

Hancock County Board of Commissioners' Minutes

May 17, 2016

Commissioners met in regular session. Those present were Commissioner Brad Armstrong, President, Commissioner Marc Huber, Vice President and Commissioner Tom Stevens.

Auditor Robin D. Lowder and Deputy Auditor Emily R. Moore were also present.

Hancock County Board of Commissioners' Meeting began at 8:00 a.m.

Attorney Ray Richardson arrived at 8:16 a.m.

Highway Department

County Engineer Gary Pool appeared before the Hancock County Board of Commissioners to discuss:

Signatures-

Bridge 91 Inspection- Hancock County Engineer Gary Pool appeared before the Commissioners to request signing of an already excepted contract with United Construction for inspection of Bridge 91 (300 S East of St Rd 9) for an amount of \$169,300. Commissioner Stevens moved approval of contract with United Construction for inspection of Bridge 91 for an amount not to exceed \$169,300 to be paid for out of CUM Bridge. Commissioner Huber seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

Bond Release- A request for approval to release a bond to Westport Homes, Inc. was presented. This is a Maintenance Bond, for Heron Creek Phase 11, installation of cul-de-sac, west end of Whispering Way in the amount of \$10,397.25. Commissioner Stevens moved to release a bond in the amount of \$10,397.25 to Westport Homes, Inc. Commissioner Huber seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

600 W from US40 to BOMAR active on June 1, 2016.

Paving Operations are underway.

New Palestine Detour- New Palestine's Chamber of Commerce's Office Coordinator, Caralee Griffith, appeared before the Commissioners to request that New Palestine be allowed to detour traffic on June 25, 2016 from 4:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. Commissioner Stevens moved approval to allow New Palestine to establish a local detour around town to detour 52 traffic to 600 W, 300 S, and 450 W on June 25, 2016 from 4:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. New Palestine will be responsible for signage and HC Engineer Gary Pool will be involved with this project. Commissioner Huber seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

Railroad CSX- HC Engineer Gary Pool appeared before the Commissioners to ask which financial LINE the Railroad CSX for \$20,200 that has already been approved, is supposed to come from. Discussion was had about this. (possible CEDIT) Commissioners requested this item be put on the Action Items for the next Commissioners' Meeting so that they can act.

Federal Aid Applications have been submitted.

Dirt Dumping- Commissioner Stevens requested that the HC Engineer Gary Pool look into a waiver for property owners to sign when we dump dirt on their property.

Bridge 76 on 600 S should be open soon.

Public Comment: John Priore spoke on the extra 25% that the County will be receiving. Mr. Priore stated that that the Council will try to put this money in the Rainy Day Fund and he objects to that. He thinks the Commissioners should do a special distribution and put the money in a Home Rule Fund.

FY 2015 Community Health Network – Behavioral Health Services Report

Gallahue 2015 Behavioral Health Services Report- Chief Operating Officer Dr. Allison Bordeaux, Interim Operations Director Nikki Sheet, and Interim Vice President Cathy Boggs from Gallahue appeared before the Commissioners to present the Annual Mental Health report. A copy is available in the HC Auditor's Office. A discussion was had. The Hancock County Board of Commissioners desire that a representative from their Board and the Sheriff's Department attend the quarterly meetings for Gallahue in HC.

Public Comment: Jeff McClarnon from Mental Health Partners in Hancock County appeared before the Commissioners to bring information about the process of changing of the Title 12 gatekeeper for the funds the State issues to HC for behavioral health services. Mr. McClarnon feels that Gallahue isn't really serving the County the way they should. He also feels things can change and it would start with a formal complaint from the Commissioners' Board. (then a 90 day cooling off period) The Commissioners expressed that they would reach out to the Sheriff's Department and see what, if any, complaints there are and that they would need more information before moving forward with this issue.

Commissioner Stevens moved to accept the Annual Mental Health report from Gallahue. Commissioner Huber seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

City of Greenfield/Department of Planning

County Parking- Joni Fitzwater, the Director of the City of Greenfield's Planning Department appeared before the Commissioners to discuss the County's downtown parking lots and to ask for permission to change the signage per what the Commissioners would like them to state and per INDOT recommendations. After discussion, the Commissioners would like for the lot west of jail to

be **Public Parking**, the lot east of the Annex be **Public Parking after 4:00 p.m. and on weekends**, and for the lot south of the Annex be **Public Parking**. Public Comment: John Priore disagrees with some of the discussion and decisions about the parking lots. Commissioner Stevens moved to go forward with the signs as previously recommended pending sign approval. Commissioner Huber seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

