

THE MARTIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
August 4, 2026
MINUTES

The Martin County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular session on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, in the Commissioners' Room at the Courthouse located at 129 Main Street, Shoals, Indiana. Commissioners present were Paul R. George and Retha Warner. Commissioner Aaron Summers 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 July 21, 2026, were approved with a motion made by Commissioner Warner, seconded by Commissioner Summers. All in favor, motion passed. The minutes from the special session of July 28, 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 Summers to approve the claims and allowances, seconded by Commissioner Warner. All in favor, motion passed.

RE: ELECTION POLLING SITE RELOCATION

Election Clerk Penny Waggoner addressed the Board regarding the need to relocate a polling site. Ms. Waggoner explained that St. John's Center in Loogootee, which serves Perry precincts one, two, three, four, and six, is undergoing remodeling and roof repairs, making it unavailable for the November election. Following a site visit and evaluation with Clerk Julie Fithian, the Redemption Church in Loogootee was identified as a suitable permanent replacement. Ms. Waggoner highlighted the benefits of the new location, including ample parking, better restroom facilities, and a more open space that simplifies the process of keeping electioneers fifty feet from voters and provides sufficient room for voting booths and election workers. She confirmed that the Redemption Church leadership is willing to host, and the election board has already passed a resolution in favor of the move. A motion was made by Commissioner Warner to change the polling site for Perry precincts one, two, three, four, and six to the Redemption Church. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Summers. All in favor, motion passed.

RE: LOST RIVER TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT RADIO REQUEST

Lost River Township Volunteer Fire Department Captain Tim Parke and Chief John Kettinger came before the Commissioners to request funding to purchase new 800 MHz radios. He explained the department's severe funding constraints, operating on only \$13,000 annually from the township trustee and relying heavily on fundraising. While the cumulative fire fund exists for equipment breakdowns, it has been used recently to purchase turnout gear, which has a cost of around \$4,000 per set. Mr. Parke emphasized the critical need for new 800 MHz radios for effective communication, especially in dead zones where they are the only reliable option for coordinating with EMS and law enforcement. The current radios are approximately 15 years old, and several are no longer functional.

Mr. Parke stated he has received a quote from Harmonic Electronics for Kenwood Viking radios at a cost of \$2,554.38 each, stating a need for at least seven radios, totaling \$17,880.66. EMA Director Andy Ringwald noted the importance of these radios for the first responder activities the fire department undertakes in the Lost River area. After discussion about the county's budget limitations and the possibility of pursuing grants, the Commissioners decided to provide partial funding immediately. Commissioner Summers made a motion to approve the purchase of four radios if funding could be found, with a commitment to purchase at least three. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Warner. All in favor, motion passed.

RE: FRIENDS CREEK BRIDGE PROJECT

Attorney David Lett reported that he had reviewed the request for quotes prepared by Highway Superintendent Scott Seals for the replacement of the Friends Creek Bridge, which was destroyed in

recent flooding. Attorney Lett stated that he had no legal issues with the documents. He stated it would be up to the Commissioners to authorize Superintendent Seals to proceed with issuing the request for quotes to move the project forward. A motion was made by Commissioner Warner to proceed with getting quotes for the Friends Creek Bridge project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Summers. All in favor, motion passed.

RE: BURN ORDINANCE

Attorney Lett asked if the Commissioners had reviewed the proposed burn ordinance. President George stated he was not ready to move forward with it, expressing concerns that it might be too restrictive. The Board agreed to table the discussion for the time being.

RE: OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND APPLICATIONS

The Board discussed the availability of applications for the County's opioid settlement funds. President George explained that these funds are available to organizations and groups within the county for programs related to drug addiction prevention, treatment, mental health, aftercare, and family support. Applications will be reviewed by the JRAC board. If approved, organizations will be required to report back within six months to demonstrate how the funds were used. Auditor Michelle Norris confirmed the application would be made available on the County's website.

RE: PART-TIME DEPUTY AUDITOR POSITION

Auditor Norris requested approval to hire a part-time deputy auditor. She explained that since the HR director resigned in June, attempts to fill the position were unsuccessful due to a lack of qualified candidates or wage constraints. The proposed part-time position would handle payroll backup and basic HR duties such as employee onboarding and offboarding, entering new employees into the system, and managing insurance updates. The position would be for 28 hours per week. The County Council approved the wage for the position at their meeting yesterday morning. Commissioner Summers made a motion to hire Jill Jones for the part-time deputy auditor position. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Warner. All in favor, motion passed.

RE: PROSECUTOR SERVER STORAGE UPGRADE

Auditor Norris presented a quote from Eck-Mundy for eight-terabytes of additional storage for the prosecutor's server, at a cost of \$2,125. She explained that since the prosecutor's office received a new server at the end of the previous year, it has become clear that significantly more storage is needed to handle large data files from cell phones and body cameras for cases. Eck-Mundy expressed serious concern as the current storage in the server is nearly at maximum capacity. A motion was made by Commissioner Warner to approve the purchase of the additional server storage for the prosecutor's office at a cost of \$2,125. The motion was seconded by President George. All in favor, motion passed.

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Warner and seconded by President George. All were in favor, and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:02 PM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 5:30 PM.



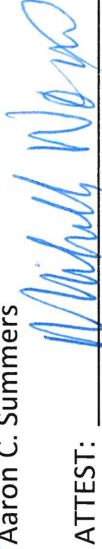
Paul R. George



Retha Warner



Aaron C. Summers



ATTEST:

Michelle Norris, Martin County Auditor