

POSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2021.

The Board of Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled meeting at the Hovey House, 330 Walnut Street, in Mt. Vernon on Tuesday, August 17, 2021. Commissioners Carl Schmitz, Bill Collins, and Randy Thornburg were in attendance. Auditor Maegen Greenwell and County Attorney Joe Harrison were also in attendance.

Pastor Rick Sellers lead the Commissioners in prayer.

MINUTES

R. Thornburg made a motion to approve the August 3, 2021 Commissioners minutes; 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.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR BROADBAND PROJECT

B. Collins stated the Commissioners received and opened bids regarding this project at the August 3, 2021 meeting. Mr. Collins stated the one bid that the Commissioners received was for the amount of \$145,000.00 from Morley and Associates. Mr. Collins stated after reviewing the bid, County Attorney Joe Harrison reached out to Morley and negotiated some of the terms of the request and was able to negotiate the price to \$117,800.00.

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

ORDINANCE TO CHANGE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT SECTION OF EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

B. Collins stated due to miscommunication; the Ordinance passed at the last Commissioners meeting that reduced Highway Department employees to 120 max compensation hours, from the standard 240 hours, needs to be corrected. Mr. Collins stated the Commissioners would like to keep the number of hours consistent with the rest of the County employees.

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

NEW HARMONY TOWN MARSHALL VEHICLE LEASE AGREEMENT

B. Collins stated during a recent car chase, the New Harmony Town Marshall's vehicle was totaled. Mr. Collins stated this is the only vehicle the town of New Harmony had. Mr. Collins stated the County has a spare, unmarked Sheriff vehicle that is not being used currently that they would like to lease to the Town of New Harmony. Mr. Collins stated this would be done at a charge of \$75.00 a day. Sheriff Tom Latham stated the town of New Harmony's insurance is covering the cost of leasing the vehicle.

R. Thornburg made a motion to approve this request; C. Schmitz seconded. Mr. Harrison asked that New Harmony provide a certificate of insurance. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

REZONING REQUESTS

Becky Wolfe, with Area Plan, addressed the Commissioners regarding two rezoning requests. 10325 Middle Mt. Vernon Road:

Mrs. Wolf stated the applicant for this request is Steve Noelle, and the owners are James and Louis Winterhimer. Mrs. Wolfe stated this request is to rezone 1 acre from agriculture to residential, single-family. Mrs. Wolfe stated the owners are in the audience if the Commissioners have any questions. Mrs. Wolfe stated this request would move to a minor subdivision request at the October Area Plan meeting if approved.

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

10301 Damm Road Wadesville:

Mrs. Wolfe stated the applicant for this request is Steve Noelle, and the owners are James and Kathy Petrig. Mrs. Wolfe stated this request is to rezone 2 acres from agriculture to residential, single-family. Mrs. Wolfe stated this request would move to a minor subdivision request at the October Area Plan meeting if approved. Mrs. Wolfe stated the owner is in the audience if the Commissioners have any questions.

R. Thornburg made a motion to approve this request; C. Schmitz seconded. C. Schmitz verified Area Plan recommended the second request, as the second request was left out of the original packet to the Commissioners from the Auditor Office. Mrs. Wolfe stated yes, both requests were passed by Area Plan. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Posey County Sheriff, Tom Latham, gave the following inmate housing report:

DOC: 18

Vanderburgh: 34

POCO: 87

Total: 139

\$32,737.50 brought in from Vanderburgh in July.

Posey County Health Department representative, Donnie Martin, addressed the Commissioners regarding the current Posey County status in regards to COVID-19. Mr. Martin stated the Health Department is following recommendations from the CDC and the Indiana Department of Health. Mr. Martin stated these agencies are strongly advising the use of masks indoors and be vaccinated. Mr. Martin stated the Health Department is currently experiencing a staff shortage due to positive cases and close contacts within the department.

Mr. Martin stated they had advised both school districts.

Mr. Martin stated Posey County is still in the red designation with the State.

Mr. Martin stated last week, the County was reporting 84 new cases, and as of today, and 41 cases have been reported(Saturday-Monday).

Mr. Martin stated currently, there are two test options at the Health Department.

B. Collins asked with the shortages that the Health Department has been experiencing, is there anything the Commissioners can do to help. Mr. Martin stated they currently have three employees, and the issue would be getting someone trained. Mr. Martin stated if they could have someone answer the phones, it could free some time up. R. Thornburg asked if it would help to contract a part-time employee for a year. Mr. Martin stated he would have to speak with Dr. Kyle Rapp, the Health Officer, and he is currently out on vacation. County Attorney, Joe Harrison, asked if ARP funds could be used to help the staffing situation. Mrs. Greenwell stated no, for ARP funds to be used, the person must average 65% of the workday engaged in direct COVID-related tasks.

Posey County Auditor, Maegen Greenwell, asked the Commissioners if they would like to update the County policy regarding employee quarantining to match what the Health Department recently sent out. C. Schmitz stated after reading the recommendations from the Health Department; he feels it should be left to the individual and the department head.

Mrs. Greenwell stated the Health Department outlined four different options for quarantining:

1. Vaccinated individuals would not have to be quarantined if deemed a close contact.
2. Unvaccinated individuals will follow the same guidelines as last year and choose one of the three options recommended for quarantine. Those three options are:
 1. 14-day quarantine and return day 15 with no restrictions.
 2. 10-day quarantine and return day eleven wearing a mask day 11-14. They need to be symptom-free and fever-free for 24 hours before returning.
 3. 7-day quarantine in which they quarantine for 7 days and can return on day 8 if they either get a negative PCR test performed day 5,6, or7 or get a negative rapid test performed day 8 in the morning before work. And again, they need to be symptom-free and fever-free for 24 hours prior to returning and wear a mask day 8-14 and monitor for symptoms.

B. Collins stated the Commissioners are going to leave the decision to each department head as to which of the quarantining options they will follow in their office for unvaccinated close contact individuals.

Sheriff Tom Latham asked if he has a deputy out with COVID, who is out of benefit time, will that deputy not be paid. Mrs. Greenwell stated, yes, that is correct. Mrs. Greenwell stated that was a Commissioner and Council decision to forgo COVID pay at the end of 2020. B. Collins asked Mrs. Greenwell to look into the option of bringing COVID pay back and let the Commissioners know at the next meeting.

Mrs. Greenwell reminded the Commissioners that the next meeting would be held Wednesday, September 8, 2021.

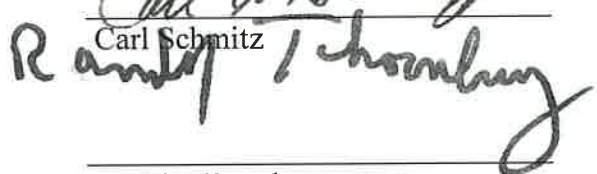
No other business was discussed, and the meeting was adjourned.



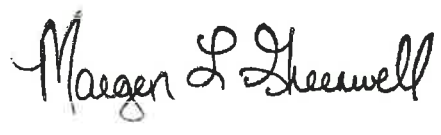
Bill Collins



Carl Schmitz



Randy Thornburg



Attest: Maegen L. Greenwell