

## POSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2023

The Board of Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled meeting at the Hovey House, 330 Walnut Street, in Mt. Vernon, on Tuesday, June 6, 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 lead the Commissioners in prayer.

### MINUTES

B. Collins stated that the Commissioners will be tabling the minutes until the next meeting.

### CLAIMS

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

### CLERK'S REPORT

G. Newman made a motion to approve the April Clerk's report; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

### STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION

Posey County Health Officer, Kyle Rapp, addressed the Commissioners, along with Nicole Morley, with the Indiana Department of Health, to discuss the recently passed house and senate bills that would increase funding for the County Health Department. Dr. Rapp explained the process the County must follow to either enroll in this increased funding or opt out and continue to be funded at the current level of \$50,870.00. Dr. Rapp stated that the increased funding could be as much as \$327,886.00. Dr. Rapp stated the Commissioners would either opt in or opt out; once that is completed today, the Health Department will pass that information to the State, and a budget will be presented to Council accordingly. Dr. Rapp stated there is a matching portion from the County, and that will be calculated using the average of County tax dollars for the previous three years. Dr. Rapp stated that in 2025, the amount would be 20%, but that number is not known right now.

Dr. Rapp explained the funding requirements that will be placed on the Health Department. Dr. Rapp stated that both the employees of the Health Department and the Health Board voted to proceed with the opportunities that increased funding would bring. Dr. Rapp stated that control over budgeting and funding would not change, and Council would still allocate this budget as it does now.

B. Collins asked, with the added programs, will the Health Department have to hire more employees. Dr. Rapp stated he is unsure currently, but how the increased funding is supposed to work is the Health Department will be partnering with other agencies to provide help, so they wouldn't necessarily need more employees. Dr. Rapp stated, however, that this is an option if needed. Dr. Rapp stated that there are restrictions on hiring new employees that the department would have to follow.

B. Collins asked how many programs above what are already being facilitated and do they anticipate adding. Dr. Rapp stated many of the options the County is already handling; this funding will allow the department to expand on many ongoing programs.

B. Collins stated his concern is adding employees and programs to the County, and after the two-year program has ended and the State no longer funds the program having to end those programs in the County. Mrs. Morley stated that the hope is that in two years, the State will recognize the work put in by the Counties, and the data will show how these programs helped the lives of Hoosiers, and the State will continue the funding program.

B. Schorr asked what the County match would be. Dr. Rapp stated he is not sure at this time, it will be the average of three years of tax funding.

Dr. Rapp stated if the Commissioners opt into the funding, the Board would have to submit the final budget that was approved by Council to the State by August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

G. Newman asked if the department has thought about having community meetings regarding public input on the programs the community would like to see? Mrs. Morley stated her office could help with this.

B. Schorr made a motion to opt in and participate in the increased funding from the State Health Department; G. Newman seconded.

G. Newman added he would like to see at least one public meeting to allow for community input on needed and wanted programming. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

#### **POSEY COUNTY VETERANS OFFICER UPDATE**

John Dike, Posey County Veterans Service Officer, addressed the Commissioners on a new program that will begin in Posey County. Mr. Dike stated this program would provide transportation to Veterans through the Posey County Council on Aging.

#### **ADA TRANSITION RESOLUTION**

Posey County Commissioner Attorney, Joe Harrison, stated the Commissioners have been working on an ADA Transition Plan, including holding a public hearing on May 16, 2023, regarding the proposed plan. Mr. Harrison stated the County must have a current ADA Plan in place to receive State and Federal funding, including funding from INDOT. Mr. Harrison stated the plan is now complete, and the Commissioners will need to sign a resolution in order for the new plan to take effect.

B. Schorr made a motion to approve the proposed resolution to update the Posey County ADA Plan; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

#### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT TRUCK AND TRAILER BIDS**

B. Collins stated the Commissioners received the following bids for the two surplus items from the Health Department:

2005 Dodge Dakota:

Joe Wooten: \$1,050.00

Glen Saalweachter: \$2,995.00

John Hoehn: \$1,160.00

Ethan Sutfin: \$2,650.00

G. Newman made a motion to accept the high bid of \$2,995.00 from Glen Saalweachter; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

2014 Tilt Trailer:

John Hoehn: \$265.00

Ethan Sutfin: \$625.00

Libby Kern: \$358.00

Cindy Regan: \$226.00

B. Schorr made a motion to accept the high bid of \$625.00 from Ethan Sutfin; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

#### **ANIMAL CONTROL TRUCK**

B. Collins stated that the Commissioners recently sent out a request for proposals for a new truck for the Posey County Animal Control officer. Mr. Collins stated the Commissioners received one bid from Expressway Jeep. Mr. Collins asked Steve Schenk to look at the bid to see if it meets the specifications set out in the proposal that was sent.

