

## Hancock County Board of Commissioner's Meeting

October 30, 2018

Commissioners met in regular session. Those present were Board of Commissioner's President Brad Armstrong and Commissioner Marc Huber. Vice President John Jessup arrived at 8:14 am. Auditor Robin Lowder, Deputy Auditor Trish George and County Attorney Ray Richardson were present.

Hancock County Board of Commissioner's meeting began at 8:00 am

### Highway Department

Gary Pool, Highway Department, appeared before the Board of Commissioners to discuss:

One signature needed for snow removal bid; V. Feeney Inc. will be taking over an existing contract for the same bid price. Commissioner Huber made a motion to renew the snow contract with V. Feeney Inc. for the 2018-2019 season with the addition of existing routes. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 2-0.**

Highway Department had visits from day cares and special needs kids to introduce to the trades and trucking. Gary thanked commissioners for approving the time, it went well and was good for community education. The children learned a lot and had a good time. Gary would like to have a commissioner present for future events.

Trails planning is experiencing some issues. Properties that originally had a verbal agreement, have backed out. This is problematic and has changed Gary's view and he is concerned. Gary feels this could compromise the trail between 500 & 600 west. Property backlash is completely unnecessary, Commissioners have repeatedly said they agreed not to condemn any properties for the trails. We need more of PR Communications than a trails plan product. We lost vital routes in key locations and this is cause for concern. Mary Ann Wietbrock needs more help with trail planning and public relations. Gary requested the Commissioners pass on the vote. Mike Dale believes the public perception is we are taking their land and this is not the case. Commissioner Armstrong said it has always been this board's view, if people want to talk, we will discuss concerns at the commissioners meeting next week. Steve Long, CEO Hancock Regional Hospital appreciates the board considering this plan. It's nice to get seven communities working together on the trails. Health and well-being is his primary concern. Secondary it is hard to get doctors to stay here and he feels trails could be a negotiating factor. Alan Hamersly, consultant with Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc. was contacted and hired by a group of seven communities (43 people across the county) to work on the Pennsy trails route. Alan has been working with public input to draw lines and figure out a proposed trail route. When Mohawk expressed objections they were removed as requested. Over 900 people have provided input. Alan does not understand public concern and why this affects the Pennsy Trail. Commissioner Armstrong concerned that Alan does not understand the problem with escalated public concern. The public does not want lines drawn

on their property without first negotiating. Commissioner Huber is concerned with trail route running through farm fields and front yards. Alan acknowledged these plans are a vision and are not permanent and can be adjusted as needed.

Soil borings on the county farm will begin no earlier than November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Rock salt went up to \$88.95 (1900 tons). Added some extra tons to be sure we are covered.

INDOT update; SR9 will be kept open during resurfacing job between Greenfield/Shelbyville. Fortville Pike is behind (December opening). Signal at SR9 and 300 North will stay up and receive an upgrade. New Palestine Bridge will be closed from April 1, 2019 through March 1, 2020 and they will pay for damage on local detour roads. Commissioners concerned with closing off a major road through New Palestine.

Annual bids coming up. Costs have gone up and we will rebid most of them.

Circle K and the hospital. How the drives work.

Bridge 71 open (138 days closed, 150 is the goal). Bridge 93 (98 days closed, 150 day goal).

Snow plowing will continue as is, unless commissioners express otherwise. Gary set aside \$375,000 for winter operations and he is 95% sure this should cover winter comfortably. Looks like a normal winter.

### **Claims & Payroll**

Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve claims and payroll as presented. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### **Stellar Grant Revised**

Joanie Fitzwater Planning Director for Greenfield requested signatures for the revised Stellar Grant. Requirements were added to this agreement; it is now due November 7<sup>th</sup> and a decision will be made by December 6<sup>th</sup>. Six communities applied and we have a 40% chance of getting this grant. Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to adopt the revised inter local agreement revised October 12, 2018 for the Stellar application. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### **Request for Travel**

Susan Bodkin Surveyor had two request. First John Milburn's deployment to Florida has been postponed, but he could end up going. Food and housing will be provided but the one thing we will be providing is comp time. This deployment will help with hurricane recovery in Florida. Susan is requesting permission for out of state travel for John. Commissioner Huber made a motion to allow John Milburn out of state travel to help support the efforts in Florida working with emergency management as requested. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Susan's second request was Commissioner Armstrong's signature for CRS verification activities for flood plain reduction in insurance.