Hancock County Emergency Operation Center

E-911 Replacement Door Access Control System- John Jokantas appeared before the Commissioners to request signing of a contract that has now been approved by the Hancock County Attorney Ray Richardson. Commissioner Stevens made motion to authorize a contract with Nelson Alarm Company for an amount not to exceed \$15,000 to be paid for out of 911 CCD. Commissioner Huber seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

NineStar Claim- John Jokantas appeared before the Commissioners to request payment of a NineStar claim. It is the recommendation of Mr. Jokantas to pay a negotiated amount of \$6,700. (about ½, and no late charges) There was a discussion. It was decided for John Jokantas to get documentation from NineStar that this is a complete and final payment and that this would settle ALL fees with ALL vendors.

Hancock County Community Corrections

Grant 2016/2017/Signature- Pat Powers appeared before the Commissioners to request authorization and acceptance of the 2016/2017 State Grant. Commissioner Stevens moved authorization and acceptance of the Indiana State Grant in the amount of \$426,364 of which \$377,664 goes to Adult Community Corrections and \$48,700 to Probation. Commissioner Huber seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

Hancock County Sheriff's Department

Sprinkler Heads/Drop Down/Meeting Room/Plumbing Project- Major Brad Burkhart appeared before the Commissioners to request permission to move forward with a bid proposal from RSQ Fire Protection for bringing fourteen sprinkler heads up to code over at the Hancock County Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Huber moved to accept a bid proposal from RSQ Fire Protection to drop fourteen sprinklers in the meeting room/training offices at the Hancock County Sheriff's Department for an amount not to exceed \$1,833.60 to be put in with the plumbing project that is being paid for out of Bond Proceeds. Commissioner Stevens seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

Valle Vista Health System- Al Bracken from Valle Vista appeared before the Commissioners along with Andy Craig Jail Commander and Kevin Minnick Probation to present what Valle Vista is offering the Hancock County Sheriff's Office, Probation, and Community Corrections in way of their Behavioral Health Service needs. Also, Valle Vista may present a way for Hancock County to change the gatekeeper in the future. A short presentation was given and a discussion was had. It was decided that more information is needed. The Commissioners feel there is need to identify funding and costs for all services along with establishing a study group.

Hancock County Prosecutor's Office

Interlocal- Hancock County Prosecutor Brent Eaton appeared before the Commissioners to present an Interlocal with the Town of Cumberland for signing. The Interlocal is an agreement regarding the use of an automobile owned by the Town of Cumberland. Commissioner Stevens moved approval of the Interlocal with the Town of Cumberland for use of their vehicle under the terms stated in the Interlocal. Commissioner Huber seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

Action Items

Circulating Heat Pump- Commissioner Huber moved to authorize repair of a heat pump from PDF for an amount not to exceed \$1,078.98 out of Building Maintenance. Commissioner Stevens seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

Claims and Payroll- Commissioner Huber moved approval of the claims and payroll as presented. Commissioner Stevens seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

Minutes- Commissioner Huber moved approval of the May 02, 2016 Commissioners' Minutes as presented. Commissioner Stevens seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

Clock Tower Lighting- Commissioners received a proposal from Steve Millis Electric Inc. in the amount of \$2,440 for replacement of all four floodlights in the clock tower. (4 new LED fixtures, 3 ballasts, re-lamping, cleaning, removal and proper disposal of the old lights.) Commissioner Huber moved acceptance of the proposal from Steve Millis Electric to replace all four flood lights in the clock tower for an amount not to exceed \$2,440 to be paid for out of Building Maintenance. Commissioner Stevens seconded. Discussion: Commissioner Stevens would like for the railings in the clock tower to be removed because of shadow. This will be taken care of, possibly by Millis. Motion carried 3/0.

Commissioner Armstrong set in on three interviews with Misty Moore for the Assistant Director for Emergency Management Position.

Building Projects- Bob Workman has received approval for a chair lift at the Memorial building. He is in need of a ramp to be put in on the side of that building. He has received a quote from Smith Projects for \$33,178 and a quote from Vail's Concrete for \$3,250. He also has received a quote from Vail's Concrete for repair to damaged steps on the south side of that building for \$18,800. Commissioner Huber is going to check over quotes received and make sure they are meeting specs.

