

**POSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023.**

The Board of Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled meeting at the Hovey House, 330 Walnut Street, in Mt. Vernon, on Wednesday, February 22, 2023. Commissioners Bill Collins, Bryan Schorr, and Greg Newman were in attendance. Auditor Maegen Greenwell and County Attorney Joe Harrison were also in attendance.

Deacon Mark McDonald led the Commissioners in prayer.

**MINUTES**

G. Newman made a motion to approve the minutes from February 7, 2023; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

B. Schorr made a motion to approve the minutes from the executive session on February 9, 2023; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

**CLAIMS**

G. Newman 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 Clerk's Report for January; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

G. Newman made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for January; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

**COURTHOUSE BOILER CHANGE ORDER**

B. Collins stated that there was a recommendation to put in a new filter to run alongside the current filter in the boilers at the Courthouse. Mr. Collins stated that the price for that extension tank was \$6,866. B. Schorr made a motion to approve the change order; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

**WESTERN BYPASS RIGHT-OF-WAY PURCHASE OFFERS**

County Attorney, Joe Harrison, stated that the Commissioners have the following three right-of-way land purchase offers to consider for the Western Bypass project:

SW Corner of Givens Road and Smith Road Project Parcel 30 \$11,650.00 G. Newman made a motion to approve this purchase; B. Collins seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

Base Road just north of Upper Upton Road Project Parcel 35 \$91,850.00 B. Schorr made a motion to approve this purchase; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

5275 Lower New Harmony Road Project Parcel 33 \$121,300.00 G. Newman made a motion to approve this purchase; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

**2023 BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

- Tourism Board: B. Collins made a motion to appoint Melissa Morris to the Tourism Board for a one-year term to expire 12/31/2023; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.
- Springfield Committee: N. Hoehn stated that it was suggested by Joe Harrison to appoint a commissioner to the Springfield Committee. B. Schorr made a motion to appoint Greg Newman to the Springfield Committee; B. Collins seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

**REZONING**

Area Plan Director, Mindy Bourne, stated that she has the following two rezoning requests:

10401 Altheide Road. Mrs. Bourne stated that the request is to rezone 56.23 acres from R-1 to AG. Mrs. Bourne stated that the petition went before the Area Plan Commission on Thursday,

February 9, 2023. A motion was made by the Area Plan Commission to recommend approval for the rezoning with a vote of 9-0.

B. Schorr made a motion to approve the rezoning of the 56.23 acres; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

Goodman Road/SR66 New Harmony. Mrs. Bourne stated that the request is to rezone 1.64 acres from AG to M-2. Mrs. Bourne stated that the petition went before the Area Plan Commission on Thursday, February 9, 2023. A motion was made by the Area Plan Commission to recommend approval for the rezoning with a vote of 8-0; one member abstained.

G. Newman made a motion to approve the rezoning of the 1.64 acres; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

### **TAX SALE**

Posey County Treasurer, Vicki Peerman, stated that the County will have an upcoming Commissioner's tax sale on March 23, 2023. Mrs. Peerman stated that the Commissioner's Tax Sale happens every two years. Mrs. Peerman stated that as of now, there will be 32 parcels that will go on the Commissioners Tax Sale. Mrs. Peerman stated there would be an addendum that is required to be signed at the next meeting as well as a list of properties that will be on the tax sale. Mrs. Peerman stated that the list of properties has to be in the paper for three consecutive times prior to tax sale. B. Schorr made a motion to approve going forward with the Commissioners Tax Sale; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

### **5-YEAR MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE- EMA**

Posey County Emergency Maintenance Director, Larry Robb, stated that the County is required by FEMA to have an active Mitigation Plan that is renewed every five years. Mr. Robb stated that 2023 is the year to renew the plan. Mr. Robb stated that the County is given funds from the State to have a company write the plan, including making changes and additions to the plan. Mr. Robb stated that it then will get sent to himself to review and make suggestions; following that, the plan will then go to the State to review; the plan then gets sent to FEMA to review. Mr. Robb stated that if the plan gets approved, it will go back to the State, and the State will send it back to Larry. Mr. Robb stated lastly, it will go to all the municipalities that participated and for final approval. Mr. Robb stated that if the community decides not to participate in the plan, they will have to develop a plan on their own or certain grants might be available for them if they do not have an active Mitigation Plan.

