

HARRISON COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2025

Minutes of the Harrison County Commissioners' meeting held on Monday, April 7, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. local time, in the Commissioners' Room of the Harrison County Government Center located in Corydon, Indiana.

Present: Nelson Stepro, Commissioner
Annis Kellum, Commissioner
Brad Wiseman, Commissioner

Chris Byrd, County Attorney
Chad Shireman, County Auditor

County commissioner Nelson Stepro called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with all three commissioners and county attorney Chris Byrd present. The pledge to the American Flag was recited.

Commissioner Stepro said the first order of business would be claims for the commissioners' consideration. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to approve all regular claims as presented. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to approve the payroll and prepaid vouchers as presented. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Stepro said the next order of business was sealed bids for Harrison County Paving Project 2025-1-CCMG. County engineer Kevin Russel opened bids from three applicants. The first was from C&R Construction in the amount of \$2,329,237.50. The second was from E&B Paving in the amount of \$2,120,367.25. The final bid was from MAC Construction in the amount of \$2,376,921.00. The commissioners agreed to take the bids under advisement while the county engineer verified the numbers and presented a recommendation later in the meeting.

Health Department Administrator Jennifer Caffrey came before the commissioners with an annual Mosquito Contract for their consideration. She explained that the contract would be for the timeframe of May 1, 2025, through August 31, 2025 and also noted that health department employee, Danny Schroeder had filed a conflict of interest due to his son, Josh Schroeder, being the one who would perform the service. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to approve the contract and for Commissioner President Nelson Stepro to sign. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

County resident David Steen came before the commissioners on behalf of Cedar Farm to discuss the potential of vacating a public way. Mr. Steen stated there was a portion of Tobacco Landing Road past Cedar Farm where they were having an issue with people going to leave trash, set fires and create other issues. He proposed closing the road at the property line of Cedar Farm.

Commissioner Stepro explained that there was a process someone has to go through in order to vacate a public way and mentioned that county attorney Chris Byrd could provide further guidance regarding that process. Commissioner Stepro also noted that Mr. Steen would need to work with the county engineer to ensure there was a turnaround available at the proposed location of the county road ending.

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County Engineer Kevin Russel said they had talked about the issue a little bit before but hadn't fully reached a resolution. County attorney Chris Byrd spoke of the process for petitioning to have the commissioners vacate a public road. He said an attorney is not required, but he highly recommended the use of one. Mr. Byrd added that all contiguous property owners had to be notified via certified mail, a publication for a public hearing in the newspaper, and other specific requirements that have to be strictly adhered to before the commissioners can take action. Mr. Steen agreed to continue working with the county engineer on a solution for the turnaround and would come back once the necessary steps mentioned by the county attorney had been taken.

Plan Commission director Chris Kincade came before the commissioners with an ordinance proposal that would put a temporary strategic moratorium on high density residential development. Mr. Kincade stated the Plan Commission voted to recommend the ordinance at their April 3, 2025 meeting. Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-04. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

EMA director Mike Kurz came before the commissioners to approve an emergency declaration for Harrison County. Mr. Kurz cited the large amount of rainfall over the last several days, leading to impacts on businesses and their hours of operation, along with accidents, roadway hazards, and other related issues. He noted that the emergency declaration would allow for FEMA to get involved in the process of assisting those in the county who were negatively impacted. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to approve the emergency declaration as presented for the time period of April 2, 2025 through April 6, 2025. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Stepro asked if there were any other county business, referencing the large amount of people in attendance. This started the discussion of the recently adopted ordinance concerning Harrison County Animal Control. A number of those in attendance raised concerns over the ordinance, suggesting better communication and transparency. Those who operated animal rescues also voiced their wishes to have inspections done by veterinarians, as opposed to the animal control director, along with limits on permit requirements.

Clear definitions within the ordinance were requested and the possibility of an appeal process were also suggested. Commissioner Stepro noted that it was an oversight to not seek out these opinions prior to adopting the ordinance, but reassured those in attendance that any recommendations they had would be taken into consideration. He emphasized that it was not the intentions of the county to create unnecessary burdens for those in the community who are operating in good faith. Instead, the ordinance was meant to give the county the ability to take action to prevent and further mitigate the problems that arise from less responsible owners and operators.

County engineer Kevin Russel came before the commissioners with multiple items. His first order of business was the recommendation of awarding paving project 2025-1-CCMG to the low bidder, E&B Paving, in the amount of \$2,120,367.25. Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to award the bid to E&B paving as recommended. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

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Mr. Russel said the next item was regarding the Old Goshen Road construction project, requesting a motion to sign a supplemental agreement with Lochmueller Group for right-of-way services. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to approve and sign the supplemental agreement. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

The next order of business for the highway department was the consideration of a supplemental agreement with RQAW/DCCM related to appraisals for right-of-way acquisitions on small structure replacement on Smith Creek Road. Two different types of appraisals were needed at a cost of \$10,925.00. Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to approve and sign the supplemental agreement. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Kevin Russel continued to the next item on his agenda concerning compact track loader trade-ins. Mr. Russel discussed a quote from Bobcat for trading out two CAT 299D2 compact track loaders for two new Bobcat T86 T4 compact track loaders, utilizing Bobcat's buyback program. An additional appropriation in the amount of \$100,399.14 from the motor vehicle highway fund would be needed to complete the transaction. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to forward the additional appropriation request for the county council's consideration. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

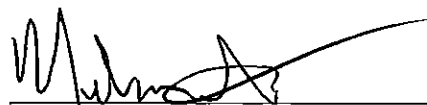
The last item for the highway department was the county engineer's equipment inventory report. Mr. Russel outlined the various sections of the report, including dump trucks, utility trucks, passenger vehicles, tractors, row graders, construction & maintenance equipment, and trailers.

The commissioners took a brief recess at 8:28 PM and reconvened at 8:31 PM.

County Extension director Ariel Camm-Wilson came before the commissioners with a request for Purdue Extension office employees to be able to accrue flex time above what is outlined in the county personnel policy. Ms. Camm-Wilson stated the need was due to the additional hours worked during the county fair and noted that employees would email her so she could approve requests and keep track of hours. Given the stated oversight of the director to prevent any potential abuse, commissioner Wiseman made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

The final item for the commissioners' consideration was the approval of The Woods of Heritage Hills Section Two plat that had been waiting on the submission of a letter of credit from the developer. Now that the surety had been received, commissioner Kellum made a motion to approve and sign the plat. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.



Nelson Stepro, Commissioner

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Annissa Kellum, Commissioner


Brad Wiseman, Commissioner

ATTEST: 
Chad Shireman, County Auditor