

POSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022.

The Board of Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled meeting at the Hovey House, 330 Walnut Street, in Mt. Vernon on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. Commissioners Bill Collins, Randy Thornburg, and Bryan Schorr 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 minutes from February 15, 2022; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

CLAIMS

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

CLERK'S REPORT

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

MULBERRY STREET BRIDGE

B. Collins stated the Commissioners have recently discussed the need to replace the Mulberry Street Bridge. Mr. Collins stated after speaking with American StructurePoint; it was brought to his attention the County could be eligible for grant funding for this project. Mr. Collins stated he had asked StructurePoint to provide a quote to do a study on this bridge to see what it would take to replace it.

Ryan Cummings with American StructurePoint stated the preliminary study would provide a survey of the area to identify possible project impacts to adjacent lots and provide a preliminary engineering assessment. Mr. Collins stated the contract with StructurePoint to provide this service is not to exceed \$43,700.00. Mr. Collins stated the funds for this contract would come from the cumulative bridge fund.

R. Thornburg asked if the grant opportunity is under the Build Back Better agenda. Mr. Cummings stated the recently passed infrastructure bill includes a bridge restoration component that will be distributed by INDOT through a competitive process.

R. Thornburg made a motion to approve this contract; B. Schorr seconded. B. Collins asked what the timeline of this project would be. Mr. Cummings stated they plan to begin the survey process in the next 120 days, and the report will follow shortly after the survey is complete, but start to finish five months. Mr. Collins stated if the County is not awarded grant funding for this project, the County could look at the possibility of using an 80/20 funding process.

The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

HIGHWAY YEARLY BIDS

B. Collins opened bids for the highway yearly bids. R. Thornburgh made a motion to take the bids received under advisement until the March 15, 2022 Commissioners meeting; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

COVID SMALL BUSINESS GRANT CLOSEOUT

B. Collins stated the County had distributed all grant funds for the COVID Small Business Grant and a letter needs to be filed stating this.

B. Schorr made a motion to approve the closing of the grant process and file a letter to State all funds were distributed; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

GROW SOUTHWEST INDIANA BOARD

Sara Worstell, with Grow Southwest Indiana Workforce Board, addressed the Commissioners regarding the need to approve the Local Elected Officials Agreement. Mrs. Worstell stated the County appoints a representative from the Commissioners to sit on this board, and she needs the agreement approved and signed for their records that states Commissioners Thornburg is the representative.

B. Collins made a motion to appoint Randy Thornburg to the Grow Southwestern Board; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

LOCHMUELER GROUP CONTRACT-ADA PLAN

Posey County Commissioner Attorney, Joe Harrison, stated the Commissioners are working with Lochmueller Group to provide the County with an updated ADA plan. Mr. Harrison stated this contract price is not to exceed \$28,000.00.

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

DOWNEN ROAD ISSUES

Kathy Irvin, Posey County resident, is requesting help with issues on Downen Road. Mrs. Irvin is requesting the Commissioners either chip and seal or pave this section of road.

Posey County Highway Superintendent, Steve Schenk, stated the County typically has left of chip and seal at the end of the season, and they could take care of roughly ¼ mile and next year finish the remaining.

DEPARTEMENT UPDATES

Posey County Clerk, Kay Kilgore, informed the Commissioners that the Clerk recently underwent an audit for years 2019 and 2020. Mrs. Kilgore stated one of the issues she needs to correct moving forward is allowing each of her deputies to have cash drawers instead of using one cash drawer for the entire office. Mrs. Kilgore stated State Board of Accounts recommended she let the Commissioners know and so this conversation would be in the minutes.

Posey County Highway Superintendent, Steve Schenk, provided the Commissioners with the 2021 overview of Highway road operations. Mr. Schenk outlined as follows:

Recycle Roads:

9.7 miles \$370,551.75

Chip and Seal:

7.52 miles \$312,491.54

Re-seal Roads:

3.5 miles \$43,670.78

Overlay on Chip and Seal:
15.27 miles \$1,199,078.72

Overlay on Existing Blacktop:

9.8 miles \$824,181.84

Community Crossing:

12.89 miles \$1,221,682.52 with grant covering \$900,000.00

Total:

58.7 miles \$3,907,657.15

Edit funds covered \$2,000,000.00

Jason Knowles, Posey County Dispatch Director, addressed the Commissioners regarding several equipment repairs that will need to be made, including a part for the generator that will cost \$25,000.00 and a battery backup for the servers. Mr. Knowles stated he would be getting quotes for both of those parts in the near future. Mr. Knowles stated he will be down one employee and will be posting the opening soon.