Mr. Schenk stated that after looking at the bid, it seems the bed of the truck proposed is not long enough and does not meet the specifications in the bid.

B. Collins made a motion to reject this bid due to the bid not meeting the specifications required; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

B. Collins stated the Commissioners need to replace this vehicle as soon as possible. Mr. Collins is asking permission to allow the Commissioners to seek a new vehicle, provided they stay within the original bid specifications and the current budget.

G. Newman made a motion to allow the purchase of a new vehicle on an emergency basis; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

#### **FARMERSVILLE ROAD NUISANCE COMPLAINT**

Ed Batteiger, Posey County Building Commissioner, stated as of today, the trailer that was at this property has been torn down, and most of the debris has been hauled off. Mr. Collins stated this complaint could be considered closed.

#### **8720 UPPER MT. VERNON ROAD NUISANCE COMPLAINT**

Ed Batteiger, Posey County Building Commissioner, stated this is a new complaint with debris, abandoned vehicles, and construction equipment. Mr. Batteiger stated after initial contact; this property has seen some improvement; however, it still needs more attention.

G. Newman made a motion to continue this complaint, allowing Mr. Batteiger to make contact with the landowner and giving a new deadline of June 20, 2023; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

#### **HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT BIDS**

Steve Schenk, Posey County Highway Superintendent, addressed the Commissioners regarding a piece of equipment he is purchasing through Sourcewell as a two-year lease to buy purchase. Mr. Schenk stated the lowest bid was \$369,241.00 for a new excavator. Mr. Schenk stated this is a two-year purchase agreement paying \$97,223.00 upon delivery, \$97,223.00 on the first year, and \$97,223.00 the second year. Mr. Schenk stated he would split these payments between his bridge fund and motor vehicle fund.

#### **AT&T/FIRST NET**

Michael Sanders, with AT&T/First Net, addressed the Commissioners regarding the wireless services that AT&T/First Net provides. Mr. Sanders stated this division of AT&T was formed after the 9/11 Commission found the need for the Federal Government to build a cell phone network dedicated to first responders and public safety. Mr. Sanders stated AT&T was ultimately awarded a 25-year contract to build, maintain and support a mobile network dedicated to public safety. Mr. Sanders stated First Net is a separate network from the commercial network, and it allows AT&T to have first responding organizations on a separate network, giving priority over the general public on a daily basis, but also during a disaster.

Mr. Sanders stated in the contract with the Federal Government, it states that AT&T/First Net is responsible for having a response operations group, which monitors the system in real-time and is equipped with over 150 pieces of equipment that allow AT&T/First Net to respond to any type of disaster, allowing the responding agencies to have access to a network.

Mr. Sanders stated that the State of Indiana has created a purchasing agreement allowing Indiana Counties to take advantage of the services that AT&T/First Net offer. Mr. Sanders stated that the State of Indiana uses a purchasing model called NASPO, which uses a flat rate price model, data is unlimited, and no early termination fees will be applied through the contract, allowing Counties to add and subtract devices as needed.

Mr. Sanders stated another benefit to AT&T/First Net is the First Net and Family program that is offered with this contract. Mr. Sanders stated that this allows Posey County to offer a discount program and the ability for the County employee to take advantage of First Net's services.

Mr. Sanders stated that the total out-of-pocket to replace every phone and every hotspot currently inventoried is \$53.00.

Sheriff Tom Latham stated he is in favor of this move.

It was asked what the time frame would be. Mr. Sanders stated this could be done as soon as next week. B. Schorr asked what the overall cost difference would be. Mrs. Greenwell stated roughly \$6.00 or \$7.00 per month.

B. Schorr made a motion to approve the presented proposal with AT&T/First Net; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

#### **SELERIX/BENEFIT WEBSITE**

Maegen Greenwell, Posey County Auditor, addressed the Commissioners regarding an opportunity to partner with Selerix to provide the County with a benefits website to coordinate all County benefits. Mrs. Greenwell stated that currently, the County still does open enrolment via pen and paper, and this would allow the County employees to access a website to make appropriate changes to their benefits.

B. Collins made a motion to approve this request; no second motion was given.

B. Schorr stated he had not seen the email with this information and would like to table the decision. Mrs. Greenwell stated the Commissioners received this information in their updated meeting email on Monday.

