

**POSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND POSEY COUNTY COUNCIL, JOINT
MEETING, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024.**

The Board of Commissioners and the Posey County Council met in a Joint Meeting at the Hovey House, 330 Walnut Street, in Mt. Vernon on Tuesday, February 6, 2024.

Council members in attendance: Heather Allyn, Aaron Wilson, Dave Dausman, Zach George, Tom Schneider, Jerry Chastain, and Brandon Deig. Commissioners in attendance: Bill Collins, Bryan Schorr, and Greg Newman. Auditor Maegen Greenwell was also in attendance.

Heather Allyn called the Joint Meeting of the Posey County Council and Posey County Commissioners to order.

GROW POSEYVILLE PRESENTATION

Joeseeph Neidig and Jody Cumbee with Grow Poseyville addressed the Commissioners and Council regarding Grow Poseyville's overall initiative.

Mr. Neidig stated that Grow Poseyville is comprised of roughly one hundred people with annual contributions totaling roughly \$40,000.00 and roughly \$30,000 in indirect contributions. Mr. Neidig stated these contributions are funding Main Street corridor enhancements.

Mr. Neidig informed the boards that in conjunction with the Town of Poseyville, Grow Poseyville is working to develop a neighborhood plan that will be linked to the county's plan along with the states. Mr. Neidig stated the objectives for coming to the boards today are to seek funds from the American Rescue Plan Act and to seek advisement from the boards on the proposed plan that has been put together.

Mr. Neidig presented a plan that includes 48 homesites located on the southern end of Poseyville, which will be named Southern Acres. Mr. Neidig stated the plan would include underground utilities, design work for safe trails to schools and downtown Poseyville, and an integrated park. Mr. Neidig stated Cash Waggner compiled the preliminary work in these reports. Mr. Neidig stated they are also working with EREP to complete the ReadI 2.0 grant funding application.

H. Allyn asked what the County can do to help move this forward. B. Collins asked if this group or anyone had looked into residential TIF areas. Mr. Neidig stated that as a committee, Grow Poseyville could not ask for a residential TIF; it would be the governing body. Mr. Collins stated that the assumption is that Poseyville would want to annex this area once it is complete, so that question could be directed toward the town to apply for the residential TIF.

Jody Cumbee informed the boards that all but four acres of the footprint are within the town limits.

Mr. Collins asked if the cost estimate for the roads and sewer infrastructure is for the entire subdivision or only to get the project started. Mr. Neidig stated this was for the entire subdivision. Mr. Collins asked if this is how it has to be done or if it can be done in phases. J. Chastain stated that this is typically done in phases. Mr. Neidig stated he did not want to speak for the entire group; however, maybe a compromise is doing the project in thirds or halves. Mr. Chastain commended the group and stated that most developers do not want to do the preliminary work this group has already done, putting them ahead of the game.

Mrs. Allyn thanked the group for coming and presenting this project, let Mr. Neidig know that they would be speaking about this in the near future, and promised to keep him informed.

ARPA FUNDS

H. Allyn stated that \$1,400,000.00 in funds need to be allocated by the end of 2024.

HOUSING STUDY

B. Collins stated the Commissioners contacted a company last year to inquire about having a housing study done for Posey County. Mr. Collins stated at that time, it was quoted to cost \$58,000.00 and a turnaround time of four to five months to complete. Mr. Collins stated that, at that point in time, the Commissioners chose not to pursue the option. Mr. Collins stated that the county currently has an opportunity to apply for a grant through Posey County Community Foundation to help cover some of the cost. Mr. Collins stated it would still cost the County roughly \$30,000.00.

The Council agreed this is a needed move to make.

OFFICE SPACE STUDY

B. Collins stated that in the near future, the Commissioners are going to be tasked with a request to rearrange offices in the Courthouse and Coliseum. Mr. Collins stated he would like to have some type of study done regarding how much space would be needed to house the County offices.

The Council and Commissioners discussed the appropriate route that should be taken for this.

POSEY COUNTY JAIL

Posey County Sheriff Tom Latham addressed the two boards regarding the want and need to implement work release back into the jail. H. Allyn stated prior to COVID, this was a reality, but now she understands that the funds are not available for this. Sheriff Latham stated that when the new jail was built, the plan was to house work-release inmates with trustees; however, when he took office, he was uncomfortable with this idea due to security reasons and concerns. Sheriff Latham stated that at that time, Community Corrections was providing six jailers to help elevate the burden on the jail staff, which was a trade-off; now, those jailers are no longer available due to grant funding being cut.

Sheriff Latham stated he met with the director of Community Corrections and both Judges to develop a plan to add a Community Correction wing to the current building that would ensure adequate safety measures for both offices.

H. Allyn asked the Sheriff to speak regarding the recent housing study that was completed for the jail. Sheriff Latham stated the study brought to light that staffing should be based on the layout of the jail and the areas that have to be managed 24/7, not inmate numbers.

The Council and Commissioners discussed the current needs for jail staffing and the study that was provided.

POSEY COUNTY COUNCIL:


Heather Allyn

POSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONER:


Bill Collins