

KNOX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

111 North 7th Street, Vincennes, IN 47591

PRESIDENT: T.J. BRINK
VICE PRESIDENT: TIMOTHY ELLERMAN II
MEMBER: KELLIE E. STREETER

March 3, 2026 Minutes for Meeting of the Knox County Commissioner

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Knox County Commissioners was held on March 3, 2026 at Vincennes City Hall at 203 Vigo St. The meeting was held at 10:00 am.

Attendees

Voting members in attendance included Kellie Streeter, TJ Brink and Tim Ellerman. Also, Counsel Drew Porter and Auditor Lisa Clark/Benock and First Deputy Julie Lancaster.

Adoption of the Agenda

Motion: Moved by TJ Brink and seconded by Tim Ellerman to approve the agenda with the addition of h. Knox County Highway and i. Interlocal Law Enforcement agreement. Motion passes 3-0.

Review of Minutes of Prior Meetings (February 17, 2026)

Motion: Moved by TJ Brink and seconded by Tim Ellerman to approve February 17 meeting minutes and March 1 Special Public Meeting minutes. Motion passes 3-0

Appointments –

New Business

- a. Bi-Annual Report on Knox County Veterans Services – Kevin Hinton Southwest District Service Officer presented a brief overview of services for Knox County Veterans Services, and that Marty Qualkenbush has prepared his replacement Justin Jones. Knox County Veterans Service fully compliant with completing work hours and training.
- b. Pet Port Interlocal Agreement Revisions – Counsel Drew Porter updated the Commissioners with revisions to the Animal Shelter Interlocal Agreement with city of Vincennes an increase in cost from \$250 per dog to \$275, and the adoption of rules and regulations that the city of Vincennes uses in operation at the Animal Shelter. Counsel Drew Porter had no legal objections with the revision. **Motion:** Moved by TJ Brink and seconded by Tim Ellerman to approve Pet Port Interlocal Agreement with Revisions. Motion passes 3-0
- c. Weight Limit Restrictions on Knox County Roads – Knox County Highway Superintendent Chad Reynolds – request to extend the weight limit restrictions for another seven days. **Motion:** Moved by TJ Brink and seconded by Tim Ellerman to extend the weight limit restrictions for seven more days. Motion passes 3-0
- d. Solar Farm Ordinance (discussion only) – The Commissioners discussed between the three of them what revisions or updates they would like to see on the solar ordinance. Tim Ellerman well water testing for heavy metals and proposes 500 ft. TJ Brink several ideas for mitigation and landscaping. He agreed with Area Plan for 300ft. Kellie Streeter agreed with the 300ft. The coal mine has a 300 ft set back in Knox County. She wanted more time to give

her revisions. Time will be needed for Counsel Drew Porter to draft ordinance with first reading and then to Area Plan Committee for approval.

- e. Land Use Moratorium(s)
 - i. Ordinance 2026-__: Moratorium on Data Center projects
 - ii. Ordinance 2026-__: Moratorium on Commercial Wind Energy Conversion Systems
 - iii. Ordinance 2026-__: Moratorium on Carbon Sequestration projects
 - iv. Ordinance 2026-__: Moratorium on Utility Scale Battery Energy Storage SystemsThe Commissioners did not move forward with moratorium but to move forward with creating committees when drafting ordinances that deal with energy production (wind, battery storage, data center, carbon sequestration) with Area Plan director and outside legal counsel that specializes in energy, council and commissioner members, and economic development.
- f. Claims – Motion: Moved by Kellie Streeter and seconded by TJ Brink to approve claims \$1,331,312.83. Motion passes 3-0
- g. Payroll – Motion: Moved by TJ Brink and seconded by Kellie Streeter to approve payroll for February 27th, 2026. Motion passes 3-0
- h. Highway Superintendent Chad Reynolds – request approval to advertise for bids for the Community Crossing Matching Grant. Motion: Moved by TJ Brink and seconded by Tim Ellerman to approve request to advertise for bids for the Community Crossing Matching Grant and to be opened at the April 7th meeting. Motion passes 3-0
- i. Knox County Sheriff - Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Sandborn First Christian Church and LifeWise Academy – South Knox and the Sheriff Department of Knox County for after hours detail. Motion: Moved by TJ Brink and seconded by Tim Ellerman to approve Sandborn First Christian Church and LifeWise Academy interlocal agreement with the Knox County Sheriff Department. Motion passes 3-0

Old Business

Announcements/Commissioner Reports

- a. Knox County Code Compliance Officer – NA
- b. READI 2.0 Grant – TJ Brink reported moving dirt out at the Industrial Park. The third apartment complex starting at Bierhaus flats.
- c. Knox County Emergency Management Operations Center – Tim Ellerman reported the space committee looking at property out by Sheriff area. Kellie Streeter reminded that a design by RQAW that \$200K already spent on that design.
- d. Knox County Judicial Center – NA

Public Comment –

Cindy Gilmore – safe solar – when creating committees for energy projects include local input

Robert Merydith – safe solar

David Wilson – spoke

Elizabeth Merydith – safe solar – safety more than 300 ft

Charlie Bobe – spoke

Mitch Meeks – safe solar – asked if property with solar would be zoned agriculture or industrial?

Lisa Black – safe solar – safety well water

Phyllis Holscher – safe solar – safety 300 ft not enough

Gary Powell – solar – economic impact

Donna Taylor Bouchie – safe solar – suggested 300 ft from property line not structure

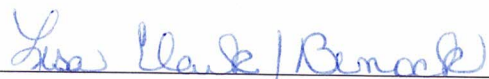
Joe Holscher – safe solar

Cody Hendershot – safe solar – children safety

Date, Time, and Place of Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 17th, 2026 at 6:00 pm at Vincennes City Hall 203 Vigo St. Vincennes, IN.

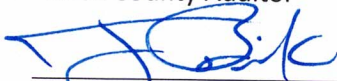
Adjournment – TJ Brink and seconded by Tim Ellerman to adjourn at 11:20 am. Motion passes 3-0



Secretary Lisa Clark / Benock
Knox County Auditor



Date of Approval



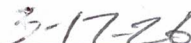
President TJ Brink
Knox County Commissioner



Date of Approval



Vice President Tim Ellerman
Knox County Commissioner



Date of Approval



Kellie Streeter

Knox County Commissioner



Date of Approval