

January 4, 2024

Council Chambers
Vigo County Government Center
Terre Haute, Indiana

Roll Call:

Present: Mike Morris, Chris Switzer, and Mark Clinkenbeard

Others Present: County Attorney Terry Modesitt was present via telephone, James Bramble, Cheryl Loudermilk, Tammy York-Allen, Kara Wright, Jordynne Shelton, Larry Robbins, Bobby James, Kevin Gardner, Diana Winsted-Smith, Chris Eldridge, Josie Thompson, Tona Bean, Joni Wise, Amanda Bales, Robbin Welker, Terry Bays, Bruce Allen, Leanna Moore, Tony Cassiseah, and members of the public.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mike Morris called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He then called for nominations for officers for 2024. Mike Morris nominated Chris Switzer for President. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed. Mark Clinkenbeard then nominated Mike Morris for Vice President. Chris Switzer seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting Dates 2024. The Commissioners felt that staying with Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. for public meetings would be in order. Mike Morris made a motion to meet every Tuesday of each week for 2024. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion was unanimously approved. There was a brief discussion about meeting on Tuesdays but the Commissioners were in session full time. County Attorney Terry Modesitt said he thought the motion should be that meetings were held every Tuesday but Commissioners would be in session thereafter. Chris Switzer made a motion that the Commissioners are in session 24 hours a day, 7 days a week as acting Commissioners. There was additional discussion about how to word the motion and rules of the Public Access Counselor. Chris Switzer made a motion that the Commissioners are in session from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. every day and voting on services or any action to be taken will be on Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. or at a special meeting. Mike Morris seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion was unanimously approved.

Review of Minutes/Claims. Auditor James Bramble presented the Board with expenditures for the period of December 23, 2023 through December 29, 2023 in the amount of \$972,231.00. Mark Clinkenbeard made a motion to approve the December 23, 2023 through December 29, 2023 claims in the amount of \$972,231.00. Mike Morris seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed. Mr. Bramble then presented expenditures for the period December 16, 2023 through December 22, 2023 in the amount of \$727,150.76. Mike Morris made a motion to approve the December 16, 2023 through December 22, 2023 claims in the amount of \$727,150.76. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Bramble then presented the Board with meeting minutes for December 28, 2024 for approval. Mark Clinkenbeard made a motion to approve the minutes as presented for December 28, 2024. Chris Switzer seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 2-0 with Mike Morris abstaining because he was not in attendance at that meeting, the motion unanimously passed.

Resolution Eliminating Appointments. Chris Switzer introduced Resolution 2024-01 eliminating certain appointments with the Vigo County Highway Department which was read into record, in part, as follows:

"WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Vigo County, Indiana desire to eliminate some appointments they have had the discretion to make in the past

WHEREAS, the resolution is being set forth to eliminate the following appointments that have been made by the Board of Commissioners in the past:

Vigo County Engineer/Vigo County Highway Department Director
Vigo County Highway Department Superintendent
Vigo County Highway Department Mechanic Supervisor
North Vigo County Highway Department Supervisor
South Vigo County Highway Department Supervisor."

Essentially, this is just removing those appointments from the Commissioners. The Commissioners feel that County Engineer Robbins and Superintendent James, the Highway Supervisors and Mechanic Supervisor just be employees of the Vigo County Highway Department and Vigo County government. The Commissioners do not feel that those positions have to be appointed every year going forward. They all just work for Director Robbins. Mike Morris made a motion to accept Resolution 2024-01. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Resolution Regarding Two Year Appointments. Chris Switzer then read into record, in part, Resolution 2024-02:

"WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Vigo County, Indiana have appointments that are made at their discretion and which the majority of the appointments are one year appointments.

WHEREAS, this resolution is being put forth to delineate which appointments shall be one year and which appointments shall be two year appointments."

After conversations among the Commissioners, they decided to increase the appointment process by one year. It will give some assurance to some appointments through the political process that they will be appointed for two years in the instance of new commissioners coming on board. The Resolution continued as follows:

"WHEREAS, the Commissioner have the following appointments, Equal Employee Opportunity Director and Coordinator American Disabilities Act Coordinator, Vigo County Attorney, Vigo County Building Maintenance Director, Vigo County Building Commissioner, Vigo County Human Resources Director, Vigo County Veterans Services Director, Vigo County Information Technology Director, Vigo County 911/Dispatch Director, Vigo County Weights & Measures Director.

WHEREAS, all the current appointments are 1-year appointments and the desire of the Board of Commissioners of Vigo County is to have some of said appointments be two year appointments going from the date of this resolution forward.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF VIGO COUNTY, INDIANA:

1. That the following appointments shall be 1-year appointments:
Equal Employee Opportunity Director
American Disabilities Act Coordinator (ADA)
2. That the following appointments shall be 2-year appointments:
Vigo County Attorney
Vigo County Building Maintenance Director
Vigo County Building Commissioner
Vigo County Human Resources Director
Vigo County Veterans Services Director
Vigo County Information Technology Director
Vigo County 911/Dispatch Director
Vigo County Weights & Measures Director

This resolution is effective immediately upon its date of adoption.

RESOLVED, this 4th day of January, 2024.”

