MARSHALL COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 16, 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 9:30 a.m., Monday, February 16, 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. the Pledge of Allegiance recited, the President called the meeting to order and the matters at hand heard.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

The attendees did not have public input on agenda items.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Department Superintendent Jason Peters presented a request from Northern Indiana Public Service Company as follows:

1. Work Order #4000052050-PRP-Plymouth-PK9 D11: To replace seven (7) utility poles on Redwood Road, County Road 2800, and 10B Road, in West Township.

Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to approve the utility pole replacement request from Northern Indiana Public Service Company, as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

Superintendent Peters presented seven (7) right-of-way cuts and eight (8) aerial requests from CNS Networks on behalf of Brightspeed of Indiana, LLC, for the purpose of fiber optic installation and aerial fiber placement, as follows:

1. Permit 040964 Right-of-way Cut: On W. Lincoln Highway, between Tulip Road and Union Road, in West Township.
2. Permit 040961 Right-of-way Cut: At US Highway 30 and 7th Road, in West Township.
3. Permit 040969 Right-of-way Cut: On 7th Road, between Queen Road and Pear Road, in Polk Township.
4. Permit 040950 Right-of-way Cut: On 6th Road, between Quince Road and Queen Road, in Polk Township.
5. Permit 040943 Right-of-way Cut: On W. 4B Road, between S. Sycamore Road and Tamarack Road, in Polk Township.
6. Permit 040947 Right-of-way Cut: On 4B Road, between Quince Road and Pine Road, in Polk Township.
7. Permit 040962 Aerial: On 5th Road, Plymouth-LaPorte Trail, Sage Road, and Spruce Trail, between 5th Road and Plymouth-LaPorte Trail, in Polk Township.
8. Permit 040954 Aerial: On W. County Line Road, 6B Road, N. Underwood Road, and 5th Road, between Union Road and N. Underwood Road, in Polk Township.
9. Permit 040959 Aerial: On W. 5th Road, between 5B Road and N. Union Road, in Polk Township.
10. Permit 040955 Aerial: On Rose Road, Vine Street, and Main Street, between Main Street and Vine Street, in Polk Township.
11. Permit 040970 Aerial: On Rose Road and Plymouth-LaPorte Trail, between Rose Road and Plymouth-LaPorte Trail, in Polk Township.

12. Permit 040966 Aerial: On Redwood Road, Old US Highway 30, and W. Lincoln Highway, between Redwood Road and Old US Highway 30, in West Township.
13. Permit 040940 Aerial: On Rose Road, between 4th Road and 4B Road, in Polk Township.
14. Permit 040953 Aerial: On Plymouth-LaPorte Trail, between 7th Road and Queen Road, in Polk Township.
15. Permit 040956 Right-of-way Cut: On Redwood Road, between 6th Road and 4B Road, in Polk Township.

Adam Faulstich moved, second by Jesse Bohannon, to approve the right-of-way cut and aerial requests from CNS Networks, as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

Superintendent Peters provided an update on the following projects:

Bridge 231, Center Street, Bremen: The date of letting is August, 2027. No updates provided.

Bridge 88, 12th Road east of Olive Trail: The date of letting is January 14, 2029. No updates provided.

Bridge 108, East 7th Road: The date of letting is February 12, 2030. No updates provided.

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: The department is working with Marshall County REMC to remove a tree along 18th Road, repairing equipment, and seeking estimates for new and used pickup trucks.

Linden Road: Superintendent Peters presented an Agreement between Marshall County Board of Commissioners and USI Consultants, Inc., for Linden Road Reconstruction from approximately five hundred feet south of Dewey Street (17th Street) to State Road 10, and the reconstruction of State Road 10 from approximately 300 feet west of Linden Road to 1,200 feet east of Linden Road. USI will be responsible for a topographic survey and engineering assessment, in an amount not to exceed $177,000. **Adam Faulstich moved, second by Jesse Bohannon, to approve the Agreement between the Board of Commissioners and USI Consultants, Inc., as presented. Motion carried 3-0.**

NOFA Call for Projects: Bridge 2540, Michigan Road Rehabilitation: No updates provided.

HSIP Countywide Striping Initiative: DES No. 2401543/Contract #T-46041. Superintendent Peters stated that an LPA Award Recommendation Letter was received from the Indiana Department of Transportation stating that CE Hughes Milling, Inc. was the apparent low bid in the amount of $295,152.15. He requested ratification of his signature that we agree with the apparent unofficial low bid and wish to award the contract. **Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to ratify the Award Recommendation Letter, as presented. Motion carried 3-0.**

Road Work: The crews have been plowing and treating snow covered roads, patching potholes, working on gravel roads, and cutting tree brushes along the roadways. The department is working on the 2026 road program.

Total Patcher: Superintendent Peters stated that the Total Patcher was delivered on February 4th and requested permission to process the claim as a prepayment, in the amount of $97,500.
Adam Faulstich moved, second by Jesse Bohannon, to allow the Auditor to process the claim payable to Equipment Marketing Company as a prepayment in the amount of $97,500. Motion carried 3-0.

ADA/Title VI: Superintendent Peters explained that there were Title VI and American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Plan documents required to be submitted to the Indiana Department of Transportation last week to remain in compliance with federal and state requirements. He requested ratification of President Klotz's signature on those documents. **Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to ratify the Title VI and ADA compliance documents as presented. Motion carried 3-0.**

Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to approve the Marshall County , Indiana Title VI Nondiscrimination Implementation Plan & Policy, and the American with Disabilities Act Transition Plan: Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way and Buildings & Programs. Motion carried 3-0.

