



THE MARTIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
January 20, 2026
MINUTES

The Martin County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular session on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, in the Commissioners' Room at the Courthouse located at 129 Main Street, Shoals, Indiana. Commissioners present were Paul R. George, Retha Warner, and Aaron Summers. Also present were Attorney David Lett and Auditor Michelle Norris.

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 p.m.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES & CLAIMS

The minutes from the regular meeting of January 6, 2026, were approved with a motion made by Commissioner Warner, seconded by Commissioner Summers. All in favor, motion passed. A motion was made by Commissioner Warner to approve the claims and allowances, seconded by Commissioner Summers. All in favor, motion passed.

RE: VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER UPDATES

Kevin Hinton, Southwest District Director, addressed the board regarding new state requirements for County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO) as outlined in Indiana Code 10-17-1-9. He confirmed that the Martin County CVSO, Ryan Persinger, is in compliance with the minimum of 1,000 work hours annually and has his office hours and contact information properly posted. Mr. Hinton noted the need for a dedicated, private office space for the CVSO to ensure confidentiality, acknowledging that the current office is small but an improvement over past arrangements.

Mr. Hinton reviewed the technology requirements, stating VSO Persinger has most necessary equipment but will need a PIV-compatible smart card reader once he receives his PIV card. The PIV card will grant him access to the VA's system to view veteran files. The paperwork for VSO Persinger's accreditation through the American Legion has been sent to Washington, D.C., and once approved, the process for obtaining the PIV card will begin. The county will need to purchase the card reader, which will be a minimal cost. Mr. Hinton also detailed mandatory annual training requirements for the CVSO, including district meetings and a four-day summer training session, which are necessary to maintain accreditation. He confirmed that VSO Persinger has completed all current required training and is in good standing. Mr. Hinton will provide a biannual report to the Commissioners as required by the IDVA.

RE: NOTICE TO PROCEED FOR CALCAR

Highway Superintendent Scott Seals and Administrative Assistant Theresa Ray presented a notice to proceed for Calcar related to the Community Crossings Matching Grant (CCMG). The notice establishes a start date of February 10, 2026, or later, for the project. A motion was made by Commissioner Warner, seconded by Commissioner Summers, to approve and sign the notice to proceed. All in favor, motion passed.

RE: PURPLE WAVE ONLINE AUCTION

Administrative Assistant Ray presented a contract with Purple Wave for an online auction service to sell surplus highway department equipment. There will be no cost to the county for the auction, all fees are paid by the buyer. Attorney David Lett stated he had no legal objections to the contract. Highway Superintendent Seals confirmed that the auction would include items like a dump truck and some pickups but

no office county furniture. A motion was made by Commissioner Summers, seconded by Commissioner Warner, to approve the use of the Purple Wave auction service for the highway department. All in favor, motion passed.

RE: HIGHWAY UPDATES

Superintendent Seals stated the department is still hiring. There is a Gradall in Evansville now being repaired and there is a dump truck down.

RE: REASSESSMENT CONTRACT

Attorney Lett reported that he had reviewed the contract and bid submitted by EF Properties LLC for the 2027 through 2030 reassessment and annual adjustments. He stated that it is a prescribed state contract, and he found no problems with it. The total sum of the contract is \$299,600, payable in four installments. A motion was made by Commissioner Summers, seconded by Commissioner Warner, to approve the contract from EF Properties LLC for the 2027-2030 cyclical reassessment and annual adjustments. All in favor, motion passed.

RE: BRIDGE #44

President George asked if Attorney Lett had an update regarding bridge #44, to which Attorney Lett stated nothing remarkable. President George stated he contacted the county's insurance broker today to see if the county insurance will pursue payment from the responsible party's insurance; Strawn Agency is going to check with the insurance company. President George asked Attorney Lett to keep on the issue.

RE: SIDC CLAIM FOR SHOALS PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANT

Auditor Michelle Norris presented a request from Michelle Carrico at the Southern Indiana Development Commission (SIDC) to submit claim number 11 for the Shoals Public Library grant. The claim amount is \$80,353.50. A motion was made by Commissioner Warner, seconded by Commissioner Summers, to approve SIDC to submit claim number 11 through the grant management system on behalf of the library. All in favor, motion passed. A second motion was made by Commissioner Warner, seconded by Commissioner Summers, to approve the payment of the funds once they are received by the county. All in favor, motion passed.

RE: EMPLOYEE COMPENSATORY PROGRAM POLICY

Auditor Norris stated her office has been working to get the employee HSA accounts set up; she thanked her staff, especially Teresa Wininger, for their hard work. Auditor Norris requested clarification on the policy for the employee compensatory program. She asked if the eligibility for this program should align with other benefits, which begin 60 days after an employee's start date and continue until the end of the month in which an employee separates from the county. The Commissioners agreed to this policy. As this was not explicitly stated in the employee handbook, a motion was made by Commissioner Warner, seconded by Commissioner Summers, to add this 60-day waiting period and end-of-month termination policy for the compensatory program to the employee handbook. All in favor, motion passed. Auditor Norris will inform HR of the update needed to the employee handbook.

RE: 911 TOWER MAINTENANCE

President George reported receiving a call from Mark Robbins of East Fork Water regarding the county's 911 tower located near Rutherford. The tower is in significant need of painting. President George stated the county would begin seeking individuals or companies qualified to paint the tower, which is just over 100 feet tall, and asked for any leads to be sent to the Auditor's office.

RE: PROSECUTOR OFFICE LANDSCAPING

Auditor Norris relayed a request from the Prosecutor to remove large shrubs and a tree from the landscaping on the back side of the Prosecutor's office, citing security concerns previously mentioned by the Sheriff. The Commissioners confirmed they had previously approved this request via email. A motion was made by Commissioner Summers, seconded by Commissioner Warner, to reaffirm the approval for the removal of the shrubs. All in favor, motion passed. Auditor Norris stated the Prosecutor also requested the removal of a wooden sign at the former prosecutor's office.

RE: SHOALS PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Mary Potts provided an update on the library construction project. The windows are expected to arrive soon, which will allow the remaining brickwork to be completed. The elevator has been installed and is operational. A "check-off" date is scheduled for late February, after which only a few items should remain. She noted that while there is significant dirt work to be done on the exterior, funds are not currently available for that phase, but the contractor is expected to leave the site in an orderly condition. The entrance to the future parking lot will be off Low Street.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the Martin County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm with a motion made by Commissioner Warner, seconded by Commissioner Summers. All in favor, motion passed.



Paul R. George

Retha Warner



Aaron C. Summers

ATTEST: 

Michelle Norris, Martin County Auditor

