

# BOONE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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## PUBLIC NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

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The Boone County Board of Commissioners will be holding a special meeting on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 9:00 AM in the Connie Lamar Room located in the Annex Building at 116 W. Washington Street, Room 105, Lebanon, Indiana 46052.

**\*Revised\***

**ZOOM LINK-** <https://zoom.us/j/4874385613>

**Please ensure your audio is muted during the call unless you are presenting an agenda item or speaking during the public comment period.**

1. Call Commissioners' Meeting to Order.
2. Determination of Quorum and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
3. Election of Officers
4. Approval of December 13, 2024 Executive Session Memorandum
5. Approval of Minutes of the December 16, 2024 Commissioners Meeting
6. Old Business
7. New Business
  - A. Legal Issues County Attorney
  - B. Boone EDC Contract Tracey Krueger/Jessica Schwarz
  - C. CMHC County Report and 2024 Independent Auditor's Report Aspire Indiana
  - D. TrueRx Benefit Plan Design 2025 Commissioners
  - E. Region 5 Workforce Board Appointment Commissioners
  - F. Community Corrections Advisory Board Appointment Commissioners
  - G. Technology Team Appointment Commissioners
  - H. BZA Board Appointment Commissioners
  - I. Public Hearing on Vacation of Unimproved Road Right-of-Way Mike Andreoli/ Commissioners
  - J. Ordinance 2025-01 Vacating an Unimproved Road Right-of-Way in Zionsville, IN Mike Andreoli/ Commissioners
  - K. Request for a New Cell Phone Line for Facilities Max Mendenhall
  - L. Request for a New Cell Phone Line for Veterans Officer Mike Spidel
  - M. On-Call Services Agreement with VS Engineering Nick Parr
  - N. Out of State Travel Request for County Engineer - NACE Conference Nick Parr

8. Staff Reports

A. Area Plan

B. Capital Investments / Facilities

C. Health Department

D. Highway Department

E. Human Resources

F. IT Support

Max Mendenhall

Lisa Younts / Abby Messenger

Nick Parr

Megan Smith

GUTS

9. Elected Officials

10. Document Signing

11. Acknowledgment of Correspondence

12. Adjourn

This agenda is subject to change after official notification. All times are approximate. The meeting may be extended depending upon the circumstances. The meeting will be held at the same time on the next Tuesday if the regularly scheduled Monday meeting has been canceled due to an emergency.

The Board of Commissioners for Boone County Indiana acknowledges its responsibility to comply with the American Disabilities Act of 1990. In order to assist individuals with disabilities who require special services (i.e. sign interpretative services, alternate audio/visual devices, and amanuenses) for participation in or access to County sponsored public programs, services and or meetings, the county requests that individuals make request for these services forty-eight (48) hours ahead of the scheduled program, services and/or meeting. To make arrangements, contact Kaylee Jessie, Executive Administrator at (765) 483-4492 or email: [kjessie@co.boone.in.us](mailto:kjessie@co.boone.in.us).

# BOONE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING

The Boone County Board of Commissioners met in special session at 9:00 AM on Monday, January 13, 2025 in the Connie Lamar Meeting Room located on the main floor of the Boone County Annex Building at 116 W. Washington Street, Room 105, Lebanon, IN 46052 with the following personnel in attendance:

Scott Pell	Commissioner, President
Tim Beyer	Commissioner, Vice President
Donald Lawson	Commissioner
Bob Clutter	County Attorney

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### **DETERMINATION OF QUORUM AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

Commissioner Lawson opened the meeting at 9:17 AM with a quorum of all three (3) Commissioners present and led the Pledge to the Flag in unison.

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Commissioner Beyer began the meeting with a few remarks regarding questions and comments he had received about recent meetings. He provided a brief summary of events for clarity. The Commissioners were scheduled to meet on Monday, January 6, but the meeting was canceled due to the county being closed for inclement weather. The agenda had indicated a meeting for Tuesday; however, the notice issued stated that the meeting would be rescheduled for a later date.

