

## POSEY COUNTY COUNCIL TUESDAY MARCH 9, 2021

The Posey County Council met in regular session at the Posey County Community Center, 111 Harmony Township Road, New Harmony, Indiana, on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at 9:00 am. The following members were present at the said meeting: Heather Allyn, Tom Schneider, Brandon Deig, Aaron Wilson, Dave Pearce, Stefani Miller, Marilyn Brenton, County Attorney Joe Harrison, and Auditor Maegen Greenwell

H. Allyn called the Posey County Council meeting to order at 9:00 am with the Pledge of Allegiance, and Dave Whitten shared a prayer.

### MINUTES

A. Wilson made a motion to approve the February 11, 2021 meeting minutes; M. Brenton seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

### CLERK'S REPORT

S. Miller made a motion to approve the December and January Clerk Report; A. Wilson seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

D. Pearce made a motion to approve the February Treasurer's report; B. Dieg seconded.

H. Allyn stated she received contact from Posey County Treasurer Vicki Peerman regarding the Treasurer's report. Mrs. Allyn stated Mrs. Peerman informed her she moved 7 million dollars from United Fidelity and placed half of it into Crane and the other half into CSB on the last day of the month in an effort to gain a better interest rate. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

### POSEYVILLE LIBRARY DISCUSSION

Poseyville Carnegie Library Director, Heather Morlan, addressed the Council regarding the Poseyville Library District. Mrs. Morlan stated currently, the taxing districts included in the Poseyville Library district are Center Township, Robb Township, Town of Poseyville, Smith Township, Town of Cynthiana, Bethell Township, and Town of Griffin. Mrs. Morlan is requesting Robinson Township be included in the Poseyville Library's district. Mrs. Morlan stated Robinson is currently in Black Township, meaning their tax dollars are sent to the Alexandrian Public Library. Mrs. Morlan stated currently, the library districts are split as to what school district it is in, except Robinson Township, which surrounds South Terrace School. Mrs. Morlan stated the Poseyville Library has a working relationship with all North Posey School District's schools, which includes outreach programs.

Mrs. Morlan provided Council with a map to show where the schools are in a relationship with the Library. Mrs. Morlan stated she would like to see all schools within North Posey School Districts be able to use the Poseyville Library. Mrs. Morlan stated she does allow residents of Robinson Township to use an outreach card, especially for students; however, those tax dollars are going to the Alexandrian Public Library when it is Poseyville providing the services.

H. Allyn stated Council would get with Robert Norris at DLGF to see what is needed to remedy this situation.

### DECLARATORY ABATEMENT RESOLUTION NIX

H. Allyn stated the Posey County Council approved the Confirmatory Abatement Resolution for Nix Companies at the February Council meeting and would move forward with the Declaratory Resolution today.

Matthew Nix, with Nix Companies, addressed the Council regarding the Abatement application. Mr. Nix explained this abatement would allow his company to expand by adding a new building, remodeling a current building, and adding new manufacturing equipment. Mr. Nix stated this would be a two-phase project.

Mrs. Allyn reminded the Council the Confirmatory Resolution included a seven-year real property abatement and a five-year personal property abatement.

H. Allyn opened the meeting up for public commenting.

Jenna Richardt, with Posey County Economic Development Partnership, stated the Economic Development Partnership supports the abatement and this project. Mrs. Richardt stated Nix Companies

have been long-standing members and supporters of the Posey County Economic Development Partnership.

H. Allyn closed the public commenting portion of the meeting.

A. Wilson made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-03-09-01 with a seven-year real property and a five-year personal property abatement; M. Brenton seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

#### **FIRST RESPONDER RADIO UPDATE**

Posey County Dispatch Director, Jason Knowles, addressed the Council regarding ongoing issues with the first responder radio system for the County.

Mr. Knowles stated he has spoken with VEI, the radio vendor, and they are planning to meet with members of the department, Council, and Commissioners this Thursday to discuss a proposal that would solve the issues. Mr. Knowles stated the parts of the County having the most issues are the eastern part, St. Wendel, Blairsville, and the Elk Trail area. Mr. Knowles stated these areas have a lot of interference causing the radios to not transmit.

Mr. Knowles stated VEI had done extensive studies to find a remedy for these issues. H. Allyn asked if the issue is mainly the portable radios? Mr. Knowles stated it is hit and miss.

