

THE MARTIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
February 3, 2026
MINUTES

The Martin County Commissioners convened in a regular session on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at the Martin County Fire and Rescue EMA Building located at 2660 US Highway 50, Loogootee, Indiana. Commissioners present were President Paul R. George, Retha Warner, and Aaron Summers. Also present were Attorney David Lett and Auditor Michelle Norris.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND CLAIMS

President George asked if members had reviewed the minutes from the last meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Warner and seconded by Commissioner Summers to approve the minutes of January 20, 2026. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was then made by Commissioner Summers to approve the claims and allowances. This was seconded by Commissioner Warner. The motion passed unanimously.

RE: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT COMMENDATION

Attorney David Lett noted that he had received numerous positive comments about the excellent job the Highway Department did on the roads during the recent snow event. The Commissioners agreed, highlighting the long hours and difficult conditions the department worked under, including all day on a Sunday. The Commissioners expressed their appreciation to the Highway Department.

RE: 2026 COUNTY CAFETERIA PLAN

Attorney David Lett presented a resolution to adopt the 2026 County Cafeteria Plan regarding insurance, as advised by Human Resources Director Amy Rincker. He noted that the plan appeared to be the same as the one adopted for 2025. Commissioner Summers made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-09, the 2026 Martin County Cafeteria Plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Warner. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

RE: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY UPDATES

EMA Director Andy Ringwald discussed the recent snow emergency declaration. He noted some public confusion about what the declaration entailed, specifically that some private contractors were concerned about being arrested for clearing parking lots. Director Ringwald stated that clearing parking lots is encouraged and he plans to issue an explanatory letter alongside any future declarations to prevent such confusion. He also clarified the difference between a local declaration and a governor's declaration, noting that the latter is what could potentially lead to state financial assistance. Director Ringwald mentioned he would be attending a regular monthly meeting in Jasper on Thursday and would provide any significant updates afterward. President George commented that the declaration was effective in reducing traffic, which allowed highway crews to work more safely and efficiently.

RE: DNR TIMBER DISTRIBUTION

Auditor Michelle Norris reported that the County had received DNR timber distribution funds. She stated that per regulations, part of the distribution must be given to the four volunteer fire departments in the county. The Commissioners had the discretion to give each department an amount between the minimum of \$1,000 and the maximum available amount of \$2,229.92. Commissioner Summers made a motion to give the maximum amount of \$2,229.92 to each of the four fire departments: Martin County Fire and Rescue, Loogootee VFD, Shoals VFD, and Lost River VFD. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Warner. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

RE: FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS GROUP CONTRACT

Auditor Michelle Norris presented the yearly contract with Financial Solutions Group for general financial consulting services, including assistance with budgets and projections for the upcoming year. She confirmed the contract was the same as the previous year, with a cost not to exceed \$25,000, and that the County Council had approved the expenditure at their last meeting. Commissioner Warner made a motion to approve the proposal for professional services with Financial Solutions Group for 2026, not to exceed \$25,000. Commissioner Summers seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

RE: AUDITOR'S OFFICE COPIER PURCHASE

Auditor Michelle Norris presented a quote from Hoosier Business Machines for a new copier, printer, scanner, and fax machine for her office, which the Council had approved two meetings prior. She

explained that the current machine, acquired on January 6, 2020, produces poor color copies despite recent repairs, and a reliable copier is essential for the upcoming budget season. The funds for the purchase will come from the Auditor's Ineligible Deduction Fund. Commissioner Warner made a motion to approve the purchase of the copier for the Auditor's office from Hoosier Business Machines in the amount of \$7,367. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Summers. All were in favor, and the motion passed. Auditor Norris mentioned the Coroner had expressed interest in the old machine, but its usability is questionable due to the color printing issue.

RE: SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

Auditor Michelle Norris extended an invitation to the Commissioners on behalf of the Soil and Water Conservation District. Their annual meeting is scheduled for February 9th, with doors opening at 6:00 p.m. and the meal at 6:30 p.m., at the Community Building. Commissioner Summers noted that Mike Burkhardt will be the guest speaker.

RE: COUNTY PROPERTY AND ORDINANCE ISSUES

Attorney David Lett provided an update on several matters. He has sent a letter regarding a trash dumpster issue at the County Highway property. He also reported a property with uncontrolled trash on Goodwill Cemetery Road near the border of Loogootee and Perry Township. The issue was initially reported to the City, which determined it was a County responsibility. Attorney Lett confirmed with the Commissioners they would like him to send a letter to the property owner to address the situation, though cleanup would be delayed by weather.

