

## **Hancock County Board of Commissioners Minutes**

**July 5, 2011**

Commissioners met in regular session. Those present were Commissioner Brad Armstrong, President, Commissioner Derek Towle, Vice President and Commissioner Tom Stevens. Auditor Robin D. Lowder was also present.

Attorney Ray Richardson arrived at 8:24am.

The meeting began at 8:01am.

### **In The Matter of Hancock County Highway**

**Engineer Joe Copeland appeared before the Commissioners to present the following:**

**Dust Lay** – A concerned citizen called to ask why the dust lay did not cover the whole road. Joe Copeland informed her there was a public meeting and the consensus from the public was to only place it in front of houses and at intersections.

**Small Structure Design Agreement** - The agreement for small structure design (ie: culverts and small bridges) between JA Barker Engineering and the Hancock County Highway Department. The agreement is extending the current agreement. Commissioner Towle moved to enter into the agreement with JA Barker Engineering as stated in the agreement and as presented. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**Bridge #76** - located at 600 South just west of 300W, currently has a load limit and is on the list for replacement. The beam on the Southwest corner is deteriorated. Mr. Copeland is requesting approval to start the design process with American Structure Point. Commissioner Stevens moved to authorize bridge replacement design with American Structure Point. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**Pavement Markings** - Bid date is set for August 2, 2011 at 8:30am.

**Right-of-Way** - purchase of right-of-way at 600W and 300N for the round-about. Commissioner Stevens moved that the Redevelopment Committee would expend the funds for purchase of right-of-way using Tif funds. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 2/1. Commissioner Armstrong voted Nay, stating there would not be as much right-of-way land needed if a traditional intersection were used.

**Speed Limit** - Ordinance 2011-7A set the speed limit at 40 mph on 50 E between 600N and 700N. Commissioner Stevens moved for approval of Ordinance 2011-7A, An Ordinance Setting a Speed Limit on 50E from 600N to 700N at 40mph. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**Safety Workshop** - Joe Copeland informs the Commissioners that the Highway Department will be hosting a safety edging workshop. All cities and towns in the State of Indiana have been invited.

**Beam Longest and Neff, L.L.C.** - an agreement was presented to the Commissioners for purchasing right-of-way. The relocation specialist must be INDOT certified. They will be used for Federal Aid only. Right-of-way management is paid per parcel, not hourly, at a rate of \$800.00 per parcel. Relocations will be at a cost of \$3,000.00 per parcel. Commissioner Stevens moved approval of the Supplemental Agreement for relocation at \$3,000.00 per parcel and right-of-way management at \$800.00 per parcel with Beam, Longest and Neff, L.L.C. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The Commissioners discussed what the hourly rate had been in the past. The motion carried 3-0.

**Sugar Hills Lake Association** - A letter was presented to Joe Copeland in regards to the entrance to Sugar Hills Drive from Fortville Pike. There is uneven asphalt that they are requesting the County fix. The Commissioners agreed to fix the uneven asphalt.

**Larry Bowmer** - appeared to request the release of a Performance Bond to Runnebohn Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$15,000.00. Commissioner Towle moved to release the Performance Bond in the amount of \$15,000.00 to Runnebohn Construction Company, Inc. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

#### **In The Matter of E-911 Center**

**UPS Maintenance** – Connie Hoy of the E911 Center appeared before the Commissioners to request approval for an agreement with UPS maintenance (Uninterrupted Power Supply) at a cost of \$5,166.67 to be split with the IT Department for the first year only. Commissioner Stevens moved for approval of the service agreement with Perfect Power for the year July 1, 2011 to July 1, 2012 in an amount not to exceed \$5,166.67. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**Guardian Tracking** - Connie Hoy requested approval to enter into a contract with Guardian Tracking, an Electronic Personnel Documentation/ Early Warning System Software at a cost not to exceed \$661.00 per year for a three year term. Commissioner Towle moved approval to enter into the contract with Guardian Tracking pending Hancock County Council approval, in an amount not to exceed \$661.00 per year for a three year term. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

#### **In The Matter of Mr. Comfort Commercial Park**

**Plat** - Larry Siegler appeared before the Commissioners for approval of the Secondary Plat of Mount Comfort Commercial Park, Section 5, located on 200N between 700W and Buck Creek Road. Commissioner Towle moved to approve the Secondary Plat of Mount Comfort Commercial Park, Section 5. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

## **In The Matter of Budget**

**Commissioner's Budget Approval** - The Commissioners reviewed and discussed line items on their budget.

Line Item #86 - Gallahue line item raised to \$314,000.00 to cover historical annual raise in cost. State mandated.

Line item #92 - Commissioners travel expense line item raised to \$4,000.00. Commissioner Stevens stated that at least one Commissioner if not all should go to Washington D.C. He feels the lobby effect of going to Washington D.C. is starting to pay off and would like it to continue. He feels the Commissioners owe it to the County to get as much funds as possible.