Mrs. Allyn asked about an update on the timeline for Spillman. Mr. Knowles stated he has spoken with them and expecting a phone call but is expecting a timeline of six to eight months.

Posey County Sheriff, Tom Latham, stated this system was supposed to be a fix-all, and his main concern is with officer safety.

A. Wilson stated the County needs to hold VEI accountable for the amount of money spent on this system.

\*the following minutes are presented verbatim.

#### **SOLAR OPPOSITION COMMENTS**

S. Miller excused herself from the meeting.

Mike Schopmeyer: Thank you for giving us some time today to talk about the remonstrations of the Solar project that has been in the works for many months. I appreciate the opportunity on behalf of my clients. My name is Mike Schopmeyer with me is Maria Bulkley, and we are from the law firm of Kahn, Dees, Donovan & Kahn; we work extensively on economic development throughout this region, we have worked on both sides, both for remonstrations groups, as we are today, as well as for petitioners, whether its for Toyota, AKC, lots of the major projects in this region. Done correctly, solar energy is an appropriate project probably for this County. However, this project has been wholly inappropriate for tax abatement; little of this project's process has been done properly. We, if we were on the petitioner's side, would have never done it this way. We would have never done it this way. As a lawyer, we have to make a record because there have been agreements that have been promised to us that have been hidden. We've asked for the economic development agreement on behalf of the taxpayers we represent, and for weeks and weeks and weeks its been hidden and not provided. I think you'll find when this ED agreement comes out that the experts that have been cited in the meeting that occurred in January with Bakery Tilly and Indianapolis law firms are actually going to be fully paid by the tax incentive applicant. Or their related parties. Are they really independent? This advice that you are being given, if they are being paid for by those applicants. We've retained experts, not prepared to speak today. Why, because we do not have an economic development agreement and really know what the economics of this transaction are. Just as was pointed out with the radio situation with Jason and your good Sheriff, Mr. Latham, where you did something too quickly and its cost the taxpayers, we're asking you to slow down on this project. Giving this its due diligence and do the right thing here. Utilities, we've said to you before, on January 12, two months ago and still don't have the ED agreement, we said utilities don't qualify, we cited 50 IAC 10.1; Indiana Code 6-1.1-12.1-4.5, we've don't tax phase-ins all over Southern Indiana, aware of how the law works. Mr. Nix's project, Posey County Business of the Year from our Chamber of Commerce a couple years ago, was proud to be there to see his accomplishments, with 40 to 50 employees in manufacturing is

