

Hancock County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

August 16, 2011

Commissioners met in regular session. Those present were Commissioner Brad Armstrong, President, Commissioner Derek Towle, Vice President, and Commissioner Tom Stevens. Deputy Auditor Trish Holliday Seybold was also present.

The meeting began at 8:00 am.

Attorney Ray Richardson arrived at 8:02am.

In The Matter of Hancock County Highway

Culvert Pipe - Don Johnson would like to purchase 2 three foot diameter culvert pipes from the Highway Department. The cost would be \$69.00. Commissioner Stevens moved to authorize the sale of used culvert pipe in the amount of \$69.00 as specified. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Condemnation Attorney - Attorney Yasmin L. Stump, of Law Group, PC, sent a letter stating her fees for representation in condemnation cases. Attorney Ray Richardson recommends Yasmin L. Stump and the fees she provided. Commissioner Stevens moved to authorize the use of Yasmin L. Stump of Law Group, PC for representation in the acquisition of four properties on the corner of 600W and 300N, if needed. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

John Deere Excavator - the new excavator has been received by the Highway Department. Joe Copeland requested attorney, Ray Richardson review the Master Lease Purchase Agreement and delivery paperwork.

State INDOT - Joe Copeland received a letter from the INDOT stating the State will hold off on Group 4 funding until they know if the Federal funding will be reduced. This will include bridge funds.

Vehicle Trade - Joe Copeland is requesting approval from the Commissioners to trade out their 2008 Ford Escape for a 2012 Jeep Liberty 4 wheel drive. The difference due after the trade in will be \$5,698.00. Mr. Copeland does have the funds in his budget. Commissioner Stevens moved to authorize replacement of the 2008 Escape for a 2012 Jeep Liberty with a trade in difference of \$5,698.00. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Mark Higgins - Appeared before the Commissioners regarding the Trail Connection project 2011 after speaking to the County Council. The application and information through the Indiana Transportation Enhancement Program to receive the grant as part of the National Road Heritage Trail. The County must be the applicant and will be responsible for a 20% match. The Commissioners have the following concerns; Where will the funds come from, who will care and maintain in the future, who will provide security. The Commissioners suggest Mr. Higgins provide answers to these questions before the County can be a part of the plan.

In The Matter of Hancock County Sheriff's Department

457 Deferred Compensation Plan - This program will provide another option for the Sheriff's Department employees. PERF funds are able to be transferred to the 457 Deferred Comp Plan. Commissioner Stevens recommends Mary Bowmer review the program to see if it offers options our current programs do not offer. Attorney Ray Richardson will also review the program.

Tree Trimming - Four estimates on removal of five trees around the front of the Sheriff's Office, trim four Bradford Pear trees and one locust and grind out five stumps. Estimates are from Bryant and Sons for \$1,650.00, Frady's Tree Service for 1,700.00 and Arbor Tree Co. for no charge. Arbor Tree Co. did not specify if their estimate includes grinding out the stumps. Commissioner Towle moved, based on the estimate, authorize Arbor Tree Co. To do the removal of 5 Bradford Pear Trees, trim four Bradford Pear Trees and one locust. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Sheriff Sale Funds - based on an Ordinance there is a \$200.00 fee paid at the Clerk's Office for each sheriff sale property. The Sheriff's Department is then charging an additional fee for publication. Attorney's are questioning why they have to pay above the initial \$200.00. The Commissioners request Major Burkhart, Susan Powers and attorney Ray Richardson to resolve this issue.

Purchase of Reserve Car - A reserve car needs to be purchased in 2012 and there is only \$15,000.00 in the budget. The estimate cost is \$24,700.00. There was \$10,000.00 from the prior year that is no longer there. The Commissioners agree the funds need to be there and will recommend such to the County Council.

In The Matter of Hancock County Probation

Tazer Incident - Wilann Beeson appeared before the Commissioners to inform them of an incident that occurred August 3rd during drug testing. A gentleman being tested became agitated and the situation escalated. The Greenfield Police were called and resulted in the police having to taze the man. Ms Beeson feels the police acted properly. She would like to bring attention to her concern that this is a dangerous position for probation people to be in and she feels someone is going to get hurt. She also stated there is no security after 3:00pm. Commissioner Armstrong informed Ms. Beeson that the matter will be explored at the next safety meeting and he would like Ms. Beeson to attend.

In The Matter of Ordinance 2011-8A

Ordinance - Commissioner Stevens introduced Ordinance 2011-8A, An Ordinance Prohibiting Nepotism.

In The Matter of Commissioner's Action Items

Preventative Maintenance - Fitzgerald & North presented a proposal to the Commissioners for preventative maintenance for the Courthouse and Annex. The issue of passwords being available from Trane must be resolved before any action can be taken. Commissioner Armstrong stated he will get the pass code to the computer systems from Trane.

Bond Issues - John Jessup appeared before the Commissioners as an individual and not as a County Council member. Mr. Jessup presented ideas that might make it possible to pay for items that are capital expenses but do not need to be included in the issuance of bonds. Commissioner Stevens proposed that the County Council search other ways to pay for the items needed. Commissioner Armstrong felt the Commissioners need to sit down with the County Council to hash out the issues. Attorney Ray Richardson stated the County Commissioners and the County Council need to work together to determine the best options and a decision needs to be made quickly or it may be to short of time for a bond issue. A meeting between the County Council and the Commissioners will be set up as early as possible.

Data Pit Stop Inc. - this program will assist the Auditor's Office in excise reports. The cost will be \$4,000.00 with no additional fees. Commissioner Towle motioned to allow the purchase of Data Pit Stop Inc. for a cost not to exceed \$4,000.00. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Email Retention - Bernie Harris, IT Director, appeared before the Commissioners to discuss a retention policy for Company emails. Attorney Ray Richardson will review any legal issues.

Salary Ordinance - Ginny Martin appeared before the Commissioners to review the salary ordinance for recommendations to present to the County Council. The Commissioners request this be an action item for the August 30, 2011 meeting.

Retention Ponds - There are two retention ponds on Harding Street in Greenfield, one wet and one dry. The County took over the property approximately five years ago and have been unable to sell them. Mike Fruth of the City of Greenfield contacted attorney Ray Richardson about purchasing the retention ponds for a drainage project they are working on. Mr. Richardson will work on the details.

In The Matter of Minutes for August 16, 2011

August 2, 2011 – Commissioner Stevens made a motion to approve the minutes from August 2, 2011 meeting. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Claims – Commissioner Armstrong, Commissioner Towle and Commissioner Stevens signed claims presented to them.

Commissioner Stevens recessed the Hancock County Board of Commissioner's meeting to reconvene at Greenfield City Hall, 10 North State Street, Greenfield, Indiana 46140 at 5:00pm for a budget meeting.

The recording stopped at 10:47am.

Commissioner Armstrong reconvened the meeting at 11:05am to address one more item.

In The Matter of 9-11 Remembrance - A motion is made by Commissioner Towle to allow for the placement of wreath on the Courthouse property as part of a 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony to be held Sunday, September 11, 2011 at 2:00pm. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Meeting is recessed again at 11:07am.

Only one Commissioner appeared for the 5:00pm budget meeting. The Commissioner's Meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.

Hancock County Commissioners

Commissioner Brad Armstrong, President

Commissioner Derek Towle, Vice President

Commissioner Tom Stevens

Attest: _____

Robin D. Lowder Auditor