

**Hancock County Board of Commissioners Minutes**

**June 7, 2011**

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

Attorney Ray Richardson arrived at 8:28am.

The recording began at 8:01am.

**In The Matter of** )

**Hancock County Highway** )

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

**Bid Date** - Replace pre-stressed box beams on Bridge 60 at 200N and 200W completion date October 1<sup>st</sup> and bid date of July 19, 2011 at 8:30am.

**Title Sheet** - for project on bridge plans for bridge #60, presented to the Commissioners for signature. Commissioner Stevens made a motion to sign the cover sheet for bridge plans for bridge #60. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

**Appointment with County Council** - the following items will be presented to the County Council at the meeting on June 8, 2011:

- Hiring a Weed Tech.
- Additional appropriation for bridge fund in the amount of \$350,000.00 and to update the Council on bridges including load limits due to beam problems.
- Bridges, posted bridges #60, #62, #76, #97, #34 are the greatest concern. Anticipating cost on bridges over the next nine years and after federal funding there will be a shortage of 7,000,000.00.

**Appraising Contract** - with Real Estate Consulting Services, Inc. represented by Brian Reske will expire June 12, 2011. They have offered to extend the current contract for two years at the same cost. Commissioner Stevens moved to extend the contract with Brian Reske for Real Estate Consulting Services, Inc. for an additional two years at the same cost. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

**600W and 300N** - We have environmental approval and the next step is to proceed with right-of-way acquisition. Commissioner Stevens moved to instruct the Highway Department to proceed with land acquisitions at the intersection improvement project at 600W and 300N. Commissioner Towle seconded the project. The item is open for discussion.

Commissioner Armstrong stated the public is against the round-about and favor a traditional intersection. The round-about would discourage retail development. Even if the project works as designed it would still be a negative and should be redesigned as a traditional lighted intersection. Commissioner Towle stated the round-about would be the safest for this intersection. He feels the negative response is small and most feedback is in favor of what has been proposed. He stated that this is the safest design and does not feel retail will consider the round about an issue and he supports the project as designed. Commissioner Stevens stated that when originally designed there was less traffic and the choices were to (a) do nothing, (b) keep the traditional intersection or (c) a round-about. The current plan (round-about) is made to accommodate the additional traffic. The original goal was to increase service and safety. He feels the safest intersection is a round-about and as far as development he has had mixed reactions. He feels this is a difficult decision and not to be taken lightly. He is in favor of the round-about. The motion carries 2/1. Brad Armstrong voted nay.

Commissioner Armstrong offered an alternative motion to redesign intersection as a traditional intersection. The motion has no second, motion dies.

**Appraisal problem analysis** - to be done on all property involved in the right-of-way per INDOT. Fleetwood will do this portion and Real Estate Consulting Services, Inc will do the actual appraisals on the property to be purchased.

**In The Matter of**     )

**Highway Department)**

**Road Cut** - Larry Bowmer of the Highway Department appeared before the Commissioners to present a request by William Cain, at 9896 W 650N, Wilkinson, for an open road cut. The highway department recommends a bore for this project. Commissioner Stevens moved to deny the open road cut and approve boring for Bill Cain. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

**Request for New Driveway** - Larry Bowmer of the Highway Department appeared before the Commissioners to present a request by Margaret J. Morgan and Margaret J. Schlosser for a private driveway. Margaret J. Schlosser is selling part of her property and will need to have a new driveway to give access to her home. Commissioner Stevens made a motion to allow the variance on the driveway separation so the proposed driveway can be placed towards the North property line. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

**In The Matter of)**

**Highway Department)**

**200N and 400W** - Joe Copeland request approval to increase the right-of-way to fit larger trucks to meet current thoroughfare plans. Commissioner Stevens states that he likes the idea, but Joe should approach the property owners first to see if they are willing to sell. Commissioner Stevens moved to allow the highway department to proceed with the attempt for land acquisition on the Northeast and Northwest corners of the intersection at 200N and 400W. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

**American Legion** – Commissioners Stevens made a motion for the Shrewsbury invoice to be paid out of the EOC bond. He stated the previous motion needs to be amended as follows, \$2,100.00 paid from CCD needs to be reimbursed so \$2,100.00 can come out of EOC bond money and reimburse to CCD. A total of \$56,714.05 is to be paid from the E.O.C. Bond Fund for the destruction of the old American Legion Building. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

**In The Matter of )**

**Amateur Radio )**

**Proclamation** - William A. Smith appeared before the Commissioners to request the week of June 20 thru June 26, 2011 be declared Amateur Radio Week. Commissioner Towle moved to make the week of June 20<sup>th</sup> thru the 26<sup>th</sup> as Amateur Radio Week. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

