

## Hancock County Board of Commissioner's Minutes

October 31, 2017

Commissioners met in regular session. Those present were Board of Commissioners President Brad Armstrong, Vice President Commissioner Marc Huber, and Commissioner John Jessup.

Auditor Robin D. Lowder was present and Accounts Payable Deputy Supervisor

Anna L. Voorhis was also present.

Hancock County Board of Commissioner's meeting began at 8:00 a.m.

Attorney Ray Richardson arrived at 8:12 a.m.

### Highway Department

Hancock County Engineer Gary Pool appeared before the Board of Commissioners to discuss:

**Signatures for Memorandum of Understanding/Town of New Palestine**-Gary Pool requested the Commissioners sign a contract/MOU with the town of New Palestine. Commissioner Huber made a motion for the Commissioners to sign a MOU with the town of New Palestine for a Roundabout at the intersection of 300 S and 500 W in the town of New Palestine. The town of NP and the County will each pay half at a total cost of \$100,000. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

**Carry-Over Request of American Timber Bridge Contract**-Commissioner Huber made a motion to carry-over the American Timber Bridge Contract pricing of 2016/2017 to carry-over through December 31, 2018. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

**Snowplow Contract modified**-hoping to close bid right before Thanksgiving.

**Bridges 18 and 71 Inspections**-Permission requested from Engineer Pool to begin negotiations with DLZ for both bridges. Each bridge would be part-time but doing both would equal to full-time. Commissioner Huber made a motion for Pool to begin negotiations with DLZ for inspections on Bridges 18 and 71. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

**Safety Review**-Compared to other Counties in the State of Indiana Hancock County is doing well. Speed related accidents we are rated at 8.1 per 100,000. Fatalities we are rated at 8.3 per 100,000. This puts us in the bottom quarter. The median county rate of collisions per 100 million is 168. We are always working to improve our 2 way stops. Every year trying to shave 40 to 50 injuries off. This year we have put down rumble strips at more than two dozen intersections. This is an inexpensive way to make the intersections safer.

**Highway as touched nearly 60% of the roads in our 7 year plan.**

**Bridge 91**-We have extended the olive branch to the homeowner and performed extra work at the County's expense on the driveway at Bridge 91.

### **Claims and Payroll**

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

### **Commissioners' Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Jessup made a motion to approve Commissioners' Meeting Minutes for October 17, 2017. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. Motion carried 3/0.

### **Facility Building and Maintenance Manager**

Facility Building and Maintenance Manager, Dean Mullins discussed general building maintenance issues with the Commissioners.

### **Celadon Realty, LLC Agreement**

Surveyor Susan Bodkin requested the Commissioners sign an Agreement with Celadon Realty, LLC. The Agreement has been approved by the County Attorney. Commissioner Huber made a motion to enter into an agreement with Celadon Realty, LLC that Celadon will maintain the Swales and the Mowing on the property they own at 300 N and 600 W. They also agree to do a \$30,000 performance bond. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

### **Performance Bond/ Celadon Realty, LLC**

Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept a \$30,000 performance bond from Celadon Realty, LLC. It is for drainage and Mowing. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

### **Rave Mobile Safety/Panic Button/E-911**

The Director of the Emergency Operations Center/E-911 presented to the Commissioners a Mobile App for phones/Panic Button that would be for all Hancock County buildings/employees and all Hancock County Schools/Administrators/Teachers. The App would be on their phone and they can touch this Panic Button App and let law enforcement know there is an immediate threat and it will call 911 or it can also let your superiors know you need assistance there is some type of issue. Hancock County is the first County in the State of Indiana to have this program. Commissioner Huber made a motion to enter into a contract with Rave Mobile Safety for 5 years with a one-time \$3,000 set up fee and \$11,000 Annual fee with a total of \$58,000 for the five years. This will be funded from the E-911-1153 Operating Fund. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

### **NASA 2018 Grant Approval**

The Director of NASA Tim Retherford requested approval of the 2018 Local Drug-Free Community Fund Grant. Commissioner Armstrong made the comment he would like to see more funds spent on drug prevention and less on the Underage Drinking Task Force. Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve the 2018 Local Drug-Free Community Fund Grant as presented for a total of \$96,000. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

### **Simply Divine Transitional Housing**

Prosecutor Brent Eaton requested the Commissioners sign a contract with Simply Divine Transitional Housing. Commissioner Huber made a motion to enter into a contract with Simply Divine Transitional Housing for 8 beds for 2 years at 24,000 a year with a total of \$48,000. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. The motion carried 3/0.

### **Group Health Insurance/Patriot Insurance**

Brian Brees of Patriot Insurance and Diane S Titchenell of RE Sutton and Associates presented Dental and Vision options to the Commissioners. Our present Anthem Dental plan increased 16.5%. They looked at a couple of Delta Dental plans but they were similar in cost, benefits weren't as good and there was a concern about how many Dentists would be on the Plan. They recommended Anthem they felt even though there was an increase the cost was still comparable, coverage was still better and better choice of dentists. The vision plan they recommended we go with the Anthem Trust High Option. The Commissioners also made the decision to drop the core vision plan due to non-use. Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the recommendations made and accepted for Anthem Dental and Anthem Vision. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. Motion carried 3/0. Wellness Credit-Starting in 2018 existing employees have until October 1, 2018 to turn in their Wellness Forms in order to receive the Wellness Credit for 2018 & 2019. New employees will have 90 days starting in 2018.

