

**POSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2022.**

The Board of Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled meeting at the Hovey House, 330 Walnut Street, in Mt. Vernon, on Wednesday, July 6, 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 June 21, 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 May Clerk's report; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE SURPLUS**

B. Collins stated the Sheriff had advertised two lawn mowers to be sold as surplus, and the Commissioners received the following sealed bid:

1. Roger Bebout: \$100.00

B. Schorr made a motion to accept the sealed bid; R. Thornburg seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

**ADA BOARD RESTRUCTURE**

B. Collins stated it was recently discovered that the ADA Board needs to be restructured. Mr. Collins outlined the following appointees:

Existing:

Bill Collins- Commissioners  
Joe Harrison- County Attorney  
Steve Schenk- Highway Superintendent  
John Hoehn- Maintenance Director  
Judy Heberer-Health Care Professional  
Ed Battieger- ADA Coordinator

Still needed:

Clergy Member- Rick Sellers  
Council Member-  
Business Professional-

B. Collins made a motion to appoint Rick Sellers as the local clergy appointee; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

B. Collins stated the Commissioners would fill the remaining spots at the next Commissioner's meeting.

**BRIDGE 103 SMITH SCHOOL ROAD**

B. Collins opened the following two bids:

1. Chastaine Excavating: \$242,480.19
2. Russel Excavating: \$243,400.00

Steve Schenk, Posey County Highway Superintendent, stated his recommendation is to accept the low bid of Chastaine Excavating.

R. Thornburg made a motion to accept the low bid of \$242,480.19 from Chastaine Excavating; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

### EMA OPEN BURN BAN DECLARATION

Larry Robb, Posey County EMA Director, presented the Commissioners with a declaration of an open burning ban for consideration for Posey County. Mr. Robb stated the County is classified as experiencing a moderate drought for the first time since October of 2019. Mr. Robb stated all nine local fire chiefs agree on this ban, which can be lifted by the Commissioners at any time. Mr. Robb stated there are allowances for exemptions if needed by the corresponding fire chief. Mr. Collins read the declaration as follows:  
Declaration by the Board of Commissioner of Posey County Declaring an Emergency Caused by Draught and Prohibiting Open Burning:

Whereas the General Assembly of the State of Indiana has passed the Emergency Management and Disaster Law which is codified at Indiana Code 10-14-3-1 (“the Disaster Law”); and,  
Whereas the term “disaster” is defined to include drought under Indiana Code 10-14-3-1(B)(12);  
AND,  
Whereas Posey County is a political subdivision whose executive is the Board of Commissioners pursuant to Indiana Code 10-14-3-7; and,  
Whereas Indiana Code 10-14-3-7(a) authorizes the executive of a political subdivision to take action to protect, prevent, or mitigate where possible, and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State; and,  
Whereas Indiana Code 10-14- establishes the only exceptions to the powers granted to a political subdivision during a declared disaster.  
Whereas the nine established fire departments in Posey County have requested a ban on all open burning.  
Therefore, the Board of Commissioners of Posey County, pursuant to the Disaster law, proclaim as follows:

1. At the time of this Declaration, an emergency disaster exists within Posey County because of drought conditions.
2. In order, to the extent possible, to protect the lives and property located within the County.
  - a. No person shall cause, permit, or allow open burning on any property located within the County.
  - b. The above shall not prohibit the use of gas or charcoal grills.
  - c. The Fire Chief in their jurisdiction may give written permission for open burning in special circumstances for a limited time to be determined by the Fire Chief.
3. Pursuant to Indiana Code 10-14-3-24, all law enforcement officers of the State of Indiana and the political subdivisions within the State may enforce the terms and conditions of this Declaration.
4. Pursuant to Indiana Code 10-14-3-34, any person who knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly violates this Declaration commits a Class B Misdemeanor and may be fined and/or imprisoned pursuant to law.
5. This Declaration shall remain in full force and effect from the date of this Declaration.

All of which is declared by the Board of Commissioner of Posey County this July 6, 2022.

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

### DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Jeremy Fortune, Posey County Sheriff Chief Deputy, gave the following inmate housing report:

Vanderburgh: 39  
DOC: 20  
Posey County: 82  
Total: 141

\$44,500.00 was taken in from Vanderburgh County in the month of June.

