

POSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2020.

The Board of Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled meeting at the Hovey House, 330 Walnut Street, in Mt. Vernon on Tuesday, September 1, 2020. Commissioners Carl Schmitz, Randy Thornburg, and Jay Price; Auditor Maegen Greenwell, and County Attorney Joe Harrison were in attendance.

C. Schmitz opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

J. Price made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 18, 2020 regular meeting; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

CLAIMS

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

COUNTY COVID 19 RESPONSE GRANT

C. Schmitz stated the County held a joint press conference this morning to announce that the City of New Harmony, the City of Mt. Vernon, and Posey County were all awarded \$250,000.00 each in COVID grant money that will be used to distribute to business within Posey County. Mr. Schmitz stated the process for business to apply for either \$5,000.00 or \$10,000.00 grants will open September 8, 2020, and run for one week. Mr. Schmitz stated any Posey County business may apply.

LOCHMUELLER COLISEUM PROJECT

C. Schmitz stated the Coliseum board is present.

Jim Farney, with Lochmueller, stated Lochmueller group was contacted by Posey County to design a handicap ramp for the Coliseum. Mr. Farney stated this plan is removing the public access from the rear of the building and bringing that access to the front of the building for security reasons. Mr. Farney stated the plans call for the ramp to be on the left side of the building as you are looking at the building. Mr. Farney stated the plans call for the ramp to be constructed out of masonry, to complement the building; including black ornamental railing; and replacing the current handrails to match. Mr. Farney stated the domed lamps that are currently at each end of the existing stairs will still be there, along with the dropbox and bike rack.

It was asked if the idea of placing a lift versus a ramp was explored. Mr. Farney stated no, his company was asked to design a ramp.

Ed Battieger, Building Commissioner, asked what the plans are for the handicap parking. Mr. Farney stated there will be two spaces in front of the ramp that will be designated as handicap. It was asked if the existing fire hydrant near the corner of Third Street and Walnut will need to be removed. Mr. Farney stated, no, it will not. Mr. Farney stated that the curb would need to be rebuilt, so the handicap accessibility ramp from the road will be relocated.

Mr. Battieger asked while utilizing the handicap spaces, would the driver have to exit onto the street side, or would provisions be made that they can exit onto the sidewalk side. Mr. Farney stated as of now, they would be exiting onto the street side; however, this is something they could look at.

Mr. Battieger asked if there were any plans to use heated concrete for winter. Mr. Battieger stated as is, the steps to the building are hard to keep ice cleared in the winter, and moving all the traffic to the front of the building will be a risk in the winter. Mr. Farney stated this is not in the plans currently, but they could look at this option.

It was asked what door is planned on being used as the exclusive door. Mr. Farney stated currently, the plans are for you to exit the ramp and take an immediate left and go between the east end of the entryway and the first column, headed toward the first set of doors. Mr. Farney stated if the County opts to use the middle doors only, there is room between the first column and the building to use the middle doors. Mr. Battieger stated that currently those east doors are exit only, and they swing outward. Mr. Battieger stated this could cause issues if someone were using the ramp, and someone was trying to exit the building.

C. Schmitz stated he has spoken with the Garden Club and informed them that one of the azalea bushes would be able to remain, and the others would be able to be relocated.

Mr. Batteiger stated another option would be a wheelchair lift. R. Thornburg stated the Commissioners decided to go with the ramp because it would be utilized by more people than just those in a wheelchair.

It was stated that the ramp is a nice design, and it looks nice with the building. It was stated that heated concrete would be optimal. C. Schmitz asked if this is an option that could be explored. Mr. Farney stated, yes.

C. Schmitz asked what the time frame would be, how soon after approval could bids be advertised.

Joe Harrison, Posey County Commissioner Attorney, stated this would have to be advertised twice, seven days apart, with bid opened at least ten days prior to the last advertisement.

J. Price asked if this was the option the Commissioners would like to go with, versus the lift. R. Thornburg stated he would be in favor of the ramp.

Heather Allyn, Posey County Council President, stated the Poseyville Library had installed a lift, and other than having issues with the ramp, many people did not feel comfortable using the lift.

Mr. Battieger stated the Commissioners need to consider the entrance and exit situation. Mr. Schmitz stated they would take this into consideration.

