

**Hancock County Board of Commissioners
Regularly Scheduled Meeting
January 6th, 2026**

Commissioner President Spalding called to order the January 6th, 2026, Hancock County Commissioners Board meeting at 8:04 AM. Those present were Board of Commissioners, Bill Spalding, Gary McDaniel, Jeannine Gray, Auditor Debra Carnes, Executive Liaison Sara Hilderbrand, and County Attorney Scott Benkie.

Audio and video recording statement.

President Spalding opened the meeting with the “Pledge of Allegiance”.

Commissioner McDaniel motioned to approve meeting minutes for 12/12/2025 (Executive) as presented. Commissioner Gray seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Board Appointments

Commissioner Spalding motioned to elect Commissioner McDaniel as President of the Board of Commissioners for 2026. Commissioner Gray seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner McDaniel motioned to elect Commissioner Gray as Vice-President of the Board of Commissioners for 2026. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

*Board of Commissioners recessed at 8:08 AM.
Drainage Board called to order at 8:09 AM.
Drainage Board adjourned at 8:54 AM.
Board of Commissioners reconvened at 9:03 AM.*

Highway

Commissioner Gray motioned to appoint Gary Pool and Ann Sheidler to the IMPO Tech and Policy Committee for 2026. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Gary Pool presented the following updates:

- Going to Council to increase 4616.40050 to \$1.5M for Amplify furniture
- Bridges on 300S and 400S closures this winter- 150-day closures
- Rough December- watching salt use
- January 20th, 2026- CCMG 2026 Micro surface bids will be received

Sheriff

Sheriff Burkhart presented a proposal for the addition of five full-time court security officers and the promotion of a court security sergeant. A discussion was had.

Commissioner Gray motioned to give a favorable recommendation to council for the addition of five full-time security officers and the promotion of a court security sergeant. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Parks & Recreation

Commissioner Gray motioned to approve Miriam Rolles to attend Indiana University’s Executive Development Program on April 19th, 2026, through April 22nd, 2026, in the amount NTE \$700 to be paid for out of the Commissioners Training line. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Hancock Regional Hospital Board

Commissioner Gray motioned to reappoint Maria Bond and Dr. Dean Felker to the Hancock Regional Hospital Board with a 4-year term ending December 31st, 2029. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Historical Society

Commissioner Gray motioned to approve and sign gift agreement for the artifacts found at the Memorial Building which includes several framed pictures, artwork, and China plates. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Amplify

Lance Snedeker presented the following updates:

Sitework		
<u>Completed</u>	<u>Underway</u>	<u>To be installed</u>
Asphalt base-parking lot and drives		
Light Pole bases are poured		
Building		
<u>Completed</u>	<u>Underway</u>	<u>To be installed</u>
Main Curtainwall glass installed	Drywall	
Boilers installed	Painting	
Low voltage and data cabling is pulled	Ceiling Grid install	
	Ceiling Lights in East section	
Budget & Schedule		
<u>Total Construction:</u>		
<u>GMP = \$42,326,040</u>	Billed 87% and on budget	
<u>Schedule:</u>		
Construction began October 2024		
Occupancy scheduled for June 2026		

Commissioner Gray motioned to approve the proposal from COE (Commercial Office Environments) for loose furniture for the Amplify Project in the amount NTE \$672,053.12. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioners' Business

Commissioner Gray motioned to approve claims and payroll as presented. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Amplify

Commissioner McDaniel motioned to approve disbursement #18 in the amount NTE \$1,861,676.37 as presented. Commissioner Gray seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Board Appointments

Commissioner Gray motioned to reappoint Jan Jarson to the Advisory Board of Citizens Energy Group for a 1-year term ending 12/31/2026. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Gray motioned to reappoint Bob Chandler to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a 1-year term ending 12/31/2026. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Gray motioned to reappoint Michael Long to the Area Planning Commission for a 4-year term ending 12/31/2029. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Spalding motioned to reappoint Jeannine Gray to the Area Planning Commission for a 4-year term ending 12/31/2029. Commissioner Gray seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Spalding motioned to reappoint Lacey Willard to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) for a 4-year term ending 1/1/2030. Commissioner Gray seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Spalding motioned to reappoint Jeannine Gray to the Central Indiana Regional Workforce Board for a 1-year term ending 12/31/2026. Commissioner Gray seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Spalding motioned to reappoint Jeannine Gray to the Economic Development Commission (Hancock County) for a 1-year term ending 12/31/2026. Commissioner Gray seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Gray motioned to reappoint Bill Spalding to the Economic Development Council (Hancock County) for a 1-year term ending 12/31/2026. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Gray motioned to reappoint Bill Spalding to the 911 Emergency Operations Center Management Board (Hancock County) for a 1-year term ending 12/31/2026. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Gray motioned to reappoint Dee Carmichael and Kathy Hall to the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals (PTABOA) for a 1-year term ending 12/31/2026. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Gray motioned to reappoint Mary Zurbuch, Tom Strayer, David Hawkins, and Chad Gray to the Redevelopment Commission for a 1-year term ending 12/31/2026. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Spalding motioned to reappoint Jeannine Gray to the Employee Benefits Panel for a 1-year term ending 12/31/2026. Commissioner Gray seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

*Board of Commissioners recessed at 9:56 AM.
Solid Waste called to order at 10:01 AM.
Solid Waste adjourned at 10:35 AM.
Board of Commissioners reconvened at 10:35 AM.*

Prosecutor’s Office

Commissioner Gray motioned to pay the invoice from Nelson Alarm for door access at the Prosecutor’s Office in the amount NTE \$35,593 to be paid for out of the 911 Bond (2022A GO Bond). Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Purdue Extension Office

Commissioner Gray motioned to accept the agreement from Nelson Alarm for door access at the Purdue Extension in the amount NTE \$4,655 to be paid for out of the 911 Bond (2022A GO Bond). Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Public Comment

Bernie Harris, IT Director would like the okay to give all township trustees in Hancock County a Hancock County email address. The Board of Commissioners gave the okay to give the township trustees a Hancock County email address.

Commissioner Gray motioned to adjourn until the next regularly scheduled meeting. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

The Hancock County Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 10:49 AM.

Commissioner Gary McDaniel, President

Commissioner Jeannine Gray, Vice-President

Commissioner Bill Spalding

Attest: _____
Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor