

Miami County Commissioners Meeting

August 4, 2025

Meeting Information

Date & Time: 08-04-2025 9:00 am

Location: 25. Broadway Peru IN 46970 GAR Room

Attendees:

Commissioner Fred Musselman

Commissioner Brenda Weaver

Commissioner Mark Horner

Auditor Annette Phillippo

Judge Tim Spahr

4C – Julie Storm and Becky Clark

YMCA Transit: Stacy Gaunt

Highway – Janice Hughes

Meeting Notes

1. Little Free Library in Courthouse

Judge Spahr proposed placing a little free library cart, sourced from the law library and stocked with donated books, in the courthouse waiting area. The initiative aims to entertain children and adults, particularly those waiting for court proceedings, such as during separations of witnesses which can last 2-3 hours. The project would not require county funding, with potential future funding for depleted stock coming from the local bar. The cart would be placed in the central rotunda on the third floor, near the top of the stairs. Security concerns regarding the library were addressed by the upcoming secure checkpoint at the entrance.

All the commissioners agreed with the idea of placing the little library on the 3rd floor.

2. Overdose Awareness Night Event

Becky Clark, Assistant Director of Peer Recovery Services for 4C, requested use of the courthouse lawn for an Overdose Awareness Night on August 31st at 6 p.m. 4C holds recovery days of service in all seven of their counties, including Miami. The event, expected to be no more than 90 minutes, would include a moment of silence, testimonies from individuals, and candle holding in remembrance of loved ones. Its purpose is to bring awareness to overdose in Miami County and highlight the work of their peers. No equipment or additional resources were requested.

Motion to approve 4C to use the Courthouse lawn on Aug. 31st by Commissioner Weaver, Seconded by Commissioner Horner, Motion passed 3-0

3. YMCA Public Transit Quarterly Report and Vehicle Recall

Stacy Gaunt presented the YMCA public transit quarterly report and provided an urgent update on vehicle recall. INDOT initially directed them to park three vehicles due to an airbag recall, and this morning, an additional four vehicles were identified, bringing the total to seven vehicles (half of their fleet) that must be parked for an undetermined amount of time. Chrysler has not yet provided a solution, and there is no timeline for repairs or parts availability from local dealerships. This situation has drastically impacted their services, especially Medicaid rides, and has created significant staffing challenges, forcing them to put a new dispatcher hire on hold and consider time off for retirees. Stacy compared the situation to the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that unlike then, there is no financial support available now.

Commissioner Weaver motioned to approve the YMCA Transit Quarterly report. Seconded by Commissioner Horner, Passed – 3-0.

4. Tree Maintenance Request in Miami

Janice Hughes discussed a property owner's request for tree removal and maintenance in Miami. The trees are located on county property, not a typical right-of-way, as the town was set up differently, similar to Mexico. This issue arose after a storm caused a tree to fall and the remainder to lean. It was noted that the trees were likely planted by the property owner or the small town, not the highway department. The request could cost the county several thousand dollars, and similar issues may eventually arise in other towns like Mexico.

Mark Frantz to review the request and a decision will be made in the next week or two.

Bridge 63 (Deniston Bridge) Closure and Repairs

Janice Hughes updated on Bridge 63, known as the Deniston Bridge, located on 440 West, is a timber deck truss bridge that has been temporarily closed again due to significant gaps between its planks, with the largest gap measuring 7.5 inches on the east side. The bridge was previously repaired in March/April 2022, costing approximately \$76,000. Current repairs will involve tightening the planks and installing running planks made of pressure-treated lumber (sourced from Menards) to provide additional support for vehicle tires. The estimated cost for these repairs is \$8,000 to \$10,000. The bridge is vital as it is the only crossing at that end of the county for residents from Eel River Road without going to 31. The county hopes to reopen it within the next couple of months, but this depends on staff availability due to ongoing chip seal and paving

projects. An ongoing concern is oversized vehicles, such as tractors, FedEx, and UPS trucks, exceeding the bridge's 3-ton weight limit, leading to suggestions for installing cameras and enforcing violations.

5. **Appointment to Converse Jackson Township Public Library**

Andrew Horner, who was unable to attend the meeting, requested the commissioners to appoint Victoria Cage to the Converse Jackson Township Public Library board.

Commissioner Weaver made a motion, Seconded by Commissioner Horner, to appoint Victoria Cage to the Converse library board. Motion passed 3-0 vote.

6. **Courthouse Accessibility and Security Remodel**

A building committee met approximately 10 days prior to discuss a remodeling project for the courthouse. The project aims to make the west entrance handicap accessible, update both women's and men's restrooms to ADA compliance, and create a new security office to establish the west side as the official secure entrance to the courthouse. The remodel would also include changes to the main east-west hallway. Updated cost estimates are currently being requested from the architect, as previous figures are long outdated and would not reflect current costs.

7. **Minutes approval**

Motion to approve Minutes from July 21, 2025, Commissioner Weaver made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Horner Seconded. Passed 3-0

8. **Payroll Approval**

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

9. **Claims Approval**

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

10. **Public Inquiry on Charges**

A member of the public inquired about posted charges. The Auditor clarified that the chart displaying the charges which are hanging on the board in the office has not been removed or changed. They offered to provide a copy of the chart to the public members. Public invited to review or obtain a copy of the posted charges.

11. **Motion to adjourn** by Commissioner Horner, Seconded by Commissioner Weaver, approved 3-0

ADJOURN

MIAMI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


_____, Chairman
Keith Musselman


_____, Vice Chairman
Brenda Weaver


_____, Member
Mark Horner

Attest: 
_____, Auditor
Annette Phillippo