Commissioner Towle stated there are times to go to Washington D.C. and also feels the Commissioners do some work on the local level.

Commissioner Armstrong stated that he feels it is reckless spending to double the money to go to Washington D.C. and feels we can bring funds to the County without going to Washington D.C.

Commissioner Stevens moved approval of the Commissioner's budget with revisions of line item #86 to \$314,000.00 and line item #92 to \$4,000.00. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 2-1 with Commissioner Armstrong voting Nay.

**E-911 Budget** - for E-911 Center salaries. Funds are progressively getting worse for covering costs. There was an increase in salary line item for the E-911 center. The Commissioners had committed to a salary raise for E-911 Director and feel they need to stand behind what they promised and the County Council can approve or not approve.

The Commissioners were presented with the revised budget for 2012 for signatures.

## **In The Matter of Action Items**

**The following are action items addressed by the Commissioners:**

**Ordinance 2011-6A** - an Ordinance Amending Title V, Chapter 50, 50.32, 50.33 and 50.34. Septic Systems. Commissioner Stevens moved for approval of Ordinance 2011-6A, an Ordinance Amending Title V, Chapter 50, 50.32, 50.33 and 50.34. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**Vote Centers Resolution** - 2011-7-1, A Resolution in Support of Examining Vote Centers. Commissioner Stevens moved to approve the resolution to compare cost including anticipated increase of the number of precincts. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**Nepotism Ordinance** - The Nepotism ordinance was reviewed and discussed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Stevens stated that the Ordinance is too restrictive, it should be by department only. Commissioner Towle stated he would like more feedback to be sure it meets what we are trying to achieve. Commissioner Armstrong stated the work environment should be that all employees feel comfortable going to upper management to complain about another employee. The Commissioners asked Attorney Ray Richardson to revise the Ordinance and leave the item on the "action items" list.

**Ordinance 2011-7B, Full Time Employees** - Ordinance 2011-7B, an Ordinance Determining Full-Time Employees. Commissioner Stevens introduced Ordinance 2011-7B, an Ordinance Determining Full-Time Employees and moved to suspend the rule to authorize the adoption of the Ordinance on the day of introduction, Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Stevens moved for approval of Ordinance 2011-7B, an Ordinance Determining Full-Time Employees. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**Deadly Weapons Ordinance 2011-7C** - An Ordinance Amending the Prohibition of Deadly Weapons in County Structures. Prosecutor Michael Griffin appeared before the Commissioners to discuss the Ordinance and possible amendments. Commissioner Towle introduced Ordinance 2011-7C, An Ordinance Amending the Prohibition of Deadly Weapons in County Structures. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Stevens moved to suspend the rules to authorize the adoption of the Ordinance on the day of introduction. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Towle moved approval of Ordinance 2011-7C - An Ordinance Amending the Prohibition of Deadly Weapons in County Structures. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**Tourism Committee Appointments** - Commissioner Towle stated that he was not ready at this time to act on the appointments. No action taken item stays on Action Item list.

**Mike Dale** - appeared before the Commissioners to clarify his department's role in Weed Abatement since they were only filling in. The Commissioners encouraged him to refer calls to the new weed specialist.

**AT&T Bond** - for the Emergency Operations Center. It is still unknown if we are eligible for the grant. The Commissioners discussed how to pay off the Bond. The contract will be \$13,000.00 monthly until the end of the year. The Commissioners felt we should begin the bond process and get proposals from Attorney Gregg Morelock, Attorney Ray Richardson and Ice Miller.

**County Farm Lease** - The tenant that farms the ground has filed bankruptcy. However, he would still like to continue to farm the ground. The Commissioners agree to hire an attorney for legal counsel as to what direction the Commissioners should take regarding the Heller Bankruptcy. Commissioner Stevens moved to authorize the President of the Commissioner's to employ a Bankruptcy Attorney to determine where the County stands in regards to the bankruptcy. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**Animal Control** - the Commissioners discussed stray/loose dogs in the unincorporated areas.

**Memorial Building** - The City of Greenfield would like to update the speakers and use the electrical closet. They would also like to install an antenna on the Sheriff's Office for Communication. The City of Greenfield will cover all expenses. The Commissioners would like Bernie Harris to be the lead on the process and technical overview of the changes.

**Sheriff's Department** - needs stone at the gun range entrance and would like the County Highway Department to move the stone to the gun range. The Commissioners state that the County Highway cannot do this and they need to order the stone from an outside source.

**Surveyor's Department** - Mr. Wolenweber was offered \$793.58 for .104 acre of right-of-way for the drainage project. Commissioner Stevens moved to authorize the purchase of the right-of-way in the amount of \$793.58 for the drainage project. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Claims** - Commissioner Armstrong, Commissioner Towle and Commissioner Stevens signed claims as presented to them.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 am.

Hancock County Commissioners

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Commissioner Brad Armstrong, President

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Commissioner Derek Towle, Vice President

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Commissioner Tom Stevens

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Robin D. Lowder  
Hancock County Auditor