

Hancock County Board of Commissioner's Meeting

November 5, 2018

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

Hancock County Board of Commissioner's meeting began at 8:03 am

Highway Department

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

The Community Crossings Grant should be out this week.

Applying for grants for Stinemyer 550W to 500W. Will ask Council for local participation of \$175,000 local match to extend Stinemyer. Hopefully this will alleviate bus and school traffic issues. Also submitting for 600 W Sugar Creek Elementary to CSX. \$1.5M local match (80% from Feds).

Working on yearly local bids (prices are going up). Gary will present annual bids December 18 at 8 am.

Claims & Payroll

Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve claims and payroll as presented.

Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioners Minutes

Commissioner Jessup made a motion to approve Commissioners' Minutes for 10-30-18.

Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Discussed Commissioners Budget

CCD will be used to pay prosecutors invoices for \$20,000. Robin Lowder, Auditor will check to see what has been paid. Healthy balance in Miscellaneous Building Expenses. Supplies has \$2,000. Contractual, building maintenance and mowing and snow are short. Commissioner Armstrong said \$1700 in Pest Control could be transferred. Robin suggested transfer \$12,000 from Susan Bodkin in non-navigable to County Commissioners Building & Maintenance. Commissioners County General Building Maintenance fund capital claims adjust to be paid from CCD #1138 Miscellaneous Building Expense. Robin will take Ice Miller invoices to Council November 14th. Can transfer County General Recovery \$4,000 to Contractual.

Storm Water Ordinance 2018-11A

Commissioner Huber made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2018-11A updating the technical standards for storm water revising Chapter 154.

Commissioner Huber made a motion to suspend the rules and allow for adoption on day of introduction. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Jessup made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-11A. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Susan gave approval to transfer \$12,000 in Non-navigable Streams to County Commissioners Building & Maintenance.

Bonds

Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the bond from Elite Land Development Inc. in the amount of \$5,000 for Noelting Estates Section 1 Monuments. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Huber made a motion to release the maintenance bond from R & F Development for Butterfield Estates in the amount of \$6,500. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

E-911 Consulting Ritter Strategic Services Consulting

John Jokantas would like to bring in Ritter Strategic Services to evaluate the E-911 services. The money would be paid out of 2019 funds. John will present this to the County Council next week. They would come in and interview every single employee. It will be nice to have a third party evaluation. This will be an analysis of operations. This will aide in the consolidation of Shelby County.

John would like to replace 5 new computers (\$11,500) this year. Commissioner Huber made a motion to allow purchase of 5 new computers for the EOC to be paid out of 1138 CCD not to exceed \$11,500. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Diego Morales Rezone

Commissioner Armstrong clarified the Diego Morales Rezone has been withdrawn.

Plat Signatures for Grandview Park

Russell Jeffrey requested Commissioners to accept ROW for Grandview Park Major Subdivision. Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept 50' half ROW for Grandview Park Major Subdivision. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

MEA Properties LLC Rezone

Mike Dale with Planning Department discussed unanimous vote from Zoning Board for MEA Properties LLC rezone of 34.45 acres from R2.5 to IBP at 3678 N 700 W. Commissioner Huber would like to introduce Ordinance 2018-11B to rezone 3678 N 700 W from R2.5 to IBP. Commissioner Huber made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2018-11B with one commitment. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Trails Plan

Commissioner Armstrong introduced the Commissioners Board Members (himself President), Vice President John Jessup and Commissioner Marc Huber.

Mike Dale said the trails plan received a unanimous favorable recommendation from the Plan Commission Meeting. Commissioners were sent copies of these plans.

Florence May is a 38 year resident of Hancock County. Her parents live in a 160 year old farm house. She served on the Hancock County Foundation Board and has been impressed with the constant focus on asking what the community wants to see. New Palestine, Greenfield, McCordsville, Fortville, Shirley and Wilkinson worked together on a plan to connect county assets. The communities pulled together to work with HCCF, Hancock Regional Hospital and a large county wide steering committee to hire a professional firm Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc. They were hired to gather information and assist in trail planning. There is very strong support for trails in the developed portions of the county. In these areas people assume trails will be developed because their neighbors are building trails as part of plans to attract quality development. Surrounding counties are competing for the \$90M in state grants for trails. No imminent domain will be used to acquire trails is now specified in the amendment resolution. Conflict that received negative feedback were removed. Those not wishing to sell or donate land have no obligation to do so. This blue-print is the work of ten stake holders, but it is the voice of more than 1,000 people. If you can't vote yes, please vote to send back to the steering committee for further work.

Jason Griffin with Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc. spoke next. I would like to thank the ten partners in the planning McCordsville, Greenfield, Fortville, Cumberland, Wilkinson, New Palestine, Shirley, Hancock Regional Hospital, HCCF and the Hancock County Planning Commission. Our role was to assist the steering committee in creating a plan for all of Hancock County. Also we worked with the Tourism Department, Pennsy Trails Group, Hancock County Steering Committee to develop a desirable trail plan. This was a ten month process and seven public meetings were held to discuss (meetings were advertised). Public outreach was made at several area festivals. An email contact list of over 1,000 people contributed. All property owners were not contacted as the Steering Committee did not feel this was feasible. Some trails were removed and revisions were made through public input. The new trail plan is a vision of what the trail network might look like in the future. It is a vision that will increase property values, attract businesses, attract residence, help retain a younger generation, promote agricultural tourism, increase the overall health of the

community and increase community pride. The plan does not do several things; the plan does not endorse eminent domain or propose the taking of land; it does not assess the technical feasibility of placing trails in particular locations, it does not provide construction details for trails. These trails are to help create a culture of walking and biking. The county will not be contacting property owners to acquire their land based on this plan. This plan is intended to provide a broad vision for trail location and design guidelines for trail location. The plan is not set in stone and should be reviewed periodically as development occurs. This is a good plan and attempts to meet the needs of the citizens. If you cannot adopt, please send back to the Planning Commission for development.