precisely what a tax phase-in is for or tax abatement, not this project. Utility projects don't qualify. Moreover, you heard Mr. Nix state his manufacturing project was seven and five. Here we have the solar applicant who is applying, rather drunk on incentives because they are already being provided tax credits from our Federal Government, more that are coming with the current administration. Yet they are here in your County asking for 100 percent ten-year tax phase-in. I have never heard of projects employing seven, thousand, hundreds, forty, or fifty like Mr. Nix's project; never have I asked for ten and ten on behalf of a client. They are drunk on incentives, and it is time that this grossly absorbant tax phase-in be reeled in and given the light of day. This is a bad precedent for your County. It's a terrible precedent for your County. If you set this at ten and ten and give them anything near this, first of all, it doesn't qualify because it's a utility, but if you grant this to them, trust you me, we will be back, and this will cost this County a lot of money, in ten and tens that will come forthwith for clients after client, who would qualify as manufacturing, and we represent a lot of manufactures in this area. Was a tax phase-in like this ever granted to a utility project? Was it granted for the power plant that is out there? No. Why then is this industrial solar plant being even considered. We're here today to ask, will you, as the neighbors of these people, our clients, the taxpayers, and you've seen the signs; will you hear there desperate cries to be heard or will this fall upon your sympathetic ears. We are asking you to be sympathetic to them and hear them. Throughout Indiana, this is an issue. This is an issue all over the United States; I will share with you Indiana Business Magazine just came out with recently and said, "industrial solar farm boom hits Hoosier backlash." Senate Bill 1361 saw testimony from the first hearing on it, forty Counties throughout Northern and Central Indiana who are opposing solar and wind projects. They came and pointed out that each of their districts, the first was Henry, which is near the County I was raised in; I was raised in Randolph County, which is almost identical to Posey County as far as industrial/farm mix. They came out and said every elected officeholder was thrown out, and we were put in, leave home rule alone. And do understand completely that 1381 is an attempt to strip this County, Gibson County, Knox County, Warrick County, and Vanderburgh County. I serve on the Vanderburgh Counties committee, we are restricting more, which will come on Thursday, and Maria will speak to you about that, but we're restricting more these kinds of projects because of what we're going to talk about, the damage to economic value and the unfair advantage they have. Let's talk about their unfair advantage. So I went to Doughnut Bank, every Doughnut Bank in Evansville, I got given a cookie for solar. I opened my paper yesterday to a full-page ad; our clients can't afford to play this game. It's not fair. Again, all over Indiana, Counties like yours are understanding the situation and are reeling this in. This abbreviated process needs to be given the light of day, you've only heard one side up to this point, and I'm thankful today you get to hear our side. What's been given you is fool's gold. We have retained an expert, we spent the weekend, they spent a lot of money over the weekend because we thought we were here for the hearing that got delayed at the last minute, which is a tactic, been on the other side, it's a tactic by people who want to wear some out, or who want something occur under the darkness of light. Here's what our expert tells us, he will be here, with full testimony, once we have the ED agreement, so we can more intelligently give you guys the other side. They tell us the present value of the incentives you're offered; they are saying six million, it's going to buy broadband for the whole County, it won't even scratch the broadband surface, I've been involved in that on economic development a long time ago, go talk to your friends in Warrick County. The present value of that incentive is really 4 million dollars. My background is in finance; they aren't going to pay you for a long time. Maybe you're negotiating something better; I hope you are because the value of that is not six; it's more like four in present value. They talk about a gross national product that they put up on the screen with their power broker from Indianapolis. 119 million in gross national product over the life of the project. They really entice you on that one. You know what the GNP for corn is on that property. GNP over that same 30 to 35 year period is over 200 million. Fool's gold folks, you are being led to believe well give you the present value of 4 million dollars, you really getting an economic value for your County. Fool's gold, it is almost like that radio system that you bought. The proper analysis must occur, and the ED agreement must not be hidden. Farming jobs are ubiquities; they provide fertilizer jobs, seed jobs, grain jobs, repair jobs, truck sales, implement sales, on and on and on, the list is enormous. 200 million versus 119 million, you are going to take some of the most productive farmland in the world out. You are going to change a lifestyle for all these people. You have seen the signs. Less than 20 to 30 percent of these landowners who have been enticed by investors, the solar folks are investors, they have set up their privately held company, and they are investor driven, that are already getting a mammoth income tax credit, and they are coming to you, drunk on incentives wanting you to give some of your precious property taxes. Less than 20 to 30 percent of those owners even live in this County. They live elsewhere, and maybe less than a handful of them are farmers. These people are farmers; they live out there. These very tracks of land are this region; I know this for a fact; this is this region's highest wage production area. This region, this affects Evansville, Newburgh, Princeton, Vincennes. This is the region's only place where you have the high ground, rail, river, population center, and they all meet in one place on high ground. There is a much better option for your folks, a much better option than throwing a bunch of panels of this precious land. One, I told you, leave it farming, 200 million versus 119; or let's stay on the track record of what this County has had forever. And that is AstraZeneca, Bristol Meyers Squib, Abengoa, BASI, Scott Paper; I did the options on all of those. I

walked out to your farmers that live in this area and handed them money after money, after money because of these mammoth projects, and there are more to come. I looked out there DHL is on the building, Westech left, but they were here; I've had numerous clients looking at the Westech. You are forsaking more GE, Sabic, BMX type employers for a bunch of stagnant, ugly, hot, environmentally not at all CO2 eating for you because you're pulling out the corn, soybeans, and wheat, that ate the CO2 at the worst time of the year as an environmental conservative, you are pulling it out, right when we need it, in August, September, the hot months of the year. Speaking of BMX, if you want to be innovative, you want to be green; you have been sold the green statement from our utility regulatory commission and other people up in Indianapolis that want to sell you on the green; but we are sitting here with BMX in this very community, that makes the nuclear.

Heather Allyn: What's BMX? Do you mean BWXT?

