

POSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020.

The Board of Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled meeting at the Hovey House, 330 Walnut Street, in Mt. Vernon on Tuesday, October 20, 2020. Commissioners Carl Schmitz, Randy Thornburg, and Jay Price; Chief Deputy Auditor Shelley Hargrove and County Attorney Joe Harrison were in attendance.

C. Schmitz opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Wayne Naal led the Commissioners in the opening prayer.

MINUTES

R. Thornburg made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 6, 2020 regular meeting; J. Price seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

CLAIMS

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

CLERK'S REPORT

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

COLISEUM RAMP BIDS OPENED

C. Schmitz stated the County received the following four bids:

1. ARC Construction \$202,400.00
2. ECI \$247,503.00
3. Rivertown Construction \$209,785.00
4. Dieg Brothers \$194,577.24

County Attorney, Joe Harrison, stated a bid from Empire was turned in late, after the bids have been opened. J. Price made a motion to decline the bid from Empire; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

A representative from Lochmueller stated with each bid; there was a base bid and an alternative bid. This representative looked over the bids for accuracy and stated with the base bid, plus the alternatives, ARC Construction was the low bid at \$232,576.96.

Mr. Harrison asked what alternate one and two were. It was stated alternate one and two were to install the heating system in the ramp to allow for ice and snow removal.

It was stated the second low bid was Rivertown with a bid of \$238,269.50.

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

MALCON CONTRACT CONSIDERATION

Mathew Lowery, with Malcon, is addressing the Commissioners regarding the renewal of a contract with Malcon and Posey County. Mr. Lowery stated Malcon partners with Posey County to help with refund and reimbursement programs.

Mr. Lowery stated the contract is for an indirect cost allocation plan, focusing on Title IV-D. Mr. Lower stated this contract is for three years at the cost of \$5,200.00 per year for a total of \$15,600.00.

Mr. Lowery is recommending we pay the contract fee from fund 8895 instead of County General.

J. Price made a motion to approve this request and pay the contract from fund 8895; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

PARK AND REC PRESENTATION

Michael Harshbarger, with Mt. Vernon Park and Rec, is requesting the Commissioners explore the possibility of taking ownership of the current area that is being used for youth soccer. Mr. Harshbarger stated this land was donated in a swap with the County and CountryMark. Mr. Harshbarger stated the Parks Board is looking to make improvements, including adding a concession stand and restroom. Mr. Harshbarger stated soccer is the biggest youth sport for the Park and Rec. Mr. Harshbarger stated this would allow improved usage of the facility. Mr. Harshbarger stated the Board is hesitant to make these improvements if the land is not owned by them.

C. Schmitz asked if Mr. Harshbarger has spoken with CountryMark because, in the initial deed work, it states the County will offer the land back to CountryMark if they ever decide to sell. Mr. Harshbarger stated yes, he has a letter of support from CountryMark.

C. Schmitz stated he is hesitant because the County has put \$127,000.00 into making the area suitable for the soccer field.

C. Schmitz stated he would be fine with offering a 20-year lease for \$5.00 but prefer County keep the land.

J. Price stated he would be ok with it being taken over by the City, as long as if it is ever not being used as a soccer field, it would come back to the County.

R. Thornburg stated it is understandable not to want to put funds into a property that was not owned.

J. Price made a motion to table this request and asked Mr. Harshbarger to get with Mr. Harrison;

R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

COUNTY HEALTH INSURANCE DISCUSSION

Ted Thompson, with Better Benefits, addressed the Commissioners regarding the result of the yearly shopping out of the County's insurance.

Mr. Thompson stated the following results:

Anthem: currently who the County is contracted through had a 0% increase.

United Health Care: 5% decrease.

Cigna: no quote was given.

Mr. Thompson stated the only difference between Anthem and the United Health Care is the prescription coverage. Mr. Thompson stated the prescription coverage that Anthem currently has with the County is their best option. Mr. Thompson stated there were slight differences in the cost of tier one and tier two drugs between the two companies.

Mr. Thompson stated that is the only difference between the two.

Mr. Thompson stated he took the 5% decrease quote from United Health Care back to Anthem and asked them if they could match. Mr. Thompson stated he is waiting to hear back from Anthem at this time.