#### **Senior Services Third Quarter Claim**

Bob Long Senior Services have the third quarter claim to submit to INDOT for \$51,615 and just needs one Commissioner's signature. Commissioner Huber made a motion to allow the county to be the pass through for the Indiana Department of Transportation voucher for Senior Services third quarter claim in the amount of \$51,615. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **2019 Holiday and Meeting Schedules**

Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve the 2019 Holiday schedule and Commissioner meeting schedule with the exception of the first commissioners meeting will be held on Thursday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9 am. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **Plat Signatures for Noelting Estates**

Harold Gibson with H Gibson Land Surveying requesting plat signatures accepting the ROW for Noelting Estates CR 200 S New Palestine. Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the 50' full ROW for Noelting Estates Section 1 and a motion to approve the Noelting Estates Subdivision, CR 200 S New Palestine. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **NASA Local Drug Free Grants \$100,000**

Tim Retherford with NASA for \$100,000 Drug Free Grant recommendations. Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve the 2019 Local Drug Free Community fund grant recommendations as presented. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **Update on Jail Financing**

Commissioner Armstrong summarized last time we met Councilmember Bolander you were going to implement a tax that would allow us to build \$28M worth of facility, it was no longer possible due to DLGF decision. County Council President Bill Bolander updated Commissioners on the jail financing. The DGLF said they couldn't implement income tax. Councilmember Bolander met with Greg Guerrettaz Financial Consultant and they feel an income tax can still be implemented the first of the year with capitalized interest to get the money and get started on the jail (could bond \$25,350,000.00). If the whole 14 basis points are used and we get into a recession this could be a problem. The balance of those basis points will be used for staffing. Councilmember Bolander said the Council is willing to get this started the first of the year. If the income tax is more than what is anticipated there would be more money to do additional work. The legislature set up 20 basis points for staffing and

building. Attorney Ray Richardson questioned when bonds could be issued? Councilmember Bolander replied we would enact it in January and it would be available in October, but with capitalized interest we could get it earlier. The capitalized interest is \$1,340,000.

Commissioner Armstrong questioned timeline wise how this would work with RQAW. Pete Peterson with RQAW felt they could get the temporary piece up (half of a pod) in less than 12 months. 2 pods would take 18-24 months to get the whole thing up and running. Once the site study is completed, RQAW could start work. Commissioner Armstrong said after \$100,000 site study is completed (November 30), how long for the new schematic design to be completed. Pete with RQAW said schematic design will take 30-60 days (January 30<sup>th</sup>).

Commissioner Armstrong asked Councilmember Bolander is there a path where if we get to agreement and you implement this tax is there a path to get constructing in calendar year 2019 with a target of in 12 months having part of the jail space available in January of 2020. Commissioner Armstrong clarified he does not like the site, but he realizes we need to be pragmatic and get something done. If we can meet the timeline of January 2020 having some jail space available and we can get everyone on track and in the same direction, he is working hard to come up with benefits on that site to make it a better functioning jail on that site because we are going to give up efficiencies. If we can get there and solve the problems, I feel I can compromise and get there. Time is an issue, if we have one year horse trading inmates and internal things to reduce population maybe we can manage for a year, but not two years. If this blows up and it is 2021 cause we still can't get together on this, this doesn't work. Councilmember Bolander said financing is in place there is no reason it can't go. Pete with RQAW said they can move on it as soon as they are told they can go. Pete said the sooner you get through schematic design (close to detail design) then it can be put out for bid. If schematic design is completed January 30<sup>th</sup>. Bidding can start in 45 days (mid-March).

Commissioner Jessup said bidding in January/February will have better deals than March. Commissioner Armstrong is reluctant to sign up for \$400,000 till the site study is complete. Attorney Ray Richardson didn't feel February was possible with all the paperwork to do (enact tax/bond paperwork). Ray asked how many inmates the jail could hold. Pete with RQAW said the temporary jail pod will hold 150 inmates. The permanent jail will hold 450 inmates. Commissioner Armstrong would like a modified contract for schematic design on the farm property around \$400,000 to be presented to us for review. The Commissioners meet on November 5<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup>, can you tell us we have a property that's suitable by November 19<sup>th</sup> that would be the target date to act. Attorney Ray Richardson would like an email before the commissioners meeting. Pete with RQAW is willing to bill for this years work. Robin Lowder said \$500,000 was appropriated from Rainy Day. Every year \$500,000 is appropriated to Rainy Day and is used for emergencies. Rainy Day appropriation does not roll over. Commissioner Jessup asked Councilmember Bolander to be sure \$400,000 is available. Auditor Lowder said Council needs to remember to replace Rainy Day Funds after the LIT and Bond funds are available. Pete with RQAW will work ahead at own risk and get Geotech out there ASAP.

### **Bond**

Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the maintenance bond for Weike Construction Inc. for Noelting Estates for the sewer and sub drains for \$84,795.50. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### **Commissioner Minutes**

Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to approve Commissioners Minutes for 10/16/18 as presented. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### **FSG/GCS Invoices**

Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to the pay FSG and GCS invoices out of the Commissioner's Budget Contractual account line. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**The Hancock County Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 10:45 am**

Hancock County Commissioners

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Brad Armstrong, President

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Commissioner John Jessup, Vice-President

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Commissioner Marc Huber

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

Robin D. Lowder  
Hancock County Auditor