Mike Schopmeyer: Yes. Excuse me. Sorry about that; we represent them too; I should get that right. I just sat through one of their presentations in which they pleaded and pleaded for people to look at the nuclear. If you want to be creative, let's look at that. Because they provide those small nuclear, they are being put in, in other parts of the Country. Corn eats CO2; Posey Solar will not eat CO2; it will take out the CO2-eating crops. Corn feeds livestock; livestock produces the protein that makes strong human capital. Why are we forsaking that strong human capital? Why are you breaking that cycle for this project? The tax abatement is not good for our schools; it takes away future jobs, and it's ugly. We are going to have four people get up here, with very short presentations that will not repeat what I've said. Jessica Lawrence is going to talk about the effect on children, Jerry Chastain III is going to talk about how we are throwing away our best economic development corridor, Misty Bishop is going to talk to you about the effect on real estate values, which is not even in the 200 million versus 119 million that I talked to you about because you are going to reduce real estate values for others, and Kathy Yearwood is going to talk about, very quickly, about the damaging effect on farming. Please, the solar industry does not need this abatement; if they are coming here, they will come here, they don't need it, they have plenty of incentives. Please study this more, give this some sunlight, give some sunlight to the EDA agreement of what's going on. I would suggest you deny the taxing completely; the application is completely wrong; in the application, their preliminary is completely inappropriate legally, they've said in here that their real estate and manufacturing but in their documents, they say they are new research and new information technology which are none of those. So first of all, what you've started in preliminary, what you've passed quickly without any input is inappropriate. We would suggest you take some time to slow this down for a little bit. We want to incorporate this into the record; this is only a part of what we want to present. We have a lot more to present but wanted to give you an abbreviated statement, so maybe we can start some dialog among everyone involved to see if we can't come up with a win-win solution; because the path we are on is a lose-lose for this County as well as for our clients. So with that, I would like to have Jessica come up if she could please, she has a short presentation, and she'll be followed by Jerry, Misty, and by Cathy.

Jessica Lawrence: My name is Jessica Lawrence; I've lived in Posey County all my 39 years. My husband and I, with our three children, live not far behind Marris school on Lower Mt. Vernon Road. I was a farmer's daughter, and now I am a farmer's wife. I do not like confrontation; I do not like public speaking at all. But when you have that gut feeling that something is not right for your community, and it is going to change lives forever, you have to speak up, or I would forever regret it. If solar moves in, taking up 2400 to 3000 acres, whatever the number is, I've heard all kinds of numbers, there will be no other room for a new business or new homes, new jobs. Once it's here, I work in healthcare, so that's how I look at things; I feel like it's going to be like a cancer. Once it starts, it's going to spread over the whole community of Posey County. The land that is left, why would anyone sell it for housing? Farmers are holding onto it; they want to keep farming. If solar is paying big bucks if you have not sold to them or leased to them, why are you going to do that for housing for the area? Bring new homes in. I thought that's what we want for our community. If you have driven through the Marris School area, you have seen all our yard signs everywhere, Marris parents, I have two children there, are very concerned. To the point that many are ready to leave, move out of Posey County. This is very upsetting to me; they are not only my neighbors but my friends; our kids play together at sports in Posey County. We have all seen the map; there are going to be solar 300 to 400 feet from Marris School. Parents are upset about this. Why would they trust a company that's been so quiet in coming in. There is a big trust issue there. They won't trust them; they have ruined that relationship. Houses are hard to find in our area; it is very sought after; if someone is selling their house, it does not stay for sale long. This project will produce nowhere for our children to work or live; it's just an eyesore driving young families away and a mess for the next generation to clean up. Do not drop this project in the middle of an agricultural residential community. You are talking about disrupting a way of life for these people. Thank you for listening, and thank you for your time.

Jerry Chastain: I am Jerry Chastain, a lifelong resident raising a young family. I would look at myself as a pro-growth for Posey County individual; I like to see things move forward. I know there are people in this

