

THE MARTIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
July 7, 2026
MINUTES

The Martin County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular session on Tuesday, July 7, 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 was Attorney David Lett and Auditor Michelle Norris.

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 5:50 p.m.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES & CLAIMS

The minutes from the regular meeting of June 23, 2026, were approved with a motion made by Commissioner Warner, seconded by President George. Commissioner Summers abstained. 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: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Highway Administrative Assistant Theresa Ray presented a revised contract for Fleck Engineering to serve as the on-call engineer for the Highway Department. Attorney David Lett confirmed that the contract had been updated to include a start date of July 1, 2026, and an end date of June 30, 2027, as had been requested at the last meeting. Commissioner Summers made a motion to approve the contract with Fleck Engineering for highway engineering services not to exceed \$20,000, seconded by Commissioner Warner. All in favor, motion passed.

Administrative Assistant Ray reported that two dump trucks were currently down awaiting parts for repair. Administrative Assistant Ray reported all mowers and graders are operational; the graders have been out ditching and fixing washouts. The Commissioners expressed their appreciation for the Highway Department's hard work as they have been busy. President George and Auditor Michelle Norris expressed appreciation to the Highway Department for their assistance with moving desks and pallets of books from the former recycling center building. They also expressed appreciation to the Sheriff's Department for their assistance and providing inmates to move the pallets of old books into the basement of the Prosecutor's office. The job could not have been completed without the help of those departments.

Robert Woods asked for the list of roads scheduled to be chipped and sealed. Roads mentioned included Bear Hill, Gibson, Wininger, and Hart, with Tedrow Lane already completed. President George stated the complete roads will be chip and sealed on Gibson and Wininger with only the hills being done on Bear Hill. President George confirmed that wheel tax money is being used for these chip and seal projects. President George will verify before the next meeting if there are any additional roads scheduled.

President George stated the Highway Department is mowing on Raglesville Road now and once mowing is complete the department will be ditching the road. Mary Smith inquired if the Mowermax could be scheduled for use on her road again due to its effectiveness in cutting back brush. Commissioner George indicated it would likely be scheduled for that area in the Fall.

RE: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY UPDATES

EMA Director Andy Ringwald reported that there has been no communication from the State regarding assistance for the recent flooding, and it is unlikely a declaration for individual assistance will be made. He noted that if any aid is offered, it will likely be in the form of low-cost loans rather than grants. Assistant Director Monty Wolf mentioned that the EMA assisted the Shoals Fire Department with a fire at McCormick's Hill; Director Ringwald commended the Shoals Fire Department on their response. Commissioner Warner expressed appreciation to EMA for directing traffic during the parade

and after the fireworks at Boggs. The Martin County 4-H Fair runs from Thursday, July 9 through Tuesday, July 14, and will include a public safety night.

RE: WHITE RIVER BRIDGE REPAIRS AND HIGHWAY 50

President George provided an update regarding the White River Bridge. After contacting a representative from the governor's office, he was informed by a contact from Vincennes IDOT that while a full repair is not scheduled until 2031 or 2032, they will be sending a crew to mill the rough surface. President George was told that the work was expected to begin at the end of June or the first of July, so work should start soon. The issue was attributed to a problem with the adhesive not sticking correctly to the concrete due to salt and chlorination.

Director Ringwald asked whether the Commissioners had an update regarding the collapsed lane on Highway 50. It was reported that a temporary traffic signal is in place, with a single-lane traffic zone extending approximately one-half mile due to the roadway having dropped about one foot. Mary Smith expressed concern about school buses traveling through the work zone. She noted that the temporary traffic signal is located at the bottom of the hill after the State Forest, creating a potential safety hazard for eastbound motorists who may come over the crest of the hill and encounter stopped traffic with limited time or distance to stop safely.

RE: 2027 SALARY RECOMMENDATIONS

Auditor Norris presented County Form 144, the Statement of Salaries and Wages, which compiles the salary requests from all department heads for the upcoming year. The Commissioners are required to make a recommendation to the County Council regarding a potential increase. Following a recommendation from the County's financial advisor, Financial Solutions Group (FSG), to account for budget uncertainties, a motion was made by Commissioner Summers to recommend a three percent wage increase for 2027. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Warner. All in favor, motion passed.

RE: ANNUAL COVERED BRIDGE CERTIFICATION

Auditor Norris presented the annual Covered Bridge Certification form from the State Comptroller's Office. Although Martin County has no covered bridges, the County is required to certify that it has zero covered bridges each year. The form must be returned by July 31, 2026. A motion to approve the certification was made by Commissioner Summers and seconded by Commissioner Warner. All in favor, motion passed.

RE: FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS GROUP (FSG) CONTRACT

Auditor Norris presented a proposal from Financial Solutions Group (FSG) to assist the County in discussions with cities, towns, and other entities affected by new Local Income Tax (LIT) rate adjustments. The County Council voted to have FSG participate in these Municipal Unit Strategic Task Force (MUST) meetings. The Commissioners reviewed the contract, which terminates on December 31, 2026, and includes hourly rates of \$300-\$400 for a CPA/MA Principal, \$150-\$175 for a Financial Analyst, and \$100-\$150 for Administration/Operation. A motion to approve the FSG contract was made by Commissioner Summers and seconded by Commissioner Warner. All in favor, motion passed.

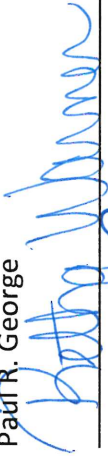
RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR MARTIN COUNTY ALLIANCE

Auditor Norris presented a request from Jessica Potts of the Martin County Alliance for a letter of support from the Commissioners. The support is for an economic growth affordable housing development project that aims to create a revolving housing model. The model involves constructing an attainable home, selling it, and reinvesting the proceeds into the next housing project to create a sustainable impact on housing availability. A motion to approve and sign the letter of support for the Martin County Alliance's project was made by Commissioner Warner and seconded by Commissioner Summers. All in favor, motion passed.

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Warner and seconded by Commissioner Summers. All were in favor, and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:16 PM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 5:30 PM.



Paul R. George



Retha Warner



Aaron C. Summers

ATTEST: 

Michelle Norris, Martin County Auditor