MACOG PASER Ratings: Vice President Bohannon explained that Marshall County roads are rated above average, when compared to other MACOG counties.

NFP INSURANCE

NFP Advisors Chad Miller and Brandon Collins provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding employee medical benefits program.

PLAN COMMISSION

Ordinance 2026-7: Regulating Siting of Battery Energy Storage Systems: Plan Commission Director Nicholas Witwer presented Ordinance 2026-7: Regulating Siting of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) for consideration. The proposed ordinance is amending Articles 3, 6, and 13 to create a regulation for battery energy storage systems. The board members discussed fire suppression, setbacks, and cash escrow accounts.

Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to open the public hearing on Ordinance 2026-7: Regulating Siting of Battery Energy Storage Systems. Motion carried 3-0.

No comments were received from the public.

Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to close the public hearing on Ordinance 2026-7: Regulating Siting of Battery Energy Storage Systems. Motion carried 3-0.

Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to adjust Ordinance 2026-7: Regulating Siting of Battery Energy Storage Systems, Section VI Setbacks (B) to increase the set back from 1,000 feet to 1,320 feet from the nearest edge of any adjacent properties.
Motion carried 3-0.

ONE MARSHALL COUNTY

ONE Marshall County representatives Gary Neidig and Jeff Houin presented a PowerPoint Presentation "Progress Update." They highlighted the initiatives, grant funding opportunities, hiring of a Community Coordinator, strategic plans, and 2026 budget. The three strategic plans are housing & infrastructure, quality of life & place, and business growth & workforce.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Matt Hassel presented the Comprehensive Highway Injury Reduction Program (CHIRP) Traffic Safety Grant Agreement Contract #95420 between Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, Marshall County Sheriff's Department, and the Marshall County Auditor's Office for ratification. He explained the federal grant award was in the amount of $80,500. The purpose of the grant is to allow officers to work additional hours focusing on traffic violations, occupant protection laws, and impaired driving enforcement. **Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to ratify the Grant Agreement with the Sheriff and Auditor signing on behalf of the County.**
Motion carried 3-0.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Health Department Interim Administrator Lisa Letsinger presented the Indiana Diaper Bank Partnership Agreement. **Adam Faulstich moved, second by Jesse Bohannon, to approve the Partnership Agreement between Indiana Diaper Bank and Marshall County Health Department and to allow Interim Administrator Letsinger to sign on behalf of the County. Motion carried 3-0.**

ATTORNEY REPORT

Draft Ordinances: Attorney Surrisi reported that he is working on two draft ordinances as requested by the Board.

AUDITOR REPORT

February 2, 2026 Minutes: **Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to approve the February 2, 2026 minutes, as presented. Motion carried 3-0.**

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

The attendees did not have public input.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Tower Agreement: Attorney Surrisi explained that he is working on an amendment to the Agreement with Four Way Computers and he will present it at a future meeting.

Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Project: President Klotz explained that Grant Coordinator Shannon McLeod has provided a project timeline for the $500,000 grant application due on July 12th. The first item is to establish a County Housing Committee, and she recommended the following representation: County Commissioner, County Auditor, County Building Inspector, Council on Aging, Habitat for Humanities, an agency aiding elderly or low-income families, and a food pantry representative. **Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to approve the appointment of the following members to the County Housing Committee: Stan Klotz, Angie Birchmeier, Adam Combs, Janis Holiday, Dean Byers, Center Township Trustee Amy Knapp, and Steve Berry. Motion carried 3-0.**

BZA Appointment: President Klotz stated that BZA Member Jeff Gustafson has resigned after many years of service. The BZA has requested the appointment of Caleb Coffel to fill the unexpired term. **Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to appoint Caleb Coffel to the Marshall County BZA Board, to fill the unexpired term of Jeff Gustafson. Motion carried 3-0.**

Cender Dalton: Consultant Steve Dalton stated that the Auditor and Council have functioned well; however, recent legislation is causing changes. He recommended developing a variable plan for "what if" scenarios.

President Klotz stated that there are local income tax options available and would like to encourage the Council to begin the process of adopting a replacement tax since the jail bond will be expiring this year. **Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to send a recommendation to the Council to begin looking at the local income tax for next year. Motion carried 3-0.**

Weights & Measures Seraphin Trailer: President Klotz explained that the trailer will be ready for pickup next week. He requested permission to travel to New Jersey and to allow the Auditor to process the claim payable to Pemberton Fabricators, Inc. as prepayment in the amount of $45,247. **Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to approve the travel to New Jersey and allow the prepayment in the amount of $45,247, as requested. Motion carried 3-0.**

Data Centers and Solar: President Klotz discussed having Attorney Surrisi prepare a resolution to end the moratorium on industrial scale solar and data centers, banning those projects. **Jesse Bohannon moved, second by Adam Faulstich, to authorize Attorney Surrisi to prepare a resolution banning industrial scale solar and data centers. 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 11:16 a.m. Motion carried 3-0.**

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Stan Klotz, President

_____
Jesse Bohannon, Vice President

ATTEST: _____ _____
Angela C. Birchmeier, Auditor Adam Faulstich, Member