Additionally, an Area Plan Commission (APC) meeting was scheduled for the evening of January 8, 2024. Commissioner Beyer expressed concern regarding the vacancy on the board. Recent amendments to the Indiana Code had altered the composition of the APC Board, leading to a commissioner appointment in December that resulted in the elimination of a citizen position. Subsequently, a board member resigned, further creating a vacancy. In light of the significance of several key discussions planned for the APC meeting, Commissioner Beyer underscored the importance of filling the vacancy to ensure the board's full functionality. To address this, he called for a special meeting prior to the APC session.

Commissioner Beyer also proposed an amendment to the agenda, suggesting the addition of a new item under New Business to reconsider contracts.

Commissioner Lawson proposed amending the agenda to prioritize the Veterans Officer's request, moving it up for immediate consideration, and to include an additional item pertaining to a Veterans Grant request.

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### **IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST FOR A NEW CELL PHONE LINE FOR VETERANS OFFICER**

Mike Spidel, Veterans Officer, presented the request for the county to provide a work-issued cell phone to conduct official business.

Commissioner Beyer moved to approve the work-issued cell phone for the Veterans Officer. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pell and passed unanimously, 3-0.

**IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST FOR A SPECIAL EXCEPTION  
ON A VETERANS GRANT REQUEST**

Mike Spidel, Veterans Officer, shared that his office manages a non-reverting fund into which donations are receipted to assist with projects supporting veterans' needs and accommodations. Typically, there is a \$500 cap for individual requests. However, a local veteran, who is actively involved in the community (serving on the city council and substituting at the middle school), recently suffered an injury while attempting to enter the bathtub. To improve his situation, it was proposed to provide the veteran with a walk-in shower. Mike Spidel confirmed with the Auditor's Office that sufficient funds are available. He also consulted with his liaisons—Commissioner Lawson, Councilman Van Horn, and the County Attorney—who expressed their support for the initiative. Mike Spidel is requesting the board's approval to waive the standard cap and increase the funding for this specific project.

Commissioner Beyer moved to approve the request for \$3,000 for this specific veteran's project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pell and passed unanimously, 3-0.

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**IN THE MATTER OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Commissioner Beyer made a motion to nominate Commissioner Pell as president. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pell and passed unanimously, 3-0.

Commissioner Pell made a motion to nominate Commissioner Beyer as vice president. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beyer and passed unanimously, 3-0.

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**IN THE MATTER OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MEMORANDUM**

Commissioner Beyer moved to approve the Executive Session Memorandum from December 13, 2024, as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawson and carried by a vote of 2-0, with Commissioner Pell abstaining.

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**IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Beyer moved to approve the Minutes of December 16, 2024 Commissioners' Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawson and carried by a vote of 2-0, with Commissioner Pell abstaining.

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**IN THE MATTER OF OLD BUSINESS**

No items were presented under old business.

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## IN THE MATTER OF LEGAL ISSUES

*Bob Clutter, County Attorney, presented the following item(s):*

1) Acceptance a Maintenance Bond for Ellis Acers for the storm sewer drains in the amount of \$82,190. Commissioner Beyer moved to approve accepting the Maintenance Bond for Ellis Acers. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawson and passed unanimously, 3-0.

2) Release of Maintenance Bond for Prairie Chase Subdivision for erosion control in the amount of \$28,323.

Commissioner Beyer moved to approve the release of the Maintenance Bond for Prairie Chase Subdivision. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pell and passed unanimously, 3-0.

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## IN THE MATTER OF BOONE EDC CONTRACT

Tracey Krueger, serving as the interim CEO for Boone Economic Development Corporation (EDC), would like to provide an update regarding the organization's current transition. As you are aware, the search for the next CEO is progressing rapidly. The deadline for accepting applications was Friday, January 10th, and the Board's CEO Search Committee has already begun reviewing a significant number of resumes. A structured process is in place, and while the goal is to announce the new CEO by the end of February, the Board has emphasized that selecting the right candidate is their top priority, rather than rushing to make a quick decision.

With that in mind, Tracey Krueger also wants to address the matter at hand, which is the 2025 Contract between Boone County Government and Boone EDC. The Boone EDC remains committed to strengthening and expanding its partnership with Boone County. As outlined in the contract, the EDC will continue to assist and advise on economic development activities, focusing on coordinating efforts to attract new industry and businesses to the county, as well as supporting the expansion of local industries.

