

## **MINUTES OF THE CLINTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

January 20, 2026

9:00 A.M.

The Clinton County Commissioners met for a regular meeting on January 20, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the County Meeting Room, at 2 E. Washington Street, Suite 105, Frankfort, IN 46041.

Commissioner Jordan Brewer called the meeting to order with the following members shown to be present or absent:

### **PRESENT**

Jordan Brewer  
Kevin Myers  
Bert Weaver

### **ABSENT**

Others in attendance were Rick Campbell, Liz Stitzel, Gina Brettnacher, Stephanie Harshbarger, Melissa Ostler, Renee Crick, Joe Root, Dr. Dominik, Mary King, Britt Ostler, and others are shown to be present in the minutes. Commissioner's Assistant Jerri Sexton recorded the minutes.

### **IN THE MATTER OF THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Brewer led the pledge of allegiance.

### **IN THE MATTER OF TAX SALE AGREEMENT**

Gina Brettnacher presented the Tax Sale Agreement. Commissioner Myers motioned to approve the agreement. Commissioner Weaver seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

### **IN THE MATTER OF SEA 433**

Joshua Tolen from the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs gave a brief overview of what 101719-SEA 433. It is to establish clear standards for the accreditation of all service officers to define what an actual service officer is and clearly written in the code. The code had to be established because there were a lot of questions and conflicting answers and there was no clear accreditation standard. The current office meets all standards that are set within the code. They have all the CMS, software and PIV cards that meet the requirements and are in the current code.

### **IN THE MATTER OF MICROVOTE AND MAXIMUS AGREEMENT**

Stephanie Harshbarger presented the Microvote and Maximus Agreement. Commissioner Weaver motioned to approve the agreements. Commissioner Myers seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

### **IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY UPDATE**

Rick Campbell asked approval to buy a new tandem axle dump truck for \$264,400. They currently have 6 they are leasing for \$263,000 per truck. The new truck will come with a salt box and a snow plow. He has \$280,000 in his budget. Commissioner Myers motioned to approve the purchase of the dump truck. Commissioner Weaver seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

### **IN THE MATTER OF AREA PLAN UPDATE-LUPAC #01-26-392-ORDINANCE 2026-01**

Liz Stitzel presented LUPAC #01-26-392 from the Area Plan Commission who met on January 6th to rezone 714.55 acres of land from A1- I1. The Area Plan Commission forwarded a favorable recommendation with commitments to be worked out after that hearing. She did not have feedback from the developer at the point of which she hit the state law deadline to certify it. She put the commitments in the ordinance as she had them written at the time of the plan commission hearing. She had some modified commitments from the developer but there are some differences on timeline and other commitments. The plan commission would not advise taking a positive action if the commissioners accept it until all the commitments are amended in the ordinance.

Commissioner Myers stated he received a lot of feedback from the community both pro and con but mostly against it. His biggest concern has been the property owners that are either directly affected but also those that live in close proximity to the proposed site. There have been a lot of negotiations on the 14 points but he does not feel positive about some of the responses. There is an opportunity for Data One to build on already zoned land in the city next to Conagra and he believes this would help our community to decide if they want this to expand or not. Given what this has put our community through and that a majority of our citizens are against this as currently presented, he will not support the rezoning of the 714 acres.

Commissioner Weaver stated he pledged to keep this community safe and at the same time help the community grow. He has done his research into data centers and spoke with other counties throughout the state.



He felt this could be a tremendous boost for the county. Water and electricity has always been a concern and has been addressed multiple times. He is disappointed in some of the comments left on social media regarding himself and his family. He's received both negative and positive feedback from the community regarding the proposed data center, mostly negative, but he's become increasingly uncomfortable about the recent negotiations and therefore his recommendation is that they deny the application for the rezoning at this point.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Richard Hammer stated he's found the most disappointing issue regarding the proposed data center is that it has been presented almost exclusively as an economic issue related to jobs, tax revenues, energy costs and economic development. He stated the bigger is AI and their ability to track every aspect of our lives. He prays that they will not use the potential revenue and the inevitability of data centers as their justification for actually welcoming one into Clinton County.

Florence Caddell stated her concern is the water contamination if the city goes through with a data center. She hopes the water will be thoroughly monitored. She thanked the commissioners for their thoughtful consideration. She thinks with the 70 plus data centers we have in Indiana is enough and have shared the load.

Venetia Morris stated in November she presented the Clinton County Wealth Compact. A policy framework designed to ensure that large-scale development projects deliver measurable and enforceable benefits to our community. Her concerns are with the commitments and would they be enforceable and what party is liable, the landlord who doesn't operate the facility or the operator who never signed the commitments. She stated the board approved a moratorium on BESS (battery energy storage systems) last year. She reviewed the petitioner's packet and it states that backup power would be provided by UPS units and batteries provide instant power during interruptions. At the scale of a 350 megawatt data center, a UPS unit is not a box under a desk, it is a shipping container sized lithium ion battery system, or in other words Bess.

Crystal Reichert stated her concern is little information about the company and expressed concerns about this business address being a house in a residential area. There are roughly 20 different businesses of various names with the same registered agent name.

Alexandra Dominik stated she was very concerned about water and environmental concerns after the water was used. She also had concerns about light pollution being very disturbing to people in the area.

Ross House stated he lives just west of the proposed project and was going to be directly affected by the project. He had huge concerns about noise, and light pollution. He asked with the commissioners' denial today do the developers get an opportunity to resubmit. Commissioner Brewer stated if it's in the exact same capacity it would be 12 months.