room that fought hard to get sewer by AstraZeneca for our 62 corridor. I know some people do not understand how important that is for the growth of the future business, but we were at full capacity; no more people could come in and tap into that area. So now we have sewer, we have water, and less than a year's time, they will have the 62 corridor filled up on both sides, up and down with solar panels, and leave a nasty looking image in that area where growth is going to happen. I know no one wants to come in there right now, but I assure you that from an infrastructure standpoint, and my professional opinion, that area is going to be used up, some heavy hitters that will bring big jobs and do good within that 35-year window, if we do this we can either have a good-paying industry that comes through, housing from St. Phillips to the west side of the corridor, people paying a premium for properties, or we can sell to this first deal that sits in our lap. The potential for this area far exceeds settling for solar panels; for our people, We want to bring people that bring jobs to a community. This whole setup here, you are talking four jobs, for four jobs. You are going to knock four farmers out of business to bring four jobs in for this big quick construction phase; then we are stuck. I suggest we slow this down a bit, really look at the numbers for this deal, look at both sides of this, using a fair and balanced approach. Let's listen to the community a bit and slow down just a little bit. I think that not many Counties in the area have the river, rail, heavy trucking, heavy industry in this area, and I am telling you, the industry will come now. We have the infrastructure there. People fought hard to get it there, people fought hard to find the money for it, but I just think we need to take time and look at this scenario from all sides before we act on it. Thank you for your time today.

Misty Bishop: My name is Misty Bishop; thank you for letting me be able to speak with you today. I am a local hairstylist in our community. My hair salon is actually in my home. I have lived in Posey County my whole life. My husband and I looked for a long time for a home in the Marrs Township area, and when it finally came available, we snatched it up, and we actually had two house payments for nine months, trying to sell our other home because we wanted to be in the Marrs Township community so badly. We chose it for the beautiful views, the wonderful community, and the school. Homes do not stay on the market long in the Marrs Township area. A huge concern for many is what will happen to our property values. I have been told by numerous realtors that if we tried to sell our home, living so close to the industrial solar plan that we would take a significant loss. We have also fear that an attorney would be necessary to sell our home if this came about. Who will make up for the loss that we will take? This project will not entice young families to move into this area and will force other young families out. That is not what our county needs; I truly believe that. Much consideration needs to be done before we let industrial solar take over our community. Thank you again for your time.

Kathy Yearwood: Good morning, I am Kathy Yearwood, and for the last 22 years, I have lived on a four-acre piece of land on the corner of Darnell School Road and Ford Road. For the last five years, thankfully so, I have been retired, and I now operate a small flower farm and culinary herb farm. Today I come to you as a small-scale farmer, nowhere in comparison to most of those in the room, and I also come to you as a Posey County resident. Just very briefly about carbon dioxide as it relates to farming. For the sake of time, I'm going to get right to the point. We are at a critical point where we basically have coin toss when it comes to CO<sub>2</sub> and solar industrial-sized installations. Tails we move thousands of acres of farmland from crop production, and we grant tax abatement toward the conversion of its use to posting row after row of metal and plastic devices, underground piping, underground wiring, and the like, and we wash our hands of our contribution to CO<sub>2</sub> reduction; or heads, we remain 100% engaged in farming as a community and toward the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>. This means we continually actively participate in the discussion, research, and application of farming practices that maximize soil carbon sequestration; we continue to seek out ways to reduce our carbon footprint, reduce the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that we generate, we explore the opportunities presented through carbon markets and carbon credit programs the State of Indiana is working on that currently in the legislation. So we would have a State program as well as a large private programs across the world that would be of use to us. We also, on a local level, look at ways to reduce the tax burden on our farming community so that they might more aggressively pursue CO<sub>2</sub> reduction. We look at the Nix Companies; I can remember walking in there as a child coming off the farm and them repairing items. Look what they have become; we have that same robust, growth opportunity in our farming community to go down the road and look at carbon sequestration and generate more income for our farmers, which in turn generates more money for our community. So it is my hope that as community members and community leaders, that we select the heads option and that we keep our farmland green. Thank you.

Heather Allyn: Thank you all for your time; as you are aware, we do not have an abatement on the agenda for that today. A couple of you have mentioned slowing down, so obviously, there is no meeting about that today, so we will be at least another month out. I do not know what that will entail because the company is the one that asked for the continuance. We continue to appreciate your emails and phone calls. I know many of us have received them, so I appreciate that. It is not falling on deaf ears; I am trying to interact with people who are willing to reach out. I have sent emails back to Misty; I talked to Ben Morgan last night. Numerous other people I have talked to over the last few weeks about this. I do

appreciate your concerns; it is not falling on deaf ears. We do appreciate your time, and we will continue to have conversations.

