

## JENNINGS COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

March 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. Gene Rudicel followed with prayer.

*Dave W. was also present.*

Jerry made a motion to approve prior meeting minutes; Mike seconded the motion. Dave W. and Mandy abstained from the vote.

The treasurer's report shows that Indiana Trust has earned \$76,610.54. The counties bank account through German American earned \$5,143.46 in interest which was transferred to Indiana Trust.

Mike, with the Geneva Township Fire Department came to ask council if they could possibly help in putting a roof on the Fire Station. The first quote that Mike received was from First Choice Construction in the amount of \$35,780.00. The quote is to remove the roof, make any needed repairs, and put new metal on the roof. The second quote is from McCully Construction. McCully's quote is to remove and replace the metal and install new gutters. The third quote is from Sullivans Construction. This quote is to remove, repair, and replace for \$48,800.00. The lowest quote is from First Choice, but all three quotes are not comparing apples to apples. Tina asked if the fire department had the funds to cover the roof. Mike said that the fire department has money, but it is basically operating money. Gene asked Mike how much he felt comfortable with writing a check for the roof? Mike said he felt comfortable paying for half, which is approximately \$25,000. Dave W. and Gene say that they feel like the county needs to help. Gene made a motion to approve up to \$25,000.00 out of Safety Lit. Dave W. seconded the motion. Jerry asked what would be wrong with the Fire Department paying for the full amount of the roof and then coming back to the county if they needed help purchasing a big-ticket item later? Jerry said he isn't against helping them, maybe just to go about it in a different way. Mike stated that the council is going to change and that new members may not be on board with the help. Dave W. said that he understands what Jerry is saying but he thinks the county just pays it and moves on. The motion carries with Jerry opposing the vote. Jerry states that he isn't opposed to helping, he is opposed because of the way it is being done. Mike would need to take the request to the commissioners to get their approval.

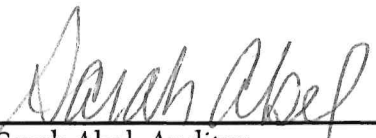
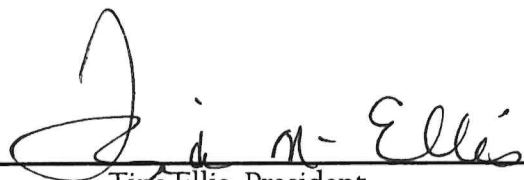
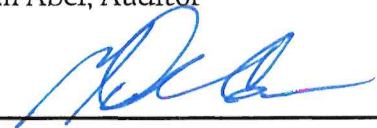
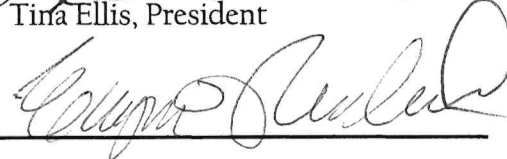

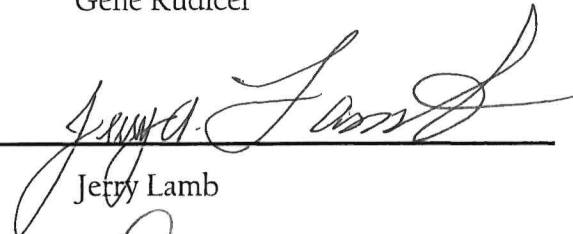
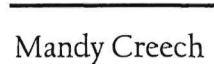
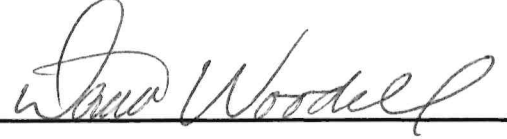
In new business, Dave W. makes a motion to appropriate the Rainy-Day fund, Safety LIT fund, Riverboat fund, and the Cumulative Courthouse fund. Anyone wanting to spend the money in any of these funds must come before council to get it approved. Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously. The Cumulative Courthouse fund is technically the commissioners' fund but would still require approval from the council. The balance in the Cumulative Courthouse fund currently is \$296,000.00. Dave W. made a motion to allow the commissioners to use up to 25% (\$74,000) of the Cumulative Courthouse fund without seeking approval from council. Once the balance is spent down 25%, approval must be made by council to spend any more. Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Mike made a motion to approve \$99,902.55 in encumbrances. Mandy seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Also in new business is the VOCA grant that needs approval from council. The VOCA grant pays 73% of the victim advocates salary. The match for this is paid for by the prosecutor's funds. Mike made a motion to approve the renewal of the grant; Dave C. seconded the vote, Dave W. abstained.

Reedy invoices were tabled in the last meeting and are being brought back to council for approval. Tina said she has made two calls to Reedy to get clarification on the invoices. Dave C. made a motion to table both invoices again. Gene R. seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Gene. made a motion to adjourn at 6:35 pm, Dave C. 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