

Hancock County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

May 31, 2011

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

The meeting began at 8:02am.

Attorney Ray Richardson arrived at 8:28am and Auditor Robin D. Lowder arrived at 11:06am.

In The Matter of)
Hancock County Highway)

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

MPO - Invoice for next year due March 30, 2012 in the amount of \$9,832.00 which is the County's share being 1.31%. Commissioner Stevens moved to approve payment of the MPO invoice in the amount of \$9,832.00 before March 30, 2012. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Agreement - County Highway project at 575 E original agreements with EAM, Inc. is amended to not requiring the County to install the farm field fencing and slit fencing along the drive and remove the stone and replace it with soil. Commissioner Stevens made a motion to approve the new agreement with EAM, Inc. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Proposed Highway Budget:

Proposed Budget for Local Road and Street and long range proposed Federal Aid Project was presented to the Commissioners. Commissioner Stevens moved to approve the proposed Road and Street budget as presented by Joe Copeland to go forward to the County Council. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Proposed Budget for Bridge fund including review of the priority schedule for bridge and bridge projects. \$1.5 million in Cumulative Bridge should be annual receipts with new annual rate. Commissioner Stevens moved to approve the bridge replacement schedule as submitted to go forward to the County Council. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Engineer Copeland will need to request \$350,000.00 in additional appropriations for the bridge funds. Commissioner Stevens made a motion to allow Engineer Copeland to request from the County Council an additional appropriation of \$350,000.00 to meet the proposed budget. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Proposed Motor Vehicle Highway Budget including the five year capital expenditures and equipment cost. Commissioner Stevens approved the proposed Motor Vehicle Highway budget as submitted to go forward to the County Council. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

In The Matter of)

Sunrise Rotary Club)

Riley Festival)

Wine and Beer Garden - Josie Henneke appeared before the Commissioners to request approval to use the County owned parking lot north of the Prosecutor's Office, during Riley Festival, as a wine and beer garden. The Sunrise Rotary Club already has a license to have the garden. Commissioner Stevens expressed concern that allowing private organizations to use County lots will lead to issues as to who to allow and who not to allow. Attorney Ray Richardson reviewed the County Ordinance stating it is unlawful to drink or consume any intoxicating liquor in or about the County Courthouse. The Commissioners would like to look into the matter further and table this until next meeting.

In The Matter of)

Vacation of Alley)

Everett Rose - appeared before the Commissioners to request vacation of an alley at his property located at 8284 N. State Road 109, Warrington. The Commissioners reviewed his drawing and verified where the alley to be vacated was located. Attorney Ray Richardson reviewed the steps to be taken before returning to the Commissioners.

In The Matter of)

Animal Management)

Stray Dogs - Jeff Leffel appeared before the Commissioners to discuss options since he discovered the IC code (IC 15-5-9-13) on stray dogs had been repealed and his department has no way to enforce dogs being kept on the owners property. Mr. Leffel is requesting a County Ordinance to prevent dogs from running loose. The Commissioners directed Mr. Leffel to speak with the County Prosecutor to be sure he will prosecute offenders and Attorney Ray Richardson will work with him to develop an Ordinance.

In The Matter of)

Planning)

Thoroughfare Plan - Mike Dale Planning Director appeared before the Commissioners to review the amendment to the thoroughfare plan for the realignment of 600W and State Road 234. The plan amendment is for the B-D alignment. Commissioner Stevens moved to approve Resolution No. 2011-5-1, A Resolution of the Hancock County, Indiana, Board of County Commissioners Amending the 2005 Hancock County Comprehensive Plan as recommended by the Planning Committee for realignment of Mt. Comfort Road and the Realignment of State Road 234. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

In The Matter of)

Ordinance No. 2011-3E)

Animated and Changeable Copy Signs - Mike Dale, Planning Director appeared before the Commissioner's for approval of Ordinance No. 2011-3E, An Ordinance amending Title XV, Chapter 156 of the Hancock County Code; An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2007-1B Revising the Development Standards For Animated Signs and Changeable Copy Signs. The new amendment allows for signs to change every one minute. Commissioner Towle strongly feels the minimum time should be 5 minutes for traffic safety. Signs that were previously approved had a minimum time change of 1 hour and will have to apply for a new permit to be under the one minute time change. Commissioner Stevens moved for approval of Ordinance No. 2011-3E An Ordinance amending Title XV, Chapter 156 of the Hancock County Code; An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2007-1B Revising the Development Standards For Animated Signs and Changeable Copy Signs. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried 2-1. Commissioner Towle voted nay.