### **HOVEY HOUSE REPAIR PROPOSAL**

Bryan Schorr stated that the Commissioners received a proposal from Arc Construction to repair the roof, gutter, and wall on the southeast corner of the south wall at the Hovey House. Mr. Schorr stated that the estimate to repair the issue is \$9,285.

G. Newman made a motion to approve the proposal to fix the wall from Arc Construction; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

### **MT. VERNON UNSAFE BUILDING ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY-CITY**

The City of Mt. Vernon Unsafe Building Enforcement Authority Employee, Sherry Willis, read the following letter:

Dear Sirs:

As Unsafe Building Enforcement Authority for Dilapidated Properties for the City of Mount Vernon, I am faced with getting properties cleaned up that have dilapidated structures located on them. Once the properties go through the hearing process and a raze order is obtained, and if the owner fails to tear down the structure, the city will request quotes from contractors and tear the structures down on City funds. After the structures are torn down, and the owners fail to pay the costs, a lien is applied to the property to be collected thru property taxes.

The City is not only faced with tearing down dilapidated structures, but we also have the task of mowing those same properties when the owners fail to maintain their lawns. Once

the owners fail to pay those charges for mowing their lawns, another lien is applied to their property.

These lots that we remove structures and mow yards are the same lots that go up on tax sales and are frequently left unsold on the regular tax sales. These lots go unsold because the back taxes and liens amount to more than the empty lots are worth.

At this time, I am looking at one of those parcels. The city has torn down the house that once sat there, and the city has mowed each of the parcels several times and several mowing seasons. This parcel has been identified by the County for their upcoming Commissioners Certificate Sale. The City of Mount Vernon is asking the Commissioners for Tax Deed of this parcel listed below:

Sale ID 652200089, Parcel #65-27-08-231-009.000-018, Address: 724 W. Sixth Street. The city tore this structure down after a 2 ½ year process and costing the city \$12,253.96 for building hearings, postage, newspaper publications, demolition costs, and legal fees.

The City's goals are the same goals as the County, to get those parcels back on the tax roll. The city has partnered with Habitat and brought life back to some areas of the city with new homes in those neighborhoods. Other lots have been purchased by individuals and now have structures on those lots. We will continue to make those empty lots available for new construction as we clean up neighborhoods.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Willis, Unsafe Building Enforcement Authority

B. Schorr made a motion to deed parcel #65-27-08-231-009.000-018 to the City of Mount Vernon; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

#### **MALCON EMS CONTRACT**

Paul Micheletti, Posey County EMS Director, stated that the Malcon EMS contract is a renewing contract that the County uses for Medicaid reimbursement. Mr. Micheletti stated they are waiting for a 2020 payout of Medicaid reimbursement. Mr. Micheletti stated that since 2021 and 2022, they had brought in over \$1,000,000 in revenue. Mr. Micheletti stated that the contract states that there is a cap fee of \$9,500, and any recoveries over \$19,000 should be the Counties at 100%. B. Schorr made a motion to accept the contract with Malcon; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

#### **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

Posey County Treasurer, Vicki Peerman, stated that there would be an amendment done to the Treasurer's Report. Mrs. Peerman stated she was planning to get the adjustment done and sent to the Commissioners and Council prior to the meeting; however, 5/3 has not made the adjustment yet. Mrs. Peerman stated that the changes should reflect on the next Treasurer's report.

Posey County Emergency Maintenance Director, Larry Robb, stated that our Commodity Flow Study is in process.

Commissioner President, Bill Collins, stated that there is an opportunity to apply for a grant for the replacement of the Mulberry Street Bridge. Mr. Collins stated the grant would be for \$5.5 million dollars and is an 80/20 grant, which makes the County match \$1.1 million. Mr. Collins stated that the County would not be able to use bridge money to do that. Mr. Collins stated that

the Commissioners could go to the council and ask them to fund the match for the 80/20 grant to replace the Mulberry Street Bridge.

