

## POSEY COUNTY COUNCIL TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2021

The Posey County Council met in regular session at the Hovey House on Tuesday, August 10, 2021, at 9:00 am. The following members were present at the said meeting: Heather Allyn, Tom Schneider, Brandon Deig, Aaron Wilson, Stefani Miller, and Marilyn Brenton; County Attorney Joe Harrison; and Auditor Maegen Greenwell. Councilmember Dave Pearce was absent.

H. Allyn called the Posey County Council meeting to order at 9:00 am with the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Council was led an opening prayer by David Whitten.

### MINUTES

A. Wilson made a motion to approve the July Council meeting minutes; B. Dieg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 5-0, with S. Miller abstaining.

### CLERK'S REPORT

T. Schneider made a motion to approve the Clerk's Report; S. Miller seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

S. Miller made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; M. Brenton seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

### HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Dr. Rapp addressed the Council regarding the current COVID-19 status of Posey County. Dr. Rapp stated last week Posey County was the first County to be designated as red. Dr. Rapp stated the Health Department is continuing to track, update, test, and vaccinate at the office. Dr. Rapp stated as of now there is no mask mandate for the schools, only recommendations. Dr. Rapp stated Mt. Vernon School District is going with requiring masks, while North Posey has chosen to make it optional for students. Dr. Rapp stated the busses fall under the Federal Transportation mask mandate.

Dr. Rapp gave the following numbers update:

91 Positive cases as of today

2/3 of those being in 47620

Age: even across the board, until the 70 and over category, which is almost zeros

Last week 65 cases, as of Tuesday this week, 62 cases

Dr. Rapp stated he is checking with Deaconess to see if they have any plans to re-open testing sites in Mt. Vernon. Dr. Rapp stated testing could be done Monday through Friday at the Health Department or at the Urgent Care facility in Mt. Vernon.

Dr. Rapp stated the symptoms of the current variant are similar to the original virus; however, this variant has more allergy symptoms such as runny nose and cough. Dr. Rapp stated the loss of taste and smell had been less with this variant.

### CGB ABATEMENT REVIEW

Gary Banter with CGB addressed the Council regarding their current abatement. Mr. Banter stated the project is complete and in the second year of abatement. Mr. Banter stated CGB currently has 82 employees, and 46% of those live in Posey County.

H. Allyn asked if CGB has any other projects in the works. Mr. Banter stated they have torn down the old office and are in the process of putting in a new truck scale. Mrs. Allyn asked what the community involvement was like for CGB. Mr. Banter stated as a corporation, CGB supports Habitat for Humanity and the Ronald McDonald House.

T. Schneider made a motion to approve this request; A. Wilson seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

H. Allyn stated all abatements would be handled at the 2022 June meeting.

### RADIO UPDATE

Jason Knowles, Posey County Dispatch Director, addressed the Council regarding the current radio situation. H. Allyn stated there was a conference call with VEI last week regarding the issues. Mrs. Allyn stated B. Deig was the Council representative on that call along with S. Miller.

Mr. Knowles stated VEI is currently testing each individual mobile unit that is having issues. Mr. Knowles stated once the testing on the radios is complete, it will allow them to know if their issues are radio or tower/network issues. Mr. Knowles stated he has not heard much from the fire stations since the reprogramming but plans to send an email out in the next few days.

H. Allyn stated VEI stated one of the current towers is not working to its ability, and she asked for more information on that, and she has not heard back from Dan at VEI.

Mr. Knowles stated he is also still waiting to hear from VEI on that issue. Mr. Knowles stated his initial concern is making sure the department is within the regulations of the FCC; however, you can petition the FCC for higher output wattage. Mr. Knowles stated it would be a long shot due to the high usage in this area and would likely cause feedback on systems. Mr. Knowles stated he would check with VEI on any further guidance they could give for that option. Mr. Knowles stated he currently has two optional sites that could be used if it is determined it would be beneficial.

A. Wilson stated he was advised by a previous director that the more towers, the better the reception would be. Mr. Wilson stated VEI stated that was not the case. Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Knowles if he believes more towers would help. Mr. Knowles stated yes, ultimately they would help; however, they are restricted to the number of frequencies they can have and use. Mr. Knowles stated each site takes six frequencies, and he believes they have four not being used.

Mr. Knowles stated the cost of equipment and labor would be roughly \$75,000.00 per site.

Mr. Knowles stated the Blacks Chapple tower and the New Harmony tower were both struck by lightning recently and are being repaired. Mr. Knowles stated the invoices had been submitted.

H. Allyn asked Mr. Deig if the changes at the Middle Mt. Vernon site had made any difference. Mr. Deig stated it is hit and miss, but the coverage along Interstate 64 had improved.

Mr. Wilson asked if insurance covered the lighting strike issue. Maegen Greenwell, Posey County Auditor, stated she would check with the insurance company on that issue.

Mrs. Greenwell asked if the fire departments had been asked recently regarding allowing the County to use their frequencies. Mr. Knowles stated he did not believe they will change their minds, but he would reach out and ask. Mr. Wilson stated the County needed to sit down with the fire chiefs and readdress the situation and work toward everyone using the County system.

Mrs. Miller stated she believes it is also an issue with the fire department's radios, and each station would have to purchase new radios. Mr. Knowles stated he believed they all do have updated radios for that reason. Mr. Knowles stated his concern with that would be they only have three stations on the system, making radio traffic difficult.

A. Wilson asked if the tower at dispatch was moved, would it give six more frequencies to use. Mr. Knowles stated the department has to have that site at dispatch to function.

