

Miami County Commissioners Meeting

October 20, 2025

Meeting Information

Date & Time 10-20-2025 9:00 am

Location: 25. Broadway Peru IN 46970 GAR Room

Attendees:

Commissioner Fred Musselman

Commissioner Brenda Weaver

Commissioner Mark Horner

Auditor Annette Phillippo

Meeting Notes

- **Commissioner Musselman called to order with two amendments made to the agenda.**
- **Two items were added to the agenda via a motion by Commissioner Horner and a second Commissioner Weaver, Passed 3-0**
- A request for an appropriation from the rainy day fund.
- The addition of Robert Daine to the list of speakers.
- Karen LeMaster mentioned a new state mandate requires a change in how apartment buildings are assessed. The process now requires using the lowest of three different approaches to value. The assessor has reviewed the contract TAPco and is ready for approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Horner, Seconded by Commissioner Weaver to accept contract with TAPco, motion passed 3-0

Cati Roberts requested permission for the "Boobash" event, organized by Rediscover Downtown Peru for the upcoming Saturday.

- The request is for the use of Court Street, Fifth & Broadway, and the courthouse steps.

- The event plan, previously approved by the Board of Works, includes:
- Placing decorative lawn signs on the courthouse grounds.
- Live performers, such as jugglers and potentially fire jugglers with their own insurance.
- A small speaker for a "dance party."
- A "trunk-or-treat" setup, with Court Street requested to be closed for safety even if not used for trunks.
- Use of the county parking lot for public parking.
- The plan is contingent on sewer work across the street being completed in time.

Commissioner Weaver made a motion to allow, Commissioner Horner Seconded.
Motion passed 3-0

Megan Gipson presented a petition to vacate an alley in the town of Miami.

- The petition to vacate a 23-link wide alley in Miami, located next to 1976 West 1050 South.
- The alley is situated between lots 48, 49, and 50 of Cox's first edition to the original town of Miami.
- All required notices, including an affidavit of publication and notifications to abutting landowners, were completed.
- No opposition was received, aside from one neighbor's general comment that all alleys in Miami should be vacated.
- A public hearing was held, and no one from the public came forward to comment.

Commissioner Weaver motion, second by Commissioner Horner to approve this ordinance to vacate an alley in the town of Miami. Passed 3-0

Morgan Townsend – Environmental, requested the approval of a new well ordinance.

Commissioner Horner made a motion to approve the new well ordinance 10-20-2025. Seconded by Commissioner Weaver, Passed 3-0

A contract is approved with Baker Tilly to conduct a fire territory study for Southern Miami County.

- The purpose of the study is to evaluate the benefits of creating a fire district or fire territory.
- The Pipe Creek Fire Department is noted as being very interested in this study.
- The cost of the study is not to exceed \$12,000 and will be funded through the LIT (Local Income Tax) fund.

Commissioner Weaver made a motion to approve Baker Tilly to do the fire territory study, Commissioner Horner seconded. Motion passed 3-0

A request from Soil and Water to release GIS data to Mapping Solutions for the 2026 county plat book is approved.

- Mary Lou Watson from Soil and Water explained that their organization is sponsoring the 2026 Miami County plat book, which is being produced by Mapping Solutions.
- The request is for the customary release of county GIS records to the publisher to create the book.
- The goal is to have the final book ready for sale by mid-November, in time for Christmas.
- The books will be sold at the surveyor's office and the Soil and Water office.

Commissioner Weaver made a motion to allow Mapping Solution the GIS Data, Seconded by Commissioner Horner. Motion Passed 3-0

Janice Hughes asked for approval is granted to seek quotes for an ADA Title VI consultant to strengthen the county's compliance program.

- The 2024-25 Title VI Goals and Accomplishments report was presented, with a request for approval to post it on the county website.
- To further improve the county's ADA Title VI program, a recommendation was made to hire a specialized consultant.

- It was noted that federal funding is often dependent on ADA and Title VI compliance, making this a high-priority issue.

