

POSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2021.

The Board of Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled meeting at the Hovey House, 330 Walnut Street, in Mt. Vernon on Wednesday, January 20, 2021. Commissioners Carl Schmitz, Randy Thornburg, and Bill Collins were in attendance. Auditor Maegen Greenwell and County Attorney Joe Harrison were in attendance.

B. Collins opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Deacon Mark McDonald shared the prayer.

MINUTES

R. Thornburg made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 5, 2021 meeting; C. Schmitz seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

CLAIMS

C. Schmitz 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 December Treasurer's report; C. Schmitz seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

HIGHWAY COMMUNITY CROSSING GRANT

Posey County Highway Superintendent, Steve Schenk, informed the Commissioners that the State of Indiana is offering the Community Crossing Grant again this year. Mr. Schenk stated the County would be eligible for up to one million dollars, with a 75/25 Grant split. Mr. Schenk stated he needed a letter from the Commissioners stating the County would commit to the 25% County portion.

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

HIGHWAY WOLFINGER ROAD

Posey County Highway Superintendent, Steve Schenk, informed the Commissioners that Vectren is requesting the County grant them a ten-foot easement at the Wolfinger Road salt barn location. Mr. Schenk stated this would allow Vectren to run the electricity and allow the County to finish that project and install the overhead doors.

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

C. Schmitz asked if the barn was housing salt and sand currently. Mr. Schmitz stated yes, the barn is full.

HIGHWAY TRUCK BIDS

B. Collins stated the County received three bids as follows:

D. Patrick Ford of Boonville: \$29,305.20 ¾ ton F Series

Sternberg Chrysler: \$31,459.00 Ram 3400

Sternberg Ford: \$31,608.00 F250

R. Thornburg asked if Expressway or anyone local put in a bid. Mr. Schenk stated he began this process in September and could not get any communication with Expressway.

Mr. Schenk stated the low proposal from D. Patrick Ford of Boonville was sufficient with the specs that were provided. Mr. Schenk stated his recommendation is to approve this proposal.

C. Schmitz made a motion to purchase the truck from D. Patrick Ford of Boonville; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

COVID SMALL BUSINESS PHASE 2 GRANT

R. Thornburg made a motion to close out phase two of the COVID Small Business grant; C. Schmitz seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

COVID SMALL BUSINESS PHASE 3 GRANT

Andy Zellers, with the Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana, informed the Commissioners that the County may now apply for another round of small business grants. Mr. Zellers stated phase three is similar to phase two; however, there is no local match required. Mr. Zeller stated the County would be eligible for up to \$250,000.00.

C. Schmitz made a motion to move forward with phase three of this grant; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

2021 BOARD APPOINTMENTS

B. Collins stated the Commissioners tabled the following five boards at the last Commissioners meeting:

Posey County Economic Development Partnership
Posey County Economic Development Commission
Redevelopment Board
Tourism Board
Workforce Investment Board

Mr. Collins stated he had a few people he is interested in asking but has not had a chance yet. C. Schmitz made a motion to table these appointments; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING

Posey County Treasurer, Vicki Peerman, informed the Commissioner the Board of Finance must meet once a year to review the depositories and the Investment Policy for Posey County. Mrs. Peerman stated the Board is made up of the Commissioners and the Treasurer and has two officers; a President and a Secretary. C. Schmitz made a motion to appoint Bill Collins as the President of the Board of Finance; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

B. Collins made a motion to appoint Vicki Peerman as the Board of Finance secretary; C. Schmitz seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

Mrs. Peerman stated the Board of Finance would review the Investment Policy as required. Mrs. Peerman stated the investment policy has not changed since 2020. R. Thornburg made a motion to approve the Investment Policy for 2021; C. Schmitz seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

Mrs. Peerman informed the Commissioners that the County must invest its funds within an approved list of banks to ensure that the County is compliant and that tax dollars are insured with the FDIC and PDIC.

Mrs. Peerman gave the following end of year balances for 2020:

United Fidelity Operating: \$2,782,486.02
United Fidelity Interest: \$27,381.80
United Fidelity ICS: \$15,314,240.19
Trust Indiana: \$7,379,356.73
Crane Federal Credit Union: \$3,114,824.26
First Bank Carmi: \$5,121,814.35

Total: \$33,740,103.35

Mrs. Peerman gave the following end of year investment report:

Highway EDIT CD: 9,902.87
Congressional School: \$1,103.01

United Fidelity Operating: \$101,203.50
United Fidelity Interest: \$160.22
United Fidelity ICS: \$6,482.90
Trust Indiana: \$38,789.36
Crane Federal Credit Union: \$14,738.34
First Bank Carmi: \$38,853.24

Total investment for 2020: \$211,233.44

Mrs. Peerman stated last year's investments for the year were 440,000.00.

C. Schmitz made a motion to approve the end of year investment report: R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

LEGAL SERVICE AGREEMENT

B. Collins stated this is an agreement between the County and Mr. Harrison to provide legal services for the Posey County Commissioners.

R. Thornburg made a motion to approve this agreement; C. Schmitz seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

CLINIC AGREEMENT

Posey County Auditor, Maegen Greenwell, stated the County's insurance agent has negotiated with the current health clinic and was able to save \$44,00.00. Mrs. Greenwell stated the Commissioners need to resign the contract with the clinic to run through 2023. Mr. Harrison stated this contract is not to exceed \$92,529.60 yearly. Mr. Collins stated everything else with the clinic will stay the same.