B. Collins asked how the service has been with the radios and antenna. Mr. Knowles stated he had not had any new complaints in the last few weeks. Mr. Knowles stated VEI did visit last week and discussed options for existing issues.

B. Schorr asked for an update on the new system that will populate names and numbers into the dispatch system automatically. Mr. Knowles stated they are on hold, waiting for a piece of equipment from the State.

Posey County Health Department representative, Donnie Martin, informed the Commissioners that COVID numbers are decreasing rapidly. Mr. Martin stated the Health Department is checking on the existing AED Units in each County building, but if anyone would like training, please email him. Mr. Martin stated the Health Department is looking to re-start some programming that was previously put on hold due to COVID.

R. Thornburg reported that North Posey School District is reporting zero COVID cases.

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

Vanderburgh: 27

DOC: 25

Posey County: 63

Total: 115

Sheriff Latham stated body cameras were received yesterday, and they will distribute when all the needed equipment has been delivered, and training can begin. Sheriff Latham stated Council agreed to fund the body cameras; however, he was able to apply for and was awarded \$49,806.01 for the cameras. Sheriff Latham stated he also applied for another grant to put toward this cost. Sheriff Latham informed the Commissioners the Jail will be opened back up to pre-covid procedures as of today. Sheriff Latham stated this would allow for much-needed outreach programs to return.

Posey County Dispatch Director, Chris Neaveill, stated he recently met with his advisory board. Mr. Neaveill stated his board approved the recommendation to increase part-time pay at the presented rate. Mr. Neaveill stated he would give this information to the Council also, as it will be on their agenda next week.

Mr. Neaveill stated the EMS Department recently replaced suction cup equipment that had been in service for eight to ten years. Mr. Neaveill stated this equipment is still useable and would like to donate the replaced equipment to Griffin Bethel Fire Department. Mr. Neaveill is requesting to donate an AED device to the Mt. Vernon Youth Baseball Association. Mr. Neaveill stated the department does have this equipment in inventory that is not being utilized.

Mrs. Greenwell asked if any of this equipment was purchased with grant funds. Mr. Neaveill stated no.

B. Schorr made a motion to surplus the two pieces of equipment for donation; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

Mr. Neaveill stated the department would be renovating the Poseyville station in the near future. Mr. Neaveill stated the department would be buying the paint and speaking with the Poseyville Town Council on other needs.

Mr. Neaveill provided the Commissioners with recommendations from his advisory board regarding pay issues that have been discussed. Mr. Neaveill stated he is providing three options to the Commissioners and Council.

B. Collins asked which of the three options the advisory board was recommending. Mr. Neaveill stated the advisory board had recommended the option that includes paying a \$10.00 sleep stipend.

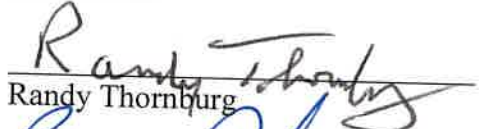
B. Schorr stated, with Mr. Neaveill's approval, that Chris Neaveill has resigned as the Posey County EMS Director. Mr. Schorr thanked Mr. Neaveill for his service and stated Mr. Neaveill would stay on as acting director until the Commissioners appoint a new director, and at that time, Mr. Neaveill will step into the role of a paramedic for the department.

Posey County Resident, Earl Schroeder, commented on the ongoing rate and bill increases from CenterPoint. Mr. Schroeder stated the Vanderburgh Commissioners held an open meeting regarding this situation recently, and he is asking the Commissioners to keep an eye on the situation.

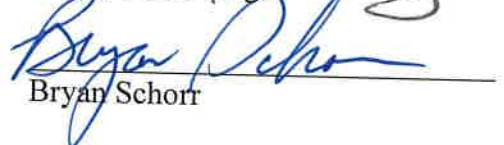
No further business was discussed, and the meeting was adjourned.



Bill Collins



Randy Thornburg



Bryan Schorr



Attest: Maegen L. Greenwell