

**PIKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 19, 2023 @ 8:30 AM**

Mark Flint  
Jeff Nelson  
Ryan Coleman

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

President Mark Flint called the meeting to order. All Commissioners were present in addition to Pike County Attorney Val Fleig, Pike County Auditor Judith Gumbel, and Pike County Administrator Kristi Dischinger. Also in attendance were Pike County Soil and Water Board President Norman Dillon, Pike County Chamber Board Treasurer Robin Smith, Pike County Chamber Director Jill Hyneman, Pike County Chamber Board Member Stephanie Gaskins-McGuire, EDC Director Ashley Willis, Pike County Sheriff Jason McKinney, Chief Deputy Dallas Killian, Pike County Extension CED Brooke Goble, Brent Roberts, Pike County Assessor Mike Goodpaster, Pike County Soil and Water Office Manager Amity Traylor, Pike County Highway Superintendent Josh Byrd, and Press Dispatch Editor Sherri Griffin.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES JUNE 5, 2023**

President Flint asked if there were any questions or concerns in regard to the minutes. Commissioner Ryan Coleman seconded by Commissioner Jeff Nelson motioned to approve the minutes. Motion passed 3 – 0.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS FOR JUNE 19, 2023**

President Flint asked if there were any questions regarding claims. Commissioner Nelson seconded by Commissioner Coleman motioned to accept the minutes. Motion passed 3 – 0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Spurgeon Loan Forgiveness

County Administrator Kristi Dischinger explained that the Town of Spurgeon had signed the agreement on June 13, 2023. Attorney Val Fleig stated he had approved the content of the document. The Commissioners had approved the Forgiveness of the Loan at a previous meeting. Therefore, the only thing that remained to be done was the actual signing of the agreement by the Commissioners which was done.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Budget Requests

EDC

Director of Pike County Economic Development Ashley Willis presented the EDC budget request for 2024. She highlighted the 2023 projects and accomplishments of the EDC: 1) Invenergy Crosstrack, 2) Invenergy Tax Revenue, 3) Petersburg Energy Center, 4) Indiana's READI program, 5) Deloitte Case Study, 6) The Meadows Housing, 7) Hornady Park Playground Equipment, 8) BRECC, and 9) Dept of Labor, infrastructure Jobs. Projects are bringing \$401,617,030 to the County. She is requesting a budget increase of \$20,000 to be used with basically federal grant administration and match.

President Flint commented that there was no question that all of the many types of grants were very important and crucial to the projects that need to happen to keep Pike County moving forward.

#### SWCD

District Administrator Amity Traylor presented the budget with comments by Chairman of Pike County SWCD Supervisors Norman Dillon. Ms. Traylor shared the services/programs provided by the SWCD and the source of funding. She stated that for every dollar invested by the local government, Pike County SWCD leverages \$36.22 in response for landowners through the county. The budget request for 2024 support is \$27,475. The funding source for the technician's position is coming to an end. They have applied for a grant to fund the position, but there is no guarantee that it will be funded. The budget request to Pike County is for 75% of a technician's salary. Mr. Dillon stressed the need for technician support.

Commissioner Coleman asked about the Soil and Water Conservation Construction Permit. A permit has to be purchased for anything over an acre. Inspections will be done usually once a month.

#### Chamber of Commerce

Robin Smith, Treasurer of the Pike County Chamber of Commerce, presented the budget request. She has been with the Chamber 10 years and has seen it grow. A second need for the community is a Tourism Bureau. This relates to the 4th pillar of the EDC's Economic Diversification Planning. She said that the businesses in the county need tourism. A tourism study in 2021 found that tourism generated \$1.4 billion in state and local taxes, and \$.65 of every dollar spent by visitors stayed in Indiana. Pike County has much to offer but there is a weakness in the awareness of other of Pike County destinations as well as a lack of tourist accommodations. She presented a budget for the consideration of the Commissioners of \$35,000 which included \$20,000 for a Tourism Director. She stated that they had reached out to two (2) marketing firms and that quote would be added to this budget when the program infrastructure is built and ready.

Chamber Expense supported by the county is \$3,000. The Chamber payroll is \$28,000.

The Chamber Director and the Tourism Director are two positions, but in theory could be done by one person since both would be part-time positions. This would need to be explored.

**BUSINESS BY COMMISSIONERS**

Second July Meeting 7/24

County Administrator Kristi Dischinger explained that without the 2nd meeting there would be almost five weeks between meetings and thus the approval of claims. Commissioner Coleman seconded by Commissioner Nelson motioned to add a meeting on July 24th to their schedule of meetings. Motion passed 3 – 0.

Clerk & Treasurer Reports – April

Highway Superintendent Josh Byrd reported that the first round of paving is complete with over 9 miles paved. The cost was \$981,980.83. Took a total of 16 days. The trash site at Otwell is completed. They are asking for three new containers and would like to have a compactor. They are waiting for the money to arrive for the next round of paving. He also discussed the wooden bridge that is causing the problem on the 356 detour. Commissioner Nelson said that INDOT has agreed to pay for dust control. He is still working with INDOT. Mr. Byrd will have to ask for an additional for fuel. He has spent \$97,000 so far.

Sheriff McKinney stated that he is ready to pick up two new Tahoe's. The specialized equipment will have to be installed.

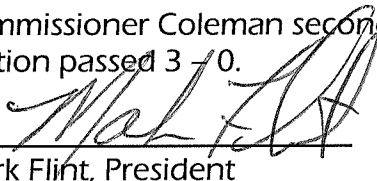
Auditor Gumbel discussed the Budget Schedule for the County. It will begin with a Budget Workshop on August 8 and 9. Department Heads should have all the details of their budget request for 2024 ready for discussion. September 12th will be the budget hearing and October 10th will be budget adoption.


County Administrator Kristi Dischinger shared that Solid Waste had their hazardous waste disposal day at Pike Central. It was a good day.

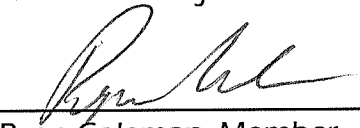
**BUSINESS BY PUBLIC – None**


**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Coleman seconded by Commissioner Nelson motioned to adjourn. Motion passed 3 – 0.

  
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Mark Flint, President

  
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Jeff Nelson, Vice President

  
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Ryan Coleman, Member

Attest:   
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Judith Gumbel, Auditor