The Boone EDC's work will not only help retain existing jobs in Boone County but also create new opportunities for expansion, contributing to increased employment and a broadened tax base for the county. Additionally, the EDC will keep the county commissioners regularly updated on its progress. Strengthening the relationship and engagement with the county remains a top priority for Boone EDC.

Jessica Schwarz, the Vice President of Boone EDC, has shared some of the organization's key highlights from 2024 and a presentation for the boards review. Please refer to the attached Appendix #2 for a detailed overview.

Commissioner Pell proposed the board table the contract to allow him time to review the materials and have a better understanding of services before voting.

Commissioner Beyer moved to table the contract until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawson and passed unanimously, 3-0.

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## IN THE MATTER OF CMHC COUNTY REPORT AND 2024 INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Commissioners acknowledge receipt of the CMHC County Report and the 2024 Independent Auditor's Report received from Aspire.

**IN THE MATTER OF TRUERX BENEFIT PLAN DESIGN 2025**

Commissioner Lawson moved to approve the TrueRx benefit plan design for 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beyer and passed unanimously, 3-0.

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**IN THE MATTER OF REGION 5 WORKFORCE BOARD APPOINTMENT**

Commissioner Beyer moved to appoint Commissioner Pell to the Region 5 Workforce Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawson and passed unanimously, 3-0.

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**IN THE MATTER OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ADVISORY BOARD APPOINTMENT**

Commissioner Lawson moved to appoint Commissioner Pell to the Community Corrections Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beyer and passed unanimously, 3-0.

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**IN THE MATTER OF TECHNOLOGY TEAM APPOINTMENT**

Commissioner Lawson and Commissioner Beyer expressed interest in being appointed to the technology team.

Commissioner Pell moved to appoint Commissioner Beyer to the Technology Team. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beyer and passed unanimously, 3-0.

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**IN THE MATTER OF BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS (BZA) APPOINTMENT**

Commissioner Lawson moved to appoint Jay Schaumberg to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beyer and passed unanimously, 3-0.

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**IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING ON  
VACATION OF UNIMPROVED ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY**

Commissioner Pell opened the Public Hearing on the vacation of unimproved road right-of-way.

The Commissioners have received a petition from an abutting landowner of a 255' X 100' (approximate) unimproved road right-of-way/easement in Zionsville extending north from Eaglewood Drive.

Michael Andreoli, legal counsel for the petitioner, provided a history of the area and use standpoint.

There were no public comments on this matter.

Commissioner Pell closed the Public Hearing.

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**IN THE MATTER OF ORDINANCE 2025-01  
VACATING AN UNIMPROVED ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY IN ZIONSVILLE, IN**

Bob Clutter, County Attorney, presented Ordinance 2025-01 and read it aloud in pertinent parts pursuant to state law. The owners of properties abutting the area to be vacated have executed a waiver of notice for the hearing and consent to the vacation.

Commissioner Lawson moved to approve Ordinance 2025-01 vacating an unimproved road right-of-way in Zionsville, IN. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beyer and passed unanimously, 3-0.

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**IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST FOR NEW CELL PHONE LINE FOR FACILITIES**

Max Mendenhall, Director of Capital Investments, requested an additional cell phone line for the new Facilities Maintenance Technician, who will also be on-call. All maintenance technicians are issued county cell phones for work purposes.

Commissioner Lawson moved to approve the new cell phone line request for facilities. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beyer and passed unanimously, 3-0.

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**IN THE MATTER OF ON-CALL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH VS ENGINEERING**

Nick Parr, Director of Highways, presented the VS Engineering on-call services agreement for professional services for bridge inspections. This updated agreement revises the hourly fee schedule outlined in the 2024 on-call agreement.

Commissioner Beyer moved to approve VS Engineering on-call services agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawson and passed unanimously, 3-0.

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**IN THE MATTER OF OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUEST FOR COUNTY ENGINEER  
– NACE CONFERENCE**

Nick Parr, Director of Highways, presented a request for out-of-state travel for Mike Goralski, County Engineer, to attend the National Association of County Engineers conference in Schaumburg, IL, from April 14 to April 17, 2025. The Indiana Association of County Highway Engineers and Supervisors (IACHES) offers a \$2,000 scholarship to help offset the cost of attending. Mike plans to complete the scholarship application, but conference registration and hotel reservations need to be made promptly to secure accommodations.

