

POSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024.

The Board of Commissioners met in a regularly scheduled meeting at the Hovey House, 330 Walnut Street, in Mt. Vernon, on Wednesday, February 21, 2024. Commissioners Bill Collins, Greg Newman, and Bryan Schorr were in attendance. Auditor Maegen Greenwell and County Attorney Joe Harrison were also in attendance.

Pastor Mark McDonald led the Commissioners in prayer.

MINUTES

B. Schorr made a motion to approve the minutes from February 6, 2024; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

G. Newman made a motion to approve the Joint Meeting minutes from February 6, 2024; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

CLAIMS

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

CIRCUIT COURT RELOCATION

Judge Goedde, Circuit Court Judge, addressed the Commissioners regarding ongoing discussions on moving the Circuit Court from the Courtroom to the Coliseum. Judge Goedde stated he would like to continue the conversation and is asking if there is no possibility of moving forward and if he could be kept informed so they can use their budget to complete needed upgrades.

UNUSED VACATION TIME

B. Collins stated that this resolution is regarding the request to amend the handbook to allow unused vacation time to roll over to the next year, provided it is an emergency, and both the department head and the Commissioners sign off on it. B. Schorr asked if at the end of the first quarter, if time is still unused, would it expire or be paid out? It was discussed that unused, rolled-over time would expire at the conclusion of the first quarter.

B. Schorr made a motion to waive the final reading and approve the amendment to the handbook as presented; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

SHERIFF OVERTIME POLICY

B. Collins stated that this ordinance is regarding the ongoing discussion to allow overtime for the Chief Deputy and two detectives. Mr. Collins stated that the only change that was made was removing the email verbiage from the ordinance.

G. Newman made a motion to waive the final reading of this ordinance and approve as presented; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

OLIVER ROAD UNSAFE BUILDING

Posey County Building Commissioner Ed Batteiger updated the Commissioners regarding the ongoing Oliver Road unsafe building complaint. Mr. Batteiger stated that no change had been made from the last update, and the fine was sent and has not been collected yet. B. Collins asked what the next step was. Mr. Batteiger stated that the County could gather quotes to clean the property up and place a lien on the property for the cost of the cleanup. Joe Harrison stated that could be recorded against the property, so if it changes hands, it would be collected. Mr. Harrsion asked Mr. Batteiger to gather three quotes for the cleanup of this area and bring them back to the Commissioners.

B. Schorr asked if they shouldn't place another fine on this property.

Posey County Auditor Maegen Greenwell stated that every time Mr. Batteiger has a document recorded, there is a \$25.00 recording fee that is paid.

Mr. Collins stated that the Commissioners should send another acceptable notice and get quotes to clean the property, and if it comes to the County cleaning it up, all of the recording costs and demolition costs will be added to the lien.

B. Schorr made a motion to increase the fine to \$500.00 and proceed with gathering quotes for cleaning up; G. Newman seconded.

Posey County Treasurer Vicki Peerman informed the Commissioners that this is a process that the City does frequently. Mrs. Peerman stated that yes, the Commissioners can place a lien on the property, but if it goes unpaid and ends up on Commissioners sale, the County will forgo the funds for that lien, as once the property is on Commissioners sale, all fines and liens are removed.

The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

AREA PLAN REZONE REQEUSTS

The Commissioners heard the following two rezoning requests:

- Applicant: Justin Collins

Location: Downen Road and Highway 66, Wadesville, Indiana

Posey County Area Plan Interim Director Dave Ripple stated that this rezoning request is to rezone 26.42 acres from agricultural to R-1 residential and 21 acres from agriculture to B-2 commercial general. Mr. Ripple stated this was heard at the February Area Plan meeting and received a favorable vote of 8-0 with one abstained.

Mr. Ripple stated there were remonstrators for and against this request at the meeting.

B. Collins opened the public commenting portion of the meeting:

Justin Collins, the applicant, addressed the Commissioners regarding the intent of this rezoning request. Mr. Collins stated that the 26.42 acres that have been petitioned to rezone as residential will be used for a residential housing development, which is much needed for the County. Mr.

Collins stated that both the housing development that he is proposing and the use of the commercial rezoning would increase the tax revenue for the County.

Ralph Wallis, 10300 Highway 66, Wadesville, Indiana. Mr. Wallis stated he is against rezoning.

Darrin O'Risky, 8933 Downen Road. Mr. O'Risky spoke in favor of the project, stating that the Collins family are upstanding citizens, and this will bring growth to the Parker's Settlement area.

Steve Straub, 9429 Boeberg Road. Mr. Straub stated the need for change and improvement in the area. Mr. Straub stated that it might be a compromise to move the entrance of Downen Road to the proposed subdivision entrance.

