

THE MARTIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL SESSION
February 23, 2026
MINUTES

The Martin County Board of Commissioners convened in a special session on Monday, February 23, 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 12:00 p.m.

RE: COUNTY OFFICE SPACE – HR AND VSO OFFICE REASSIGNMENT

President George opened discussion on county office space reorganization. Attorney David Lett reported that he had escorted interested parties to view the potential remodel of the old recycling building as part of longer-term space planning. In the interim, the Board discussed establishing regular in-building office hours for Human Resources and reassigning offices for privacy and accessibility. The proposal was to relocate the Veterans Service Officer (VSO) to the current HR office and move HR to the current VSO office near the main entrance. Human Resources Director Amy Rincker, attending via Zoom, confirmed there are no confidential records remaining in her office and office contents could be moved or stored. A motion to transition the VSO to the current HR office and HR to the VSO office near the entrance, and to establish set HR office hours in the Courthouse, was made by Commissioner Summers and seconded by Commissioner Warner. All in favor, motion passed.

RE: SHERIFF'S OFFICE – BODY-WORN CAMERA GRANT APPLICATION AUTHORIZATION

Chief Deputy Keith Keller presented a grant opportunity from the Indiana Sheriff's Association for the Small, Rural, and Tribal Body-Worn Camera Program. He explained eligibility requirements include agencies with fifty or fewer officers and rural designation, both of which Martin County meets. The grant is a one-to-one match, with the County funding fifty percent of body camera costs and the program funding the remaining fifty percent upon approval. Applications are due by March 12, 2026, at midnight. Chief Keller noted Martin County is one of only three agencies in surrounding counties without body cameras and described the operational and evidentiary benefits of acquiring them. He sought Commissioners' support to begin preparing the application, with intent to present it to the County Council as well. A motion authorizing the Sheriff's Office to proceed with preparation and submission of the body-worn camera grant application was made by Commissioner Summers and seconded by Commissioner Warner. All in favor, motion passed.

RE: LOT SURVEY REQUEST – SURVEYOR AUTHORIZATION

President George reported that, at a recent Redevelopment meeting, the Mayor of Loogootee requested that County Surveyor staff survey two specific lots in the area formerly known as Red Wing Trailer Court to clarify ownership. A motion to authorize the Surveyor's Office to perform surveys on the specific lots designated by the mayor was made by Commissioner Warner and seconded by Commissioner Summers. All in favor, motion passed. County Attorney David Lett clarified for the record that Red Wing is no longer a legally defined trailer court, having been subdivided into approximately twenty-five to thirty-plus individual lots, and the request pertains to clarifying ownership of a couple of those lots.

RE: SHOALS PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANT CLAIM

Auditor Michelle Norris reported that Michelle Carrico with SIDC, advised that the next draw would be the final grant draw and requested permission to submit claim number twelve through the Indiana Grants Management System and to pay upon receipt. The amount of the claim is \$41,472.07. A motion authorizing the Southern Indiana Development Commission to submit claim number twelve in the amount of \$41,472.07 through the Indiana Grants Management System and authorizing payment upon receipt was made by Commissioner Warner and seconded by Commissioner Summers. All in favor, motion passed.

RE: MID-STATES CORRIDOR – GENERAL UPDATE DISCUSSION

President George inquired whether any information had been received regarding the Mid-States Corridor, noting there is a Jasper City Council meeting regarding the corridor scheduled tonight. President George commended the advocacy efforts of citizens and property rights groups, specifically acknowledging Jason McCoy and the Property Rights Alliance, while clarifying he was speaking personally. President George stated he would continue monitoring developments and to keep the public updated as information becomes available.

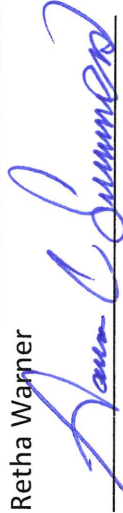
RE: ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the Martin County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:13 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

