

THE MARTIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
February 17, 2026
MINUTES

The Martin County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular session on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, in the Commissioners' Room at the Courthouse located at 129 Main Street, Shoals, Indiana. Commissioners present were Paul R. George, Retha Warner, and Aaron Summers. Also present were Attorney David Lett and Auditor Michelle Norris.

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 5:30 p.m.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES & CLAIMS

The minutes from the regular meeting of February 3, 2026, were approved with a motion made by Commissioner Warner, seconded by Commissioner Summers. All in favor, motion passed. A motion was made by Commissioner Summers to approve the claims and allowances, seconded by Commissioner Warner. All in favor, motion passed.

RE: VETERAN SERVICES UPDATE

Veterans Service Officer Ryan Persinger provided an update for the month of January. He reported having seven new initial meetings with veterans to assist with paperwork. The veteran services van was used in transporting two veterans to appointments in January, with activity being low due to snow. VSO Persinger also noted he has begun attending meetings at local American Legions and VFWs to inform members about the services available. He plans to attend meetings at each club twice a year. He confirmed the van is in good condition but stated there is an ongoing need for more volunteer drivers.

RE: HIGHWAY UPDATES

Highway Administrative Assistant Theresa Ray reported that equipment is currently listed in an online auction with Purple Wave. She also reminded the public that load limits are currently in effect on county roads until further notice. President George inquired about equipment status, and Administrative Assistant Ray confirmed that one dump truck was ready to be picked up, but the John Deer tractor remains down. A discussion followed regarding the condition of Turkey Hill Lane, with Terry and Millie Giltner noting it was very slick and requesting gravel, especially with an increasing number of guests expected at rental cabins in the coming weeks. President George assured the resident they would be added to the list for stone and that the Commissioners are looking into options for widening the road.

RE: EMA UPDATE

EMA Director Andy Ringwald advised attendees to be aware of potential severe weather, including storms and high winds, forecasted for the week.

RE: VETERAN SERVICES DONATION FUND

Attorney David Lett presented a fund resolution on behalf of Auditor Michelle Norris to establish a new fund for the Veteran Services department. Auditor Norris explained the need for a dedicated fund for donations received by the Veteran Services department. Previously, a local VFW post managed these funds, but it was determined that having the donations processed directly through the County would be more appropriate and transparent. The funds are used for special veteran events. Commissioner Summers made a motion to approve the resolution establishing the Martin County Veterans Services Donation Fund, designated as fund number 4107, per Ordinance Number 2026-10. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

RE: COURTHOUSE SECURITY SYSTEM QUOTES

Auditor Norris presented two quotes from Area One Protection to complete the new courthouse security system. The first quote, for \$3,885, was to update door sensors and glass break detectors, which were not included in the initial installation of the key fob system. The second quote, for \$385, was for an emergency exit button for a downstairs door, which was identified as a safety need during a recent fire drill to allow egress from locked areas in an emergency. Prosecutor Aureola Vincz expressed gratitude for the recent security updates to the Courthouse, noting they have increased the feeling of safety for staff, particularly during high-tension situations. Commissioner Summers made a motion to approve both quotes from Area One Protection for a total of \$4,270. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed. President George stated the funds would be paid from the county's unrestricted opioid settlement fund, which currently holds approximately \$21,000.

RE: PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE HVAC AND PUBLIC COMPUTER ACCESS

Auditor Norris presented a quote for a split HVAC unit for the Prosecutor's office lobby. The office needs a space for the public to access and fill out state-required child support forms online, and the unconditioned lobby was considered for this purpose. After discussion, it was determined that a more immediate solution would be to place a dedicated public computer in the hallway of the Courthouse. The Commissioners agreed to pursue this option for the time being, and no action was taken on the HVAC quote.

RE: COMPUTER MONITORING AND SUPPORT CONTRACT

Auditor Norris presented the annual contract with Eck-Mundy for computer monitoring and help desk support. The contract covers one hundred-three computers and five servers. Auditor Norris expressed satisfaction with the service provided by Eck-Mundy over the past year. Commissioner Warner made a motion to approve the Eck-Mundy contract for computer monitoring and help desk support, effective February 1, 2026. Commissioner Summers seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed. Auditor Norris noted the total expenditure for monitoring and additional support in the previous year was \$61,955.

RE: AMBULANCE BILLING COLLECTIONS

Auditor Norris revisited the topic of collecting delinquent ambulance service fees through the Tax Refund Exchange and Compliance System (TRECS) program, which offsets debts against state income tax refunds. Commissioner Summers expressed personal reservations about garnishing tax refunds for medical-related debt. After a brief discussion, the Commissioners decided to table the matter and requested that Auditor Norris research other options, such as using a traditional collection agency, and present the findings at the next meeting.

RE: CEO PROGRAM DONATION

Auditor Norris presented an invoice for \$1,000 from the Martin County CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) program for the 2025 annual investment. She noted that the Commissioners had made a one-time \$5,000 contribution in 2023 but had not committed to an annual donation. The program's success and local involvement were highlighted. Commissioner Warner made a motion to approve the \$1,000 donation to the CEO program. Commissioner Summers seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

RE: AMBULANCE SERVICE PRIVATIZATION ANNOUNCEMENT

President George made an official announcement regarding the county's ambulance service. He stated that negotiations with Patriot Ambulance Service concerning the privatization of the service have ended, as Patriot has withdrawn its proposal. The County will continue to operate the ambulance service with its current personnel, and the Board of Commissioners will take no further action regarding privatization at this time. When asked, President George confirmed that Jeramey Osborn will remain the director and that the board will ensure it receives requested operational reports.

RE: EMA BUILDING RENAMING SIGNAGE

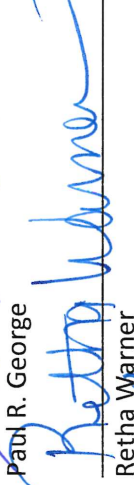
A discussion was held with Monty Wolf regarding the signage of the EMA building, which was recently renamed in his honor. Mr. Wolf suggested that a brass plaque or an engraved piece of granite affixed to the building would be a durable and low-maintenance option. The Commissioners agreed to continue working on the details for the new sign.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Warner and seconded by Commissioner Summers. All were in favor, and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:09 PM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 5:30 PM.



Paul R. George



Retha Warner



Aaron C. Summers

ATTEST: 

Michelle Norris, Martin County Auditor