

Owen County Commissioners
Minutes-September 7, 2021

Meeting was opened by President Gary Burton.

Pledge of Allegiance was said, and opening Prayer was given by Sheriff Hobbs.

Roll was called; Present Commissioners Gary Burton, Bob Curry, Dale Dubois. Attorney Jim Bryan and Nicole VanDerMoere in the absence of Auditor Reeves. Public sign in sheet attached for permanent record.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion Carried 3-0. Attorney Bryan gave an update on the current financial situation regarding the County General Fund, noting that the current negative balance is \$474,177.02. Further stressed was that there are still five claim cycles left with only approximately \$500000 left from the LIT Fund. A motion to approve the Claims Docket in the amount of \$479,120.75, and Out of Cycle Claims for Utilities-\$4720, REMC Redevelopment-\$20,834, COVID Clinic \$5090, COVID Clinic-\$4720, Steve's Welding-\$175, and Toshiba-\$1567.18 was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion Carried 3-0.

Old Business

Mr. Bryan related that the

No discussion was made on the pending Dormant Funds.

New Business

Highway Superintendent started with that he has four employees out with Covid. He requested to close the Highway Dept. to the public. Mr. Burton made a motion to close until further notice with the possible situation with all employees and to protect the Public; seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion carried 3-0.

Later Mr. Burton added that it is important to get the vaccine and that all of the staff would be getting tested.

A Request to install Security Cameras in various places at the Garage was made. An Invoice was presented for \$4976 from Forthphaze. A motion to approve the Claim and to be paid from Cumulative Cap Fund was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion Carried 3-0.

Mr. Melton related that they will be turning Steubenville Road over to the Contractors next week, followed by Culross and Walden Roads to meet the October deadlines.

Mr. Dubois asked if had looked into hiring outside help for blacktopping. Mr. Melton said that it could be beneficial in the future to bid projects.

Mr. Melton said that the pugmill was ready for Bethesda, Childers, W. Fall Creek and Locust Lake Roads. They will most likely be running one week behind due to the current covid situation. Mr. Burton said the project was possible due to some savings from layoffs and delay in purchase of a dump truck until next year.

Mr. Melton related that all three injection Hole Patchers were down due to maintenance issues.

Mr. Melton presented two quotes for Bridge 16-Rocky Hill Road. The quotes submitted were for the Emergency Declaration per IC36-1-12-9. Mr. Bryan read the quotes received from E-3 Bridge Company in the amount of \$93125, and CLR for \$79135. Concerned with the bid amounts and differences in the Bridge Decking costs presented they wanted to make sure that they were being compared apples to apples so to say. Mr. Melton took a break to review the quotes.

Following review Mr. Melton noted the differences were in material costs. Other concerns were for financing. A Council member had stated that there was enough money to pay for it. He stated that he does not have the money and Mr. Bryan confirmed that his Bridge Fund only had \$264994 and that was earmarked for the Kelley

Road Bridge Project. Mr. Bryan said that he could go to Council on the 13th and pre-request funding availability up to a certain amount. Mr. Burton feels that the citizens deserve an answer regarding the statements that have been made. Councilman Wood was present and offered that it was stated at the beginning of the meeting the amount of funds available is of concern to keep going the rest of the year; and it is the same monies that would have to be considered for this; Mr. Bryan reiterated that only an "x" amount of money was available. It was agreed that there was not enough time to call a special meeting due to advertising requirements, but he could go ahead and go to the Council. A motion to Re-Bid the Project for comparable quotes and for Mr. Melton to go to the Council was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion Carried 3-0.

Mr. Burton had received a request from a taxpayer how fast can Mow Trimming be done. Mr. Melton said if you want a *clean road as you go it takes longer*. If you want the *edge only* with one swipe each side, it is obviously quicker. They can average three to five miles an hour with 700 miles of roads to cover.

Parkview Estates was briefly discussed with Mr. Melton as to the County taking over their roads. Mr. Melton recommended that crack sealing be done before the Commissioners would take over the roads and it would be done at their expense. Mr. Burton will contact Rich Roberts with the updated request.

Representatives for the Hilly Hundred were not present. Sheriff Hobbs had spoke with one of their representatives and she had related that the event would be held on October 9th & 10th. Only four or five locations will be utilized at this time. (46/Schooling/Hardscrabble/Mt. Carmel) Commissioner's Tabled until the next meeting when someone could be present to answer more questions.

Sheriff Sam Hobbs had nothing to update at this time.
EMS Director was not present.

In reference to the Cataract Lake Homeowners Association- Annual Dues notice; Mr. Burton related that they do not pay Annual Dues. No action was taken.

Mr. Bryan presented and read an amendment to the County Personnel Policy 502 Work Schedules: specifically noting the required Work Hours. A motion to approve the Policy was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion carried 3-0. Ms. VanDerMoere was to distribute to all Departments today as the Policy will be effective starting Tuesday.

Mr. Bryan presented and read an amendment to County Personnel Policy 201 Employment Categories. The Policy added the Category "Regular Full Time" (30Hours) at the Health Department; those who are regularly scheduled to work 30 hours week are eligible for the County's Benefit Package. A motion to approve the Policy was made by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion Carried 3-0.

Mr. Bryan presented and read Resolution 2021-025 Statement regarding Mask Guidelines. Mr. Burton related that they had put together basic information and guidelines with moving forward. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Bob Curry; seconded by Dale Dubois. Motion Carried 3-0. Ms. VanDerMoere will publish the Resolution.

Mr. Bryan provided information and guidelines from the Indiana State Board of Health and CDC and related that the State has given authority to the Local Health Departments for Quarantine. Gave example If vaccinated and exposed to a positive person; with no symptoms you do not need to quarantine but should get tested. If Un-vaccinated and had contact with a positive person they are recommending quarantine for 14 days. The time could be shortened by the local authority. Mr. Burton re-clarified if a Vaccinated employee is exposed with no symptoms they can work.

Mr. Burton requested that the Temperature Monitors be put back up in all departments. Motion by Dale Dubois; seconded by Bob Curry. Motion Carried 3-0.

Later in the meeting Mr. Burton added that everyone should check with the Health Department on the guidelines for exposure and quarantine.

Elected Officials' Comments

911 Director Kathleen Lamb related that all phone lines had been moved over last week, there will no longer be a phone tree option when the 812-829-4874 number is called. It will ring directly into the Dispatch Center. The new Sheriffs direct line is 812-829-5757.

Additional work will be necessary due to AT&T issues; HICOM could take over and provide the lines permanently or AT&T will have to run new copper line to fix the problems. Ms. Lamb feels that HICOM would be the best route to take. Mr. Burton asked for a Contract to be presented at the next meeting. The overall cost should be reduced with going with HICOM.

Construction prices for a privacy fence had been discussed in the past, she now has a quote for \$9800 for a wooden frame structure with metal sides. Mr. Bryan recommends that a bid process needs to be done as the limit is now \$5000.

An employee had also been out with Covid; and it has generated some overtime. They have two positions open and it will be advertised.

Attorney Comments-None

Auditor Comments-None

Commissioner Comments-

Mr. Curry wanted to clarify that on the Mask Resolution that they didn't want people calling and saying it was for the school, this is not for them.

CLR-Bill related that he was retiring and that a new representative named Bill Williams from Monroe County will be taking over.

Public comment about the uses of the new Income Tax Increase. Mr. Burton and Mr. Bryan clarified it was for a Public Safety Tax for the Jail and 911/EMS Departments can be included; not Highway/County Roads. She had been told by a Council Member that it was for the roads, not the jail.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Burton; seconded by Mr. Curry. Motion Carried 3-0.