



HENDRICKS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS **MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 23, 2025 MEETING**

FULL AUDIO RECORDING AVAILABLE AT
[HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@HENDRICKSCOGOV](http://www.youtube.com/@hendrickscogov)

The Hendricks County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, September 23, 2025 in the Commissioners' Meeting Room located on the first floor of the Hendricks County Government Center at 355 S. Washington Street, Danville, IN 46122, with the following Hendricks County personnel in attendance:

Dennis W. Dawes	Commissioner, President
Bob Gentry	Commissioner, Vice President
Brad Whicker	Commissioner
R. Todd McCormack	Executive Director
Mila M. Shaffer	Administration and Public Affairs
Greg Steuerwald	County Attorney
Ann Stark	Auditor
Jack Sadler	Sheriff
Nicole Lawson	Assessor
Tiffany Dalton	Chief Deputy Surveyor
John Ayers	Engineer
Doug Morris	I.T. Director
Paul Weddle	Facilities Manager (Interim)
Erin Hughes	Human Resources Administrator
Curt Higginbotham	Highway Department Superintendent
Tim Dombrosky	Planning & Building Director
Ian James	Planner
Mark Chmielewski	Government Center Security Deputy
Ryan Lemley	Parks & Recreation Superintendent

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG, PRAYER, AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Commissioner Dawes opened the Meeting at 9:00 AM with a quorum of all three (3) Commissioners present and led the Pledge of Allegiance in unison. Greg Steuerwald gave a brief prayer for those who wished to participate.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2025 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING, THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2025 COMMISSIONERS' EXECUTIVE SESSION, AND THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 JOINT COMMISSIONERS AND COUNCIL MEETING

Commissioner Gentry moved to approve the Minutes of the September 9, 2025 Commissioners' Meeting, the September 9, 2025 Commissioners' Executive Session, and the September 16, 2025 Joint Commissioners and Council Meeting as presented. Commissioner Whicker seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously 3-0-0.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Commissioner Whicker moved to approve Check Number 110625-110626, Direct Deposit Numbers 268109-268658, and Budgetary Claims presented from the Auditor's Office for the period beginning September 11, 2025 and ending September 24, 2025. Commissioner Gentry seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously 3-0-0.

IN THE MATTER OF BRIDGE NO. 39 ENCROACHMENT CONSENT

John Ayers presented the Citizens Water Consent to Encroachment for Bridge No. 39 to allow the County to build the bridge partly in their easement and recommended approval.

Commissioner Gentry moved to approve the Consent as recommended. Commissioner Whicker seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously 3-0-0.

IN THE MATTER OF URBAN SDK TRAFFIC DATA LICENSE AGREEMENT

John Ayers presented the Urban SDK Traffic Data License Agreement that was discussed at the last Commissioners' Meeting and recommended approval of the three-year one-time upfront payment option for a total of \$63,500.00. John Ayers advised the cost would be split between Engineering, Highway, and the Sheriff.

There was discussion amongst the Commissioners, Greg Steuerwald, and John Ayers regarding the matter.

Commissioner Gentry moved to approve the three-year Agreement as recommended. Commissioner Whicker seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously 3-0-0.

IN THE MATTER OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

Commissioner Dawes reported that at the last meeting Cummings Behavioral Health requested \$108,153.00 of Opioid Settlement Funds for a grant match they'd like to apply for and reminded the Board that the Prosecutor started the Drug Task Force (DTF) back up a couple years ago with Opioid Settlement Funds and it had been suggested the DTF continue receiving those funds to keep the programming going. Commissioner Dawes recommended the \$109,429.07 the County received be split equally between the DTF and Cummins' grant match.

There was discussion amongst the Commissioners, Todd McCormack, Ann Stark, and Mila Shaffer regarding the matter and Cummins' willingness to reduce their grant match request. Ann Stark advised the use of the funds should be re-evaluated every couple of years as the amount the County receives is never the same and several companies have filed bankruptcy, reducing the settlements.

