

POSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021.

The Board of Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled meeting at the Hovey House, 330 Walnut Street, in Mt. Vernon on Tuesday, February 2, 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. Pastor Wayne Nall shared the prayer.

MINUTES

R. Thornburg made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2021 meeting; C. Schmitz seconded. C. Schmitz stated a correction needs to be made under the Wolfinger Road section regarding the question that Mr. Schmitz asked. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

C. Schmitz made a motion to approve the Executive Session minutes from January 11 and January 26; R. Thornburgh seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

R. Thornburgh made a motion to hire Steve Martin for the County Custodian position; C. Schmitz seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

CLAIMS

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

POSEY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Dr. Kyle Rapp, Posey County Health Officer, introduced the new County Health Nurse, Kelly Goedde, to the Commissioners. Dr. Rapp stated Mrs. Goedde has been working with the County for the last few weeks, and it has been a good transition.

Dr. Rapp informed the Commissioners that currently, the Health Department is receiving 600 vaccines per week to distribute. Dr. Rapp stated the majority of the vaccines are being given by Deaconess Hospital at the Urgent Care clinic in Mt. Vernon. Dr. Rapp stated the clinic is giving vaccines on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday. Dr. Rapp stated 10% of those shots are being held back for a vaccination clinic in Poseyville. Dr. Rapp stated the current criteria is 65 years and older, health care workers, and first responders. Dr. Rapp stated 2700 Posey County Residents had received a first dose of the vaccination, and 500 have been completely vaccinated.

Dr. Rapp stated the County would be officially in orange after tomorrow.

Dr. Rapp informed the Commissioners that the change in current Executive Orders allows for the Health Department to approve event plans for gatherings above what the current level would typically allow. Dr. Rapp stated the venue must submit their COVID 19 guidelines to the Health Department for approval.

Dr. Rapp stated the quarantine guidelines would be changing from 14 days for close contact to 10 days.

2021 BOARD APPOINTMENTS

R. Thornburg made a motion to appoint Rachel Rainey to the Posey County Tourism Board; C. Schmitz seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

SOLAR PROJECT DISCUSSION

Maria Bulkley, with Kahn, Dees, Donovan & Kahn, addressed the Commissioners regarding the proposed Solar Project. Mrs. Bulkley stated she had a few points she would like to make regarding the current ordinance.

Mrs. Bulkley provided the Commissioners with a scale drawing of the proposed area.

Mrs. Bulkley stated she had reviewed the Area Plan meeting minutes when setbacks were discussed. Mrs. Bulkley stated the discussion originally was setbacks would be 1000 feet from a resident, but during that meeting, it was taken down to 100 feet. Mrs. Bulkley stated she feels

like since there were no specific projects in the works at that time, this part of the ordinance should be reevaluated.

Mrs. Bulkley stated they would be addressing the Area Plan Commission at their next meeting.

Mrs. Bulkley stated there would be other industries affected by this decision; for example, the seed companies and farm implement sales.

Mrs. Bulkley stated she is presenting a preliminary redraft of the ordinance to ask for a few things.

Mrs. Bulkley stated they are asking for two major changes; first, if an owner is going to lease the ground to be part of a solar plant where electricity is going to be sold to a transmission line, this should be required to be an industrial zone. Mrs. Bulkley stated currently if a homeowner would like to install solar panels for personal use, they would have to go before the BZA to get permission to do this; however, if a developer would like to install industrial panels, no such rezoning is needed.

Mrs. Bulkley stated yes, the company would have to go through two Area Plan hearings, but those are hearings to discuss drainage plans, what's the effect on waterfowl, but not if this is appropriate land use.

Mrs. Bulkley stated the current zoning for agriculture includes crops, dairy, livestock, but not industrial solar production.

Mrs. Bulkley stated they have concerns about the use unit three that discusses utility facilities.

Mrs. Bulkley explained that a utility facility is a structure that are incidental to the maintenance and operation of utilizes and services, radio, TV, or transmitter tower. Mrs. Bulkley stated under that definition; the actual solar panels would be a utility facility. Mrs. Bulkley stated currently, you can't have a utility facility without special land use permission. Mrs. Bulkley stated this would be something she would be discussing with Area Plan.

Mrs. Bulkley stated the second change they are seeking is in regards to screening. Mrs. Bulkley stated they are suggesting stronger screening measures. Mrs. Bulkley stated screening could be anything from space to fences to trees. Mrs. Bulkley stated they are proposing screening in the form of space with a 1000-foot setback between non-participating landowners; and also a green buffer consisting of trees. Mrs. Bulkley stated the current proposal includes a safety fence

Mrs. Bulkley is asking the Commissioners to take a moratorium on the process so that everyone can do a little more fact-finding.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Posey County Highway Superintendent, Steve Schenk, is asking for permission from the Commissioners to advertise for the yearly asphalt bids for the 2021 paving season. Mrs. Schenk stated they would like to get this advertised so bids could be opened at the March 2nd meeting. C. Schmitz made a motion to approve this request; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

Posey County Sheriff, Tom Latham, presented the Commissioners with an indemnity agreement with the City of New Harmony to allow deputies to work for the town of New Harmony. Sheriff Latham stated this would release the County of any liability. R. Thornburg made a motion to approve this request; C. Schmitz seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

Sheriff Latham gave the following inmate report:

15 DOC Inmates
29 Vanderburgh County Inmates
70 Posey County Inmates
114 total

\$30,695.00 was turned in from Vanderburgh County.

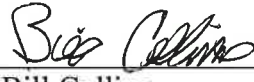
Sheriff Latham informed the Commissioners his department is still having issues with the radio system.

Sheriff Latham thanked Mr. Schenk and the Posey County Highway Department for their response during the recent winter weather.


Posey County Treasurer, Vicki Peerman, addressed the Commissioners regarding the need to conduct a Commissioners Tax Sale in 2021. Mrs. Peerman stated there are two options for completing the sale; having an in-person sale, or conducting an online sale. R. Thornburg stated he would like to have an in-person sale.

Posey County Auditor, Maegen Greenwell, stated Rae Duncan, a long time County employee, has passed away.

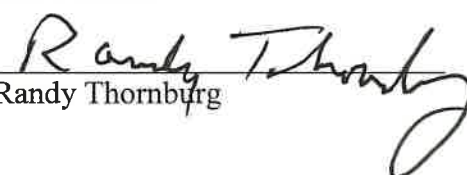
No other business was discussed and the meeting was adjourned.




Bill Collins



Carl Schmitz



Randy Thornburg



Attest: Maegen L. Greenwell