J. Price asked where the funds would come from for this project. C. Schmitz stated the plan is to use part of the \$800,000.00 COVID Cares Act funding to reimburse the County for this. Mr. Harrison stated they could either pay for the project upfront and be reimbursed or try to submit the claims directly to Barns and Thornburgh to pay.

J. Price made a motion to proceed with notice to bid on the Coliseum Ramp project; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

VOTE EQUIPMENT

Posey County Clerk, Kay Kilgore, informed the Commissioners that she is working with the State of Indiana to purchase new vote equipment for the County. Mrs. Kilgore stated this would be equipment purchased by the State on behalf of the County. Mrs. Kilgore stated the State is providing those Counties that do not have equipment that can provide a verifiable paper trail. Mrs. Kilgore stated Posey County is one of sixteen Counties that are receiving assistance. Mrs. Kilgore stated the State is allowing the County to work with the vendor of their choice, and she is choosing to stay with RBM.

Mrs. Kilgore stated the equipment would still be a touch screen but then would print out a ballot that would be fed through a bin and tabulated. Mrs. Kilgore stated they will also have the ability to print absentee voter ballots, saving the County money on those ballots.

Mrs. Kilgore stated they would not be using this equipment for the upcoming election; it will be used in 2022. Mrs. Kilgore stated although the State is purchasing the equipment, it will be owned by the County.

Mrs. Kilgore stated the County is currently paying \$16,000.00 for licensing. Mrs. Kilgore stated they would be paying \$80,000.00 to RBI for project management. Mrs. Kilgore stated that cost will remain about the same, with licensing going up roughly \$4,000.00.

R. Thornburg asked if this equipment is recommended by RBI. Mrs. Kilgore stated, yes.

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

Mrs. Kilgore stated the State is paying \$611,000.00 for the needed equipment.

TIME CLOCK CONTRACT

Posey County Auditor, Maegen Greenwell, presented the Commissioners with an updated Time Clock system contract. Mrs. Greenwell stated when the County updated its servers, the need for an updated version of the software was uncovered. Mrs. Greenwell stated the cost presented would include training for payroll and department heads, also for two devices to be set up at the County Highway Garages that will allow a streamlined Time Clock system. Mrs. Greenwell stated that currently, there are multiple departments that have to be hand-entered into the system.

J. Price made a motion to approve the Harris Time Clock contract; R. Thornburg seconded. C. Schmitz stated the cost for training is \$2,400.00 and the cost to install the software is \$2,297.00. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

CONCEPT LIGHT AND SOUND

Flint Fraizer, with Concept Sound and Light, presented the Commissioners with a proposal to install a video conferencing option at the Hovey House.

J. Price asked how the public will have access to the live stream or recorded meetings.

Mr. Fraizer stated they would install one or two cameras, and they have a live stream platform developed, and the County would imbed a link on the website. Mrs. Greenwell asked if the Commissioners decided on two cameras, one on the board and one on the podium, would they have the ability to switch back and forth between the two. Mr. Fraizer stated, yes. Mr. Price asked the public could not watch live, would they be archived on the website. Mr. Fraizer stated, yes.

Mrs. Greenwell asked if the County will receive training on the devices. Mr. Fraizer stated, yes.

R. Thornburg made a motion to approve this request with two cameras at the cost of \$4,733.00;

J. Price seconded. Mr. Schmitz stated other departments will be able to use this also.

The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

HANDBOOK/HIGHWAY CHANGES

Mr. Schenk stated in the past handbook, it was stated that if a highway employee is called in on an emergency call situation, they would be paid time and a half, regardless of the hours worked for the week. Mr. Schenk stated when the new handbook was written, this was omitted.

Mr. Schenk is requesting this be replaced.

Mrs. Greenwell stated the employee would get the time and a half if the hours labored were forty; this is how the handbook currently reads.

Mr. Schenk asked if the employee took a vacation day or a sick day how that would affect it.

Mrs. Greenwell stated it would only be on hours labored.

Vicki Peerman, Posey County Treasurer, stated the handbook committee never asked that this be removed in the new handbook.

R. Thornburg stated he is in agreeance with Mr. Schenk that it should be included in the handbook.

Nancy Hoehn, Posey County Assessor, stated the Handbook Committee would recommend reaching out to the Irwin, Wagner, and Schnille to get their opinion.

J. Price stated he would also like to hear from the handbook company.

Mrs. Greenwell stated she runs all handbook changes through the handbook company because they are who she calls with questions.