**In The Matter of )**

**EMPO 2010 )**

**Grant** - Larry Ervin appeared before the Commissioners in regards to the EMPO 2010 assessed by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. The department must exceed points to receive a 50% match which is \$13,627.00. Commissioner Towle moved to sign the 2010 Emergency management performance grant salary sub grant agreement, CFDA#97.041. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

**In The Matter of )**

**IT Department )**

**Equipment** - Bernie Harris appeared before the Commissioners for approval to purchase fifteen computers for the courthouse at a cost of \$19,936.00 and for email, Kasperskey enterprise antivirus update in the amount of \$2,630.00 and Mail Achieve software in the amount of \$4,500.00. Total of all 3 items is \$27,066.00. Commissioner Stevens moved to approve the purchase of computers and email equipment purchase in an amount not to exceed \$27,066.00. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**New Hire** - Bernie Harris requested approval to hire Bill Applegate as system administrator for the IT Department. He will be a full time (30 hours) employee. Commissioner Armstrong expresses concern that he will only work 30 hours and will get County benefits. Commissioner Towle states that Bill Applegate will be an important asset due to his knowledge. Commissioner Towle moved to proceed with hiring Bill Applegate as a system Administrator for the IT Department and designate him a full time employee. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

**In The Matter of** )

**E-911** )

**Fire Suppression** - Connie Hoy presented to the Commissioners a breakdown of the quotes from Koorsen and 3S for Fire Suppression. Connie recommends Koorsen. Commissioner Towle moved to use Koorsen Fire Suppression system to be paid out of the original bond money in an amount not to exceed \$21,624.96. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

**In The Matter of** )

**Jail Nurse** )

**Contract** - Brad Burkhart appeared before the Commissioner's to present the contract for a jail nurse through Advanced Correctional Health Care as opposed to a County employee. Difference in cost would be an additional \$7,316.78 for the contract nurse. However, the Company would assume all liability and take over all aspects, including benefits. Commissioner Stevens moved, subject to County Council's approval; enter into the contract with Advanced Correctional Health Care for an amount not to exceed \$140,034.55. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

**In The Matter of** )

**Deputy Chris Stanley** )

**Letter** - Auditor Robin Lowder presented to the Commissioners a letter from Kenny Dowden, Firefighter/Paramedic. The letter recognizes Deputy Chris Stanley going above and beyond his job on a call he took while off duty.

**In The Matter of** )

**Senior Services** )

**Claim Voucher** - Maureen Valler appeared representing Senior Services for approval of a claim voucher. Commissioner Towle moved approval of Claim Voucher for Hancock County Senior Services in the amount of \$822.56. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

**In The Matter of** )

**Minutes** )

**May 31, 2011 minutes** - Commissioner Towle made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 31, 2011 meeting. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

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

**The following are “Action Items” addressed by the County Commissioners:**

**Tourism Board** - Commissioner Towle reported that Mayor Brad DeReamer had two appointments for the Board and that Commissioner Towle is making contacts for possible Board members.

**Nepotism Ordinance** - The questions was presented that if a merited deputy passes all the State Standards would the County have the right to deny him employment due to nepotism? Yes, the County Council can defund any position. Attorney Ray Richardson has put together an Ordinance. Commissioner Towle supports a very limited policy; he doesn't see many current problems. Commissioner Stevens would like to get feedback from the County employees, Commissioner Towle agrees. The Nepotism Ordinance will be an action item again in two weeks.

**Voting Centers** - Commissioner Stevens would like clarification and action initiated by the Election Board and approved by the Board of Commissioners and County Council. Voting centers are less costly.

**Maximus Contract** - Attorney Ray Richardson has reviewed and amended the Maximus Contract. There is an option for a 3 year contract for \$15,000.00 or a 1 year contract for \$5,500.00. Commissioner Stevens made a motion to enter into the contract with Maximus Consulting Services Inc. to provide professional consulting for a term of 1 year in an amount not to exceed \$5,500.00. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

**Rotary/Riley Festival** - The Commissioner's will not be acting on this today. Commissioner Stevens expresses that his objection has nothing to do with the proposed use. Commissioner Stevens stated the county parking lots should be made available to the public in support of the Riley Festival.

**Probation** - Wayne Addison of the Probation Department appeared before the Commissioners to discuss increased curfew arrest. He informs the Commissioners that he would like to put together a work crew for the offenders to pick up trash after the fair and/or at cemeteries. Commissioner Armstrong suggested he make this an item for discussion at the safety meeting the following week.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15pm.

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