

POSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021.

The Board of Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled meeting at the Hovey House, 330 Walnut Street, in Mt. Vernon on Tuesday, December 7, 2021. Commissioners Bill Collins, Randy Thornburg, and Bryan Schorr were in attendance. Auditor Maegen Greenwell and County Attorney Joe Harrison were also in attendance.

Matt Watson lead the Commissioners in prayer.

MINUTES

R. Thornburg made a motion to approve the minutes from November 17, 2021; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

B. Schorr made a motion to approve the Executive session on November 16, 2021; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

CLAIMS

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

CLERK'S REPORT

B. Schorr made a motion to approve the October Clerk's report; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

YEARLY HIGHWAY BIDS

B. Schorr made a motion to approve the yearly highway bids as advised by the Highway Superintendent; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

ROAD VACATION PUBLIC HEARING

B. Collins stated this will be postponed until January 5, 2022 meeting.

ROAD VACATION ORDINANCE

B. Collins stated this will be postponed until January 5, 2022 meeting.

COVID 19 PHASE 3 GRANT

Posey County Auditor, Maegen Greenwell, stated this is paperwork to allow the County to seek funds from the State for the 3rd phase of the COVID-19 Grant. Mrs. Greenwell stated the Commissioners officially approved the list earlier this month. R. Thornburg made a motion to approve this request; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

PROPERTY/CASUALTY/LIABILITY INSURANCE PROPOSALS

B. Collins stated the Commissioners received proposals from both Schultheis and Epic Insurance, and he will allow for each company representative to outline their proposals, but the Commissioners will be taking these proposals under advisement until the next Commissioners meeting on December 21, 2021.

Andy Weintraut with Schultheis addressed the Commissioners regarding his proposal. Brain Hancock with Epic Insurance Midwest addressed the Commissioners regarding his proposal.

B. Collins stated the Commissioners would take the proposals under advisement to be awarded at the December 21, 2021 meeting.

AMERICAN STRUCTURE POINT/WESTERN BYPASS AMENDMENT

Posey County Commissioner Attorney, Joe Harrison, stated the Commissioners received notice from American Structure Point that construction costs will increase by \$19,200.00 due to archeology and environmental requirements from the State. Mr. Harrison stated this increase

would be covered by TIF bond revenue. R. Thornburg made a motion to approve amendment 4 with American Structure Point regarding the Western Bypass; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

MARATHON GAS LINE AGREEMENT

B. Collins stated the Commissioners would be covering the surveying and moving cost of any pipelines in association with the Western Bypass. Mr. Harrison stated the \$47,000.00 being requested is regarding the initial surveying cost. Mr. Harrison stated this is similar to the agreement signed with CountryMark recently, and funds will be paid from TIF bonds.

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

DISCUSSION FOR COMMEMORATING MT. VERNON LYNCHING

Sophie Kloppenburg, a junior at Mt. Vernon Sr. High School, addressed the Commissioners regarding history surrounding the lynchings that took place in Mt. Vernon in 1878. Miss. Kloppenburg presented the Commissioners with the history of the events and a request to collaborate with the County and several other agencies to design and construct a memorial on the Courthouse lawn.

Ben Uchitelle, President of Posey County Farms, addressed the Commissioners as the great-grandson of Manuel Crumbach, who witnessed the lynchings of 1878. Mr. Uchitelle commended Miss. Kloppenburg on a fine presentation.

The Commissioners discussed their options, and Mr. Harrison advised the Commissioners to table this and research the history surrounding this issue and take action at a later date.

SHERIFF/EMS FUEL BIDS

B. Collins stated the Commissioners received one bid, from Wabash Valley Fuel Service, for the Sheriff's office and EMS Department's fuel services for 2022.

R. Thornburg made a motion to approve the fuel bid from Wabash Valley Fuel Services for the Sheriff's office and EMS Department; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

EMPOWERMENT BEHAVIOR CONTRACT

Posey County Auditor, Maegen Greenwell, presented a contract with Empowerment Behavior Services on behalf of the Probation Department. Mrs. Greenwell stated this is a renewal of a contract from last year, and Mr. Harrison has reviewed it.

R. Thornburg made a motion to approve this contract; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Nancy Hoehn, Posey County Assessor, addressed the Commissioners on behalf of the handbook committee. Mrs. Hoehn presented the Commissioners with changes that the Committee would like to see.

Highway Superintendent, Steve Schenk, stated he would like to see a change regarding the carryover of vacation time for his department. Mr. Schenk stated as customary in the past if his employees were called in for a storm while on vacation, they would get that vacation day back, and it was carried over.

B. Schorr asked if it should read essential services are exempt from vacation not rolling over into the next year if there were extenuating circumstances? B. Collins stated that could be added with the approval of the department head. Mr. Schenk stated it could read with the approval of both department heads and Commissioners.

Mrs. Greenwell stated this could be discussed in a public meeting and noted in each employee's file that is affected.

B. Collins stated he would be fine as long as it was documented well with the department head. B. Collins stated the Commissioners would make final decisions at the December 21, 2021 meeting.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Posey County Sheriff, Tom Latham, gave the following inmate housing update:
39 Vanderburgh County Inmates

15 DOC Inmates
85 Posey County Inmates
139 Total Inmates
\$44,475.00 November Vanderburgh billing.

Sheriff Latham stated he had presented an ordinance to the Vanderburgh County Sheriff to secure a minimum of 50 inmates from Vanderburgh County for a five-year agreement. Sheriff stated he has worked with Mr. Harrision and will present the ordinance to the Commissioners at the next meeting in December.

Chris Neaveill, Posey County EMS Director, addressed the Commissioners regarding the recent talk of increasing rates. Mr. Harrision stated the Commissioners would consider an ordinance at the December 21, 2021 meeting.

Mr. Neaveill stated he will need to advertise bids for a new ambulance for 2022.

B. Schorr made a motion to approve the advertising of bids for a new ambulance; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

Mr. Neaveill stated he is still down two paramedics.

Jason Knowles, Posy County E911 Director, stated the tower located in New Harmony was recently struck by lightning and will be out of service until it can be fixed. Mr. Knowles stated Spillman has started on the new server.

B. Collins gave the following animal control report for November:

12 Complaints
4 Animals Picked Up
1 Bite Reported
\$48.00 taken to the Auditors office.

Posey County Resident, Ed Yeida, addressed the Commissioners regarding the need to consider constructing an industrial park in Poseyville. Mr. Yeida stated this has been a need for years and believes it could be helpful to the area.

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




Bill Collins



Randy Thornburg



Randy Thornburg



Attest: Maegen L. Greenwell