The proposed plan is for Mike Goralski to drive to Schaumburg on Monday and return on Friday.

Mike Goralski will begin serving as the Secretary-Treasurer for the IACHES Board in 2025, and attending this conference would be a valuable opportunity for both him and our department. His participation will also support our goal of promoting road safety initiatives by sharing our efforts on a national platform while learning from other agencies' practices across the country.

Commissioner Beyer moved to approve the out-of-state travel for Mike Goralski, County Engineer, to attend the National Association of County Engineers conference in Schaumburg, IL. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawson and passed unanimously, 3-0.

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## **IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSS AND RECONSIDER CONTRACTS**

### **1) IT ASSESSMENT CONTRACT WITH SONDHI SOLUTIONS**

Commissioner Beyer provided a brief overview of the IT Assessment contract with Sondhi Solutions. The process began in late October and early November, and as ARPA funds became available, Commissioner Beyer proposed utilizing those funds for the IT assessment project. He contacted the Town of Whitestown, who recommended Sondhi Solutions. The commissioners had previously approved the contract during the December 16, 2024, meeting, contingent upon confirming that it met the insurance requirements. A special meeting was convened on December 30th to further discuss the IT assessment project after receiving a second proposal. Discussion ensued regarding the cost difference, with Sondhi Solutions' proposal priced at \$50,000 and Impact's proposal at \$25,000. There were also noted differences in the scope of work. Sean from GUTS confirmed that both proposals met the insurance company's requirements. Subsequently, Commissioner Beyer reached out to Sondhi Solutions, and they agreed to issue a change order to reduce the cost by removing unnecessary items.

Commissioner Beyer noted that he had signed the Sondhi Solutions contract prior to the December 30th meeting to keep the item open for ARPA funding and had instructed Auditor Debbie Crum to retain the signed contract. He then proposed that the board formally ratify the previous actions and endorse the contract signature. The board could reconvene at a later date to further discuss specific needs and refine the scope of the contract.

Commissioner Pell inquired whether the Sondhi Solutions contract was more expensive but more detailed than the other proposal received. Commissioner Beyer confirmed that certain unnecessary items had been identified during the December 30th meeting and would be removed from the proposal.

Commissioner Lawson clarified that the board had not yet voted to proceed with a specific contract. He also noted that the funds allocated for the IT assessment in the ARPA project list had been reallocated to the road conversion materials project. Commissioner Lawson suggested that the board consider reopening the process for new proposals, ensuring clear parameters were set and determining the source of funding.

Commissioner Beyer responded that the project could still be funded through ARPA funds, as adjustments could be made to other contracts. He emphasized that there was general agreement among the commissioners to proceed with the IT assessment, which was also a requirement for the insurance claim.

Commissioner Pell moved to ratify Commissioner Beyer's signature on the Sondhi Solutions contract. Commissioner Beyer seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 2-1, with Commissioner Lawson opposed.



2) **AN OFFER FROM A BROKER TO DO AN ANNALYSIS OF OUR HEALTH INSURANCE**

Commissioner Beyer requested that the board reconsider allowing a broker to conduct an analysis of the county's health insurance. He stated that there would be no cost or obligation following the receipt of the analysis. Commissioner Beyer presented a letter outlining the necessary steps to complete the analysis. Previous concerns had been raised about the protection of data, but Commissioner Beyer assured the board that brokers are HIPAA compliant. Any data they receive would be serialized and redacted, meaning that non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) are typically not required. He acknowledged that there had been prior discussions about NDAs, noting that Henriott had signed one. Additionally, Commissioner Beyer pointed out that the county had received notices regarding its fiduciary duty to gather data before entering into or renewing contracts. He emphasized that the data involved is strictly informational.

Commissioner Beyer further explained that he values being fully informed to make the best decisions on behalf of the public. He stressed that the county has an obligation to utilize taxpayer funds efficiently and effectively. Commissioner Beyer then made a motion to approve the release of the data to Henriott and authorize them to proceed with the analysis. Commissioner Pell seconded the motion.

