

Miami County Commissioners Meeting

August 18, 2025

Meeting Information

Date & Time: 8-18-2025 9:00 am

Location: 25. Broadway Peru IN 46970 GAR Room

Attendees:

Commissioner Fred Musselman

Commissioner Brenda Weaver

Commissioner Mark Horner

Auditor Annette Phillippo

Jim Deniston -10 Krypto

Corey Roser – Planning and Zoning

Jennifer Yates & Debi Wallick – Homeless Task Force

Kerry Worl & Janice Hughes - Highway

Dave Buck – BF&S

Herb Hunt - EMA

Meeting Notes

1. County Board of Commissioners Meeting: Equipment Purchases, Budget Planning, Fee Schedule Updates, Homelessness Initiatives, Floodplain Compliance.

- **Printer Replacement and Budget Planning**

Jim Deniston presented a quote to replace problematic printers for Planning, Probation, and ISETS offices. The quote is for \$19,302 to get these three printers onto contract with Sharp. Motion from Commissioner Weaver and seconded by Commissioner Horner to advertise additional appropriations of \$19,302 for the purchase of new printers. Motion passed 3-0

- **Asbestos Remediation Contract for Demolition**

Corey Roser requested approval needed for an asbestos remediation contract for a house in Miami, with a 10% prepaid discount, totaling \$1,516.50. Demolition contractor already selected; county council is scheduled to review the appropriation on 2025-08-19. Motion by Commissioner Horner, Seconded by Commissioner Weaver for approval to sign the contract for \$1,516.50

- Planning Commission Fee Schedule Updates for 2026**

Corey Roser gave a review of updated residential and miscellaneous fees for 2026, which went through the Planning Commission last week. New line items were added for carports (\$75 with electric, \$125 permit) and lean-tos, as previous charges were too high for the few inspections required. Pre-fab sheds also follow this schedule. Miscellaneous fees saw increases: appeal of an administrative decision from \$50 to \$185 (due to time commitment similar to variances), petition for rezone at \$185, and a new fee for petition for vacation of a plat or public way at \$185. Administrative fees were adjusted, setting a zoning compliance letter fee at \$25 per parcel and a zoning verification letter at \$100 per parcel, while a research fee was removed. Commissioner Weaver made a motion to send the revised fee schedule to County Council. Seconded by Commissioner Horner, Motion passed unanimously.
- Floodplain Audit and Ordinance Updates**

Corey Roser was notified of upcoming floodplain audit by DNR on 2025-9-17, covering the last five years. FEMA has issued new updates to the floodplain ordinance, requiring additional definitions and changes, which were just finalized in 2023.
- Homeless Task Force Initiatives and Requests**

Presentation by Jennifer Yates from the Miami County YMCA on the Homeless Task Force, a new initiative through the mayor to study and address homelessness. The Task Force provides trainings, resources, warming/cooling centers (managed by a committee including Cheryl Berler and the committee foundation), community outreach, and overnight accommodations (like last year's at City Hall). They also collaborate with police and the mayor on safety policies. A request was made for the courthouse to serve as a warming/cooling center, requiring only a placard and a water station. The Task Force would manage the station, allowing unhoused individuals to access water and sit during public hours when temperatures are over 90 degrees (cooling) or 10 degrees or below (warming). Other participating locations include City Hall, the library, The Link, the YMCA, and the Health Department.
- Ordinance for River Encampments**

Debi Wallick lead discussion on homeless encampments along the river, specifically regarding jurisdiction and enforcement. DNR states its jurisdiction ends at the water line, asserting that camps above the water line on public roadways fall under county jurisdiction. The Homeless Task Force seeks an ordinance to manage these encampments, suggesting a 72-hour limit to prevent permanent setups, citing resident safety concerns (police calls, gunshots). Data from Miami County 211 shows 191 calls about housing, 61 identified as homeless, and 280 at risk. There's

disagreement between the city and county on who should enforce ordinances within city limits, as the county believes city ordinances should still apply to county-owned property within city limits, despite the city's stance. A collaborative meeting between DNR, city, and county officials was proposed to resolve jurisdictional ambiguities and enforcement roles. The county would draft an ordinance for areas *outside* city limits, ideally modeled after the city's, to ensure continuity and allow enforcement by any law enforcement.

- **Vehicle Funding and Shortage**

Jennifer Yates gave an update on the ongoing efforts by Stacey Gaunt to secure more funding for vehicles, including contacting state officials and representatives. They are currently down six vehicles, and efforts are underway to lease replacements.

2. County infrastructure maintenance, ADA Title VI compliance, budget appropriations, and ordinance approvals.

- **Road Maintenance and Chip & Seal Progress**

Kerry Worl Updated on chip and seal projects: The North end completed 9.9 miles (29.7 miles with conversion), and the South end 5.3 miles (15.9 miles with conversion), totaling about 45.6 miles. Additionally, 14.4 miles were completed on roads converted last year (8.4 miles north, 6 miles south). Wedging has just started on 300 North, encountering some issues with mix availability, but 60 tons were secured from Central Paving. Work on Hill River Cemetery Road is scheduled for October with Don and Son. Issues on 150 East/Mosley River, including soft spots, were noted. Completion of current projects is anticipated by September, pending weather and mix availability.