Approval was granted to pursue quotes from an ADA Title VI consultant - A motion was made by Commissioner Horner, Commissioner Weaver seconded. Passed 3-0.

Janice Hughes asked for financial commitment letter for a Community Crossings Matching Grant (CCMG) application is approved.

- The letter is for INDOT, confirming Miami County's financial commitment for a CCMG application for the Wabash Road / East Paw Paw Pike project.
- The estimated project cost is \$1,500,000, with an anticipated grant award of \$1,000,000.
- The county commits to a local match of at least 20%.
- The Highway Department will provide a \$500,000 match from the MVH (Motor Vehicle Highway) restricted fund and will tax for any costs exceeding the grant award.
- The application is due at the end of October.

The financial commitment letter to INDOT for the CCMG application was approved - A motion was made by Commissioner Weaver, seconded by Commissioner Horner, and passed 3-0

Kerry Worl with the Highway Department provides a brief operational update.

- Milling work has begun at Eel River Cemetery Rd.
- All wedging work for the year is complete.
- The department's paver has been repaired.
- Upcoming work will focus on bridges and other locations.

A \$650,000 appropriation from the rainy day fund is requested to finance the previously approved courthouse renovation.

- It was noted that while the courthouse renovation project was approved, the funding mechanism was not formally established.
- The rainy-day fund, which was created for maintaining the courthouse and other county buildings, will be used.

- Commissioner Musselman made the request for a \$650,000 appropriation from the rainy day fund for the courthouse renovation

A motion by Commissioner Horner was made, seconded by Commissioner Weaver, passed 3-0

Representatives from the current EMS provider (Dukes Hospital) present their case to continue service, detailing a proposal to address service gaps and urging reconsideration of the switch.

- Mr. Brooks of Dukes Hospital stated that they have provided EMS 9-1-1 service to the county for over 20 years at no cost.
- An analysis of "status zero" events (no available ambulances) showed they occurred 15-20 times over two months, primarily between 11 AM and 11 PM.
- To solve this, Dukes Hospital proposed adding a fourth ambulance crew to operate during this peak period for a cost of just over \$400,000.
- Mr. Brooks stressed the need for an "apples-to-apples" comparison of any proposals and highlighted the hospital's deep integration with community emergency preparedness.
- Mr. Brooks asserted that their proposed new contract is fair and is designed to maintain the current level of service for the entire county.
- Mr. Brooks, identified as the chief administrative officer of the hospital, states unequivocally that there are no plans to close Duke's Memorial Hospital.
- To counter closure rumors, they cite recent capital investments approved by the parent company, CHS, which will be available after the first of the year:
- Funding for a new 64-slice CT scanner, a significant upgrade from the current 16-slice model.
- Investment in state-of-the-art lab analyzer equipment for blood work.
- Approval for a new portable X-ray machine for the Emergency Department and inpatient units.
- Mr. Brooks acknowledges that the hospital has changed over the years, arguing that evolution is necessary for any acute care facility to meet the needs of its service area and remain viable.

The current EMS provider details its advanced paramedic capabilities, full staffing levels, and upcoming technological upgrades designed to improve response times.

- The current service model provides one paramedic on each of the three rigs operating in the county.
- Paramedics have advanced capabilities, including starting IV lines, intubating patients, and declaring patients deceased in the field, which can prevent unnecessary transports and emergency department registrations for those who have already passed away.
- A new AI-driven dispatch software system will be operational by the end of the month.
- This is expected to improve response times, reduce wear and tear on vehicles, save fuel, and reduce wasted personnel time compared to the old model of waiting at the hospital.
- Mr. Brooks reports being at 100% staffing for its 911 EMS team, attributing this success to a strong relationship with Ivy Tech's paramedic and medic training programs.

Commissioner Musselman outlines the procedure for the public comment portion of the meeting.

- Public comments will be limited to the three individuals who signed up to be on the agenda.
- Speakers are required to maintain civility and will be held to a five-minute time limit.

