



THE MARTIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
April 28, 2026
MINUTES

The Martin County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular session on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, in the Commissioners' Room at the Courthouse located at 129 Main Street, Shoals, Indiana. Commissioners present were Retha Warner and Aaron Summers. Paul R. George attended via Zoom. Also present was Attorney David Lett and Auditor Michelle Norris.

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 5:30 p.m.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES & CLAIMS

The minutes from the regular meeting of April 14, 2026, were approved with a motion made by Commissioner George, seconded by Commissioner Summers. All in favor, motion passed. Commissioner Summers expressed concerns regarding the County paying for a special prosecutor and special judge; Auditor Michelle Norris stated she contacted the Court and special prosecutors and judges are not paid by the County as they are employed by the State and it is included as part of their employment. Prosecutor Aureola Vincz confirmed that was correct a majority of the time, but there could be a unique circumstance. Auditor Norris confirmed there were no special prosecutor or judge claims to be approved by the Commissioners at this meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Summers to approve the claims and allowances, seconded by Commissioner George. All in favor, motion passed.

RE: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Highway Superintendent Scott Seals provided updates for the department. He requested the Commissioners consider a contract with Fleck Engineering for the 2027 Community Crossings Matching Grant application process in the amount of \$22,000. Mr. Seals noted that while the State has moved the application deadline from July to September, getting the contract signed now allows the department to be ahead of schedule. Attorney David Lett stated he had no legal objections to the contract. A motion was made by Commissioner Summers to approve the contract with Fleck Engineering for \$22,000, seconded by Commissioner George. All in favor, motion passed.

Superintendent Seals also reported that mowing is expected to begin next week, with two part-time employees ready to start. Paving for the 2026 CCMG has already commenced, with the goal of being finished by the end of June, which would be the earliest completion in recent years. Commissioner George mentioned an email from a resident on Turkey Hill Lane regarding road damage from the recent storms, and Superintendent Seals confirmed he would add it to their list of repairs. The Commissioners acknowledged the significant rainfall, estimated between five and seven inches across the county, and thanked the Highway Department for their work, particularly in response to the storm damage.

RE: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY UPDATE

EMA Director Andy Ringwald reported that the recent storm system affected the entire state, causing numerous downed trees, power lines, and road washouts. He noted that the damage was not as severe as initially forecasted and that no disaster declarations are anticipated. Director Ringwald mentioned that his truck has been repaired, fitting just under budget, though he will need to carefully manage the truck maintenance fund for the remainder of the year and may need to request an additional appropriation from the Council in November. He also informed the board that the local ham radio club's antenna on the Loogootee tower is temporarily down for a repaint job, but the Shoals tower is still operational.

RE: VERIZON CONTRACT

Auditor Norris presented a new 24-month contract proposal with Verizon. She stated that after exploring other carriers, it was determined not to be feasible to switch providers. The new contract offers a lower price, saving approximately ten dollars per line. The contract covers three lines for the Extension, HR, and Coroner offices. Commissioner George stated he was comfortable moving forward with Verizon. A motion was made by Commissioner George to approve the two-year contract with Verizon, seconded by Commissioner Summers. All in favor, motion passed.

RE: AUDITOR'S OFFICE INTERN

Auditor Norris requested approval to hire a high school intern for her office to assist with tasks such as scanning and shredding. The position would be paid ten dollars per hour for up to sixteen hours per week, funded through the Auditor's Ineligible Deduction Fund, not County General. This request arose after a high school student interested in business reached out for a summer position to gain experience. Auditor Norris noted she would consult with HR regarding any necessary confidentiality waivers for an underage employee but assured the board that the intern would not handle sensitive information like payroll. The request is also pending approval from the County Council at their next meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Summers to approve hiring the intern, pending Council approval, seconded by Commissioner George. All in favor, motion passed.

RE: MONTY WOLF PLAQUE

A question was raised by Mary Smith regarding the status of a plaque to honor Monty Wolf. Commissioner George confirmed that Mr. Wolf and Andy Ringwald are collaborating to decide on the final design for the plaque, which will be placed on the EMA building. They will present their decision to the Commissioners once it is finalized.

RE: LIBRARY UPDATES

Mary Smith provided a brief update on the library, noting the parking lot project is underway. The parking lot project is funded by a grant from the Martin County Community Foundation, which the library had permission to hold for this purpose. The parking lot is not yet complete but is progressing well.

RE: AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT EMT TRAINING

Commissioner George brought forward a request from Ambulance Director Jeramey Osborn to send an employee to a 17-day Basic EMT class in Bloomfield. The employee has been with the department for two years as a driver and administrative assistant. The total cost for the training, provided by Pelham, is \$3,800. Since the employee is already on staff, this would save the county the future cost of orientation for a new hire. The class is scheduled to begin in nine days. A motion was made by Commissioner Summers to approve the \$3,800 expenditure for the EMT training, seconded by Commissioner George. All in favor, motion passed.

RE: PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE TRAINING INITIATIVE

Prosecutor Aureola Vincz informed the Commissioners that her office will be funding training through the Southern Indiana Children's Advocacy Center (SWIAC) for the Loogootee Police Department. She is extending the offer to the Shoals Town Marshal and the Sheriff's Department to each send one person to the training as well. She anticipates covering the cost with her office's deferral funds but will approach the Council for an additional appropriation if necessary.

RE: INMATE COUNT

Commissioner George reported that, according to the Sheriff at a recent LAPC meeting, the current county inmate count is 29.

RE: PAYROLL AND ADDITIONAL CLAIMS

Auditor Norris presented the payroll docket for approval, totaling \$212,654.13. A motion to approve the payroll was made by Commissioner Summers and seconded by Commissioner George. All in favor, motion passed.

Auditor Norris also presented an added claim for Fines and Forfeitures due to the State Treasurer Comptroller's Office by May 1. The total amount due is \$1,978.00. A motion to approve the

payment of \$1,978.00 for Fines and Forfeitures was made by Commissioner Summers and seconded by Commissioner Warner. All in favor, motion passed.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

The Courthouse will be closed for the election on May 5, 2026. With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Summers and seconded by Commissioner George. All were in favor, and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:57 PM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 5:30 PM.



Paul R. George



Retha Warner



Aaron C. Summers

ATTEST: 

Michelle Norris, Martin County Auditor