Rick Gunyon asked what economic development the commissioners would approve of if the naysayers and the fear-mongering didn't want any development. They want the rural character of Clinton County maintained. He would ask the commissioners to hold off and delay a final vote and reconsider. He stated the proposed data center will not have any meaningful impact to our city utilities. There are three different proposed businesses, one being the data center itself, Data One. The second business is the Northeast pre-cast concrete plant which promises somewhere between 200-500 jobs. Third there would be an Ag business, a hydroponic farm. They are proposing a sustainable design that will reduce utility loads, operational cost and the impact to the local environment. They propose a closed loop cooling system where there is no waste water coming off the cooling system on a regular basis. He spoke to the positive experiences and programs this could allow.

Dr. Joseph Dominik stated he was very disappointed in the citizens that made threatening emails to anyone in the county, especially our county leaders. His concerns are property tax abatement arrangements that are given to large industries that seem to be paid by the smaller businesses and property owners in this county. He would be very much against any property tax abatements given to any large developers without a major benefit to the community.

Commissioner Brewer closed the public comment.

Commissioner Weaver motioned to deny the rezoning as presented today. Commissioner Myers seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Liz Stitzel answered some of the questions citizens asked during the public comment. Commitments are enforceable and not signed by just an applicant, they are signed by the land owner, and all future land owners and recorded. Clinton County has a night sky ordinance.

Commissioner Brewer stated he would like to clear up the idea that we're not open for business and don't want development. It's more related to who we want to work with. There has to be some trust and willingness that both sides are going to receive and it's going to be economically beneficial to the community as a whole.



He didn't think this was a good business developer for them and our community. There have been many things that have happened over the last several months. They have been asking continually for the fiscal numbers to get to our municipal advisers to see what the impact is and we still don't have those. He stated he doesn't understand how you can make any fiscal decision without any numbers because you wouldn't do that in your own individual situation, so they shouldn't be doing that at a government level. The rezone is the last thing we should do, all the other stuff should be negotiated and worked out before we ever make an approval of a rezone. The rezoning is leverage and there is no reason to give up leverage at this point.

**IN THE MATTER OF OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Myers motioned to approve the Motorola Migration Service Agreement for \$10,129.34. Commissioner Weaver seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Brewer read off the Community Service Grant Awards:

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Paul Phillippe      | \$15,000 |
| Boys & Girls Club   | \$10,000 |
| Sharp Program       | \$10,000 |
| Healthy Communities | \$15,000 |
| Learning Network    | \$13,000 |
| The Crossing School | \$35,000 |

The total is \$98,000 leaving \$2,000 for any additional request. Commissioner Weaver motioned to approve all the applicants. Commissioner Myers seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Myers motioned to appoint Larry Price for The Building Corporation. Commissioner Weaver seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Weaver motioned to approve the St. Mary's Night of Columbus sign placement request. Commissioner Myers seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

Melissa Ostler gave a brief update for the Health Department. They post all food and safety inspections on their website. Grow Indiana Federal Funding Program is a billion dollar program given to Indiana for the next 5 years. The IDH and Family Social Services are implementing this program. It has 12 different initiatives and the most important initiative to us locally is initiative number 12 which is called make Indiana healthy again (Miha). We are region 3 and are partnered with Montgomery, Benton, Carroll, Warren, White, Boone is partially rural.

Steven Deckard reported he had two clinical site agreements that allow our paramedic students to do clinicals at these sites, one with Tippecanoe County Emergency Ambulance Service and one with Lutheran. He made a request to send their three shift supervisors plus assistant director and director to a training down in Evansville. This is for company officer training. It cost \$275 per person to attend for three full days. The complete funding will come from the education funds. Commissioners approve all 5 to go to the training as long as we are operational.

Shawn Mayfield asked about filling the records clerk position and full-time courthouse security. Commissioner Brewer asked if they had filled the merit positions. Shawn stated the process takes a little bit of time. He believes six individuals are going through the background check process. The next process will be to set up a polygraph then interviews with the merit. Commissioners agreed that it needs to wait until the merit positions are filled before hiring anyone else.

Commissioner Weaver asked Shawn if some offices have been repainted pink and who approved it. Commissioner Brewer stated any type of remodel or structure work outside of general maintenance or repair needs to get approval from the board.

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Brewer congratulated Indiana University on their national championship.

**IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS**

Commissioner Weaver motioned to approve the following claims as submitted, Commissioner Myers seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

- Friday claims dated January 9, 2026 in the amount of \$29,604.09
- Friday claims dated January 16, 2026 in the amount of \$20,270.86
- Bi-weekly claims dated January 20, 2026 in the amount of \$296,208.15
- Court claims dated January 20, 2026 in the amount of \$6,795.19

**IN THE MATTER OF PAYROLL**

Commissioner Myers motioned to approve the payroll as submitted, Commissioner Weaver seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll dated December 26, 2025 in the amount of \$594,556.29

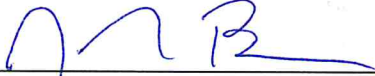
**IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER MINUTES**

Commissioner Myers motioned to approve regular meeting minutes dated January 6, 2026, seconded by Commissioner Weaver Motion carried 3-0.

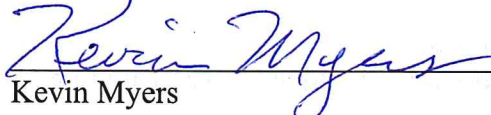
The next meeting will be February 3rd.

Without any further business to come before the Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Weaver motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Myers at 10:13 a.m. Motion carried 3-0.

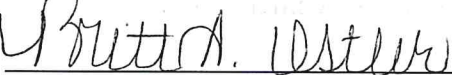
**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CLINTON COUNTY**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jordan Brewer, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bert Weaver

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Myers

**ATTEST:**

  
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Britt Ostler, Auditor