A representative for the City of Peru and its fire department formally objects to the county's decision to switch EMS providers, citing a lack of transparency and a belief that the change will degrade service and harm the local hospital.

- Chief Robert Daine, representing the City of Peru and its Fire Department, voices opposition to the October 6 decision to switch from Lutheran EMS to Parkview EMS.

- The decision was made on a 2-to-1 vote, with the dissenting commissioner noted as having decades of EMS experience.

Key concerns raised by the city include:

- A lack of communication and transparency from the County and Parkview regarding the transition plan.
- A belief that moving to Parkview EMS, a service without a local hospital, is a "step back" for the county.
- The current provider, Lutheran/Dukes, has been actively improving its service and offered a four-ambulance staff at a significantly lower cost to taxpayers than the Parkview model.
- The speaker warns that the change could cause Duke's Hospital to close, which would negatively impact the county's economy, nursing homes, and the 3,000-bed prison, and reduce overall ambulance availability.
- It is noted that the City of Peru is a major stakeholder, as nearly 60% of EMS runs are within city limits, yet their opinion against the change was not heeded. A Commissioner Musselman confirms the new EMS contract allows county-owned ambulances to be dispatched outside Miami County, which is a concern for city officials but presented by the commissioner as a mutual aid benefit.
- Robert Daine asked if the three ambulances being purchased by Miami County would be contractually required to stay within the county.
- A commissioner and a city representative clash over whether the EMS decision process has been transparent.
- A commissioner Musselman expressed extreme frustration with the accusation of non-transparency, pointing out that the Chief Robert Daine and the Mayor had personally attended almost all related meetings.
- The commissioner defended the decision, stating it was difficult but has received significant affirmation and support since the vote, including from individuals whose identities would be surprising.

A citizen and the county's legal counsel disagree on the interpretation of an Indiana Code regarding the necessity of city council approval for a county-provided EMS service.

- Janet Bradley cited Indiana Code 16-31-5-1, claiming it requires the county to have city council approval for an EMS contract that provides service within city limits.
- Attorney Mark Frantz immediately refuted this, stating that it is not the correct interpretation and the city does not have to approve the county's contract.
- A primary concern is that if the county's paramedic is tied up on a required call to the local prison (which is adding an ICE facility), the rest of the county will be left without paramedic coverage.
- Commissioner Musselman clarified the contract will specify three ALS ambulances staffed with paramedics, plus a chase vehicle.
- The commissioner stated that no provider can guarantee 100% employment, as staff can quit at any time.

The motion by Commissioner Musselman to work towards negotiating a contract with Parkview EMS, Commissioner Weaver second passed with a 2-1 vote.

Commissioner Horner voted Nay

- It was clarified that once a contract is finalized, it will be brought back before the commission for a separate approval vote.

Minutes approval

Motion to approve Previous Minutes, Commissioner Weaver made the motion, Commissioner Horner seconded. Passed 3-0

Payroll Approval

Motion to approve payroll by Commissioner Horner, seconded by Commissioner Weaver, approved 3-0

Claims Approval

Motion to approve Claims by Commissioner Weaver, seconded by Commissioner Horner, approved 3-0

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Horner, Seconded by Commissioner Weaver. Approved 3-0

1. ADJOURN

MIAMI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


_____, Chairman
Keith Musselman


_____, Vice Chairman
Brenda Weaver


_____, Member
Mark Horner

Attest: 
_____, Auditor
Annette Phillippo

RE: Government Consolidation

DATE: June 27, 2025

This Scope Appendix is attached by reference to the above-named engagement letter (the Engagement Letter) between Miami County, Indiana (the Client) and Baker Tilly Advisory Group, LP (Baker Tilly).

SCOPE OF WORK

Baker Tilly agrees to furnish and perform the following services.