Commissioner Whicker moved for the County's \$109,429.07 in Opioid Settlement Funds be split equally between the DTF and Cummins as recommended. Commissioner Gentry seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously 3-0-0.

IN THE MATTER OF APPEAL OF WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP ASSISTANCE ACTION

Majestic Mason, 8124 Medley Street Apt. 204 in Avon, presented an Appeal to the Washington Township Trustee's denial of assistance. Majestic Mason advised the denial is incorrect because it states she was terminated from two jobs within 30 days, stating it was closer to 60-70 days, and was due to a medical condition that she is trying to get a diagnosis for. Majestic Mason reported she was confused by what paperwork the Trustee was wanting in relation to her medical condition, because she did provide them with documentation from her physician, and stated she feels she was dismissed and discriminated against. Majestic Mason advised she feels some comments made to her by staff of the Trustee when she was in the office were offensive.

Becky Rackley and Ashley Black were present to represent the Washington Township Trustee's Office and advised Majestic Mason was terminated from two jobs within approximately 45 days and the paperwork she submitted did not indicate that she could not work, it indicated that she was set for some testing, but nothing stating she could not work and they issued a 60-day denial for employment termination.

Commissioner Gentry advised the Commissioners job on an appeal is mostly ministerial and is to decide if the Trustee's Office followed the procedures listed in the Eligibility Standards and Guidelines and cannot take any other action. Greg Steuerwald stated the Commissioners do not weigh the evidence, do not make a determination and the evidence, and their soul duty is to make a determination on if the Trustee followed those Guidelines or not. Commissioner Dawes inquired how the Commissioners are supposed to know if the Trustee followed them since the Commissioners did not investigate any paperwork. Greg Steuerwald stated they could ask the Trustee's

Office if they followed the procedures. Commissioner Dawes inquired if they followed the proper procedures. Becky Rackley stated they did. Greg Steuerwald stated it is a strange process. Commissioner Whicker agreed and advised this is the second one he has dealt with since becoming a Commissioner. Greg Steuerwald agreed with Commissioner Gentry that it is a ministerial function. Commissioner Gentry advised Majestic Mason that she could reapply. Majestic Mason advised she was told it was a 60-day denial and couldn't reapply until after November 2, 2025.

Commissioner Gentry moved to support the Township Trustee that they did follow their procedures. Commissioner Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved by majority 2-1-0; Commissioner Whicker opposed. Becky Rackley advised Majestic Mason's rent was somehow paid and advised she can reapply after November 2, 2025. Majestic Mason stated she would be evicted from her apartment by then as she is not able to work due to her medical condition that she did provide documentation for. Commissioner Gentry inquired if the Trustee could speed up the process for her to reapply sooner because of her situation. Becky Rackley advised if she can provide documents from her physician stating specifically that she cannot work due to her medical condition they could speed up the process. Majestic Mason inquired if she can provide the document to the Commissioners for clarification of what the Trustee wants from her physician since what she provided wasn't sufficient. Commissioner Whicker stated that is not the Commissioners' role. Majestic Mason inquired how she can get clarification. Ashley Black stated they would need a document that states her medical condition and that she cannot work period, and not just a specific day due to that condition. Majestic Mason advised it's not that she can't work period, it's that the condition prevents her from working occasionally throughout the month unexpectedly, which is what her doctor wrote. Commissioner Whicker advised he didn't think this was the place to continue that discussion and stated he opposed because this is the second Appeal that's been received from Washington Township in the past 9 months and they haven't heard any from others. Commissioner Dawes advised he voted the way he did because all they had to go on was the Trustee's Office stating they followed the procedures and thanked Majestic Mason for appealing and wished her the best.

IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAMATION FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH

It was the consensus of the Commissioners to present Jennifer Kinnaman, Sheltering Wings, with a Proclamation proclaiming October 2025 as Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention Month.

IN THE MATTER OF FUNDING FOR HAZELWOOD FIRE STATION DEVELOPMENT

Commissioner Dawes reported that when the SR 39/I-70 development began, TIF areas were established and agreements were made with developers for the TIF funds to be a 50/50 split between the County and the developers, except for one TIF area that contains two buildings where 100% of those TIF funds go directly to the County but can only be used for public safety (fire and EMS) capital improvements. Commissioner Dawes stated it cannot be used for staffing.

