

Commissioners & County Council Joint Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

4:00 p.m.

Pineview Government Center
Commissioner Meeting Room, Suite 104
2524 Corydon Pike

Al Knable called the meeting to order and led the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Present: Commissioners – Full quorum

Council – Full Quorum

Also Present: Attorney, Rick Fox; Attorney, Steve Langdon; Recorder, Lois Endris; Treasurer, Steve Burks; Auditor, Diana Topping and Sheriff, Steve Bush

Approval of 3-15-24 Joint Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve 3-15-24 Meeting Minutes. Moved by Denise Konkle. Seconded by Dale Bagshaw. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of 4-9-24 Joint Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve 4-9-24 Meeting Minutes. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Jason Sharp. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

1.) WIS - Benefit Study

Addie Rooker from Waggoner, Irwin and Scheel gave a summary, via Teams, of the benefit survey and analysis with 14 counties in Indiana. The spreadsheets summarized paid time off, holidays, longevity, insurances Perf and deferred comp.

Brad Striegel stated, by the results of the survey, he is not in favor of the tweaking the employee benefits at this time.

Denise Konkle said the Council needs to discuss fully budgeting perf for 2024.

2.) Community Foundation

Neil Heppler gave a presentation on the investment goals, CSFI pooled endowment fund asset allocation and investment returns verses passive indices. He reviewed Floyd County's goals and expectations over the next 20 years.

Brad Striegel pointed out that \$70 million went in 2016. It is now worth \$82 million and we've had appropriations over \$25 million.

Denise Konkle said the yield on the investment is \$3.5-\$4 million a year has covered shortfalls in budget for the last 7 years. It has kept them from raising taxes for several years.

3.) Baker Tilly

Paige Sansone summarized the preliminary projections for the remainder of 2024 through 2025.

4.) Southern Indiana Transit

The Commissioners will not commit to signing any contract until their counsel has time to review the contract. They plan on reviewing the contract and possibly signing the following week.

5.) EMS

Al Knable said he reached out to the Legacy Foundation on a one time ask of \$500,000.00, not dipping into principal. The responses he had received were favorable to move forward with the discussion. Jason Sharp said it seems the consensus is they will have to have an EMS LIT. County General will not be able to sustain \$1.5 million every year.

Tony Toran said he is concerned about the EMS LIT. It will affect the residents of the City of New Albany who do not benefit from the County EMS.

Brad Striegel discussed Option 5. Option 5 builds on Option 4, which is 2 ambulances that are 24/7 for the Township of New Albany, Georgetown and Franklin. It also include one ambulance 24/7 and ½ an ambulance 5 days a week, 10 hours a day for Lafayette and Greenville Townships for \$400,000.00 annually. The Commissioners would need to amend the Ordinance for Highlander Fire to include EMS. He asked for a commitment from the Commissioners to make sure there's not a legal problem for EMS to run before the council appropriates money for a model for EMS.

Matt Owen, New Chapel EMS, said they are 75 days in to new leadership. They have a straight line of communication with the State Board of Accounts. He believes SBOA will be prepared to make a public report later in the week in regard to their organization. They have cancelled the American Express credit card and are changing their bank accounts. They want to make sure they are doing everything they can for Floyd County.

Connie Moon has issues with Option 5. Franklin Township has no fire district. The county gave Highlander \$500,000.00 to purchase ambulances. They said they were going to afford the same opportunity to Georgetown and New Albany Townships to bring them up to fire with Highlander. That would be an extra \$1 million more.

Al Knable said the Commissioners need time to get organized.

The next meeting Joint Meeting is scheduled Tuesday, May 30 4:45.

Public

Diana Mayfield, Brent Drive, Floyds Knobs, read a letter from her son, Jim Mayfield. The letter stated to stop the political games and follow the current recommendations of the Commissioners. Allow the Commissioners and EMS Committee the opportunity to set up an EMS service that will have functionality and sustainability for all residents of Floyd County.

Sandra Hebert, 501 Blunk Knob Road, has reached out to the Road Department to clear debris out of the ditches. She has been told to vacate her property because of standing water in her basement. Al Knable said he will talk to Ronnie Tuell and see if there is any help that can be afforded.

Sheriff, Steve Bush, said when he was Commissioner, the benefit package was increased to make up for lack of raises for years. They asked them not to touch the principle in the Legacy Foundation

Closing Comments

Jason Sharp said on April 1 said Highlander responded to a run Azalea Hills with one person because the ambulance was out on another run.

Motion to adjourn. Moved by Jason Sharp. Seconded by Connie Moon. Motion passed unanimously.

Signed on 25th day of June, 2024

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Al Knable
Al Knable, President

John Schellenberger
John Schellenberger, Vice President

Jason Sharp
Jason Sharp, Commissioner

FLOYD COUNTY COUNCIL

Danny Short virtual
Danny Short, President

Connie Moon virtual
Connie Moon, Vice President

Dale Bagshaw
Dale Bagshaw, member

Jim Freiberger
Jim Freiberger, member

Denise Konkle
Denise Konkle, member

Brad Striegel
Brad Striegel, member

Tony Toran
Tony Toran, member

Diana M Topping
Attest, Diana Topping - Auditor