

POSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023

The Board of Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled meeting at the Hovey House, 330 Walnut Street, in Mt. Vernon, on Tuesday, August 15, 2023. Commissioners Bill Collins, Bryan Schorr, and Greg Newman were in attendance. Auditor Maegen Greenwell and County Attorney Joe Harrison were also in attendance.

Pastor Elizabeth Bayer lead the Commissioners in prayer.

MINUTES

B. Schorr made a motion to approve the August 2, 2023, Commissioners meeting; 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. Collins seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 2-0. B. Schorr abstained.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

AREA PLAN ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS 1 AND 2

Posey County Area Plan Director Mindy Bourne, stated that the Commissioners held the required public hearing for these amendments at the August 2, 2023, Commissioners meeting, which is considered the second reading of both requested amendments. Mrs. Bourne stated that both amendments passed upon first reading.

G. Newman made a motion to amend chapter 153.212(a) of the current Zoning Ordinance; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

B. Schorr made a motion to amend chapter 153.213 of the current Zoning Ordinance; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

WESTERN BYPASS PARCEL 35 PURCHASE AGREEMENT

B. Collins stated that the Commissioners had tabled this purchase agreement several times in the last few months, and they still cannot agree on the price. Mr. Collins stated that the Commissioners would need to move forward with condemnation of this agreement. Mr. Collins asked if the Commissioners were ready to move forward with condemnation or if they would like to continue negotiating. B. Schorr asked how many more parcels were left to acquire in this process. Joe Harrison, Posey County Commissioner Attorney, stated roughly five. B. Collins made a motion to move forward with condemnation of this agreement; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

BRIDGE 211 WILDEMAN ROAD

B. Collins stated that the Commissioners received the following bids for Bridge 211 on Wildeman Road:

Blankenberger Brothers, Inc.: \$456,598.00

Russell's Excavating: \$511,660.00

Chastaine Excavating: \$558,489.00

Mr. Collins stated that these bids are for the construction of a new bridge and moving the existing bridge to Brittlebank Park for further use by the city. Mr. Collins stated that this is the bridge that is on the historical list that could only be removed and replaced if the County had a public space where it could be utilized at.

Posey County Highway Superintendent, Steve Schenk, is recommending that the Commissioners proceed with the low base bid of Blankenberger Brothers of \$456,598.00. Mr. Schenk stated he would recommend tabling the alternate bid of placing the historical bridge at a site that will be determined and funded by the City of Mt. Vernon.

G. Newman made a motion to approve the low base bid of \$456,598.00 from Blankenberger Brothers and table the alternate bids; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

LANDSCAPE BIDS OPENED

B. Collins stated that the Commissioners put out a request for proposals for landscape work to be completed at the Courthouse. Mr. Collins stated that the Commissioners held a pre-bid meeting to explain the bid specifications. Mr. Collins stated that the Commissioners received the following bid for this project:

Stocker Landscaping: \$19,764.70

B. Schorr made a motion to table this bid until the next Commissioner's meeting; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

TRUCK BIDS OPENED

B. Collins stated that the Commissioners put out a request for proposals for a new truck for the Building Commissioner. Mr. Collins stated that the Commissioners received the following bid: Expressway: \$41,056 Dodge Ram 4x4.

B. Schorr made a motion to approve the submitted bid from Expressway; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

BUILDING ELEVATORS

B. Collins stated that the Commissioners recently requested a quote from the current elevator service company to replace both the Coliseum and the Courthouse elevators. Mr. Collins stated that the Commissioners have questions about the quote they received and would like some clarification from the company.

G. Newman made a motion to table this discussion until further questions could be answered; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

ABANDONED VEHICLE VIOLATION OLD BLAIRSVILLE ROAD

Ed Batteiger, Posey County Building Commissioner, stated that notice for this violation was sent to the address on July 26, 2023, by certified mail, and he did receive the signature card back as proof of receipt. Mr. Batteiger stated that, as of today, the vehicle has not been moved. B. Collins asked if Tip Top was the owner of the truck. Mr. Batteiger stated that no, that was the owner of the property, and the owner of the truck is unknown, and there are no plates on the truck.

Mr. Harrison asked if this was private property. Mr. Batteiger stated yes that it is an apartment complex. Mr. Harrison asked if the property owner had had this vehicle tagged in the past. Mr. Batteiger stated he was not sure. Mr. Harrison stated that the County would have to have the truck towed to a storage facility which would then hold the vehicle.

B. Schorr made a motion to have the vehicle removed; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0. Mr. Harrison asked that a copy of the green card be sent to the Auditor's office for their records.

NUISANCE VIOLATION PRINCETON STREET

Ed Batteiger, Posey County Building Commissioner, stated that notice for this violation was sent to the address on July 10, 2023. Mr. Batteiger stated that he was in contact with the owner, who informed him that he had sold the property and held the closing last Friday. Mr. Batteiger stated he then spoke with the new owner, who have obtained the needed demolition permit to remove the trailer. B. Schorr made a motion to table this complaint; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

NUISANCE VIOLATION HAINES ROAD

Ed Batteiger, Posey County Building Commissioner, provided the Commissioners with before and after photos of this property. Mr. Batteiger stated that there are still a few issues to address, but an effort has been made.

