

**POSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2014**

The Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Commissioners' room at the Hovey House, 330 Walnut Street, in Mt. Vernon on Tuesday, September 23, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. Members present: Commissioner President Carl A. Schmitz, Jerry R. Walden, James L. Alsop, Attorney Jacob Weis and Auditor Kyle J. Haney.

Commissioner President Carl A. Schmitz opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES**

J. Alsop made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and J. Walden seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

**CLAIMS**

It was noted that there were two duplicate payments to the Harris Computer Systems and that a correction was being made. J. Alsop made a motion to approve the claims on the condition that the correction was addressed and J. Walden seconded the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

J. Walden made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Monthly Report for August 2014 and J. Alsop seconded. Motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

**HARMONY WAY BRIDGE COMMITTEE**

The Commissioners discussed the next steps to take in regard to the proposed acquisition Harmony Way Bridge. It was stated that a Committee be established consisting of seven members and that included a member from the Commissioners, a member for the Council, a member from the New Harmony Town Council and other interested parties were Linda Henning, Ryan Rapp, Zach Weinzapfel and David Brown. Commissioner Walden suggested that someone from the Economic Committee serve on the Board, and also suggested engaging the knowledge and connections of Michael "Spud" Egbert. He also informed that he has been working on a compilation of historical public records and information on the Harmony Way Bridge with the purpose of recovering deed and title information. President Commissioner Schmitz noted that the toll booth has been vandalized on the Illinois side of the bridge. Attorney Weiss stated for public record that the Committee is an Advisory Committee. Commissioner Alsop made a motion to approve the names for the Committee and Commissioner Walden requested time to contact each of the names that were mentioned. Commissioner Alsop withdrew his comment. J. Walden made a motion to table the names and further discussion for the Committees until the next meeting and J. Alsop seconded. Motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

**NATURAL GAS MARKET UPDATE, BRIAN HIRSCHBERG,  
CONSTELLATION**

Brian Hirschberg, Representative for Constellation, reported to the Commissioners on the natural gas market update. He reported that the previous year the County locked in at 65% of anticipated volumes and that locked in rate provided a price protection as the winter proved to be colder. Mr. Hirschberg stated that current market price for natural gases has fluctuated from \$3.90 to \$4.25 over the past four months and that the US Storage Reserves were low. He suggested that this year the County lock in at 75% in order to secure a layer of price protection. J. Walden made a motion to lock in the natural gas rate at 75% of usage for November through March and J. Alsop seconded. Motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

**RESOLUTION OF THE AREA PLAN COMMISSION, MINDY BOURNE, AREA  
PLAN DIRECTOR**

Mindy Bourne, Area Plan Director, presented to the Commissioners an Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance as it pertains to residential storage structures that were classified as accessory structures and not principle structures. The Planning Commission formed a Committee to address the issues with primary focus to deter residential storage structures being used for reasons other than intended such as business purposes, as there are other zoning restrictions for those purposes. The Amendment includes language to state uses for residential storage structures to be used as a special use and to specified restricted areas, and also defines the term residential storage structures. It was established that the requests for special use would still require a hearing before the Zoning Board and opportunity for remonstrators as well as structure criteria. The Planning Commission heard the matter and approved with a 7-0, yes vote. Attorney Weiss inquired of whether there were remonstrators against the Amendment present and Mrs. Bourne replied "No". J. Alsop made a motion to approve the Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance for Unincorporated Posey County, Indiana and J. Walden seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**POSEY COUNTY INVESTMENT AND DEPOSIT POLICY, JUSTIN WHITE,  
TREASURER**

Treasurer Justin White addressed the Commissioners and presented the Investment and Deposit Policy for Posey County. He stated that the revisions that were requested have been made and the policy is compliant to Indiana Code 5-13. Mr. White requested the Commissioner to approve the policy as it stands. Commissioner Alsop pointed out minor changes to a title heading to Investment and Deposit Policy for consistency with the entire document. Mr. White agreed. J. Also made motion to approve with changes to language mentioned and J. Walden seconded. Motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

**IN-HOUSE EMAIL, PILT FUNDS AND GIBSON REFUND, KYLE J. HANEY,  
AUDITOR**

Auditor Kyle J. Haney inquired whether the Commissioners proposed to move forward with in-house email system, where the County's email passes through the County's server which is a benefit for security and file exchange purposes. The cost is quoted at \$10,885. The expense can be covered by the PILT which can contribute \$7,883 and the Gibson County Refund in the amount of \$5,060. The PILT has been received in and the Gibson County Refund has not been received. J. Alsop made the motion to move forward with in-house email upon receipt of the Gibson County Refund and J. Walden seconded. Motion carried with a vote 3-0. J. Alsop amended the motion to add that the email also be changed from .org to .gov and J. Walden seconded. Motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

**VIOLATION OF NUISANCE ORDINANCE, CABORN ROAD**

Attorney Weiss addressed the issue and stated that he visited the property that morning and the weeds had been cut on the dirt mound. It is reported that the safety issue had been mitigated. Edwin Goedde, a neighbor to the property was present at the meeting and spoke. Attorney Weiss will follow up with Ed Batteiger to address other issues considering the property.

**BLIGHT ELIMINATION PROGRAM, ATTORNEY JACOB WEISS**

Attorney Weiss announced the Debra Bennett-Stearsman, who is the point of contact for the Blight Elimination Program reported that the Posey County application for the Blight Elimination Project was approved, however new standards had recently been introduced at the State level by the Federal Government, so there would be a delay. Attorney Weiss stated that she would keep the Commissioners informed.

**AMENDED MINUTES FOR COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES ON  
AUGUST 19, 2014**

J. Walden made a motion to approve the amended August 19, 2014 Commissioners Meeting minutes and J. Alsop seconded. Motion carried with a vote of 3-0. The meeting minutes were amended to include a verbatim transcription of the Harmony Way Bridge.

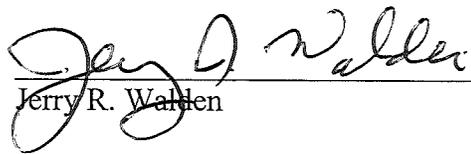
**DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES**

Commissioner Alsop added that Posey County EMA is holding an exercise on that day in New Harmony at Murphy Park between 8 AM and 6PM. He also mentioned that letters to Poseyville Town Council, New Harmony Town Council and the Mount Vernon Mayor in regard to appointment to the Inn Keeper's Tax Board and requested that their appointments be received by mid -October. President Commissioner Schmitz added that in the cases where there are two appointees, one should be Democrat and one Republican in order to maintain a politically neutral Committee.

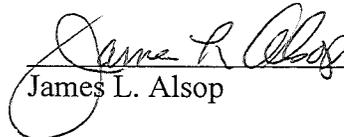
No other business was discussed, and the meeting was adjourned until Tuesday, September 23, 2014.



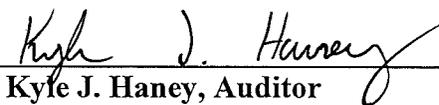
Carl A. Schmitz, President



Jerry R. Walden



James L. Alsop

ATTEST:   
Kyle J. Haney, Auditor