Steve Moore: Good morning ladies and gentlemen. My name is Steve Moore; for you that are familiar with the area, I live in the house right past Marrs school with the big pole barn. If this goes through, it would destroy the value. Location, location, location is what values your piece of property. I have worked hard for the money, the excess money, for this location. This operation can come in here and give me triple what my place is worth, and I could not duplicate it anywhere else in Posey County. I can see from my place all the way to Point Township and see the river, and they want to fill it all up with these glasses. That being said, per kilowatt-hour, the solar panels are the most expensive situation you can go with. The attorney, which I have never met before, made a very important point pointing out the nuclear aspect. They are making these small nuclear deals that care of complete cities that are 100% safe. I would bet my life on it; I have worked on it, I am telling you how safe they are. Beyond that, they need to entertain; this solar deal is a blip in the dark that is making a lot of politicians a lot of big money. The thing that needs to be done, just what happened in Texas, we've had all these panels that got covered in the snow and ice and everything, they lost all their power if they would put the same effort into going out there to the Ohio River and putting a hydroelectric dam in, that runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (inaudible) continuously runs. It doesn't wait; dark doesn't shut them down at night like the solar panels; there is no wind if the wind doesn't blow; it's just there. I think I hate to duplicate what they've already said, but this is the first time I've heard the man speak, but if we tie up this ground and make the mistake to tie up this ground five years from now, and we're still looking at that, and we are going to look at it for the next thirty-five years, we can't change it, we can't do anything about it. Say one of these big companies, I am not against progress, if Ford motor company wants to come out there and put a plant at the base of my hill where I live and was going to employ 1500 people from this County and was going to build up the housing situation or double the tax base, you wouldn't hear a peep out of me at all. To destroy 3000 acres out there and ruin that corridor for expansion, I've seen this in my business, this place is ripe, it is ripe to explode, and we are in the position to be selective. We have everything to offer; the only thing we have not been able to do is to afford to have someone go out to promote the business that we want, to give presentations to try to get them to move in. I am adamantly saying if we go with this solar deal, it won't stop there, it won't stop at 3000 acres, the next thing you know, we'll get this 1500 hundred acres next door and then we're going 1000 down here, and all the sudden it will have eaten up our opportunity to have some of the best tax based properties and business in this area. I thank you very much for allowing me to talk.

Heather Allyn: Thank you very much for your time. In response to having someone who is seeking out business, we do have an economic development director; that is what her focus is. We appreciate that, Jenna. Often times we hear people say this was quiet, and they didn't hear anything about it, and I just want to put Jenna on the hot seat.

Steve Moore: We do not provide her the funds that they need to run.

Heather Allyn: Jenna, would you like to speak to that, because we as County do provide quite a bit of funds to her, along with the support to work with those companies, and I would like for her to share about some of the companies she has dealt with.

Jenna Richardt: Jenna Richardt, Economic Development Director, the County themselves provide us with \$100,000.00 a year, that is public information, for us to operate off of, as well as all of the other municipalities in this County, and many businesses, including Nix Companies, and all of our larger industries as well. I work alongside them weekly, even daily, sometimes, on projects they have. I actively work on pursuing new projects. We talk about residential development; we talk about all the expansion that could occur within this County. I wake up every day, and I go to bed every night thinking about just that, so there is focus in those areas. Our companies that support us want to see that happen too. One of the biggest things you'll hear from them is that our unemployment levels are so low, we have over 1000 jobs throughout this tristate area that are impossible to fill because our region doesn't have the amount of people to fill those jobs. Many companies will turn away at just the pure sight of our labor shed and how little it really is. I think it's important to say how much there is a focus there. We are neutral when it comes to this; we look at all projects, we talk about expansions and bringing in new development all the time. That also revolves around our school and vocational education that we need for our schools to be able to provide those types of jobs.

Aaron Wilson: Heather, I just want to piggyback on what Mr. Moore said about the plant showing up here. I have been here my whole life as well, and there have been opportunities that have come along, and we have become the County of no. What I ask is the people that are against this potential project, the next one that shows up come out and support it. Just like you are out here against this one, come out and support another one. There are other projects trying to happen out in the community right now, and we have people who come to the Area Plan meetings and raise cane, and they stop them. We need the money; we need the money, we need new industry, we need new commercial businesses, new residential

properties, we need the money. All that ask, if you are opposed to this particular project, and you see one that you think is a good thing for the County, please come out with the same enthusiasm and support them. That is what we need; we need people to show up and support projects, just the same that we need people who are against them.

