

**Hancock County Board of Commissioners**  
**Regularly Scheduled Meeting**  
**January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Commissioner President McDaniel called to order the January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Hancock County Commissioners Board meeting at 8:03 AM. Those present were Board of Commissioners, Gary McDaniel, Jeannine Gray, Bill Spalding, 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”.*

**Highway**

Board of Commissioners opened the following bids:

- Pavement Maintenance Systems, LLC- \$357,952.86
- Microsurfacing Contractors, LLC- \$269,183.20
- Microsurfacing Contractors, LLC- \$490,330.12
- Pavement Maintenance Systems, LLC- \$192,091.68
- Pavement Solutions, Inc.- \$332,427.20
- Pavement Solutions, Inc.- \$178,393.60

Gary Pool presented the following updates:

- 300S Bridge west of New Palestine closed on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>- 6-month construction contract
- 20 tons of salt sent to New Palestine and negotiated 800 tons more for Hancock County
- Jack & Sons did not accept offer and countered
- Steinmeyer Rd- successfully bid

**Ordinance 2026-1B**

Commissioner Gray motioned to approve Ordinance 2026-1B an ordinance amending Hancock County Code of Ordinances Title XV, Chapter 153.03 Permit Forms and Documents as presented. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Highway Cont.**

Commissioner Gray motioned to accept the bid from Pavement Solutions, Inc. for CCMG26 in the amount NTE \$332,427.20 as presented. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Gray motioned to accept the bid from Pavement Solutions, Inc. for microsurfacing for additional roads not included in CCMG26 in the amount NTE \$178,393.60 as presented. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**Hancock County Senior Services**

Suzanne Derengowski wanted the Commissioners okay to apply for a grant to replace two vehicles in her fleet which requires a 20% local match. The Board requested Suzanne to speak with Council on this matter as well.

**Commissioners' Business**

Commissioner Gray motioned to approve meeting minutes for 12/16/2025 and 1/6/2026 as presented. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **Health Department**

Commissioner Gray motioned to approve the POD Overview and MOU between Mt. Vernon Community Schools and Hancock County Health Department as presented. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **Auditor's Business**

Treasure's Board of Finance- Public Hearing moved to Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.

#### **Sheriff**

Commissioner Gray motioned to approve the agreement with Policies360 for software as a service and hosting subscription as presented. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Gray motioned to accept and agree to the request to declare a 2019 Chevy Tahoe VIN#9100 as surplus property and authorize its transfer for the nominal amount of \$1.00 to the Hancock County Solid Waste Management District. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Gray motioned to give council a favorable recommendation to pay for the 2026 Sheriff's vehicles in the amount NTE \$833,280 out of the 2026 GO Bond. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **Parks & Recreation Board**

Miriam Rolles requested to add two new board members to the Parks & Recreation Board bringing the board member count from three to five. Hancock County Attorney, Scott Benkie stated due to new legislation that was established in the last year it states if two Parks and Recreation Board members are meeting it must be a public meeting. Therefore Ordinance 2024-4C will stand as is.

#### **NineStar Park**

Commissioner Gray motioned to approve and sign the consent of property owner for NineStar Park to begin the rezoning process from Agricultural to Institutional. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **Goodin Rezone**

The Board of Commissioners requested more time to review the Goodin Rezone agreement and asked for Goodin to return to a future meeting once their review has been completed.

#### **Commissioners' Business Cont.**

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

#### **i3 Rezone**

Commissioner Spalding motioned to introduce Ordinance 2026-1C an Ordinance Amending Hancock County Zoning Ordinance No. 2007-1B Amending Title XV, Chapter 156. Zoning of the Hancock County Code of Ordinances and to suspend the rules on the date of introduction. Commissioner Gray seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Spalding motioned to approve Ordinance 2026-1C an Ordinance Amending Hancock County Zoning Ordinance No. 2007-1B Amending Title XV, Chapter 156. Zoning of the Hancock County Code of Ordinances. Commissioners Gray seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### **E911**

Commissioner Gray motioned to accept the construction contract agreement between Rusche Outdoors and Hancock County for the E911 build out in the amount NTE \$18,000 to be paid for out of the 2022A GO Bond (911 Bond). Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### **Board Appointments**

Commissioner Spalding motioned to reappoint Jonathan Albright to the Public Defender Board for a 3-year term ending in 2029. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Gray motioned to reappoint Jamie Bohler Smith to the Capital Improvement Board for a 2-year term ending 1/14/2027. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Gray motioned to appoint Gary McDaniel to the Economic Development Commission for a 1-year term ending 12/31/2026. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Gray motioned to appoint Gary McDaniel to the Economic Development Council for a 1-year term ending 12/31/2026. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Gray motioned to appoint Gary McDaniel to the Personnel Advisory Task Force to close out Bill Spalding's 4-year term ending 12/31/2028. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Gray motioned to appoint Karen Willis to the Tourism Commission for a 2-year term ending 12/31/2027. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Gray motioned to reappoint Bob Sterrett to the Tourism Commission for a 2-year term ending 12/31/2027. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Gray motioned to appoint Sarah Jo Achor and Bob Yeager to the Hancock County Impact Fee Review Board for a 2-year term ending 12/31/2027. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### **Department of Veterans' Affairs Commission**

Cambria Sparks, District Service Officer for the State of Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs presented the updated proposed policy, "Service Officer Accreditation Standards" and stated the Hancock County Veterans' Affairs Officers are complying and meet all standards.

### **Human Resources**

Kim Woodward presented an amendment to the Hancock Government Employee Handbook to state any employee that runs out of job protection under Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) or Americans Disability Act (ADA) would be entitled to a continuation of benefits through the county

for a period of 30-days from the time the job protection ceased. This policy would be retroactive to November 1<sup>st</sup> of 2025. Kim also clarified that Short Term Disability would not be affected.

Commissioner Gray motioned to approve the above stated changes to the Employee Handbook retroactive to November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, as presented. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **Amplify**

Commissioner Gray motioned to approve construction fund disbursement #19 in the amount NTE \$351,877.06 as presented. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **Prosecutor's Office**

Commissioner Gray motioned to approve the invoices from Office360 for office furniture in the amount NTE \$48,808 to be paid for out of CCD. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **Opioid**

Commissioner Gray motioned to disburse \$450,000 to Greenfield Church of God for their Men's Transitional Project and disburse \$250,000 to the Talitha Koum organization. Commissioner Spalding seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Hancock County Attorney, Scott Benkie states he has reviewed the issue of church and state in this allocation and has advised his opinion that there is no concern with the constitutional violation based upon this distribution of allocations to the Greenfield Church of God.

#### **Public Comment**

Mr. George Langston wanted the Commissioners to be aware of the small nuclear reactors involving the Indiana Development Corporation.

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 9:51 AM.**

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Commissioner Gary McDaniel, President

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Commissioner Jeannine Gray, Vice-President

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Commissioner Bill Spalding

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor