

POSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020.

The Board of Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled meeting at the Hovey House, 330 Walnut Street, in Mt. Vernon on Tuesday, April 21, 2020. Commissioners Carl Schmitz, Jay Price (via teleconference) and Randy Thornburg were in attendance. Auditor Maegen Greenwell and County Attorney Joe Harrison were also in attendance.

MINUTES

R. Thornburg made a motion to approve the minutes from April 7, 2020; J. Price seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

CLAIMS

J. Price made a motion to approve the claims; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

J. Price made a motion to approve the March Treasurer's report; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

CLERK'S REPORT

R. Thornburg made a motion to approve the February and March Clerk's report; J. Price seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

STATE OF EMERGENCY EXTENSION

C. Schmitz stated the current State of Emergency Order expires today. R. Thornburg made a motion to extend the Emergency Order for another week, extending through April 28; J. Price seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

County Attorney, Joe Harrison, stated on April 28th, the Commissioners could extend the State of Emergency with wording that they could cancel that order at the guidance of the Governor.

HIGHWAY BIDS

The Posey County Commissioners received three bids for a culvert replacement on Raney Road. C. Schmitz opened the following bids:

Chastain Excavating: \$221,030.00

Russell's Excavating: \$99,495.00

Blankenburger Brothers: \$178,495.00

C. Schmitz made a motion to take these under advisement and hear Steve Schenk's recommendations at the end of this meeting; J. Price seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

ALPHA LASER CONTRACT

Posey County Auditor, Maegen Greenwell, stated this contract is with Alpha Laser who services the majority of the County's copier needs. Mrs. Greenwell stated this contract is for another five years, just as the previous contract, and will save the County roughly \$6,000.00 over the course of the five years. Mrs. Greenwell stated this price is also for upgrading several copiers currently in use.

R. Thornburg made a motion to approve the Alpha Laser contract; J. Price seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Posey County Highway Superintendent, Steve Schenk, informed the Commissioners the Highway Department is functioning as normal. Mr. Schenk stated they are trying to distance as much as possible, and are attempting to supply all employees with hand sanitizer. Mr. Schenk stated they are planning to begin chip and sealing and recycling roads in the next month, but will be holding off on any asphalt work until it is determined how the current situation will affect the department financially.

Mr. Schenk stated the County was awarded the Community Crossing Grant, and they would begin the process of collecting the money.

Commissioner Randy Thornburg gave a report from Regional Workforce Development. Mr. Thornburg stated for Posey County the following industries are being affected by the current situation as follows:

Healthcare and Social Service: 16.8%
Manufacturing: 15.15%
Construction: 13%
Food Service: 8%

Mr. Thornburg stated for Region 11, which includes Posey County and Southern Indiana, those industries affected are as follows:

Manufacturing: 30.1%
Health Care and Social Service: 9.3%
Food Service: 9.5%

Mr. Thornburg stated the majority of citizens he has spoken to are in favor of reopening the State and restarting the economy.

Posey County EMS Director, Chris Neaveill, informed the Commissioner he is still working on getting his supplies of PPE up to where it needs to be. Mr. Neaveill stated he is working with the Health Department on this situation also.

Mr. Neaveill informed the Commissioners that Bryan Decker, who was an active EMT for the County for the past ten years, has passed away. J. Price thanked Mr. Neaveill for his and his departments continued work on the front lines of this situation and that he would be praying for Mr. Decker's family during this time.

Dennis Schaffer, with the Posey County Health Department, updated the Commissioners on the current case numbers for Posey County. Mr. Schaffer stated the County has seven confirmed cases with five of those considered recovered. R. Thornburg asked of the two active cases, how far into the recovery process are they. Posey County Health Nurse, Martye Fitts, stated both active cases are fairly new, and are just within days of confirmation, so they both have a few weeks yet. Mrs. Fitts stated those cases also have several contacts who are now in the two-week quarantine process. R. Thornburg asked why the State continues to count cases that have recovered in the total count. Mrs. Fitts stated they will always count those in the number of cases. Mrs. Fitts stated Posey County is one of few Counties in Indiana who are releasing the number of cases considered recovered. R. Thornburg asked what the age group for Posey County positive cases were. Mrs. Fitts stated the age is ranging from 26-62. Mrs. Fitts stated none of the cases in Posey County are related and are all considered Community Acquired.

Mrs. Fitts informed the Commissioners that the local nursing homes remain and will continue to be on lockdown for the safety of those residents.

Posey County Assessor, Nancy Hoehn, asked if once the County buildings are open back to the public, if the Health Department could assist in supplying masks or gloves to the departments. Mrs. Fitts stated they are not recommending the use of gloves for everyday use, as it would cause cross contamination and the best course of action is hand washing and sanitizing, but they could help with supplying masks. Mrs. Hoehn asked if they could help supply sanitizer. Mrs. Fitts stated yes, that would be possible.

C. Schmitz stated they would be considering how and when the County buildings will be opening back up to the public in the next few weeks.

C. Schmitz stated he was interviewed by the State OCRA Grant committee yesterday. Mr. Schmitz stated Posey County has applied for a \$250,000.00 OCRA Grant. Mr. Schmitz stated the interview was regarding how Posey County intends to use the money. Mr. Schmitz stated the Commissioners would be working with Jenna Richardt and Debbie Bennet- Steersman to obtain this grant and how it will be awarded to those industries in Posey County who need it.

HIGHWAY BIDS

Mr. Schenk stated the low bid from Russell's is acceptable. R. Thornburg made a motion to approve the low bid for Ranes Road from Russell's; J. Price seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

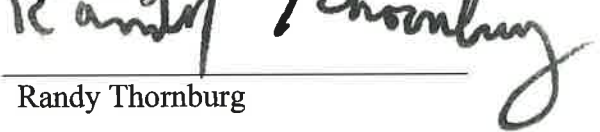
C. Schmitz urged the Community to buy local during this time, including patronizing local restaurants and buying gas local. J. Price also urged the same sentiment.

R. Thornburg stated several restaurants in the northern part of the County are open for take-out.

No other business was discussed and the meeting was adjourned.


Carl Schmitz


Jay Price


Randy Thornburg



Attest: Maegen L. Greenwell