Resolution No. 2016-5-4- Commissioner Armstrong introduced Resolution No. 2016-5-4 a resolution to determine if common ground can be reached on the fairgrounds project and read it into record. He stated that it is his desire to do this project within the funding source the State allows which is about twelve million. Discussion was had. Public comment: John Priore complimented the Board on putting forth the Resolution but questioned if all meetings would be public with/without allowing public input. Walt Waitt stated that he feels this Resolution is setting up a group to take the place of the X-Plex group and that group was created by seven members from across the different agencies. (Commissioner, Council, City of Greenfield, Ag Assoc., Economic Council, and the Visitor's

Bureau) Barb Pescitelli, president of the 4-H Agriculture Association voiced her concerns on the Commissioners passing a Resolution and stated that the Ag Association desires to still have a meeting on July 18th. (meeting date to change) Ms. Pescitelli feels that twelve million is an inadequate amount in order to give the County something to sell to future Hancock County visitors. She also went on to request that the commissioners delay a decision about the Resolution until after 4-H leaders have a chance to meet with the Commissioners and the County Council. Commissioner Stevens submitted a letter to the Board of Commissioners. This letter was read into the record. (Commissioner Stevens letter is attached to the May 17th Minutes.) Commissioner Stevens also stated that, "Considering all that's been invested to date, now is not a time to become impatient and look for a quick fix." Commissioner Huber feels the fairgrounds should be built in stages, built so it can expand, and start a valid project so that it can be completed but not all in one step. Discussion was had. Commissioners Armstrong and Huber feel that they weren't represented with the X-Plex group because information wasn't presented back to them. Mike Merlau feels that the Economic Development that will occur if the fairgrounds are built will help. John Priore stated that this project started out with no tax payer money needed now needs tax payers to help pay for it. He also stated that there still hasn't been a maintenance plan submitted for how to care for new fairgrounds after they are built. A discussion was had. The Commissioners decided that Resolution 2016-5-4 will be put on the Action Items after a date of the meeting between the Ag Association, the Council, and the Commissioners has been set. George Langston stated that HCECC will be represented at the upcoming meeting because the Council, Commissioner, and Ag representative that was assigned to that board will still be a part of this process.

The Hancock County Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Hancock County Commissioners

Commissioner Brad Armstrong, President

Commissioner Marc Huber, Vice President

Commissioner Tom Stevens

Attest: _____
Robin D. Lowder, Hancock County Auditor

May 17, 2016

Hancock County Board of Commissioners
Brad Armstrong, President

Re: Resolution No. 2016-5-4, a resolution to determine if common ground can be reached on the fairgrounds project

Honorable Commissioners:

Leading up to and during the Commissioner and Council debates and campaigning process, much propaganda has surfaced about the fairgrounds project, whether by a lack of understanding by some or a total misrepresentation of the issues by others. I feel that many have lost sight of the overall project. The County Fair has been around for 160 years. It has moved several times, but has been in its current location for 62 years. The fair has outgrown its current location, parking is terrible, and there is no room for expansion. As we proceed, we must consider that this will likely be the last time the fair is moved in Hancock County. We must try to envision what the Hancock County Fair might look like in say 2150. The plan must provide the opportunity for growth during the next 100 - 150 years and beyond. It would be terribly short sighted to consider anything less. It has taken 15 years to get where we are now. With a long term vision for the future, a master plan has been developed which has been approved by almost all the stakeholders. A \$16 million plan has been proposed for moving the fairgrounds. It is estimated that when Hancock County is permitted to raise the food and beverage tax, those funds can be used to leverage \$12 million of this amount. Considering that a recent increase in the innkeepers' tax has been designated for fairgrounds use, we are getting close. Why do a few feel that there are insufficient common grounds to move forward?

Considering all that has been invested to date, now is not a time to become impatient and look for a quick fix. We need to move slowly and assure that we do things right the first time; there will not be a second. A resolution is not needed to determine how the Hancock County Council feels about the idea of starting over. I cannot imagine that there is support for spending tens of thousands of dollars to duplicate what we already have. This can be discussed starting tomorrow morning at the budget efficiency committee meeting. The same is true for the Hancock County 4-H Ag Association. I understand there is a meeting scheduled for July 18, 2016.

A big question at this time is "Why another resolution?" Our county attorney has said that a resolution is not binding. We have proven that. We passed a resolution on April 15, 2014 resolving that we would allow the use of the county farm for, among other purposes, building new fairgrounds. What good are resolutions if we don't honor them? It is time for us to restore the trust in county government. Also, don't forget that we all agreed at that same time that this should never be a county project.

Sincerely,



Tom K. Stevens, Hancock County Commissioner

C: Marc Huber, Commissioner
Tom Stevens, Commissioner
Bill Bolander, President, Hancock County Council
Kent Fisk, President, XPlex Board
Barb Pescitelli, President, Hancock County 4-H Ag Association
Robin Lowder, Hancock County Auditor