

COUNCIL & COMMISSIONERS

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

Troy D. Morgan Public Safety Center, 620 Green Road, Madison, Indiana

DATE 01-08-2026

Commissioner David Bramer called the meeting to order. Those present: Commissioner Robert Little, Commissioner David Bramer, Councilman Dwayne May, Councilman Mike Turner, Councilman Ray Black, Councilwoman Heather Foy, Councilwoman Pam Crozier and Councilman Gary Copeland. Commissioner Ron Lee and Councilman Ray Denning were unable to attend the meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the potential juvenile facility, located at the old jail downtown.

Discussion began with a recap of prior conversations regarding the juvenile facility project and reference to the project plan previously shared by Commissioner Ron Lee, including timeline and cost estimates. The timeline goal for opening is January 2027, starting with 16 beds (8 male, 8 female).

Current practice requires transporting juveniles 3 hours away, creating costs for officer time, travel, and family visitation challenges. Local facility would improve family access and reduce transportation costs.

Preliminary estimate: \$500,000 for renovation; actual bids pending. Potential funding sources include opioid settlement funds, local nonprofits and foundations (Bethany Legacy emphasized for mental health alignment), and possible state/federal grants. Josh Nichols will review what options are available for state/federal.

Further discussion involved community feedback, with general support for repurposing the old jail; concerns about outdoor space for juveniles addressed. Josh Nichols will also advise on State requirements.

The juvenile facility will be operated by Josh Nichols, not the county. County responsible for building maintenance, not daily operations. Auditor Heather Huff made mention that county tax dollars would be used for building startup, but not for the general operations of the facility. Initial capacity: 16 beds, expandable to 40 beds over time. The facility will house juveniles only from Indiana to avoid interstate legal complications.

The Commissioners will work to obtain a firm renovation cost estimates before the February meeting. Both Council and Commissioners were in favor of moving forward with planning with the formal budget approval anticipated in February. Another joint meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2026, at 5:00 PM for updates.

Commissioner Little adjourned. Commissioner Bramer seconded the motion.

A video recording of this meeting is available on the [Jefferson County, Indiana Government YouTube channel](#).

ATTEST: _____
Heather Huff, Auditor

Ron Lee, President

David Bramer, Member

Robert Little, Member