RE: LIBRARY RENOVATION UPDATE

Mary Smith provided an update on the Shoals Public Library renovation project. The storefront windows and doors should be in next week. For the old part of the building, the upstairs lighting and trim are complete, with floor covering expected to begin next week; downstairs, the bathroom and galley flooring will begin tomorrow, followed by cabinet and fixture installation. Additional outlets will be added to the auditorium, and the downstairs ceiling has been painted. For the new building, the upstairs ceiling grid and lighting are complete, with tile installation next; work will soon begin around the elevator. The outside walkway has been demolished and graded, ready for concrete work when weather permits.

RE: ROAD CONDITIONS ON RAGLESVILLE ROAD

Jeff Asdell, a resident of Perry Township living on Ragslesville Road, addressed the Commissioners regarding the deteriorating condition of Ragslesville Road. He has lived there for several years and noted that while some patching has been done, the road lacks proper ditching, causing water to wash away repairs. He described a section of the road as being in horrible condition, essentially a one-lane road, and stated he believed that simply chip and seal would not be sufficient, that it would most likely also need to be wedged before chip and seal is placed. The Commissioners acknowledged the issue. President George confirmed that a section of Saint Joseph Road was on the list for Community Crossings grant work, but it was a different section than the one Mr. Asdell described as being in the worst shape. President George assured Mr. Asdell that they would stay on top of the issue and recognized that ditching would need to be completed before any paving could occur.

RE: PUBLIC COMMENT ON FORCED ORGAN HARVESTING IN CHINA

Laura Market from Evansville, with family ties to Loogootee, addressed the board to raise awareness about forced organ harvesting in China by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). She explained that practitioners of Falun Gong, along with other groups like Tibetans, Uyghurs, and underground Christians, are being persecuted and killed for their organs. She warned Hoosiers not to travel to China for organ transplants to avoid complicity in these acts. She also highlighted threats made against Shen Yun Performing Arts, a US-based company reviving traditional Chinese culture, which has received bomb and mass shooting threats. Ms. Market urged support for federal bill S817, the Falun Gong Protection Act, co-sponsored by Indiana Senator Todd Young. The bill aims to sanction individuals in China known to be involved in these human rights violations. She invited everyone to see Shen Yun in February.

RE: RESOLUTION HONORING CAMERON "MONTY" WOLF

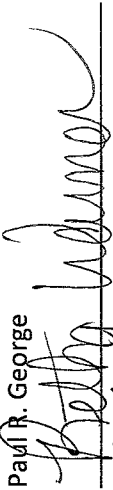
The Commissioners presented a surprise resolution to honor Cameron "Monty" Wolf for his extensive service to Martin County. The resolution recognized his over 50 years of valuable contributions to emergency services, which began in the early 1970s working with his father, Cameron Lee Wolf. Monty succeeded his father as Director of Emergency Services in 1988. The Commissioners detailed his immense contributions, including serving as a volunteer firefighter, recruiting, and training personnel, obtaining the first set of self-contained breathing apparatuses, and acquiring numerous emergency vehicles and tools. His service spanned countless incidents, from the blizzard of 1978 to the recent 2026 snow event, as well as chemical spills, floods, and tornadoes. The resolution highlighted that the county EMS building was built and equipped due to Monty's vision and that his service was provided voluntarily while working full-time and raising a family. In recognition of his leadership and immense contributions, the Commissioners resolved to name the Emergency Management Building in his honor. The building will hereafter be named the Cameron (Monty) Wolf Emergency Services Building. A motion was made by Commissioner Summers to accept resolution 2026-08. It was seconded by Commissioner Warner. All

were in favor, and the motion passed unanimously. Monty expressed his gratitude, stating that his goal has always been to help people in times of trouble.

The next Commissioner meeting was announced for Tuesday, February 17, at 5:30 p.m., to be held at the Courthouse. It was also noted that the Courthouse will be closed on Monday, February 16, for President's Day. With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Warner and seconded by Commissioner Summers. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 6:07 pm.



Paul R. George



Retha Warner



Aaron C. Summers

ATTEST:



Michelle Norris, Martin County Auditor