A. Wilson stated the eastern part of the County is the most populated, and Point Township is the least populated, so if a tower needed to be moved, it should be the one in Point Township.

Mrs. Allyn stated the plan is to continue moving forward, and currently, that means working on the mobile radios and making sure they are up to date.

### **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST**

Cheryl Reich, with the Posey County Health Department, is requesting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$33,000.00 for the group insurance line. Mrs. Reich stated this would cover the end of the year. A. Wilson made a motion to approve this request; M. Brenton seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

Posey County Sheriff, Tom Latham, is requesting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$416.67. Sheriff Latham stated this is an insurance claim and moving the funds back to the repair of the vehicle line. M. Brenton made a motion to approve this request; S. Miller seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

Chris Neaveill, Posey County EMS Director, is requesting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$100.00. Mr. Neaveill stated this was a donation made to the department and is placing this into the donation line. A. Wilson made a motion to approve this request; S. Miller seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

Posey County Prosecutor, Thomas Clowers, is requesting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$1500.00 into the IV-D travel line. Mr. Clowers stated this is needed for travel expenses for the conference. M. Brenton made a motion to approve this request; S. Miller seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

### TRANSFER REQUEST

Posey County Prosecutor, Thomas Clowers, is requesting a transfer in the amount of 580.00 from IV-D travel line to the office supply line.

B. Deig made a motion to approve this request; S. Miller seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

### DEPARTMENT UPDATES

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

38 Vanderburgh County Inmates

18 DOC

85 Posey County Inmates

1 State Parole

142 Total

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

Sheriff Latham stated he is fully staffed and moving to straight shifts on October 1, 2021.

Chris Neaveill, Posey County EMS Director, stated he is currently down one paramedic and has posted. Mr. Neaveill stated he had had some truck closures due to staffing, but that is not happening frequently. Mrs. Greenwell asked if the County should look at any type of training reimbursement to help move current employees up to a paramedic spot. Mr. Neaveill stated some corporations do have a system in place for this; the employee generally signs a contract to stay with the company for a certain amount of time or pay back the tuition. Mr. Neaveill stated he has had some inquiries on this from current employees.

No further business was discussed.

Posey County Sewer Board representative, Aaron Wilson, stated the Sewer Board recently opened bids for their project and that it was awarded at the cost of \$12.7 million. Mrs. Allyn stated the ARP money that is being taken in by the County has very specific uses that are allowed, and one of those is sewer. Mrs. Allyn stated as a Committee, it was discussed giving \$2 million to the Sewer District for their current project. Mrs. Allyn stated the remainder would be provided by the State of Indiana.

Mrs. Allyn asked when the payment would be due? A. Wilson stated the State is fine with splitting the payment into two payments.

T. Schneider asked if the State will provide the County with a guarantee in writing for their contribution. A. Wilson stated yes.

Josh Hood, with Wessler, addressed the questions.

A. Wilson stated currently the Harbor Town site has 26 customers, whereas the Wadesville project will have close to 600 customers.

T. Schneider asked if residents are required to tap into this new system. Mr. Hood stated yes, per IC code, if a customer is within 300 feet, they must tie in unless they have 10 acres and two additional optional septic sites, or their septic system is less than ten years. Mr. Hood explained that extension only covers until your system is 20 years old, and then you would have to tap in at that time. A. Wilson stated right now the State is giving a subsidy of \$20,000.00 per home to place the pump needed. Mrs. Allyn asked what will be required of each homeowner? Mr. Wilson stated each homeowner would receive \$20,000.00 for the pump and be required to pay the \$85.00 per month utility fee.

M. Brenton made a motion to allow two million dollars of the ARP money to be given to the Wadesville project split into one payment this year and one payment next year; T. Schneider seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0



T. Schneider asked if they could get a memo of exactly what the ARP money can be used for. M. Greenwell stated sewer, water, broadband, and lost revenue.  
Mrs. Allyn stated one area of lost revenue they could look at is riverboat money.

T. Schneider stated the County has a large broadband/internet deficiency.  
Mrs. Allyn stated for the current Mainstream Media project, that was a State grant that determined the placement of the backbone of that project; however, once the project is underway, there will be information on their website for households that are outside of the backbone, that are interested in tying into that project.

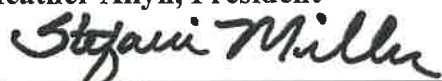
H. Allyn stated she would like to state she has always had an open-door policy and urges other department heads and elected officials to reach out to her with any issues.

Council recessed for ten minutes and reconvened and met with the following departments to discuss 2022 budget proposals:


- Coroner
- Area Plan
- Clerk
- EMS
- Sheriff
- Soil and Water
- Dispatch
- Circuit Court
- Commissioners Department

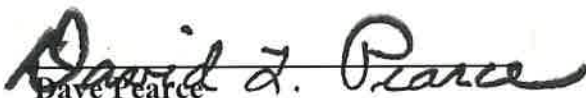
No final decisions were made and Council adjourned.

  
Heather Allyn, President

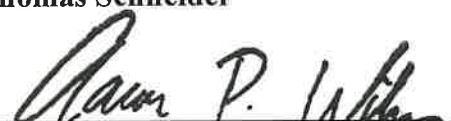
  
Stefani Miller, Vice President


  
Brandon Deig

  
Marilyn Brenton

  
Dave Pearce

  
Thomas Schneider

  
Aaron Wilson

ATTEST:   
Posey County Auditor