A. Budget, Funding, and Taxpayer Impact - Preliminary Analysis

Objective: To identify the annual costs to operate and maintain the Fire District/Territory, including capital replacement costs and the payment of debt, assumed or issued by the proposed entities that will provide services in the proposed Fire District/Territory. The proposed entities included in the analysis are as follows (all in Miami County, Indiana):

- Scenario #1 – Clay Township, Deer Creek Township, Pipe Creek Township (including Bunker Hill Town), and Washington Township
- Scenario #2 - Clay Township, Deer Creek Township, Pipe Creek Township (including Bunker Hill Town), Washington Township, Butler Township, Harrison Township, and Jackson Township (including Amboy Town and Converse Town)

The analysis will include the development of proposed funding scenarios that generate annual revenue that meets the estimated funding requirements.

1. Coordinate with the Client to gather the appropriate data necessary to develop an annual budget identifying by category the estimated:
 - a) Annual operation and maintenance expense
 - b) Administration expense
 - c) Capital improvement and replacement costs
 - d) Debt Service requirements, if applicable
 - e) Recommended reserve and working capital balances for the major operating funds
2. Identify the proposed funding sources required to meet the current and projected funding needs for the Fire District/Territory including
 - a) Property tax levies
 - b) Charges for services
 - c) Other miscellaneous revenue
3. Develop estimates of the impact on taxpayers in each of the affected areas, including the expected property tax rates, property tax levies and estimated tax liability impact.
4. Furnish a preliminary report summarizing the analysis.
5. Discuss the results of the Budget, Funding, and Taxpayer Impact Analysis with the Working Group.

COMPENSATION AND INVOICING

Fees for services set forth in the Scope Appendix will be billed at standard billing rates based upon the actual time and expenses incurred and will not exceed Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000) without further authorization from the Client.

Standard Hourly Rates by Job Classification
9/1/2024

Title	Hourly Rate
Principals / Directors	\$420 - \$660
Managers / Senior Managers	\$290 - \$440
Consultants / Analysts / Senior Consultants	\$185 - \$300
Support / Paraprofessionals / Interns	\$115 - \$195

**Billing rates are subject to change periodically due to changing requirements and economic conditions. The Client will be notified of any change to fees. If Client does not dispute such change in fees within thirty (30) days of receiving the notification, Client will be deemed to have accepted such change. The fees billed will be the fees in place at the time services are provided. Actual fees will be based upon experience of the staff assigned and the complexity of the engagement.*

The above fees shall include all expenses incurred except for direct, project-related expenses such as travel costs.

BILLING PROCEDURES

Normally, you will receive a monthly statement showing fees and costs incurred in the prior month.

Occasionally, we may bill on a less frequent basis if the time involved in the prior month was minimal or if other arrangements are made. The account balance is due and payable on receipt of the statement.

Nonattest Services

As part of this engagement, we will perform certain nonattest services. For purposes of the Engagement Letter and this Scope Appendix, nonattest services include services that the *Government Auditing Standards* refers to as nonaudit services.

We will not perform any management functions or make management decisions on your behalf with respect to any nonattest services we provide.

In connection with our performance of any nonattest services, you agree that you will:

- > Continue to make all management decisions and perform all management functions, including approving all journal entries and general ledger classifications when they are submitted to you.
- > Designate an employee with suitable skill, knowledge, and/or experience, preferably within senior management, to oversee the services we perform.
- > Evaluate the adequacy and results of the nonattest services we perform.
- > Accept responsibility for the results of our nonattest services.
- > Establish and maintain internal controls, including monitoring ongoing activities related to the nonattest function.



Conflicts of Interest

Attachment A to the Engagement Letter contains important disclosure information that is applicable to this Scope Appendix.

We are unaware of any additional conflicts of interest related to this Scope Appendix that exist at this time.

Termination

This Scope Appendix will terminate according to the terms of the Engagement Letter.

If this Scope Appendix is acceptable, please sign below and return one copy to us for our files. We look forward to working with you on this important project.

Signature,

BAKER TILLY ADVISORY GROUP, LP

Paige E. Sansone

Paige E. Sansone, Principal

Signature Section:

The services and terms as set forth in this Scope Appendix are agreed to on behalf of the Client by:

Name: *Neil Muel*

Title: *Chair BOC*

Date: *10/20/25*