Clerk Lisa Bruder expressed her concerns, stating that she does not want her personal information released on a regular basis. She pointed out that at some point, the county must protect personal data, even if someone claims to offer a better deal. Clerk Bruder acknowledged Commissioner Beyer's desire for more information but questioned how far back the data should go and whether the county would revisit all past decisions that were previously agreed upon. She reminded the board that contracts had already been entered into, and the county must move forward. Clerk Bruder also noted that the county has an insurance committee, which includes Councilman Lamar, who, as the owner of an insurance company, had expressed concerns about the implications of releasing personal information.

Commissioner Beyer responded that the county had not issued a formal bid, but County Attorney Bob Clutter clarified that a request for proposal (RFP) had been made. Approximately six bids had been received, with Henriott being one of the responders. Commissioner Beyer clarified that the RFP had been a request for qualifications, not for financial proposals, and that the cost was not evaluated at that time.

Clerk Bruder acknowledged the efforts of the county's Human Resources Director in managing insurance costs but reiterated her concerns about the release of personal information. She expressed that she does not want her information shared, especially if it could result in changes to the county's insurance plan.

Recorder Debbie Ottinger also voiced her agreement with Clerk Bruder, stating that a decision had already been made, but she would support revisiting the issue next year. She further requested a guarantee that no personal information, such as names, Social Security numbers, or dates of birth, would be disclosed. She expressed concern about the potential for breaches of confidentiality, even with NDAs in place, since individuals who leave companies may no longer be bound by those agreements. Additionally, Ottinger requested that the board adds other elected officials back onto the health insurance committee.

Megan Smith, Human Resources Director, provided clarification regarding the matter. Apex, the County's Health Insurance Broker, manages the insurance brokerage, while UMR acts as the TPA (Third-Party Administrator) for medical services. Apex operates under a three-year contract. We conducted a Request for Proposals (RFP) with specific expectations from a brokerage firm, and the

insurance committee evaluated the responses. The costs listed pertain to the broker's percentage of compensation, not the TPA.

Earlier discussions last summer revolved around providing aggregated insurance claims data to a brokerage firm, Henriott, to analyze how our claims are priced and offer recommendations. We have already shared aggregated data with Witham/SHO (Suburban Health Organizations), not individual data of employees, and they have repriced claims assuming members used Witham or SHO network hospitals to illustrate potential savings. A shift in insurance carrier could result from substantial savings, but any such change would likely require a carrier change for employees. These decisions are evaluated annually, covering medical, dental, vision, and ancillary benefits.

Commissioner Lawson inquired about the timeline for the requested data, and Commissioner Beyer clarified that two years' worth of data was being requested. The HR Director mentioned that claims data from UMR would be requested in aggregated form for analysis, with the goal of identifying potential savings. Claims data is typically received late in the year, particularly for Stop Loss insurance, as providers require nine months of claims data before finalizing renewal prices.

Commissioner Pell asked if the County is committed to a three-year contract with UMR, to which the HR Director explained that UMR is separate from Apex. Apex is the broker, and UMR is the TPA. TPAs submit bids to Apex annually, and while we consider various TPAs, the primary factor is the Stop Loss pricing, as we are a self-funded insurance model. The county is responsible for up to \$85,000 per member, after which Stop Loss insurance takes effect. The key benefit of UMR is the negotiated rates with hospitals. Larger insurers generally have better rates, but with high usage at local hospitals like Witham and Hendricks Regional, they can offer deeper discounts through their SHO network.

Commissioner Beyer noted that what he is proposing is similar to the bidding process for paving contracts—where multiple bids are solicited, but negotiation power only becomes effective once a broker is selected. If we were to invite multiple brokers to submit bids, they would provide identical pricing, and real negotiations could only occur after a broker is chosen.

Commissioner Pell emphasized that the goal is to save money and enhance benefits, suggesting a review of the data with confidentiality maintained. He moved to approve the request, seconded by Commissioner Beyer. However, Commissioner Lawson expressed concern about revisiting contracts prematurely. Commissioner Beyer clarified that the intent is not to break the current contract but to gather information that may inform future decisions. The Apex contract is set to expire at the end of 2025, and the analysis could identify possible adjustments.

Councilman Kevin Van Horn advised meeting with Councilman Dan Lamar, given his expertise in the insurance field, to help guide the process. Auditor Debbie Crum asked for clarification, confirming that no contract break is intended, only a review for future contract considerations. Commissioner Beyer expressed that the analysis would help determine if there are potential savings or if the current approach is already optimal.

