

POSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022

The Board of Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled meeting at the Hovey House, 330 Walnut Street, in Mt. Vernon on Tuesday, June 21, 2022. Commissioners Bill Collins, Randy Thornburg, and Bryan Schorr were in attendance. Auditor Maegen Greenwell and County Attorney Joe Harrison were also in attendance.

Sheriff Tom Latham led the Commissioners in prayer.

MINUTES

R. Thornburg made a motion to approve the minutes from June 7, 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.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

CONSIDERATION OF THE FORM OF THE PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND THE FORM OF THE ROAD USE AGREEMENT SUBMITTED BY POSEY

SOLAR, LLC:

Joshua Chavis, with Arevon, addressed the Commissioners regarding the Posey Solar project and a road usage agreement with Posey County. Mr. Chavis stated the proposed road use agreement form had been approved by the Posey County SECS Transportation Committee, with the help of the committee, community, and BLN. Mr. Chavis stated the form identifies the road that is proposed to be utilized, identifies the cost to repair roads, the testing regime for both during and after to ensure those roads are left in the same or better condition as prior to construction, and a form of bond that has been approved for approximately \$5,400,000.00 and that will likely be reduced slightly as that will be revised and updated prior to execution and start of construction, but can not be expanded, and identifies the communication protocols between the company, the community, and County officials. Mr. Chavis stated this form has been approved by the Committee and is now up for consideration by the Commissioners. Mr. Chavis stated in regards to the bond, it will last three years past the end of construction, so if there is any damage that was caused by the project that was not immediately identified, the County is still covered. Mr. Chavis stated this also gives the ability to reinstate a new security bond if any additional construction or work is needed after the completion of the project.

Mr. Chavis stated the escrow agreement is to place a \$100,000.00 escrow in place during construction, to be available during construction if an emergency work needs to be done, and this will allow the County to address any emergency work without obtaining funds from the company. Mr. Chavis stated that three years post-construction, this will be reduced to \$50,000.00. Mr. Chavis stated regardless of the escrow, the Company will be responsible for any repairs needed. Mr. Chavis stated the agreement allows for the County to complete that emergency work. Mr. Chavis stated if the escrow is below \$50,000.00 upon the end of construction, it will be increased back to the \$50,000.00 agreed-upon mark.

B. Collins stated himself, the highway superintendent, and the County attorney all served on this committee. Mr. Collins stated if approved, the form of the Posey Solar Transportation Plan and the form of the Posey Solar Road Use Agreement will now be sent to the Area Plan Commission, who will use it as needed.

B. Collins made a motion to approve these forms; B. Schorr seconded.

B. Collins opened the meeting for public discussion. Seeing no one to speak for or against, B. Collins closed this portion of the meeting for public discussion.

The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

AMBULANCE BIDS

B. Collins opened the following four bids received:

1. Penn Care: \$145,000.00
2. VCI: \$87,600.00

3. Elite Ambulance Services: \$153,000.00
\$154,000.00
4. Global ER Services: \$114,200.00

B. Collins gave the four bids to the EMS Director to review and recommend.

Paul Micheletti, Posey County EMS Director, stated one bid is for a brand new ambulance that will not be available for several months and is not exactly what he is looking for; the quote from VCI is out of the range of milage and delivery time scope; the least expensive quote from GEV will have to be unwrapped, and rewrapped and would have to be shipped, making it not the least expensive; the two quotes from Elite are both for an ambulance that is remounted, one of these is the ambulance that Mr. Micheletti is recommending. Mr. Micheletti stated this is a remount using a Mcoy Miller box on a new chassis and is available for shipping today for a total of \$154,000.00. Mr. Micheletti stated this box will be very similar to the current ambulances in use by Posey County.

R. Thornburg made a motion to approve the bid from Elite for \$154,000.00 as recommended; B. Schorr seconded. The motion is carried with a vote of 3-0.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT NURSE CONTRACT

B. Collins stated the Commissioners have been presented with an updated contract to sign for the part-time health nurse utilized by the Posey County Health Department. Mr. Collins stated this contract is unchanged from the last contract agreement and will run from July 1, 2022, until June 30, 2023.

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

AREA PLAN REZONE REQUEST

Mindy Bourne, with Posey County Area Plan, addressed the Commissioners regarding a rezoning request for 3006 Blackford Road East. Mrs. Bourne stated this is rezoning from ag to R1 single family. Mrs. Bourne stated there are currently two homes on a parcel, and this will allow a parcel to be created for the second house. Mrs. Bourne stated this was heard and passed at the June 9th Area Plan meeting, and there were no remonstrators.