R. Thornburg made a motion to table this discussion until the next Commissioners meeting; J. Price seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

COMMUNITY CORRECTION FEE ORDINANCE

Justin Rutledge, Posey County Community Correction Director, stated his board and Sheriff Latham have been discussing re-implementing a detention rule for Community Correction Clients. Mr. Rutledge stated this is a step in between being fully revoked of all privileges and being put in front of the Judge, a way to temporarily place clients in Jail for a few days but keeping them in the program. Mr. Rutledge stated if a client is housed in the Jail because of the detention rule, Community Correction is paying the Jail \$8.00 per day.

Posey County Sheriff, Tom Latham, stated this helps cover the cost of meals for those clients.

J. Price asked Mr. Harrison if he had looked at this ordinance. Mr. Harrison stated he had, and he sees no issue with it. Mr. Harrison stated this would be the first reading of this ordinance.

R. Thornburg made a motion to approve the first reading of this ordinance; J. Price seconded.

The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

Justin Rutledge, Posey County Community Correction Director, is asking the Commissioners to appoint Melissa Stacer to the Posey County Community Correction Board as a layperson. J. Price made a motion to appoint Melissa Stacer to the Posey County Community Correction Board; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

JAIL REQUEST

Sheriff Latham informed the Commissioners that the Jail entered into a contract with De-Bra Kuempel to provide service to the Jail for an amount of \$18,868.00. Sheriff Latham is requesting to continue that contract. Sheriff Latham stated the options are to enter into a three-year contract at the following cost:

Year one: \$18,868.00

Year two: \$18,868.00

Year three: \$19,434.00

Or:

If the contract is paid within thirty days of the time contract, the County can save 2.5%, bringing those yearly cost to the following:

Year one: \$18,396.30

Year two: \$18,396.30

Year three: \$18,948.15

J. Harrison asked what some of the issues were that this company has currently addressed for the Jail. Sheriff Latham stated anything from plumbing issues, HVAC issues to freezer issues. C. Schmitz asked what the maintenance agreement consist of. Sheriff Latham stated a range of services, including HVAC maintenance.

R. Thornburg asked Sheriff Latham what option he is suggesting. Sheriff Latham stated he would like to go with option one to pay over three years, and also option two, allowing for timely payment and the 2.5% discount.

J. Price made a motion to approve the option one and option two requested contract with DeBra-Kuempel; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

Sheriff Latham presented the Commissioners with a quote from DeBra-Kuempel to place GPS/O2 Prime Installation onto the HVAC system for both the jail side and the administrative side of the Jail. Sheriff Latham stated the cost for the jail side is \$13,180.00, and for the administrative side, it is \$11,885.00. Sheriff Latham stated this system would help with air quality in relation to viruses, bacteria, mold, and odors. Sheriff Latham stated the total amount of \$25,065.00 could be paid from his Jail Maintenance fund.

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

DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Posey County Sheriff, Tom Latham, gave the following housing updates:

Vanderburgh County: 39

DOC: 9

Posey County: 72

\$34,335.00 from Vanderburgh last month

Posey County Economic Development Director, Jenna Richardt, updated the Commissioners regarding the OCRA grant for Small Business COVID relief. Mrs. Richardt stated those applications will open at noon on September 8th and run for one week. Mrs. Richardt stated any questions could be directed to herself at the Economic Development Partnership offices.

Mrs. Richardt stated September 10th, 2020, at 4:30 pm there will be a ribbon-cutting for the new mural in Mt. Vernon.

Mrs. Richardt stated Posey County is still in the running for the Broadband Grant, and they should know by September 15, 2020.

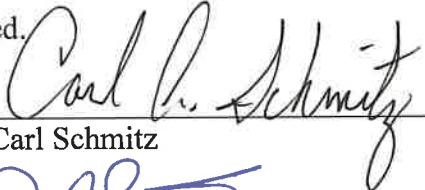
J. Price stated the EMA Director informed him that he now has mask, cloth mask, digital thermometers, and rubber gloves for first responders from the State of Indiana.

R. Thornburg stated he is still working on quotes for the Courthouse Roof.

C. Schmitz read the following animal control report of August:

Complaints: 18
Animals picked up: 7
Bite Reports: 1


No other business was discussed and the meeting was adjourned.



Carl Schmitz



Jay Price



Randy Thornburg



Attest: Maegen L. Greenwell