In The Matter of)

E-911 Center)

New Hire - Connie Hoy appeared before the Commissioners to present Marlin Durbin as the new hire for the E-911 center. Commissioner Towle moved to approve the hiring of Marlin Durbin as presented by Connie Hoy. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Radio System - Ms. Hoy informed the Commissioners that the Motorola Radio currently used by the E-911 center will no longer be manufactured after September. The Radio will need to be upgraded in the near future. Ms. Hoy estimates the cost to be approximately \$300,000.00.

In The Matter of)

4-H Ag Association)

Proposed Budget - Cheryl Reynolds appeared before the Commissioners to present the proposed 4-H Ag Association budget for 2012. Ms. Reynolds also reviewed current projects underway by the 4-H Ag Association.

In The Matter of)

Community Corrections)

Home Detention Equipment - Pat Powers appeared before the Commissioners regarding the Equipment Provider Agreement for the home detention equipment. Attorney Ray Richardson had reviewed the contract and made recommendations. The Commissioners do not need to take any action on this.

Weeding - Pat Powers discussed with the Commissioners using Community Corrections to provide people to clean up and weed the flowerbeds around the Courthouse and the Annex. Also, the Commissioners agreed to have stone lain where there are no plants.

In The Matter of)

Minutes)

May 17, 2011 minutes - Commissioner Stevens made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2011 meeting. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried 2-0. Commissioner Towle abstained.

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

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

Nepotism - The Commissioners discussed a Nepotism Ordinance. Commissioner Armstrong stated he felt there should be no family members working in any office in the County. Commissioner Towle felt that family in different offices of the County is acceptable. He also stated that our Country is built on good family businesses. All Commissioners agreed that existing employees will be grand-fathered in. Attorney Ray Richardson will work on a draft for the Nepotism Ordinance.

Employee Handbook - The Commissioners discussed an employee handbook. Commissioner Stevens said he would work on options.

Mike Dale - appeared before the Commissioners to ask if it would be a problem with the County if he took outside work as a consultant. The Commissioners direct Mr. Dale that as long as the work is not a conflict of interest with the County, there would be no problem.

Tourism Commission/Visitors Bureau - The Commissioners will act to properly set up the Tourism Board per the original Ordinance. The Commissioners agreed to work with Attorney Ray Richardson to correct the Board structure. There needs to be two Boards one for the Tourism Commission and one for the Visitors Bureau per State Board of Accounts.

Sheriff Sprinkler - There are two Quotes for inspection and testing of the sprinkler system at the Jail and Community Corrections. McDaniel Fire Systems, LLC provided a quote for Community Corrections, 1 year for \$975.00 and 3 years for \$950.00 and the Jail for \$1,500.00 for 1 year. Indiana Automatic Sprinklers, INC. provided a quote for Community Corrections 1 year for \$700.00 and the Jail for \$1,200.00 for 1 year. Commissioner Stevens moved to recommend the Sheriff enter into the contract, pending approval by Attorney Ray Richardson of legal content of contract, with Indiana Automatic Sprinkler for service at 123 E. Main Street and 233 E. Main Street in the amounts of \$1,200.00 and \$700.00 per year respectively. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Maintenance Issue - There are four pumps for heating and cooling in the courthouse basement and there is a pump leaking. Trane submitted a proposal to fix the pump in the amount of \$1,968.00. Commissioner Armstrong also contacted Fitzgerald and North for a quote. Commissioner Stevens moved to allow the President of the Board of Commissioners to contract for the repairs based on the best quote not to exceed \$1,968.00. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Emergency Repairs - The Commissioners discussed how to handle emergency situations where a decision is needed immediately. Commissioner Armstrong will submit a list of vendors to be approved by the Commissioners to be used to choose from in emergency situations. Commissioner Stevens moved that in an emergency any individual Commissioner can make decisions for an emergency repair with first preference from the approved vendors list, once established. Commissioner Towle seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52pm.

Hancock County Commissioners

Commissioner Brad Armstrong, President

Commissioner Derek Towle, Vice President

Commissioner Tom Stevens

Attest: _____

Robin D. Lowder
Hancock County Auditor

Attest _____

Trisha Holliday
Hancock County Deputy Auditor