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

SOPHIE KLOPPENBURGH- MONUMENT REQUEST

Sophie Kloppenburgh addressed the Commissioners regarding the ongoing discussion of placing a monument on the Courthouse lawn to commemorate the lynchings of 1878. Ms. Kloppenburgh stated since the Commissioners approved the placement of the memorial, fundraising has begun throughout the community, and \$5,000.00 has been raised toward the \$7,500.00 goal. Ms. Kloppenburgh stated the bench had been ordered. Ms. Kloppenburgh stated she had worked closely with USI, who is developing and hosting the website that will be utilized for the QR code that will be placed on the memorial for more information. Ms. Kloppenburgh stated she has also worked closely with Commissioners Shorr, Councilwoman Allen, Professor Hart, and Dr. Gughenhein to finalize the wording to go on the memorial Ms. Kloppenburgh provided the following wording:

This marker serves as a memorial to brothers Daneil Harrison Jr., and John Harrison, their father Daniel Harrison Sr., along with Jim Good, William Chambers, Edward Warner, and Jeff Hopkins. All were African American men who had their lives unjustly taken in October of 1879. The later four men were hanged here, on the Courthouse's southeast corner. While they were accused of various crimes, the accusations were questionable, they never received a trial, and no one responsible for their deaths faced prosecution.

It is important to remember the tragedies of the past, but also to recognize that Posey County now believes in fair justice for all citizens Civil rights in this country have come a long way since then. Let us never forget what happened here, including the community's work toward mending the bitter legacy of those injustices left behind.

For more information on the incident, please visit <https://usi.libguides.com/PoseyCoMarker> or scan the QR code below.

B. Collins thanked Ms. Kloppenburgh for her hard work and research that has gone into this project. Mr. Collins is asking to strike the word now from the first sentence of the second paragraph.

B. Schorr asked about the website and QR code. Ms. Kloppenburgh stated that she will be working with several USI employees to develop and maintain the QR code. B. Schorr asked the Commissioners have input on the final website product. Ms. Kloppeneburgh stated that could be arranged.

R. Thornburg made a motion to approve this wording with strike the word now as requested; Schorr seconded.

Dr. Ronald Rochon, USI President, thanked the Commissioners for their response to Ms. Kloppenburgh and her perseverance in bringing awareness to this part of history. Dr. Rochon stated that USI would work with the Commissioner on the website's content.

The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

ADA COMMITTEE/BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

Nancy Hoehn, ADA Committee chairman, addressed the Commissioners regarding a conversation with Lochmuehler Group about the current ADA committee/board structure. Mrs. Hoehn stated the board is supposed to be made up of certain spelled-out members. Mrs. Hoehn stated the board would need to be restructured to be made up of the proper appointees. Joe Harrison, Posey County Commissioner Attorney, stated he would send the Commissioners the ordinance to address the appointments at the next Commissioner's meeting.

Mr. Harrsion stated Lochmuehler group is currently updating the County's ADA plan.

COUNTY CEMETERY

Clyde Guthrie, with the Bellfountain Cemetery Board, stated a culvert needs to be placed at the main entrance of the cemetery. Mr. Guthrie stated the board had purchased the equipment needed but is asking the County to place the culvert. B. Collins stated the Highway department has agreed to this.

B. Collins stated the Marrs Township Trustee has recently asked the Commissioners to take over the upkeep of cemeteries that are within that township because they are in the County's name. Mr. Collins stated after speaking with Mr. Harrsion that it is deemed to be the responsibility of the township trustee via IC Code.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

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

36 Vanderburg County Inmates

18 DOC

81 Posey County

135 total

Paul Micheletti, Posey County EMS Director, stated he would like to address the option to make the current training officer a lead for his department, allowing the training officer to get the \$1,500.00 stipend/salary increase that was approved by Council for the current three leads.

B. Collins made a motion to table this until the current Salary Study being conducted is complete for further guidance; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

Mr. Micheletti informed Mr. Collins he followed up on the question regarding the warranty on the new Powerlift equipment, and those do indeed come with a one-year warranty.

Bill Collins

Bill Collins

Randy Thornburg

Randy Thornburg

Bryan Schorr

Bryan Schorr

Maegen L. Greenwell

Attest: Maegen L. Greenwell