C. Schmitz made a motion to approve the new clinic agreement; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

EMA COVID GRANT

Larry Robb, Posey County EMA Director, informed the Commissioners that the State has released additional grant funding for the purpose of public awareness and education due to COVID. Mr. Robb stated he spoke with IFA regarding the signage program he is proposing to the Commissioners. Mr. Robb stated he would like to apply for this funding to allow the purchase of four traffic information signs. Mr. Robb stated these would be similar to what INDOT uses. Mr. Robb stated he had four proposals, with the lowest bid being from Brown Equipment for \$62,784.00. Mr. Robb stated these signs could be used for COVID purposes, such as traffic directions to clinics or general COVID information. Mr. Robb stated they could also be used for other purposes throughout the County. B. Collins asked if they are solar-powered. Mr. Robb stated yes. C. Schmitz made a motion to approve this request; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote 3-0.

Council President, Heather Allyn, asked if there would be room to store these signs in the EMA building? Mr. Robb stated yes.

REPLAT REQUEST

B. Collins stated the Commissioners have two re-plat requests to consider; Wildeman Road and Pleasant Ridge Subdivision.

C. Schmitz made a motion to approve the re-plat request for Wildeman Road; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

R. Thornburg made a motion to approve the re-plat request for Pleasant Ridge Subdivision: C. Schmitz seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

SOLAR DISCUSSION

Maria Bulkley, with Kahn, Dees, Donovan & Kahn, addressed the Commissioners on behalf a group of landowners regarding the proposed solar project and solar ordinance.

Mrs. Bulkley provided the Commissioners with copies of minutes from the Area Plan, with highlighted areas of questions or concerns.

Mrs. Bulkley asked why Tanaska informed her that this project had been in the works for two years, but the public was informed at an Area Plan meeting that no project was in the works.

C. Schmitz stated that as past President of the Commissioners, he would like it to be known that Tanaska did not approach any County Official until September of last year.

C. Schmitz asked that Mrs. Bulkley get a list of proposed changes together and give them to the Commissioners.

Heather Allyn, Posey County Council President, reminded the Commissioners that Council would hold the second public hearing regarding the Solar Project abatement application at the next Council meeting in February. Mrs. Allyn stated the Council is looking at a larger venue but will still have to abide by COVID guidelines.

Mrs. Allyn stated a public notice would be provided to the location.

Mrs. Allyn stated she has spoken with the Commissioners and asked that they also be at that meeting. B. Collins stated he would be ok with holding a Joint meeting that day.

Mrs. Allyn stated the County did not know about this project prior to the end of last year; however, the County has been working on the ordinance for several years.

R. Thornburg made a motion to advertise for a joint Commissioner/Council meeting on February 9, 2021; C. Schmitz seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

C. Schmitz asked how close the County was to having the ability to have citizens participate in meetings via Zoom? Mrs. Greenwell stated that the current system was never designed for Zoom capabilities; it was designed to broadcast and link to the website for viewing. Mrs. Greenwell stated Concept Light and Sound did say it could be a possibility, but currently, it is not intended for two-way communication.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Cheryl Reich, with the Posey County Health Department, updated the Commissioners regarding the County's COVID numbers. Mrs. Reich stated as of this morning there were 9 new cases for a total of 253 current active cases and total cases overall 2353. Mrs. Reich stated 27 deaths. Mrs. Reich stated the County Health Department began giving vaccines last week and will be giving roughly 200 vaccines per week.

Mrs. Reich informed the Commissioners that the current health nurse's last day would be tomorrow, and the incoming nurse will be starting Friday as a full-time employee.

Joe Harrison is asking the Commissioners to sign a contract with the new health nurse. Mr. Harrison stated this covers the time that she will be working part-time until she becomes a full-time employee. R. Thornburg made a motion to approve this contract; C. Schmitz seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

Mr. Thornburg gave the following Indiana Workforce Update:

U.S Unemployment rate: 6.7%

Indiana: 5%

Vanderburgh: 4.7%

Perry: 4.5%

Spencer: 4.3%

Pike: 4.2%

Knox: 3.9%

Gibson: 3.6%

Dubois: 3.5%

Warrick: 3.4%

Posey County: 3.2%

Industries affected:

Manufacturing: 9.9%

Construction: 11.4%

Retail: 9.6%

Food Services: 9.6%

Health Care: 8.8%

Frequently listed jobs:

1. RN
2. Customer Service Rep
3. Engineers
4. Post-Secondary Teachers
5. Managers
6. Production Workers
7. First-line supervisor
8. LPN

9. Retail Sales

10. Heavy Tractor Truck drivers

Posey County Auditor, Maegen Greenwell, stated the County offices were having and are still having internet and server issues. Mrs. Greenwell stated this is being corrected.

Posey County Highway Superintendent Steve Schenk stated the Highway Department is taking advantage of the good weather and getting several projects completed.

Posey County Sheriff, Tom Latham, gave the following housing update for the Posey County Jail:

DOC: 21 inmates

Vanderburgh: 34 inmates

Posey County: 59 inmates

Total 114.

\$ 33,705.00 was brought in from Vanderburgh County last month.

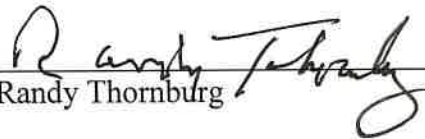
No other business was discussed and the meeting was adjourned.



Bill Collins



Carl Schmitz



Randy Thornburg



Attest: Maegen L. Greenwell