Brad Butler (Liberty Township Trustee), Toby Winiger (Etica Group), and Chris Tragesser (Etica Group) presented an update on the planned growth for Liberty Township Fire and the need to renovate the Hazelwood Fire Station building to make it usable to house firefighters, equipment, and officers to be a functional fire station. Brad Butler advised he discussed it with the Redevelopment Commission (RDC) and they recommended he bring it to the Commissioners for their consent before bringing it back to the RDC. Etica reported they completed a location analysis and assessment of the building last year and it will be a significant, complex renovation, but less expensive than constructing a new building, and would like to use these designated TIF funds for the renovation.

There was discussion amongst the Commissioners, Greg Steuerwald, Brad Butler, Toby Winiger, and Chris Tragesser regarding the matter and fire districts. Commissioner Gentry inquired if the RDC is supportive and inquired if Brad Butler would be filing for an increase in the tax rate with the changes for farmers under SB 1. Brad Butler stated the RDC seemed supportive and stated the rate is staying flat this year and explained how they've generated a lot of billing revenue. Commissioner Dawes advised they are looking for a consensus of support from the Commissioners to take back to the RDC. Commissioner Whicker advised he struggles with the precedent this would set and the message it would send to other departments, especially with the bind SB 1 puts on them. Commissioner Dawes inquired if a motion was needed or if a consensus was okay. Greg Steuerwald

advised a consensus was okay because all they are doing is showing support. Commissioner Gentry stated he agreed with Commissioner Whicker because his comments are right on because it will affect the others.

Commissioner Gentry advised he was okay with letting them move ahead with the one designated TIF only. Commissioner Whicker advised that although it would be helpful, he has very serious reservations of the precedent it would set and respects that the TIF dollars would be coming from the geographical area, other volunteer departments in different locations do not have that same benefit and there is no fairness. Commissioner Gentry advised he understands what Commissioner Whicker is saying, but is okay with letting them move ahead since they are only requesting funds from the one designated TIF. Commissioner Dawes stated he agrees with Commissioner Gentry. Commissioner Whicker reluctantly agreed and stated he will most likely be a no vote if a vote is required in the future, but does not want to get in the way of what could be a good thing for them.

IN THE MATTER OF EZJUSTICE SUBSCRIPTION AGREEMENT

Commissioner Dawes reported Catherine Haines was not in attendance and advised she is requesting approval of the Warrant by ezJustice Subscription Agreement for software for the Courts. The costs are \$4,000.00 for implementation and then \$6,240.00 per year for eight judicial licenses.

Commissioner Gentry moved to approve the Agreement as requested. Commissioner Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

IN THE MATTER OF X-SOFT PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

Nicole Lawson presented the X-Soft Professional Services Agreement for \$26,000.00 set-up and \$26,700.00 per year for a user-friendly website link that will help her office with transparency and public education and requested approval. Nicole Lawson advised she sent it to Doug Morris and Greg Steuerwald for their approval and Doug Morris was good with it but she has not heard back from Greg Steuerwald.

There was discussion amongst the Commissioners and Nicole Lawson regarding the matter. Commissioner Gentry inquired if this would allow taxpayers to go online and get answers about why their taxes went up. Nicole Lawson advised that for those types of questions they would still need to contact her office directly and speak with someone, but the program will allow appeals and other documents to be filed online and directly uploaded, saving lots of time from their current process of manually uploading everything.

Commissioner Gentry moved to approve the Agreement as presented. Commissioner Whicker seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously 3-0-0.