### **Resolution of Need for Criminal Justice Facility/Public Comment**

Public Comment 10 a.m.: **Commissioner Armstrong** thanked everyone for coming. He gave a history of when he became Commissioner in 2009 the Jail was overcrowded then. Conditions of overcrowding have continued to increase. A consultant company RQAW was hired to assess the County's Criminal Justice Facility issues. In April of this year we had a Joint Commissioner and Council meeting where RQAW presented their recommendations for a need of a Criminal Justice Facility. The cost is estimated by our Financial Advisor (FA)/Financial Solution & Associates at 35 million dollars for hard costs and 20 million dollars for soft costs with a total estimate of 55 million dollars. Commissioners discussed financing options for a Criminal Justice Facility that is projected to cost approximately \$55 million. There are three options to finance this project. 1. Property Taxes, 2. Income Taxes or 3. A combination of both. **Comments by the Commissioners:** At this time it is not required to take public input but we would like to have the Public's Comments on the Resolution of need of this project because it is a large project of 55 million dollars. We want feedback from the general public. We ask that your speaking be kept at 2 minutes, please be respectful and don't shout out.

**1. George Langston/Greenfield**-He is concerned with Jailers safety. Part of the problems were created when the State shut down Mental Health Facilities. He thinks the funds should come from Property and Income Tax both because he is worried about people losing their homes if it is Property Tax only.

**Commissioner Armstrong's Reply**-He felt 2015 guidelines affected the overcrowding. The Legislators know it is an issue but change will not be able to happen quickly.

**Commissioner Jessup**- Stated he believes the revenue source will come from Property and Income Tax both.

**2. John Priore/Greenfield**-He is concerned by the lack of action by the State because it is a State wide problem. He feels the problem should be solved by the State. If the State hadn't closed all of the facilities we wouldn't have this situation. Questioned how many Level 6's we have in the Jail at the present.

**Jail Commander's Reply-Andy Craig** 35-39 Level 6's. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> highest in the state.

**3. Martha Vail/Charlottesville/County Council**-85% are repeat offenders. We must have purposeful incarceration. We must try to help change their lives. We need to see Mental and Recovery help is available while they are incarcerated.

**Commissioner Huber's reply**-stated Mental Health and Substance abuse issues need to be addressed.

**Commissioner Jessup's reply**-We don't have the proper facility to facilitate these types of programs.

**4. Keith Oliver/Assistant Jail Commander**-Jail today 192 inmates (157 bed count) 38 inmates at LaGrange County. The receiving area is very small, no privacy for HIPPA, safety factor with doors and overcrowding. There is only one room to offer services in such as AA, Church, NOW, MRT, etc. Too small to have some of the services and can't have some because the room is over booked.

**5. Prosecutor Brent Eaton**-He summarized an opinion Criminal Justice Reform written by former Judge Richard Culver. In the last four years the drug convictions have doubled. The repeat offenders' level is very high. If they keep using many of them will die. We hope to make their period of incarceration a way to achieve sobriety. Sobriety is cost effective. It is also good for public safety.

**Commissioner Armstrong's reply**- Our County is pro-active and has alternative programs. We have Heroin Protocol and proud that we are addressing the Opioid crisis.

**Prosecutor Eaton**-The modern Jails being built are safer for employees and inmates. They are better able to have areas to treat inmates. A study was done it said Hancock County may have 90,000 population in 20 years.

**6. Rita Johnson**-Question can the building be added onto?

**Commissioner Armstrong's reply**-Typically they don't add on to buildings. If a building has a shell they will be more likely to finish it. The design hasn't been locked in but there is a possibility of a two story pod with a third story shell to finish at a later date.

**7. Cindy Flick/Homeowner**-Concerned the Jail does need structure. They need to experience some punishment along with the education and help. They won't understand what they have done and will end up in a worse situation.

**8. Marie Castetter/Chief Deputy Prosecutor**-Concerned if she knows the Jail is overcrowded when she is considering jail or probation on a non-violent offender she will have an ethical decision to make to put them in jail or on Probation.

**9. Josh Sipes/Chief Probation Officer/Probation** is providing dual services to those on probation and those also incarcerated. They are providing Mental Health services also. The lack of space in the Jail and Courthouse does make it difficult.

**10. David Stillinger/Coroner**-Requesting secure space in new facility. Present time using his own business for records. The Coroner needs to be in a public facility.

**11. Jeannine Gray/Shirley/County Council**-Question approximatively how much would this cost tax payers.

**Commissioner Jessup's reply**-If we do a referendum it would be outside the Circuit Breaker so everyone would pay. It would be around \$70-\$80 per every \$100,000per the County's FA. It is not a surmountable amount. It would not just be a Jail but a Criminal Justice Facility.

**Commissioner Huber**-stated it would make us a Stronger Community.

The Commissioners are in the process of gathering information

**The Commissioners requested the County Attorney prepare a Resolution of Need for Criminal Justice Facility for the next meeting November 7, 2017.**

**Commissioner Armstrong thanked everyone for coming and for their participation.**

The Hancock County Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Hancock County Commissioners

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Commissioner Brad Armstrong, President

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Commissioner Marc Huber, Vice President

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Commissioner John Jessup

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

Robin D. Lowder  
Hancock County Auditor