

JENNINGS COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

February 10, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.

Annex Building

Tina Ellis, Mike Gerth, Gene Rudicel, Jerry Lamb, and Dave Cheatham were present. Tina opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Dave Cheatham followed with prayer.

Jerry made a motion to approve prior meeting minutes with one correction. The correction is: Dave C. took over Jerry Lamb's position on the 911 Board. Dave C. seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The Treasurer reports the Trust Indiana account has made \$82,338.76. The interest from German American was \$7,673.00 and was transferred into the Trust Indiana account.

Andy Judd speaks to the council about moving some positions around since the resignation of one of his Probation Officers. To fill the vacant position, Andy looks internally first. Merri Eder is currently the JDAI coordinator, but she would like to accept the Probation Officer position. Andy says that he is very pleased that she is getting the opportunity to move into that position. Merri has been a court appointed special advocate, as well as her work with the courts and for DSC. Merri also has a master's degree. Merri's position as the JDAI Coordinator will be vacant. Cathy Vawter is currently in Family Recovery Court and ARC as a consultant. Cathy would like to add JDAI to her workload. Cathy has twenty plus years of probation and ten to fifteen years in court administration. Cathy will be paid from three grants. This transition would make Cathy a full-time employee, which would make her eligible for benefits. Andy explains that there are no new positions being added. Andy explains that if the grant funding goes away, Cathy's position will go away. He is not asking for any money from the county. If one or even two grants are lost, Cathy's position would go back to the way it currently is, and she would receive a 1099. Andy said he has made it clear that he isn't asking for county tax dollars to pay for this position. Ellie said she and Andy came to the council meeting as a courtesy to make them aware of the changing positions. Andy and Ellie will attend the commissioners' meeting on the 19th to get final approval. The pay of the probation officers is determined by a state matrix.

The sheriff wants to discuss 457B (retirement) with the council. The IRS made some changes last year that would allow for additional contributions if you were 60 years or older. Tina said that the council was given the opportunity to add a Roth but opted out because the county offers 457B and the employees can go to any financial institution and get a Roth. Dave C. said the council will revisit this option next year.

Under new business, an invoice from Reedy Financial needs council approval to be paid. Tina said that there is a charge on the invoice for TIF that needs to be paid by The Redevelopment Commission. Dave C. asks if the invoice is for end of the year reconciliation? The Auditor said it includes salary ordinance recap as well. Tina said that before the meeting, she and Dave feel like Reedy Financial had charged the county twice for the salary ordinance because it wasn't correct the first time. Tina said that it was no fault of the county so she doesn't believe the county should pay twice for it. The Auditor said that when council approved Reedy to create the salary

ordinance, Reedy quoted \$1250.00. The county has paid \$12515.00 so far. Tina said that she wants to have a discussion with Reedy before the invoice is paid. Gene made a motion to table until the next meeting. Dave C. seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Mike mentions that Elizabeth K. Weber has filed suit against Deputy Christopher Amis, council, commissioners, and the sheriff's department for an automobile accident.

Dave C. made a motion to adjourn at 6:35 pm, Mike seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Sarah Abel, Auditor

Tina Ellis, President

Mike Gerth, Vice President

Gene Rudicel

Dave Cheatham

Jerry Lamb

Mandy Creech

Dave Woodall