B. Schorr made a motion to table the discussion; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.



### **SERENITY SUBDIVISION**

Steve Schenk, Posey County Highway Superintendent, stated Serenity subdivision is a small subdivision off of Barter Road. Mr. Schenk stated that the County had been asked to take this subdivision over as a County maintained road. Mr. Schenk stated that, currently, the road is not up to the standards the County would require for this process. Mr. Schenk stated he gave the homeowners the contact for Jerry David Enterprises to start the process of making the current road up to County standards. Mr. Schenk stated that the Commissioners should question how many more houses are planned to be built because the County might consider an agreement with the developer stating they are liable for any damages done to the road during construction. B. Schorr asked Mindy Bourne with Area Plan this question. Mrs. Bourne stated she thought that most of the lots in this subdivision have houses on them, maybe one or two empty lots. B. Schorr made a motion to approve this request, subject to recommended improvements; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

### **TAX SALE ADDENDUM**

B. Collins stated that this item would be tabled.

### **GIS USE AGREEMENT**

Posey County Auditor, Maegen Greenwell, stated the two agreements presented to the Commissioners are on behalf of EREP and American Structure Point, and both entities will be doing work on behalf of Posey County and will need access to the GIS information to complete said projects.

Jenna Richardt, with EREP, stated that the project that they are requesting the GIS information is regarding a Riverfront Design Plan looking at the east side of the Warrick County line all the way to the west side of the Posey County/Illinois line.

G. Newman made a motion to grant access to both EREP and American Structure Point; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

### **OFFER TO PURCHASE/WESTERN BYPASS**

B. Collins stated this offer to purchase is in regards to the Western Bypass and is the same process the Commissioners have done in the past few months.

Mr. Collins stated the total is \$3,400.00.

G. Newman made a motion to approve the offer to purchase regarding the Western Bypass; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

### **POSEYCOUNTY HIGHWAY ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

Steve Schenk, Highway Superintendent, provided the Commissioners with the State required Annual Highway Report for 2022.

B. Schorr made a motion to approve the 2022 Annual Highway Report; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

### **MULBERRY BRIDGE**

Steve Schenk, Highway Superintendent, stated the County is responsible for contracting a consultant for the Mulberry Bridge project. Mr. Schenk stated that the State of Indiana advertised for this project, and the County received one quote, filled out properly, from American Structure Point. Mr. Schenk stated that the County followed the needed steps, and he recommends that the Commissioners appoint American Structure Point to be the consultant for the Mulberry Bridge project.

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

### **CIRCUIT COURT SURPLUS**

B. Collins stated that this item would be tabled.

### **DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

Posey County EMS Director Paul Micheletti informed the Commissioners that his new position of Community Paramedic will work closely with the Health Department on several projects and will also be housed in the Health Department building.

Mr. Micheletti gave the following report:

\$134,336.23 in receivables

236 Request

150 Transports

Mr. Micheletti stated he hopes the remounted ambulance will be ready for service in November or December. Mr. Micheletti stated that the ambulance that was rear-ended is back in service.

B. Collins read the following animal control report:

34 Complaints

15 Animals picked up

1 Euthanized

4 Bite Reports

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

162 total

36 Vanderburgh County

9 DOC

117 Posey County

Sheriff Latham stated that the interlocal agreement with Vanderburgh County had been sent to Sheriff Robinson for execution on their end.

Sheriff Latham stated that the jail is currently fully staffed.

Sheriff Latham stated he would like the Commissioners to sign an indemnity agreement with the town of New Harmony to allow Max Straub to work for New Harmony when he is not in his current role with the County.

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

Kristen Lowry, with the Posey County Extension office, addressed the Commissioners regarding an open ANR position with Purdue through the Extension Office. Mrs. Lowry stated that this position had been posted and is being covered by the current staff in the office until a replacement can be found.

Cody Simpson, with Morley, addressed the Commissioners regarding the ongoing broadband project. Mr. Simpson stated that Morley is still working closely with Mainstream on all aspects of this project.

Mr. Simpson stated that Morley had addressed concerns from the Commissioners regarding communication with landowners. Mr. Simpson stated that Mainstream is developing new operational procedures to address this issue in the future.

Steve Bender, a Posey County resident, addressed the Commissioners regarding concerns about the broadband project.

Chris and Joey Hemming, Posey County residents, addressed the Commissioners regarding concerns about the broadband project.

Frank Bender, a Posey County resident, addressed the Commissioners regarding concerns about the broadband project.


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

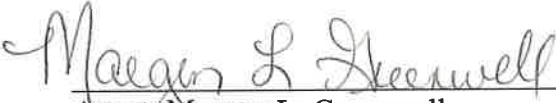


Bill Collins



Bryan Schorr

  
Greg Newman

  
Attest: Maegen L. Greenwell