Mr. Thompson stated currently, the County offers a voluntary long term disability plan along with a voluntary life insurance plan with Mutual of Omaha. Mr. Thompson stated the United Health Care would offer a more significant discount if those programs were moved to United Health Care.

Mr. Thompson stated the County currently uses HRI for Dental Insurance. Mr. Thompson stated he did not shop this benefit out because the County currently has excellent benefits through HRI.

R. Thornburg asked if Mr. Thompson knew how many employees the County has using tier four drugs. Mr. Thompson stated he did not have that report but could provide that number. Mr. Thompson stated he has the breakdown of each plan tier 1, tier 2, and tier 3 drugs, and he could provide that list to the Commissioners to evaluate.

Mr. Thompson stated he is expecting to hear back from Anthem in the next five days.

Mr. Thompson addressed the Health Clinic with the Commissioners. Mr. Thompson stated the County currently uses Tristate Community Clinic at the cost of \$150,000.00 per year. Mr. Thompson stated currently, Deaconess Health Care offers a clinic option in this area. Mr. Thompson stated the cost for Deaconess Clinic would be \$39.63 per employee with a total yearly cost of \$95,112.00. Mr. Thompson stated the difference in the two clinics would be there is no

additional cost to the County with Deaconess, the \$39.63 per employee and dependent is the total cost. Mr. Thompson stated there is no additional cost for medication or testing. Mr. Thompson stated the location would be the current Deaconess Clinic on Fourth Street, although there are several different clinics in the tri-state that could be utilized.

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

SMALL BUSINESS COVID RELIEF GRANT

Jenna Richardt, with Posey County Economic Development, addressed the Commissioners regarding the Small Business Covid Relief Grant that the County was awarded. Mrs. Richardt stated the County received a \$250,000.00 OCRA Grant. Mrs. Richardt stated a small committee has reviewed all applicants and verified they are, in fact, businesses that are still operating in Posey County. Mrs. Richardt informed the Commissioners that out of the thirty applicants, the Committee recommends the Commissioners award 28 businesses with \$8,705.36 each. Mrs. Richardt stated she needs several signatures to process this request. J. Price made a motion to proceed with awarding these grants; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

STRUCTUREPOINT/LAMONT ROAD CONTRACT

Mr. Schmitz stated he has met with the Port and TMI, and the request is to apply for this project as discussed at an earlier Commissioners meeting, however, ending the project at Lower Mt. Vernon Road. Mr. Schmitz stated the Port has plans to use this area for a plant in the future. Mrs. Richardt explained the Port currently owns roughly 200 acres in this area and have in previous conversations with the Commissioners, shown interest in taking over that section of Lamont Road if a project were to arise. Mrs. Richardt stated this would prevent work from being done to the road now and later having to be torn up. J. Price asked if there are any plans in the works currently for a project in this area. C. Schmitz stated AstraZeneca is in favor of the project. Mrs. Richardt stated this project is broken down into two phases; phase one being to Lower New Harmony and potential for phase two. Mrs. Richardt stated the current contract only covers phase one. Mr. Schmitz stated the Port is also not in favor of this project extending to Bluff Road due to the instability of that road. J. Price made a motion to table this discussion until the November 2nd Commissioners meeting; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

EMA COUNTY MITIGATION PLAN

C. Schmitz stated this request is for a signature to allow EMA to apply for a grant to fund the County Mitigation Plan. R. Thornburg made a motion to approve; J. Price seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 153 OF THE POSEY COUNTY ZONING CODE

Mindy Bourne, Posey County Area Plan Commission Director, addressed the Commissioners regarding the initiated changes, by the Commissioners, to the Wind Ordinance. Mrs. Bourne stated these changes were heard by the Area Plan Commission on October 8, 2020. Mrs. Bourne stated the language that the Commissioners had sent to Area Plan to be considered failed to pass with a vote of 3-5. Mrs. Bourne stated the Area Plan drafted alternative language that was voted in favor of with a 5-3 vote. Mrs. Bourne stated the Commissioners received that alternative option in their packets to consider. R. Thornburg stated he is still in favor of the original language the Commissioners proposed to the Area Plan. Mr. Thornburg stated this included changes to the mitigation and consultation zones that were backed by several Federal agencies. Mr. Harrison stated the Commissioners need to advertise a public hearing notification to consider this proposed amendment. J. Price asked if a one-week publication is ok. Mr. Harrison stated it would be better to advertise twice.