- **Road Conversion Costs and Maintenance**

Discussion on the cost of road conversion, which is approximately \$54,200 per mile, with an additional \$2,000 anticipated for the next year..

- **Willow Creek Culvert Issue**

Discussion about drainage issues at Willow Creek, raised by a frustrated resident, Mr. Schrock. The problem involves culvert sizing and water flow, where the existing pipe (5-6 inches) is significantly smaller than the resident's driveway culvert (10 inches), causing water retention. It was noted that even if the pipe were lowered, water issues might persist.

- **Bridge and Road Projects Closeout and Refund**

Janice Hughes Reported on project closeouts from the Fort Wayne District's local agency, resulting in a refund of \$38,558.49. Projects include Business 31 South (work done in 2016), Bridge 159 (done in 2019),

Bridge 501 (Wayne Street, Wallace Avenue bridge, done in 2021), Bridge 163 (on US 31), and Bridge 162 (on Business 31 before Kelly Avenue). The refund will be deposited into the CEDIT fund.

- **Janice Hughes and Dave Buck from BF &S Title VI Implementation Plan and ADA Compliance**

Updates on the Title VI Implementation Plan and ADA compliance, including grievance procedures and requirements for federal and state funding. These documents, approved by Janice Hughes, require annual and training updates. Compliance extends county-wide, covering all services, including sheriff's calls, website accessibility, and judicial services (e.g., deaf interpreters). ADA specialist is being considered. Megan will serve as the Title VI coordinator and will require training.

Discussion on the critical need to comply with ADA Title VI to regain eligibility for federal and CCMG state grants, as the county is currently ineligible. A CCMG call is scheduled for 2025-10-01, and missing it could delay funding by six months. A bridge grant for Bridge 164 (Mexico Road over the Eel River) for an overlay is pending, emphasizing the need to move forward with bridge maintenance.

The need to allocate funds for ADA Title VI implementation was discussed, referencing a previous \$10,000 allocation through the courthouse/commissioners. Further funding is required to pay consultants like Butler Fairman Cipher and to support ongoing compliance efforts, potentially by finding a dedicated ADA specialist.

Approval and Implementation of ADA Title VI Documents

Commissioner Weaver made motion to approve to sign and submit the ADA Title VI transition & implementation plan, Seconded by Commissioner Horner, Motion passed 3-0

Commissioner Weaver made a motion to approve Notice and Grievance procedure , and to move forward to be complaint , Seconded by Commissioner Horner, Motion passed 3-0

Janice will send an agreement to Taffany Keys for state approval, and old documents will be removed from the website and replaced with the new ones after approval.

- **Payment for Butler Fairman Seufert Consulting**

Discussion on payment for Butler Fairman Seufert consulting services for ADA Title VI documentation. It was emphasized that this is a county-wide issue, not solely a highway department expense. A motion for payment was not required today, and the appropriate account, potentially utilizing the \$38,000 refund, will be determined later.

- **EMA Budget Shortfall and Additional Appropriation Request**

The EMA director, Herb, requested an additional appropriation due to significant budget shortfalls. His repairs and maintenance budget, which covers buildings, grounds, and vehicles, has only \$1,400 remaining, while parts for one newer vehicle alone exceed this amount, potentially sidelining it. Utility bills are \$919 per month, significantly higher than the allotted \$583.33, requiring \$4,100 just for the light bill by month-end. Fuel expenses also exceed the \$750 monthly appropriation, costing over \$1,000. These shortfalls are attributed to increased activity, with numbers tripling in the last year and a half.

A motion by Commissioner Weaver was made and approved to advertise and request an additional \$15,000 appropriation to be presented to County Council cover EMA expenses through the end of the year. Commissioner Horner Seconded, Motion Passed 3-0

Burn Ban Ordinance Approval. Commissioner Horner motioned, Commissioner Weaver seconded, to approve the Burn Ban ordinance 8-18-25, Motion passed 3-0

- **Hazmat Ordinance 8-18-25 B**

Commissioner Weaver motioned, Commissioner Horner seconded, to approve the ordinance 818525, Motion passed 3-0

- **Storm Sirens Payment to Wisconsin Company**

An update was provided regarding the first round of payment for storm sirens to a Wisconsin company, referencing a bill. The payment is believed to be on schedule and will be double-checked later in the afternoon.

- **Huston Generator Maintenance Service Agreement**

Review of the generator maintenance Agreement with Huston Generator, which has not been updated since 2013. A motion by Commissioner Weaver, Seconded by Commissioner Horner was made to allow the chairman of the board to sign the Maintenance agreements

- **Payroll, Claims and Holiday Schedule Approval**

Approval of the annual payroll and claims schedule, along with the holiday schedule for 2026. Commissioner Horner made a motion to approve the payroll and claims schedule for 2026. Commissioner Weaver seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

- Commissioner Weaver made a motion to approve the Holiday schedule for 2026. Commissioner Horner seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

- **Minutes approval**
Motion to approve Minutes from August 4, 2025 Commissioner Weaver made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 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 Horner by Commissioner Weaver, approved 3-0
- **Motion to adjourn** by Commissioner Weaver, Seconded by Commissioner Horner, approved 3-0

ADJOURN

MIAMI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

, Chairman
Keith Musselman

, Vice Chairman
Brenda Weaver

, Member
Mark Horner

Attest: , Auditor
Annette Phillippo