Commissioner Lawson reiterated that traditionally, an RFP would be issued at the end of the current contract term, and Megan Smith clarified that this proposed analysis differs from the formal RFP process. The RFP previously conducted involved brokers submitting bids based on their services, compliance, cost percentages, and etc.

Commissioner Beyer reiterated the analysis aims to identify savings potential, which could be significant or minimal, but that will only be known after the review. Commissioner Pell suggested tabling the decision until the next meeting to allow further discussions and clarification.

### **3) DISCUSSION ON THE NFP PARTIAL COMPENSATION STUDY**

Commissioner Beyer expressed concerns regarding the need for an additional partial compensation study with NFP for approximately nineteen positions, approximately at \$15,000. He pointed out that a comprehensive compensation study was conducted in 2022 for \$90,000, which resulted in a 164-page detailed report. Additionally, there was an update provided for the study in 2024, leading him to question the necessity of further updates, given the existing data available for decision-making. Commissioner Beyer argued that continuing to allocate public funds for information that has already been gathered was unnecessary and proposed a motion to cancel the contract.

Commissioner Pell inquired whether the 2022 study had covered the positions in question. Commissioner Beyer confirmed that it had. Commissioner Pell seconded the motion.

Megan Smith, Human Resources Director provided additional context regarding the NFP contract. She explained that First Person conducted the original study in 2022 before being acquired by NFP, meaning it was effectively the same company. The insurance committee, consisting of a commissioner and three council members, had requested the NFP contract to benchmark nineteen positions, including department heads, first deputies, and certain elected official positions that the county council has been debating for the past two years. However, the committee had not yet received any deliverables, as NFP was waiting for 2025 data to proceed.

Commissioner Pell clarified that no work had yet begun on the study, and the HR Director confirmed that a meeting was scheduled for late January to initiate the process.

After discussing the matter, Commissioner Pell, who had seconded the motion, called for a vote. The motion to rescind the contract passed with a 2-1 vote, with Commissioner Lawson opposing.

### **4) DISCUSSION ON THE FUELING STATION**

Commissioner Beyer highlighted that reports in the newspaper indicated the fuel station would save between \$120,000 and \$130,000 annually. Additionally, it was mentioned that the cost savings could lead to a payback period of as little as 11 years, with some estimates suggesting a period of 14 to 15 years. Beyer also pointed out that the possibility of receiving bids each time a tanker load is needed was raised. He received fuel savings data on December 2<sup>nd</sup> but has not yet received a detailed breakdown of the fuel station's costs.

After reviewing the information, Commissioner Beyer found that, based on estimates from the current provider, there would be \$0.22 per gallon savings. However, factoring in the construction cost of approximately \$1.948 million, the payback period would be nearly 43 years. An alternative vendor provided data indicating a payback period of about 19 years, excluding the design cost of approximately \$126,000. When including maintenance and insurance costs, the payback period from the current vendor's estimate extends to approximately 54 years, while the alternative vendor's estimate is around 21 years.

Commissioner Beyer noted that, in the best-case scenario, the payback period could range from 20 to 50 years. The \$130,000 annual savings reported in the paper assumes a \$0.59 per gallon savings and is

based solely on construction costs, without accounting for annual maintenance, design fees, and other associated costs.

Commissioner Beyer suggested that if the county structured its fuel bids differently, it could capture some savings. Specifically, asking vendors to provide a price for a tanker load delivered to the pump could result in savings. He proposed bidding for smaller quantities, such as 50,000 gallons every couple of months, instead of a large annual quantity.

Commissioner Pell expressed concerns, noting that several people had approached him with reservations about the fuel station project. He questioned the county's involvement in the fuel business, given the substantial investment and the potential for only marginal savings. He also raised concerns about the \$0.50 per gallon savings, contrasting it with the \$0.10 to \$0.15 per gallon savings he had heard from the sheriff.

Max Mendenhall, Director of Capital Investments, clarified that the county is not locked into a contract with its current fuel supplier and is currently paying pump prices. He also emphasized that the county could potentially receive deeper discounts by bidding for smaller quantities, but that could involve some risks.

Commissioner Pell also inquired about any potential plans to relocate the highway department, to which Nick Parr, Director of Highways, responded that it remains a long-term discussion.