Mr. Collins stated that in addition to the County portion of 1.1 million dollars, he received an email from INDOT asking if the County would be able to cover 100% of the engineering and right-of-way work, and that amount is estimated to be \$870,000. Mr. Collins stated including that amount, the Commissioners would be asking the council for about \$1.8 million to match the \$5.5 million that it would take to replace the Mulberry Street Bridge. Mr. Collins stated that the Commissioners are trying to get funding from other sources and plans on asking the City of Mount Vernon to help with the cost due to the bridge being within the city limits. Mr. Collins stated the county would be letting the contract in July of 2027 giving us a few years to save the money.

B. Schorr made a motion to go to council and ask for funding of \$1.8 with a promise to try to offset the amount if they can in order to fix the Mulberry Street Bridge; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

Posey County Highway Superintendent, Steve Schenk, stated that the bids would be open for the asphalt and chip and seal paving in the next commissioner's meeting. Mr. Schenk stated they are currently getting roads ready by replacing culverts, trimming trees and ditching.

Mr. Schenk stated that he has three openings at the highway garage and has five applicants. Mr. Schenk stated out of the five applicants, none of them have CDL's. Mr. Schenk stated the highway had been approved by the Department of Transportation to start its own school and train its own people. Mr. Schenk stated once they are approved, Mr. Schenk will call applicants and get them started on the schooling. Mr. Schenk stated he would give new employees six months to obtain their CDLs.

Jamie Bradford, Posey County E911 Director, stated that the radio site study was done as of February 9, 2023, and February 10, 2023. Mrs. Bradford stated that they informed her that the equipment was good, and the problem is the way that it is set up. Mrs. Bradford stated the study uncovered that the power is extremely low, as well as the antennas. Mrs. Bradford stated she would be setting up a meeting when they have everything from the study compiled.

Mrs. Bradford stated that the new employee that has been hired starts on Monday, February 27, 2023. Mrs. Bradford stated there is an employee that will be leaving to go to Evansville Dispatch in the middle of March, and that open position has been offered to someone. Mrs. Bradford stated that Dispatch would then be fully staffed.

Mrs. Bradford has gotten one quote back regarding the new consoles and is waiting on another quote.

Health Department Administrator, Donnie Martin, stated that there had been a large surge in the last few days with people coming and getting Covid-19 tests. Mr. Martin stated the school liaison program is now up and running and that, including the catholic schools, they have about \$9,000 per school that they are going to use to buy medical supplies that the school nurses decide each individual school needs. Mr. Martin stated this money comes from a grant that they received from the State in the amount of \$100,000.

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

103 Posey County  
6 IDOC  
29 Vanderburgh County  
138 Total inmates

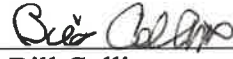
Sheriff Latham stated that the staffing issues are prohibiting him from having more Vanderburgh County inmates. Sheriff Latham stated that we are currently four jail officers down.

Sheriff Latham stated that he is six sheriff deputies down, including the three new additional positions that were approved.

#### **MORLEY UPDATE**

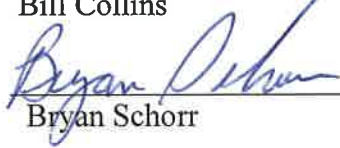
Cody Simpson, with Morley, stated he recently met with Mainstream to touch base with them regarding the Broadband Project. Mr. Simpson stated that segments one through four are

currently under construction and should be completed soon. Mr. Simpson stated that segments five through seven had been received for review, and the revisions should be received soon.



---

Bill Collins



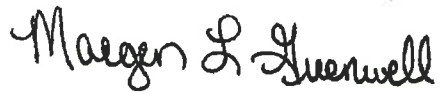
---

Bryan Schorr



---

Greg Newman



---

Attest: Maegen L. Greenwell