

POSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026.

The Board of Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled meeting at the Hovey House, 330 Walnut Street, in Mt. Vernon on Tuesday, February 18, 2026. Commissioners Bill Collins, Greg Newman, and Eric Koester were in attendance. Chief Deputy Auditor Shelley Hargrove and County Attorney Joe Harrison were also in attendance.

Commissioner Greg Newman led the Commissioners in prayer.

MINUTES

E. Koester made a motion to approve the minutes from February 18, 2026; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

CLAIMS

G. Newman made a motion to approve the claims as presented; E. Koester seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

CLERK'S REPORT

E. Koester made a motion to approve the December and January Clerk's report as presented; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

TREASURERS REPORT

G. Newman made a motion to approve the January Treasurer's report; E. Koester seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

HIGHWAY 69 SOUTH NUISANCE COMPLAINT

Posey County Building Commissioner Ed Battieger updated the Commissioners on the ongoing complaint for Highway 69. Mr. Battieger stated that he contacted the owner, who is still incarcerated, but no progress has been made. E. Koester asked if the fine had been imposed and paid. Mr. Battieger stated that the fine had been imposed but not paid.

G. Newman asked if the requested bids were gathered. Mr. Battieger stated no.

Mr. Koester asked when bids could be gathered and brought to the meeting so the County could clean this property. Mr. Battieger stated that he could have bids by the second meeting in March.

B. Collins made a motion to seek three bids for cleaning up the property to be brought to the second meeting in March, if no effort was made to clean this property up prior to that meeting;

G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

WESTERN BY-PASS CROP DAMAGE AGREEMENT

Commissioner B. Collins stated that during the recent construction of the Western By-Pass, damage was done to land not belonging to the by-pass. Mr. Collins stated that the landowner has worked with County Attorney Joe Harrison to determine a fair assessment of the damage. Mr. Collins stated that the amount of \$569.80 will be paid from bond funds to the landowner.

E. Koester made a motion to approve this amount; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE FOR UDO

B. Collins read a public statement, which is attached to these minutes as an exhibit.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Posey County EMA Director Carrie Thompson informed the Commissioners that she has received a \$500 donation for the Project Lifesaver program and that a fourth person is enrolled. Mrs. Thompson stated that the Wadesville siren is still not functioning properly and that she is working with the manufacturer to find a remedy. Mrs. Thompson stated that the manufacturer believes there is faulty cell phone equipment on the tower causing the interference.

B. Collins asked what areas the four individuals enrolled in Project Lifesaver are located in the County. Mrs. Thompson stated that two were from Mt. Vernon, one from the east side of town, and one from the central area of the county.

Posey County Highway Superintendent Steve Schenk stated that, with recent weather, the department is posting weight limits on County roads today. Mr. Schenk explained that permits are available by calling either highway garage. Mr. Schenk stated that, compared to the last time weight limits were enacted, there are fewer roads this year because more roads are paved. Mr. Schenk stated that he estimated this could be lifted by mid-March.

Posey County Chief Deputy Sheriff Jeremy Fortune gave the following inmate housing update:
DOC: 9
Vanderburgh County: 14
Posey County: 79
Total 102

Chief Deputy Fortune informed the Commissioners that four jailers were involved in two separate incidents that required them to seek medical attention. Mr. Fortune stated that these jailers have returned to work.

Mr. Fortune stated that during a recent incident initiated by the City of Mt. Vernon, there was damage inflicted on one of the County Deputy vehicles. Mr. Fortune stated that the damages are roughly \$10,000.00, and repairs will start this week.

Mr. Fortune informed the Commissioners that the radios are working well following the recent updates and that he has heard no complaints.

Jamie Bradford, Posey County E911 Director, addressed the Commissioners regarding ongoing radio issues. Mrs. Bradford stated that radios were reviewed on Monday and Tuesday, and she is working on a maintenance agreement with J&K to present to the Commissioners at a later date.

Mrs. Bradford informed the Commissioners that she would like to proceed with obtaining quotes to update the current dispatch consoles. Mrs. Bradford stated that this will allow for the proposed growth of the department. Mrs. Bradford stated that she plans to request two additional full-time dispatchers. Mrs. Bradford explained the need to reconfigure the department and to establish a designated law and safety channel, to be handled by a dispatcher each shift.

B. Collins asked if the current console configuration would allow for an additional dispatcher now or if she would have to wait for a remodel to hire the additional employees. Mrs. Bradford stated that she could make it work with the current for the meantime.

County Attorney Joe Harrison stated that Mrs. Bradford should send a request for sealed proposals to the Auditor's office for the console project.

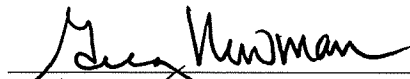
G. Newman made a motion to support the hiring of a third dispatch position; E. Koester seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

Mrs. Bradford stated that, regarding the current radio system, one option is to add a repeater at each site, allowing one extra talk path per repeater. Mrs. Bradford stated that with this option, there would have to be some sites that would need to be expanded to accommodate the extra equipment.

B. Collins stated that he has requested that Mrs. Bradford proceed with a study to determine the cost to the County if they moved to an 800-megahertz system.



Bill Collins



Greg Newman



Eric Koester



Attest: Maegen L. Greenwell