Maria Flora, with the Lebanon Reporter, asked about potential cancellation fees for the project. Bob Clutter, County Attorney, stated that the cancellation fees could be substantial, as the tanks and canopy have already been ordered.

Commissioner Pell proposed tabling the discussion until the next meeting to allow for further information on penalties or fees related to canceling the contract. Max Mendenhall reminded the board that, following the December approval, Hagerman and the subcontractors had already begun progressing with the fueling station project. The County Attorney would follow up with the vendor regarding potential penalties.

Auditor Debbie Crum reiterated that the County Council voted in October to delay the project until further discussion could take place. Additionally, the County Attorney clarified that all funding for the project is sourced from the jail bond and not from general county funds.

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## **IN THE MATTER OF STAFF REPORTS**

- APC –
- Capital Investments / Facilities – Max Mendenhall
- Health Department – Lisa Younts / Abby Messenger
- Highway Department – Nick Parr
- Human Resources – Megan Smith
- IT Support – GUTS
- Other Elected Officials

***Max Mendenhall, Director of Capital Investments presented the following item(s):***

- 1) Provided an update on the Boone County Justice Center project. Currently, the project is 91% complete. Deliveries of appliances and furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FFE) for Building A are underway, with the final punch list items being addressed. The same applies to Building B. A temporary relocation of the central control has been implemented. A punch list for Building C will be scheduled soon. The team aims to transition the existing kitchen into the new kitchen and have it operational within the week. The extra security cameras have been installed in the area. Additionally, the infirmary is expected to be operational this week as well. The anticipated move-in date remains set for March.

***Nick Parr, Director of Highways presented the following item(s):***

- 1) Requested acceptance of the annual material bids that were open at the 12/16 meeting. Commissioner Beyer moved to accept the material bids. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawson and passed unanimously, 3-0.

- 2) Change Order #1 in the amount of \$4,350 covers repairs for Bridge 91 on Elizaville Road, east of CR 225 E, and Bridge 100 on CR 450 N, east of CR 350 W. Of this total, \$850 is allocated for additional guardrail requested during construction. Our department provided the hardware and cleaned the holes for installation. The remaining \$3,500 of the change order is for additional rip rap, which was necessary after the repairs were completed. This rip rap will prevent scour and help protect the abutments from requiring further repairs.

Commissioner Beyer moved to approve Change Order #1 for Bridge 91 and Bridge 100 repairs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawson and passed unanimously, 3-0.

- 3) Other Highway Items for Information/ Possible Discussion:

- There are concerns regarding the construction traffic needed to build Project Foundry at the SW corner of 200 W and SR 32. Our understanding is that the project intends to use 200 W as the sole access point. The intersection of 200 W & Mt. Zion Road, south of the site, is not traversable by semi-trucks with trailers. Bridge 93, located at the SE corner of the intersection, regularly gets damaged by trucks attempting to access the business park. This project will likely make the issue much worse.
- Construction on the Countywide Sign replacement project is scheduled to begin 1/23/2025, weather permitting. This project includes replacement of approximately 3,500 regulatory and warning signs.
- Bridge 84- CR 400 E North of CR 100 N is expected to begin in February. CR 400 E will be closed during construction which could be 90 days.
- Nick Parr requested that a commissioner attend a meeting with INDOT and the City of Lebanon to discuss the relinquishment of the existing US-52 following the completion of the interchange project. It is his understanding that the project is eligible for award. Once the project is finished, likely in 2027, the section of US-52 will be transferred to local jurisdiction. A portion of the highway falls within the City of Lebanon, while the remainder is under the county's jurisdiction, including a bridge. Commissioner Lawson has volunteered to attend, and Nick Parr is currently coordinating the meeting dates and times.
- A proposed house bill, which has not yet been formally submitted but has been covered extensively in articles, would require counties to implement a wheel tax in order to qualify for Community Crossings Matching Grant (CCMG) funds. This is a significant concern for Boone County, as we currently do not have a wheel tax in place. Approximately one-third of counties across the state do not have a wheel tax, and without one, we would become ineligible for approximately \$1.5 million in funding—funding that has been crucial for road preservation, bridge projects, and small structure replacements. The Indiana Association of County Highway Engineers and Supervisors (IACHES) has consistently emphasized the importance of local effort as part of the funding criteria. Should this



legislation move forward, it is vital that we assess how it would impact our county. Nick Parr plans to bring this issue to the council's attention as well.

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### **IN THE MATTER OF ELECTED OFFICIALS**

- Commissioner Lawson proposed adjustments to the Commissioners meeting schedule, specifically moving the meeting originally scheduled for March 17 to March 24, 2025, and the meeting originally set for July 7 to July 14, 2025 at 9am. Commissioner Beyer moved to approve the adjustments to the meeting schedule as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawson and passed unanimously, 3-0.
  - Recorder Debbie Ottinger would like to take a moment to commend the combined efforts of the Auditor, Assessor, and Recorder's offices regarding a situation that ultimately resulted in significant tax savings for our community. The Assessor's office identified a critical issue where timely paperwork was needed to prevent the IEDC from potentially declaring certain properties as nonprofit, which would have resulted in lost tax revenue. With approximately 40 parcels involved and the complexity of the closing dates, the paperwork was at risk of being delayed. However, the Assessor promptly flagged the issue, which led to a collaborative effort between the Assessor, Auditor, and Recorder. A 69-page deed was efficiently processed through all necessary offices, and after being submitted to Simplifile, all required actions were completed in a timely manner. This teamwork ensured that the properties were properly processed, safeguarding tax revenue and preventing any adverse impact on our community's finances.
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### **IN THE MATTER OF DOCUMENT SIGNING**

1) The following Veridus Group Recommendation Letters for ratification:

- Recommendation Letter 127 – Central Restaurant Products quote dated December 10, 2024 in the amount of \$41,541.00 for the fryer and ventless exhaust system.
- Recommendation Letter 128 – Magik Technology Solutions, Inc. proposal dated 12/10/24, specific to the technology hardware for new users. This hardware package scope has been reviewed and confirmed by the Boone County IT Senior Network Systems Specialist, and is necessary to provide equipment for the new employees of the facility. The total proposal amount is \$63,993.

Commissioner Lawson moved to approve ratify the Veridus Group Recommendation Letters. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beyer and passed unanimously, 3-0.

2) The following Veridus Group Recommendation Letters for approval:

- Recommendation Letter 132 – Koorsen Fire & Security quote dated December 10, 2024, for replacement of the existing Boone County Justice Center sprinkler heads. This scope has been requested and reviewed by Boone County's Director of Capital Investments. The Director of Capital Investments will have his crews provide the installation for this scope. Therefore, this quote is for Koorsen to furnish the material only, at a proposed cost of \$39,518.
- Recommendation Letter 133 – Hagerman's PCO #102 in the amount of \$6,553.00 dated January 7, 2025, for added camera to the kitchen and infirmary areas. This change will add a camera to both exam rooms, the soiled linen room, the clean linen room, and the kitchen office.

These rooms were deemed necessary to be covered by cameras due to a change in access and supervision within these rooms.

- Recommendation Letter 134 – Hagerman’s PCO #103 in the amount of \$3,565 dated January 7, 2025, for added detention keys. This change will add an additional 7 keys for a total of 15 key sets to be turned over at completion. The additional sets are needed now for the use of the completed spaces and proper disbursement among personnel.
- Recommendation Letter 135 – Hagerman’s PCO #99 in the amount of \$3,130 date January 7, 2025, for the installation of a compliant substrate over unknown existing tile for installation of epoxy flooring. It was discovered that the foot print for the bathroom 181A has existing tile that was not previously shown on as-built drawings. A compatible substrate is required for the proposed epoxy flooring to adhere properly.

Commissioner Lawson moved to approve the Veridus Group Recommendation Letters as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pell and passed unanimously, 3-0.

**3) Claims Dockets – regular, prepays, payroll, and insurance.**

Commissioner Lawson moved to approve Budgetary Claims presented from the Auditor’s Office. Motion seconded by Commissioner Beyer; motion passed unanimously 3-0.

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**IN THE MATTER OF MAIL**

See (**Appendix #3**) for a list of mail opened by the Commissioners on this date.

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**IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Commissioner Lawson moved to adjourn the Boone County Commissioners’ Meeting at 11:20 AM on Monday, January 13, 2025. Motion seconded by Commissioner Beyer; motion passed unanimously 3-0.