Mr. Fortune stated starting July 1, 2022, DOC will begin to take level 6 inmates if the Court sentences the inmate to DOC.

Paul Micheletti, Posey County EMS Director, informed the Commissioners the EMS Department has one open paramedic position currently.

Mr. Micheletti asked the Commissioners to consider allowing him to offer a \$2500.00 sign-on bonus, similar to the education reimbursement ordinance that was passed last month. Mr. Micheletti stated there would be a year contract that would be signed.

B. Collins stated he would like to wait until the Council has completed its salary study before making any decisions on sign-on bonuses.

B. Schorr stated recently a discussion was had to put a policy in place that would require part-time employees to work a minimum amount of hours per month. Mr. Schorr asked if that had been put in place yet. Mr. Micheletti stated yes, he communicated that, and he lost about half of his part-time employees due to inability to fulfill that commitment. Mr. Micheletti stated that was expected, and they are moving forward.

Mr. Micheletti gave an update on the new ambulance that was recently purchased, stating he expects it to be delivered in the next ten days and on the road within the next month. Mr. Micheletti stated he had ordered the power load system for this ambulance, utilizing the EMS maintenance fund.

Mr. Micheletti stated once this ambulance is on the road, it will give the County one backup ambulance to utilize.

Mr. Micheletti stated he would like to move the ambulance currently at medic two and replace it with the new one ordered and use this as a backup. Mr. Micheletti stated the ambulance currently at medic four should also be considered a replacement sooner than later.

Mr. Micheletti stated currently, the backup that Posey County is using is a loner from Gibson County. Mr. Micheletti stated his goal is to have two backups available.

B. Collins stated the Commissioners would consider this recommendation.

Steve Schenk, Highway Superintendent, informed the Commissioners that the chip and seal was completed last week, and they are paving as EDIT funds are available.

Mr. Schenk stated the County should be receiving Community Crossing money soon.

Mr. Schenk stated the County had received preliminary findings from the current bridge study. Mr. Schenk stated two bridges, one on Ramsey Road and one on Keene Road, both needed to be addressed, and those have been taken care of. Mr. Schenk stated bridge 202 on John Mills Road, which was falling into the creek, was removed.

Mr. Schenk stated his department will be down three employees soon and is in the same position all other departments are in when it comes to hiring.

R. Thornburg stated he spoke with the Animal Control Officer recently, who had concerns about emergency call-out pay. Mr. Thornburg stated currently, the officer is not being compensated for emergency call-outs. Mr. Thornburg stated the officer put in for time and a half for an emergency call out and was paid straight time. B. Schorr stated that he had not reached 40 hours. Mr. Schorr stated between 35 and 40 hours is straight time. Mrs. Greenwell stated the Commissioners could put a policy in place for the Animal Control Officer similar to the highway department, which is an automatic two hours of pay when called in for emergency work.

Mr. Thornburg stated the officer also stated his vehicle is in need of replacement.

Mr. Collins stated he is working to create a database and reporting system for passenger and everyday driver vehicles. Mr. Collins stated this would help not only keep up with mileage but also help keep track of maintenance performed and maintenance needed.

B. Collins stated he is working with EREP to help the County apply for a historical building restoration grant.

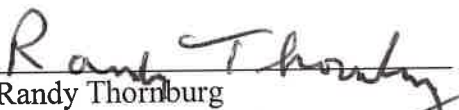
B. Schorr asked if the County had a weed ordinance. Mrs. Greenwell stated yes, that would be directed to the Building Commissioner.

Mrs. Greenwell stated starting this payroll, COVID pay will no longer be paid out.  
Mrs. Greenwell stated the Auditor's office has begun using their new software, and please understand that reports may look a little different than everyone is used to.  
Mrs. Greenwell stated department head budget hearings would start at the next Council meeting and continue into the August meeting, with budget hearings taking place in September.  
Mrs. Greenwell stated the health clinic would attend the next Commissioner's meeting to give an update.


B. Collins gave the following Animal Control report:

- 43 complaints
- 9 pick up
- 2 bite reports

  
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Bill Collins

  
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Randy Thornburg

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bryan Scherr

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Attest: Maegen L. Greenwell