IN THE MATTER OF TZA 01/25: AMENDMENT TO THE HENDRICKS COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE

Tim Dombrosky introduced his new Planner, Ian James. Tim Dombrosky presented an Amendment to the Hendricks county Zoning Ordinance Chapter 7 to permit certain accessory dwellings (in-law quarters, carriage houses, etc.) as the County is at the point where we permit them in AGR and see frequent requests for variances, which are granted with no remonstrance and no concerns from the neighbors or the board, which means that we need to adjust our ordinances to permit things that are being allowed without concern and recommended approval. Tim Dombrosky stated the Plan Commission held a public hearing for the matter on September 9, 2025, with one person in attendance in support of the amendment, and voted unanimously 7-0-0 to send a favorable recommendation to the Commissioners.

There was discussion amongst the Commissioners and Tim Dombrosky regarding the matter.

Commissioner Gentry moved to approve the amended Ordinance as recommended. Commissioner Whicker seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously 3-0-0. Ordinance No. 2025-31 was assigned.

IN THE MATTER OF CONCRETE CURB AND GUTTER REPAIRS

John Ayers reported quotes were received to remove and replace failing concrete curb and gutters in the Mares Meadows Subdivision and in the Sheffield Park Subdivision and recommended awarding Mares Meadows to

Perkins Construction for \$22,880.00 and Sheffield Park to JE Cox Concrete Construction for \$53,415.00.

Commissioner Gentry moved to award the work as recommended to Perkins and JE Cox. Commissioner Whicker seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously 3-0-0.

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

John Ayers requested permission to purchase two new trucks for \$68,060.00 each to replace Truck 15 and Truck 35 through a QPA vendor and to purchase a Mower Max Prime Model 810-1003 with accessory attachments for \$325,610.28 through a QPA vendor.

There was discussion amongst the Commissioners, John Ayers, and Curt Higginbotham regarding the Mower Max. Commissioner Whicker inquired if all the attachments are really necessary or will they sit at the Highway Garage. Curt Higginbotham stated he thinks they will use the attachments they've chosen and advised it is made in Florida and have someone in Kentucky that can perform service they are not able to do in house. Commissioner Dawes inquired if there is a local company that sells a similar item. Curt Higginbotham stated there isn't. Commissioner Whicker inquired how long the company has been in business. Curt Higginbotham advised at least 5 years and stated Morgan County owns two of them.

Commissioner Gentry moved to approve the purchase of two replacement trucks and the Mower Max as requested. Commissioner Dawes seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously 3-0-0.

IN THE MATTER OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF AVON FOR CR 525 E.

John Ayers presented an Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Avon for construction for CR 525 E. at US 36 and E. Main Street needed for the Easton Grey PUD Project and recommended approval. John Ayers advised there is no cost to the County except for maintenance of the area within the County's jurisdiction after completion and advised he does have comments that he will be making to the Town regarding items in their plans.

Commissioner Whicker moved to approve the Agreement as recommended. Commissioner Gentry seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously 3-0-0.

IN THE MATTER OF NOTICE TO BIDDERS FOR RONALD REAGAN PARKWAY PHASE 1B

John Ayers presented the Notice to Bidders for Ronald Reagan Parkway Phase 1B Roadway Construction from CR 750 N. to CR 1000 N. and recommended approval. John Ayers advised the publication of the Notice to Bidders will not be until October 9, 2025, but to stay in line with the dates for the bonds he needs approval now since the next Commissioners' Meeting isn't until October 14, 2025.

Commissioner Gentry moved to approve the Notice as recommended. Commissioner Whicker seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously 3-0-0. Bids shall be due by 9:00 AM on November 12, 2025.

IN THE MATTER OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Dawes advised they have two Board members, one with the Alcoholic Beverage Board and one with the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals (PTABOA), that have expiring terms.

Commissioner Whicker moved to appoint Garen Carnes to serve another term on the Alcoholic Beverage Board and to appoint Mark Ratterman to serve another term on the PTABOA. Commissioner Gentry seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously 3-0-0.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Jay Thompson, 7722 Quail Creek Trace in Pittsboro, he texted with Chief Kevin Basham from the Pittsboro Fire Department and advised they are now able to be fully staffed from 8AM-8PM seven days a week.

Jay Thompson reported he tried to file a property tax appeal online and the attachments weren't able to load and hopes the new program approved for the Assessor will help resolve those types of issues.