G. Newman made a motion to table this complaint to allow 30 days to complete the clean-up process; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

NUISANCE VIOLATION MACKY FERRY ROAD

Ed Batteiger, Posey County Building Commissioner, stated that this property has been taken care of and no further action is needed.

INDIANA HEALTH FIRST DISCUSSION

Posey County Health Officer, Kyle Rapp, addressed the Commissioners regarding the new funding structure that is coming from the State of Indiana. Mr. Rapp reminded the Commissioners that this is the program that was opted into by the County several months ago, and he outlined several funding options from the State, along with the different programs that the Health department is considering.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

B. Collins gave the following July Animal Control report:

35 Complaints
3 Animals Picked Up
1 Animal Euthanized
7 Bite Reports

Posey County Highway Superintendent, Steve Schenk, provided the Commissioners with the annual Bridge Inspection that is completed to comply with State and Federal regulations.

Posey County EMS Director Paul Micheletti informed the Commissioners that he has one open paramedic position. Mr. Micheletti stated that he recently informed the Commissioners of a change order for the remounted ambulance project, and he was recently informed that the change order was going to be less than originally stated.

Mr. Micheletti stated that the Community Paramedic program is up and running.

Posey County Dispatch Director Jamie Bradford updated the Commissioners regarding the ongoing radio issues. Mrs. Bradford stated that temporary equipment had been ordered for the New Harmony Tower site to fix the issues.

Posey County Sheriff Tom Latham gave the following housing update:

27 DOC
35 Vanderburgh County
110 Posey County
172 total

Cody Simpson, with Morely, spoke to the Commissioners regarding the ongoing broadband project. Mr. Simpson stated that the Commissioner recently met with Morely and Mainstream and worked through some ongoing issues that are being reported. Mr. Simpson stated that they are currently working through the punch list on three segments. Mr. Simpson stated that progress has been made on those segments but is not complete at this time. Mr. Simpson stated that one of the items discussed was where Mainstream could dump tree trimmings. Mr. Simpson asked if the Commissioners had made any progress on that. B. Collins stated that he had not had a chance to speak with Mayor on that yet. Mr. Simpson stated that segments two and sections eight are still underway but near completion with Mainstream and have not been released to Morley to inspection. Mr. Simpson stated that Mainstream had asked the Commissioners to clarify the remaining sections of the project that are in progress and have not been permitted as far as what will be allowed for above-ground utilities within the right of way. Mr. Collins stated that they are wanting more money. Mr. Simpson stated that in the meeting last week, Mainstream was informed that the Commissioners' stance would be that if there are above-ground utilities existing, that would be allowed for the remaining segments; however, if no existing above-ground utilizes are in place, the Commissioners are asking Mainstream to go under-ground for those sections. Mr. Simpson stated that Mainstream stated that they would proceed with providing a budgetary number to the County for this change order. Mr. Simpson stated that he has not received that information from Mainstream at this time.


B. Schorr stated that Mainstream should have researched the existing utility usage in the County prior to bidding on this project. B. Collins stated that the stance of the Commissioners would be that it is up Mainstream if it needs to be underground on their dime. Mr. Morley stated that one specific question that was brought up was if there are areal poles on one side of the road, would the Commissioners approve of using poles on the opposite side of the road? Mr. Schorr stated no, if aerial is used on one side, it needs to stay on that side of the road, or it needs to be buried.

B. Schorr asked if, moving forward if the Commissioners should consider an ordinance that states that when placing utilities, the installer must explore using existing areal utilities prior to placing their own.

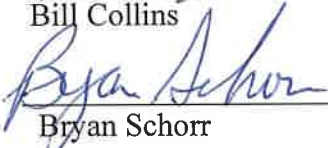
B. Schorr made a motion to begin the process of creating an ordinance that states any company that comes into the County to place new utilities would have to follow the current style, whether it is buried or aerial; G. Newman seconded. B. Collins asked about the area where there are currently no existing utilities. B. Schorr stated that if no existing aerial utilities exist, those should be underground. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

B. Schorr informed the Commissioners that he fielded a question regarding the placement of a stop sign on St. Wendel Road, going north in front of St. Wendel Church/School, along with a crosswalk from the parking lot to the Church/School. B. Schorr made a motion to approve creating an ordinance for a new stop sign on St. Wendel Road; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

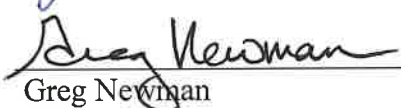
Carrie Thompson, with Posey County EMA, informed the Commissioners that next week the EMA department would be visiting County buildings to facilitate a FEMA representative who is helping the EMA department participate in a grant opportunity. Mrs. Thompson stated that this is a Rapid Visual Screening grant to help identify potential hazards associated with earthquakes.




Bill Collins



Bryan Schorr



Greg Newman



Attest: Maegen L. Greenwell