

# Miami County Commissioners Meeting

September 15, 2025

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## Meeting Information

Date & Time: 09-15-2025 9:00 am

Location: 25. Broadway Peru IN 46970 GAR Room

Attendees:

Commissioner Fred Musselman

Commissioner Brenda Weaver

Commissioner Mark Horner

Auditor Annette Phillippo

Corey Roser – Planning and Zoning

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Hyde

Kerry Worl & Janice Hughes– Highway Department

Jim Deniston – IT Department

Karen LeMaster – Assessor

## Petition to Vacate West Cherry Street

Corey Roser, Planning and Zoning, presented a PowerPoint giving a visual for the Commissioners to see the properties in question.

- A petition was filed by Jeff and Judy Hyde to vacate a 66-foot-wide, undeveloped section of West Cherry Street. The issue originated from a violation letter they received for a fence located in the public right-of-way.
- The proposed vacation is for the area between lots 39, 40, 41 of the original town plat of the town of Miami and lots 70, 71, 72 of the Isaac Carroll plat.
- Concerns were raised by a neighboring property owner regarding a drainage ditch and the potential impact on property lines. He stated a preference to "leave it alone."
- It was noted that a Duke Energy easement exists in the area and would not be vacated even if the street was, meaning Duke would retain access rights.
- A legal point was made that citizens cannot claim adverse possession of property against a government entity.
- Commissioner Horner made a motion to table the petition until more information could be gathered, as vacating the street could create new

problems related to property lines and the location of existing structures like fences and sheds. Commissioner Weaver seconded, approved 3-0

## Contracts and Financial Agreements

- Corey Roser presented a contract for the demolition of a house in Miami. The plan commission chose Wade Ames and Sons to complete the demolition for \$6,800.  
Commissioner Horner made a motion to sign the demolition contract, seconded by Commissioner Weaver, Approved 3-0
- Corey Roser stated the planning commission reviewed eight submissions before choosing Taylor Siefker Williams Design Group to update their comprehensive plan over the next 10-12 months at a cost of \$58,500. Commissioner Weaver made a motion to sign the contract with Taylor Siefker Williams. Commissioner Horner seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
- Karen LeMaster, Assessor, noted that it is time once again for the reassessment contract, which is done every four years. It will be advertised on September 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, with the bids due by October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:30 pm. They will open bids at 9:00 am on October 6<sup>th</sup> and select a vendor on October 20<sup>th</sup>. She notified the commissioners that she is planning to retire in April, so she wants to advertise for a new hire to have time for training and get their level two before she leaves office.
- Jim Deniston, 10 Krypto, reviewed the request from Councilman Scott for the county to purchase him a laptop. Mr. Deniston recommended the county purchase the computer if it was going to be supported and have security supplied through the county. He provided a quote for the new laptop for \$1,080.00  
Commissioner Horner made a motion to approve; Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion. Motion Carried 3-0
- Kerry Worl had a resident at Hidden Hills inquire about the speed limit in the subdivision. Sheriff Hunter stated that a subdivision would be around 25 – 30 mph. There isn't a speed limit sign posted at Hidden Hills. Attorney Mark Frantz stated a traffic study will need to be done before a speed limit can be imposed. Janice said they will try to contact Purdue LTAP so it could be free.
- Janice Hughes explained that the Eel River Cemetery Road damage was caused by water and gas line installments for the Silo Concert development. There is an interlocal agreement between the highway department and MCEDA. Miami County is willing to repair the damage to the road and MCEDA is willing to reimburse the county for the cost of the repair in the amount of \$105,522.50. MCEDA will pay the reimbursement in full before December 31, 2027. The highway department set back \$107,000 of wheel tax to use for this.

Commissioner Weaver made a motion, Seconded by Commissioner Horner to approve for Miami County to repair damage to Eel River Cemetery Road. The work should start on October 27, 2025 and be completed this year. Motion Carried 3-0

- Janice Hughes spoke about the right of way for Bridge 144, 1050 East and the request to purchase three parcels. Statements of basis for just compensation were previously approved for four parcels and they were seeking three additional parcels in the amounts of Parcel #2: \$3,900, Parcel #3: \$1,150, and Parcel #4: \$1,000. A total of \$6,050.00. Commissioner Horner made motion to approve purchasing the parcels for bridge 144, Seconded by Commissioner Weaver. Approved 3-0  
Commissioner Musselman signed the agreement.

## **Other Business**

- Commissioner Musselman has a request from Shirley Mull to put up a display on the Courthouse Lawn this week for Constitution week. Permission was granted for a group to place a display on the courthouse lawn, Commissioner Weaver, moved. Seconded by Commissioner Horner. Motion carried 3-0
- Attorney Mark Frantz addressed the Homeless Situation: The topic was briefly mentioned as having been investigated, but no resolution or further discussion occurred. Tim Fisher, City Council, stated City Police Chief would not go on to County Property even though it is in the City limits. Mr. Fisher is working with the Major on a city ordinance regarding this issue and will have the city attorney forward a copy to Attorney Frantz.
- Commissioner Musselman noted that the EMS decision has been put off until they have a meeting with both hospitals to make a final decision.
- Auditor Phillippo informed the Commissioners that she had been working with Attorney Frantz and the SBOA of overpayment of \$86,790 in insurance premiums, between 2016-2024. The Auditor's office was able to work with the insurance company and receive a reimbursement of \$23,629.72. The county is still at a loss of over \$63,000. Attorney Frantz is looking into further actions.
- **Minutes approval**  
Motion to approve the minutes from September 2, 2025, by Commissioner Horner. Motion seconded by Commissioner Weaver. Approved 3-0

- **Claims Approval**  
Motion to approve claims by Commissioner Weaver. Motion seconded by Commissioner Horner. Approved 3-0
- **Payroll Approval**  
Motion to approve payroll by Commissioner Horner. Motion seconded by Commissioner Weaver. Approved 3-0
- Sheriff Hunter stated that they will do the removal of the concrete in front of the Sheriff Department. The water and ice are breaking up the concrete. Sheriff Hunter asked for approval to get this work completed as soon as possible and believes the total cost will be around \$5,000.00. Commissioner Weaver made a motion to get the work completed. Commissioner Horner seconded. Motion Carried 3-0.

## **Historical Museum Management Concerns**

- Elaine Anderson stated she was informed of a letter that was going to be sent to the Commissioners and wanted to know if it was going to be public. Commissioner Musselman stated he didn't intend to make it a public issue but left it up to Commissioner Weaver.
- Commissioner Weaver raised several issues regarding the management of the Miami County historical museum, referencing a 99-year lease recorded in 2011.
- The primary complaint is that the museum is not abiding by the lease, which requires the county to provide a "duly qualified curator" and assistant curator. The museum currently employs a director, who is allegedly paid \$54,000, instead of a trained curator.
- Commissioner Weaver alleged that local farming artifacts donated by citizens have been moved to the basement to make room for a display from New Jersey.
- There is concern that the family of Marsha Ross, who donated the museum building, is unhappy with how artifacts are being handled.
- **Motion to adjourn** by Commissioner Weaver, Seconded by Commissioner Horner, approved 3-0

MIAMI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
\_\_\_\_\_, Chairman  
Keith Musselman

  
\_\_\_\_\_, Vice Chairman  
Brenda Weaver

  
\_\_\_\_\_, Member  
Mark Horner

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_, Auditor  
Annette Phillippo