Mark Clinkenbeard made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-02. Mike Morris seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Commissioner Vigo County Appointments. Chris Switzer then announced the 2024 County appointments by the Commissioners. These will now expire 12/31/25 because they are 2-year appointments:

Vigo County Attorney – Modesitt Law Firm
Vigo County Building Maintenance Director – Ricky Hammond
Vigo County Building Commissioner – Terry Bays
Vigo County Human Resources Director – Kara Wright
Vigo County Veterans Services Director – Tim Cunningham
Vigo County Information Technology Director – An open position; interviews are being conducted
Vigo County E-911 Dispatch Director – An open position. Director Oster has been notified that she will not be reappointed for 2024. The position was published yesterday and will run for the next 9 days at which time interviews will be scheduled.
Vigo County Weights & Measures Director – Aaron Gadberry

Vigo County Appointments that are 1-year terms:

Vigo County Equal Employee Opportunity Director – Tammy York-Allen
Vigo County ADA Coordinators – Larry Robbins and Tammy York-Allen

Mike Morris made a motion to accept these appointments. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Commissioner Board Appointments. Commissioner Board Appointments for 2024 will be as follows:

Building Inspection Advisory Board – Mike Morris
Terre Haute Regional Airport Board of Directors – Mike Morris
Vigo County Emergency Management Administration Board of Directors – Mark Clinkenbeard
Terre Haute Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors – Chris Switzer
Vigo County/Terre Haute Riverscape Board of Directors – Mike Morris

Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors – Chris Switzer
Vigo County Drainage Board – Mike Morris
WorkForce One Board of Directors – Mark Clinkenbeard
Wabash Valley Fairgrounds Board of Directors – Mark Clinkenbeard
E-911 Advisory Committee – Chris Switzer
WICAA Board of Directors – Judith Anderson
Maryvale Board of Directors – Chris Switzer
Thrive West Central Board of Directors – Mark Clinkenbeard
Human Relations Regional Bureau of Prisons Board of Directors – Mike Morris
Area Plan Commission – Mark Clinkenbeard

Mark Clinkenbeard made a motion to approve the appointments for 2024. Mike Morris seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Two additional appointments were made for the Convention and Tourism Board. This is to certify that Greg Gibson is reappointed to the Convention and Tourism Board effective this 4th day of January, 2024 for a one year term expiring on December 31, 2024. This is to certify that Bob Heaton is reappointed to the Convention and Tourism Board effective this 4th day of January, 2024 for a one year term expiring on December 31, 2024.

Mike Morris made a motion to approve these appointments. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Resolution Supporting IRACS. In introducing Resolution 2024-03, Chris Switzer asked Chief Derek Fell to explain what IRACS is and why we would like to support this program and how it can be successful in recidivism and incarceration rates in Vigo County. Chief Fell talked about the problems in Vigo County with drug addiction and mental health issues. This program will provide services to help people beginning from the time they are arrested and to better prepare them when they enter back into the community. This is basically a state-funded program for the first year. Beyond that, some of the costs will probably need to be picked up by the county. He gave a summary of the program and how it worked. This is a pilot program that has been in existence for just a couple of years. It initially started with 5 pilot counties and is now expanding to add 6 more counties this year. Statistics indicate that the program is very successful in lowering recidivism. Chief Fell spoke to other counties using this program and all speak very highly of it. County Attorney Terry Modesitt said his office had talked to representatives in each of the 5 counties currently using this program and they are seeing good results. They could show numbers where it had reduced their jail population and recidivism rate in the first year of operation. Chris Switzer then read Resolution 2024-03 into record as follows:

“The Board of Commissioners of Vigo County, Indiana certify that the following resolution will be adopted at a meeting of the Board held on January 4, 2024:

WHEREAS, the Integrated Reentry and Support Program (“IRACS”) is a pilot program that assists individuals with mental health and substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, IRACS was created in response to the impact incarceration has on individuals and their families; and

WHEREAS, the IRACS program is initially funded by the State of Indiana’s Division of Mental Health and Addiction;

WHEREAS, IRACS seeks to start its program in the Vigo County Jail following approval of the Vigo County Sheriff Department's application by the Division of Mental Health and Addiction:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF VIGO COUNTY, INDIANA that it supports the Vigo County Sheriff's Department's application and the establishment of the IRACS program at the Vigo County Jail.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this resolution is effective immediately upon its date of adoption.

RESOLVED this 4th day of January, 2024."

Mike Morris made a motion to accept Resolution 2024-03. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

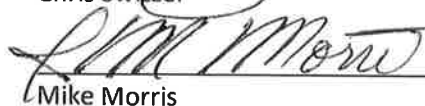
Honor Bill Keyes 20 Years of Service. County Engineer Larry Robbins said on behalf of the Commissioners, Superintendent Bob James, himself, and the Highway Department, he wanted to thank employee Bill Keyes, who had been a valuable employee for 20 years and is now retiring. He will be missed.

Public Comments. There were none.

Elected Official or Department Comments. Mike Morris stressed the importance of the IRACS program previously discussed and said they were looking forward to positive effects from this program. Mark Clinkenbeard said he thought they had accomplished a lot in the past year and were looking forward to continuing that progress in the coming year.

The next meeting will be January 9, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting recessed at 9:30 a.m.



Chris Switzer

Mike Morris

Attest:


James Bramble, Auditor

Mark Clinkenbeard