Scott Fischer, representing Posey County Wind, asked when the proposal from Area Plan would expire. Mr. Harrison stated it is 90 days.

Mr. Fischer stated the Department of Defense was conclusive in their findings of radar interference. Mr. Fischer stated those findings suggested significant interference with the radar that was based on actual events in Illinois where they had radar interference. Mr. Fischer stated the recommendation from Area Plan comes from one reference in the study that mentions the need for mitigation strategies; however, Mr. Fisher stated there are no proven mitigation strategies. Mr. Fischer stated this allows a company to build turbines in an area that has been labeled as a safety risk without any restrictions. Mr. Fisher stated POCO Wind is just asking for the Commissioners to have language in place that is based on facts and science, that restricts companies in certain zones.

J. Price stated the amended language states the company must submit a mitigation plan for all conditions. Mr. Price asked if that language is included, that they must submit a mitigation plan for the doppler, then what is the difference in what POCO Wind is requesting and what Area Plan has suggested.

Sara Newton, with POCO Wind, addressed Mr. Price's question. Mrs. Newton stated mitigation strategies are not 100% foolproof. Mrs. Newton stated these strategies would not rid the area of all interference; it would just lessen the interference. Mrs. Newton stated companies will use several strategies to mitigate interference; however, these strategies do not equal no interference. Mrs. Newton stated in regards to the study that was done on the tornado in Illinois that is referenced by NOA; the company had used four out of the six mitigation strategies recommended by NOA, and the tornado was still masked on the radar.

R. Thornburg stated another strategy that is used by companies to mitigate is to turn the turbines off during turbulent weather. Mr. Thornburg stated this had been proven to be unsuccessful, that the turbines do not have to be in operation to still cause interference.

J. Price made a motion to table this discussion until the November 17th Commissioners meeting allowing for public meeting notification in the newspapers; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

PAID SICK LEAVE POLICY IN REGARDS TO COVID

Shelley Hargrove, Posey County Chief Deputy Auditor, stated the original policy was drafted early in April when COVID was just hitting. Mrs. Hargrove stated this is just updating the return to work wording regarding the number of days, which was initially 14 days, changing to 10 days, and taking out the verbiage regarding the need for two negative tests before returning to work. Mrs. Hargrove stated that Mrs. Greenwell spoke with the Health Nurse regarding this. Mrs. Hargrove stated they were informed some people, who carried the antibodies, would not get a negative test for up to 40 days.

J. Price made a motion to amend the County's Paid Sick Leave Policy; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

COUNTY OFFICE PROPOSED POLICY

C. Schmitz stated he was presented by the County offices with a proposed policy for dealing with positive COVID employees. Mr. Schmitz read the policy as follows:

- If someone has classic symptoms of COVID, they will be tested, and all department heads and elected officials in Coliseum will be notified via text message.
- Once results are known, a text message will go out to all County offices and department heads to let them know of the positive test.
- If a positive test, the office will immediately close for deep cleaning.
- Following CDC guidelines, all contacts within 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes over a 48-hour time frame shall be quarantined for 14 days.
- A note shall be placed on the door stating the office is closed for deep cleaning.
- A text to County Offices letting them know the office will be closed for deep cleaning.
- A note shall be placed on the door, upon reopening, stating that an employee has tested positive for COVID in the last ten days.

Posey County Health Director, Kyle Rapp, stated names could not be given.

C. Schmitz stated it does not State they are requesting names, just offices.

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

PROPOSED COUNTY EXECUTIVE ORDER

Posey County Health Director, Kyle Rapp, stated the Health Department had requested the County sign an Executive Order that would limit the number of attendees to social gatherings, amid the spike in cases for the County.

