented Cottage Watchman Security Systems invoices numbered 59834, 59835, and 60346 in the total amount of $23,680.50 and requested approval to prepay these claims. **Adam Faulstich moved, second by Jesse Bohannon, to allow the Auditor to process the claims payable to Cottage Watchman Security Systems, as a prepayment, as requested. Motion carried 3-0.**

Baker Tilly Letter of Engagement & Scope Appendix / Owner Occupied Housing: The Engagement Letter Agreement and Scope Appendix were presented for approval by President Klotz. He explained that Baker Tilly will perform services related to the Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation federal grant through the Indiana Office of Community & Rural Affairs (OCRA). The fee for this service is the responsibility of the County in the amount of $5,000. **Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to approve the Baker Tilly Engagement Letter Agreement and Scope Appendix, as presented and to allow the President to sign on behalf of the board. Motion carried 3-0.**

Surveyor / Vehicle Estimate: President Klotz stated that he requested proposals for a new pickup truck for the Surveyors Office but only received one from Oliver Ford. The estimate is for one 2026 Ford F150 4x4 Super Cab with a base price of $47,621. Optional pricing included tires ($1,500), skid plates ($145), and 360 strobes ($600). Following discussion of the Surveyor paying a portion of the costs from the Section Corner Perpetuation fund, **Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to approve the purchase of a new 2026 Ford F150 for the Surveyor's Office, in an amount not to exceed $49,000. Motion carried 3-0.**

Sheriff's Department / Via Path Amendment #2: Attorney Surrisi explained that the Via Path Technologies Amendment 2 to the Master Services Agreement is for the purpose of amending the fees that inmates pay for the communication system. **Adam Faulstich moved, second by Jesse Bohannon, to approve Amendment 2 to the Master Services Agreement, as presented, and to allow the Sheriff to sign on behalf of the County. Motion carried 3-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the board, **Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 a.m. Motion carried 3-0.**

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Stan Klotz, President

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Jesse Bohannon, Vice President

ATTEST: _____
Angela C. Birchmeier, Auditor

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Adam Faulstich, Member