Heather Allyn: That is a good point, Aaron; I appreciate that. I know many of you will be at the Area Plan on Thursday; there is a gentleman that is wanting to do a body shop move from his current Poseyville location to another location. There are people who have banded together to fight that as well. When Aaron says we have become the County of no, it just seems that what can people do and were always fighting people. Support the things that help us grow the County. Lastly, I want to say, mature and open conversation is welcome, but the nastiness and threats need to stop. It has become ridiculous, and I am embarrassed at some of the conversations I have had or things that I have had people say to me or post about me that are complete lies. So let's be adults, and let's be mature. I will gladly speak to anyone about this project to anyone in the County, but if you are going to be ridiculous, my ears turn off and go the exact opposite way you are wanting. Just like when your children are mouthy, you want to shut it down. I appreciate your time this morning; we are going to go ahead and move along in our agenda.

\*S. Miller rejoined the meeting.

### COUNCIL ON AGING

Monica Evans, with Posey County Council on Aging, addressed the Council regarding the Council on Aging and the need to ask for increased funding for the next budget cycle. Mrs. Evans stated the Council on Aging has three senior centers throughout Posey County. Mrs. Evans stated the Council provides a variety of services ranging from socializing to wellness programs to the largest service, which is transportation for aged, disabled and low-income residents of Posey County. Mrs. Evans stated the agency stayed operational through COVID, except for two weeks in the very beginning, but even then, the agency still continued to transport dialysis patients.

Mrs. Evans stated the County currently funds the agency at \$45,000.00 a year, and the agency does participate in fundraisers and have written grants in the past. Mrs. Evans stated the rate of pay for drivers is currently \$9.00 and this causes an issue in getting drivers hired. Mrs. Evans stated the agency charges \$35.00 round trip to transport to Evansville and Warrick County.

Mrs. Evans asked the Council to please stop by and see what the agencies does and visit the facilities.

### ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Posey County Assessor, Nancy Hoehn, is requesting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$232,000.00. Mrs. Hoehn stated fund will be used for a new XSoft software update. T. Schneider asked if a second bid was needed for this project. Mrs. Hoehn stated because the technology matches what was already being used, they did not have to have a bid process. D. Pearce made a motion to approve this request; T. Schneider seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

Posey County Sheriff, Tom Latham, is requesting four additional appropriations for the following two separate funds:

Accident Report:

Supply line: \$4,000.00

Equipment line: \$2,763.21

Sheriff Latham stated these funds have never had lines appropriated and this is to appropriate those lines to allow the funds to be spent.

T. Schneider made a motion to approve this request; S. Miller seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

Sex Offender/Violent Offender Fund:

Supply line \$4,000.00

Equipment line: \$9,070.66

Sheriff Latham stated this fund is the same as above.

M .Brenton made a motion to approve this request; B. Deig seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

**TRANSFER REQUEST**

Posey County Highway is requesting the following four transfers:

\$4, 787.11 from 1176 to 173 in garage building line

\$29,000.00 from 1176 to 1173 in social security line

\$110,000.00 from 1176 to 1173 in group insurance line

\$45,00.00 from 1176ti 1173 in perf line

T. Schneider made a motion to approve the above request; S. Miller seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

**DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

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

Posey County inmates: 60

Vanderburgh County inmates: 31

DOC inmates: 15

Total: 106

February \$28,070.00 from Vanderburgh County.

Sheriff Latham informed Council as of 12/31/2019 the retirement fund was funded at 117% and as of 12/31/2020 the fund was funded at 133%.

Sheriff Latham shared with the Council that per legislation changes, the County will no longer house inmates who have been convicted of a felony over level 5, and the County would be responsible for transportation.

H. Allyn asked what the staffing situation for the Jail was currently. Sheriff Latham stated they are having a hard time filling the positions and they currently have three openings for jailers and three openings for Community Corrections jailers.

No further business was discussed, and the meeting was adjourned.



Heather Allyn, President

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Stefani Miller, Vice President



Brandon Deig



Marilyn Brenton

Marilyn Brenton

Dave Pearce

Dave Pearce

Thomas R. Schneider

Thomas Schneider

Aaron Wilson

Aaron Wilson

ATTEST:

Meghan L. Greenwell

Posey County Auditor