Jay Thompson reported he heard the County was looking into getting a cellphone booster for the Government Center and advised that he was on the roof with Paul Weddle a few weeks ago and discovered that the current booster had been installed improperly, mounted upside down, and they corrected it. Jay Thompson advised he doesn't think we need a new booster, but instead need to raise the current booster above the roof line, especially with the new metal roof.

IN THE MATTER OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

No matters presented.

IN THE MATTER OF CULVERT ON COUNTY ROAD 525 E.

John Ayers reported there is a 36" diameter culvert on County Road 525 E., just south of US 36, that needs to be lined and recommended approval of National Gunnite's quote for \$37,664.00.

Commissioner Gentry moved to approve the quote as recommended. Commissioner Whicker seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously 3-0-0.

IN THE MATTER OF BRIDGE NO. 290 PAYMENTS FROM THE TOWN OF AVON

John Ayers reported there's an issue with the payments to the County from the Town of Avon for the items they requested as part of the construction of Bridge No. 290. John Ayers advised that per the terms of the Interlocal Agreement signed February 27, 2024, they were to pay half last year and half this year but the County did not issue an invoice in 2024 and the half they were supposed to pay in 2024 did not get encumbered, so they are asking if they can pay that half in 2026.

It was the consensus of the Commissioners to go ahead and allow the split to get the County's money collected.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PURCHASE OF 1475 E. MAIN STREET

Commissioner Dawes recommended proceeding with the closing on the purchase of the Coroner's Office.

It was the consensus of the Commissioners to proceed with the closing.

IN THE MATTER OF EAST CAMPUS BUILDING

Paul Weddle requested permission to disconnect the water at the East Campus Building since it is no longer occupied.

It was the consensus of the Commissioners to turn the water off as long as Voter Registration will not need access to the restrooms when they are there programming the voting machines. Paul Weddle stated he would ask them.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY ATTORNEY

No matters presented.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Dawes reported the County Animal Shelter coordinates some with the Hendricks County Humane Society and advised the Humane Society is having a fundraising event on November 17, 2025 from 7PM-10PM at the CRG Event Center in Plainfield. Go to www.hendrickshumane.org for more information.

IN THE MATTER OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CORRESPONDENCE

STAFF REPORTS RECEIVED

1. Engineering Department Report of September 23, 2025 from John Ayers
2. Executive Director Report of September 23, 2025 from Todd McCormack
3. I.T. Department Report of September 23, 2025 from Doug Morris
4. Facilities Department Report of September 23, 2025 from Paul Weddle
5. HR Report of September 6-19, 2025 from Erin Hughes

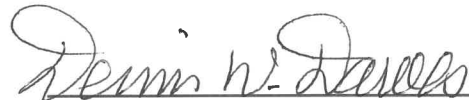
6. Highway Department Report of August 18-22, 2025, August 23-29, 2025, September 1-5, 2025, and September 8-12, 2025 from Curt Higginbotham
7. Weights & Measures Report of August 15-September 15, 2025 from Robert Butler
8. Treasurer's Monthly Report for the month ending August 31, 2025 from Dawn Mayhood
9. Parks & Recreation Report of September 19, 2025 from Ryan Lemley

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

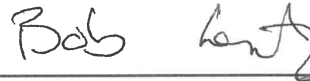
1. Notice of Public Hearing by the Plainfield Plan Commission for Metro Air Business Park – Phase 2 Buildings 8 & 9 from Drewry Simmons Vornehm, LLP

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT

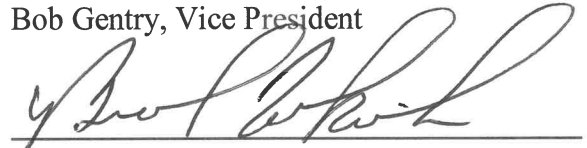
Commissioner Dawes adjourned the Hendricks County Commissioners' Meeting at 10:31 AM on Tuesday, September 23, 2025.



Dennis W. Dawes, President



Bob Gentry, Vice President



Brad Whicker, Member

Prepared by:


Mila M. Shaffer