Myron Razor, 10441 Highway 66, Wadesville, Indiana. Mr. Razor stated he is against this rezoning request. Mr. Razor stated his concerns are what assurance the neighbors have that what is stated is what will really happen.

G. Newman stated that this is the first step in the rezoning request, and this will still be heard by a site plan review committee and the following steps will include neighbor input.

Mr. Newman stated that a declining population is a detriment to the entire County and this housing project begins to correct the housing issues in Posey County.

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

- Applicant: Brad Unfried

Location: 2620 Juanita Ave. Wadesville, Indiana

Posey County Area Plan Interim Director Dave Ripple stated that this rezoning request is to rezone 1.1020 acres from B-1A to B-3. Mr. Ripple stated that this request was made at the February Area Plan meeting and received a favorable vote of 8-0 with one abstained.

B. Collins opened the public commenting portion of the meeting:

B. Collins closed the public commenting portion of the meeting after no one spoke for or against.

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

FIREARMS AND DANGEROUS ITEMS ORDINANCE

Posey County Attorney Joe Harrison stated that the Posey County Sheriff requested this ordinance to be established, which would ban firearms and other dangerous items in buildings that house Courtrooms. Mr. Harrison stated that for Posey County, this would be the Coliseum and the Courthouse. Mr. Harrison stated this would exclude a judicial officer who is permitted to carry and officers of the law.

G. Newman made a motion to waive the second reading of this ordinance and approve as presented; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0

POSEY COUNTY CLERK CONSULTING CONTRACT

Posey County Clerk Kay Kilgore addressed the Commissioners regarding the need to sign a contract with Dossett Consulting for services to Posey County. Mrs. Kilgore stated that the

Commissioners took action at the last meeting to terminate a contract with Malcon, and this will replace that service.

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

POSEY COUNTY PROSECUTOR CONSULTING CONTRACT

G. Newman made a motion to approve the contract presented for Dossett Consulting for services to Posey County; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

PARTIME BUILDING COMMISSIONER

Posey County Building Commissioner Ed Batteiger addressed the Commissioners regarding the need for a part-time Building Commissioner to help alleviate some of the strain from the Posey Solar project. Mr. Batteiger stated he would like to request that this position be paid \$25.00 per hour due to the nature of this work. Mr. Batteiger stated he is also requesting to purchase a vehicle and needed IT equipment for this position. B. Collins asked if the County could pay mileage instead of purchasing a vehicle. Maegen Greenwell, County Auditor, stated that she was under the assumption that the solar company was reimbursing the County for the vehicle. Mr. Batteiger stated that this could be added to the fees for the project. Mr. Collins stated he would rather look at paying mileage versus adding a vehicle to the fleet. B. Schorr stated that the Council would need to set the hourly rate. Mrs. Greenwell stated that if this is a contract employee, it will run through the Commissioners, not the Council.

Mr. Collins stated he would rather do this as a contract employee because it will not be a permanent position, and he will be reimbursed from the project.

B. Schorr stated he would be in favor of purchasing a vehicle with funds from the project company because, at the end of the project, the County will have a vehicle.

B. Schorr made a motion to allow the Building Commissioner to move forward with finding a part-time Building Commissioner for this project at a rate of \$25.00 per hour and moving forward to purchase a vehicle and the needed IT equipment for this position; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

Mr. Collins asked that Mr. Batteiger get with him before purchasing the vehicle.

POSEY COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Amy Smith, with Posey County Community Foundation, addressed the Commissioners regarding the proposed housing study that the Commissioners are considering. Mrs. Smith stated that last year, the Community Foundation was informed that the Lilly Endowment has upwards of two million dollars in funding available to Community Foundations in the state of Indiana. Mrs. Smith, these funds will be distributed through their program of Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow, and funds will be available through a grant with funds to be used to better enrich the County. Mrs. Smith stated that after reviewing the criteria, her advisory board has decided to fund a housing study and market assessment. Mrs. Smith stated they currently have roughly \$35,000 available to fund this study. Mrs. Smith stated that the study would be run by the Commissioners with funding from the foundation. B. Schorr asked what a typical housing study would cost. Mrs. Smith stated that for a community the size of Posey, she would estimate \$60,000 to \$65,000.00.

B. Collins stated that the last estimate that was given for this type of study was \$58,000.00.

Mr. Schorr stated that this will go hand in hand with the new comprehensive plan. G. Newman stated that this is the first thing developers look for when looking into an area. Mrs. Smith stated

that it is important to keep the community and stakeholders involved when moving forward. Mr. Schorr asked how long these types of studies typically take. Mrs. Smith stated that these funds need to be spent by the end of this year.