Dr. Rapp stated District 10, which includes Posey County, is currently the hot-spot of the entire State. Dr. Rapp stated the State began using a color-coding system for Counties to show the level of risk that County is currently at, those are blue, yellow, orange, and red. Dr. Rapp stated Posey County, for the last three weeks, had been in orange; however, the Department was just notified that when the State updates that map, Posey County will be listed as red. Dr. Rapp stated the State is currently requesting Counties to handle outbreaks on their own terms. Dr. Rapp stated this is why the Department is requesting these new guidelines to be put in place.

Dr. Rapp stated the proposal states that social gatherings be limited to 150 people. Dr. Rapp stated any gatherings of more than 150 people would need to submit a proposal to the Health Department stating how they plan to handle social distancing guidelines.

County Health Nurse, Martye Fitts, stated she has spoken with the incorporated areas of the County, who have also agreed to consider these restrictions.

Dr. Rapp gave the following update:

679 total cases

213 active cases

7 deaths; 3 are from long term care facilities

Council Member, Heather Allyn, asked since the color-coding updates are only done once a week, and the County had a week of large numbers but seemed to be going down, do they expect for the County to only be in red for one week.

Dr. Rapp stated yes, this is possible, and that is why they are asking the order only be in place for seven days. Dr. Rapp stated they should be aware of the next update by the November 2 Commissioners meeting to allow for an extension reconsideration.

J. Price made a motion to approve this Executive Order for a time frame of 7 days beginning on October 27 and ending November 3; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

It was asked if this includes schools and churches. Dr. Rapp stated yes, it includes schools and churches. Dr. Rapp stated schools; it is for after school activities.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONTRACT NURSE

Dr. Rapp stated with the increase in COVID-related duties, there are health nurse duties that the health nurse would typically do that are not getting done. Dr. Rapp is requesting the ability to hire a part-time health nurse to alleviate some of the pressure on Mrs. Fitts. Dr. Rapp stated this would be a contracted position that would run through June of 2021.

J. Price made a motion to approve this contract; C. Schmitz seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

CARES ACT RESOLUTION

C. Schmitz stated this would allow for the reimbursement spending of Cares Act funds. R. Thornburg made a motion to approve this resolution; J. Price seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Steve Schenk, Posey County Highway Department Superintendent, informed the Commissioners that it is time to advertise for yearly bids. Mr. Schenk stated those bids would be advertised to open at the November 17th meeting. Mr. Schenk stated bids would be turned in by 4:00 pm on November 16 to the Auditors office or 9:00 am on November 17 at the Hovey House. C. Schmitz stated he would like to include the EMS and Sheriff on the Gasoline bids.

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

Posey County EMS Director, Chris Neaveill, spoke with the Commissioners regarding ordering an ambulance for this year. Mr. Neaveill stated he has spoken with two different companies and would bring bids to the second meeting in November.

Posey County Sheriff Deputy, Isaac Fueling, gave the following Sheriff's report:

20 IDOC Inmates

25 Vanderburgh County Inmates

62 Posey County Inmates

107- Total

Deputy Fueling stated the Sheriff is working with Vanderburg County to bring more inmates to Posey County in the near future.

Shelley Hargrove, Chief Deputy Auditor, informed the Commissioners of a quote from BSC Services that would be the company installing the cable in the Hovey House to enable a live stream meeting option. Mrs. Hargrove stated that the cost is \$3,168.00 and that is in addition to the quote already approve for the system.

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

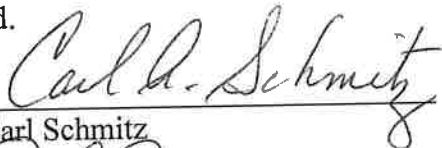
C. Schmitz read the following Animal Control report for September:

25 Complaints

7 Animals picked up

1 Bite

No other business was discussed and the meeting was adjourned.



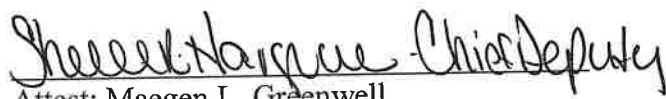
Carl Schmitz



Jay Price



Randy Thornburg



Attest: Maegen L. Greenwell