B. Schorr made a motion to accept the funds from the Community Foundation and move forward with the bid process to complete the housing study; G. Newman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

POSEYVILLE TOWER INSPECTION

Jamie Bradford, Posey County Dispatch Director, informed the Commissioners that she was contacted by the Poseyville Fire Chief regarding the tower at their station. Mrs. Bradford stated that the tower is in need of inspection, and they are requesting that the County cover the cost. Mrs. Bradford stated the cost would be \$1,250.00. Mrs. Bradford stated that the County does have equipment on this tower, and the County utilized storage space in the facility. Mrs. Bradford stated that the county's equipment and the fire station's radio equipment are the only pieces of equipment on this tower, and if the inspection is not completed, neither entity will be able to access the equipment. Mrs. Bradford stated she could include this cost in the additional appropriations she is seeking at the next Council meeting. Mrs. Greenwell asked if the County pays any tower rental on this tower. Mrs. Bradford stated no.

G. Newman made a motion to approve this request; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0. Mrs. Greenwell stated that the inspection company should just bill the County directly.

Mrs. Bradford stated that the new tower is moving along and is expected to be erected in April, and she is expecting the equipment to be in around the same time.

Mr. Newman stated they are speaking with the electric company that serves this area to make sure there is power when needed.

SPACE STUDY

B. Collins stated that he would like to move forward with contracting with a company to complete an office space study for the county, specifically regarding moving the Circuit Court to the Coliseum and moving the current second-floor offices.

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

JOHNSON CONTROLS-FIRE SUPPRESSION

B. Collins stated that Johnson Controls informed the Commissioners of the need to update the fire suppression control panels in both the Courthouse and Coliseum.

Mrs. Greenwell stated they would be requesting an additional appropriation at the next Council meeting.

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

POSEYVILLE LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT

B. Collins stated that the Commissioners have a vacancy on the Poseyville Library Board that needs to be addressed. G. Newman made a motion to appoint Jacque Rutledge to the Poseyville

Library Board for the remainder of the vacated term; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

LWG PROPOSAL

Posey County Auditor Maegen Greenwell informed the Commissioners that this proposal is to replace BakerTilly as the County's consulting agency with LWG Consulting. Mrs. Greenwell stated that the Commissioners were involved in the discussions with LWG, and everyone involved is confident in the abilities of this company. Mrs. Greenwell stated that the contract is not to exceed \$10,000.00, which should be less than the current contract. G. Newman stated that the hourly rates are reasonable. Mr. Harrison stated that this is a one-year contract and will be reconsidered at the end of that year.

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

SOUTHWESTERN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE

Katie Adams, with Southwestern Behavioral Health Care, addressed the Commissioners regarding the local Southwestern Behavioral Health Care office and the services rendered to Posey County. Mrs. Adams stated that, as required, the Commissioners receive an annual report. Mrs. Adams stated that the county and state funds help offset the expenses of services to Posey County residents.

NEW HARMONY/WABASH RIVER BRIDGE AUTHORITY

G. Newman stated that the New Harmony/Wabash River Bridge Authority is seeking a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to help with the cost of restoring this bridge and would like the Commissioners to send a letter of support for this project.

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

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Kyle Reidford, with the Posey County Sheriff's Office, gave the following housing update:

85 Posey County Inmates
36 Vanderburgh County Inmates
40 DOC
161 total

Deputy Reidford stated that the office recently purchased a vehicle for the office with donations. No further business was discussed, and the meeting adjourned,

B. Collins stated that he has had a request to change the time that the Coliseum building doors are opened until closer to offices being opened at 8:00 am for safety concerns. G. Newman made a motion to begin unlocking the Coliseum doors at 7:45 am; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0. Mr. Collins stated he would like to move towards replacing the current

locking system of the Coliseum with a keypad or key fob system, as they are easier to track who is coming and going, and these are the systems being used at the Courthouse and the Hovey House already.

Paul Micheletti, Posey County EMS Director, addressed the Commissioners regarding the current Community Paramedic Grant funding that is in question with the State. Mr. Micheletti stated that he has not received any further communication but is expecting to meet with the State soon, as they were informed a decision would be made by March 1st. Mr. Micheletti stated that they are now fully staffed for Paramedics and have one EMT opening.

Cody Simpson, with Morley, addressed the Commissioners regarding the ongoing broadband project. Mr. Simpson stated Morley met with Mainstream last week, and they have advised Morely that they are ready for punch list reviews on all the segments that were left.

Posey County Auditor Maegen Greenwell provided the Commissioners with a list of surplus items. Mrs. Greenwell stated that this list was provided by the maintenance department and includes computers, monitors, and copiers that have been in storage for many years. G. Newman made a motion to approve this surplus list; B. Schorr seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

Maegen L Greenwell

Bill Collins

Bill Collins

Bryan Schorr

Bryan Schorr

Greg Newman

Greg Newman

Attest: Maegen L. Greenwell