Commissioner Armstrong clarifies we can either adopt this plan or send back to the Planning Committee. Mike Dale with the Planning Department said this can be approved, amended or rejected. The Planning Committee has 60 days to review.

Erin Lowder represented her family farm and neighbors that could not be here due to work. They have no problem with the trails from Fortville to the school and actually think this is a good plan. They have three farm entrances that continue to be in her family farm with their children and grandchildren. They currently have trouble getting crops out of these farms with heavy equipment, semi traffic, 55 mile speed limit and ditches. The trails need to be on a main road. The neighbors do not want this and are concerned with liability and safety issues. The trails lead to nowhere. Why do trails dead end. They are concerned with liability, safety issues and the current struggle with getting crops out of fields.

Gary Edwards it is his understanding the Commissioners can pass or reject any portion of the trail plan. Gary request Commissioners pass a portion of the plan that takes 200 W and Mohawk out. If you don't pass a portion, it reverts back to the 2012 plan. Also he would like to know who takes care of the trails and maintains the trails. Commissioner Armstrong clarified currently these are public and maintained by the county paid through taxpayer money.

Bob Bogigian is on the Hancock County Community Foundation Board. With past experience, he assisted with the addition of four parks and helped with the Pennsy Trails. It was gratifying assisting with the parks and Pennsy Trails. Trails are a good idea for the community. Bob has lived here 40 years and can't remember such a large group (7 communities) getting together to plan a project to benefit the whole community. He believes this will be important in the future development of the county. He remembers when planning Pennsy Trails there were concerns and objections, but the concerns proved not to be a factor. Commissioner Armstrong questioned the obstacles with planning the Pennsy Trail; he remembered two broken halves and many obstacles. Bob remembers they reached out to the county, highway and commissioners for assistance.

Steve Long lives on the outskirts of Greenfield and is the CEO of Hancock Regional Health. He is a resident of Hancock County four years now and has been successful in getting his oldest daughter, her husband and grandchildren to move to this county. We are trying to get other

children to move here too and his wife is currently trying to get her father to move here. Steve is experiencing the best place he has ever lived right here. He is proud of the linkage between traditional family values and innovative approaches to the future this county has. It's rare you find communities come together to create a unified vision which impacts an entire region. There are issues that will not work well everywhere and I see there are some things that need to change. I think things will change over the next 20 years. This is a 20 year plan. 400 physicians work at the hospital and 150 come on a regular basis to practice. The hospital employees 75 of them and only 27 live in the community. Because of the trails he has one physician building a new house here.

Wade Mitton is from Mohawk and with short notice he put a petition together with 200 signatures against the trail route. A lot of the country folks do not like what they see and what this will become. More people would have been here, but they are working and taking care of their families. Right now he is for the trails since they don't include Mohawk. He feels money should be put into park trails and maintaining the current trails. He has pictures of current trails not being maintained (crumbling trails, poison ivy on signs and dead animals on trails).

Pat Kuhns has lived here almost 55 years. They moved here to be in the country. She stated we are not against trails, they are not against family time, but they are against losing their yard. Their house was built in late 1800's it used to be an old parsonage and sits on 1 acre. Some people step out front door and are on sidewalk. We would love more people to come to our community to visit and live here, but in the meantime, we do not want our yard or parking to be taken away.

Martha Hall rides bikes with husband Sheldon in and around town. They are experienced cyclist and enjoy riding bikes. They have ridden in every town that participate in rides, they enjoy rails to trails and out of state rides. It concerns her Teresa Barnes was struck and killed on US 40 in Philadelphia while traveling to work. The county needs trails to allow those to travel to and from work in other ways.

Samantha Young lives off US40 on 13 acres. This lies between the cemetery (which shares a road) and Sugar Creek (behind them). She questions how the trail will go through her property? Commissioner Armstrong stated they would like to work cooperatively with property owners and not use eminent domain for trails. Her Great grandparents purchased property in 1958 and started Sugar Creek Park and allowed people to come on property at one time. They have since changed and use their property for family. She is for trails just not in her yard. Commissioner Armstrong questioned if they would be interested in ROW for trail on front of property by US40. Samantha noted the above mentioned woman was killed on US40. She stated it is dangerous and cars drive 55 miles an hour. Samantha said if they agreed to this, speed would need to change. She also is concerned with liability of people trespassing to pond. Would fencing need to be up?

Jerry Raider owns the red brick house on corner of US40 & 300 W. He is concerned where would road run by Sugar Creek or US40? If you put on US40, there is a house built in 1898 that would have to be torn down to put a trail on US40? If the trail runs east and west, why expose people to traffic on US 40?

Ladonna Skillman lives on a dead end road. She owns the bridge over Sugar Creek that leads to their house. A main concern is the creek and liability with the attention the creek will draw. Commissioner Huber reminded everyone this is a conceptual plan, not permanent and no one would come and take land.

Charlie Cook a resident of Greenfield does not have a problem with the trails. But, what is more important spend \$70M for a jail or the trails. He would like tax money spent on the new jail and not maintaining the trails.

Scott Shipely has been a resident since 2004 and is a teacher at Mt. Vernon. He feels it is admirable many communities came together to create a formalized trail plan and vision for what our county can be. There were multiple public meetings to discuss trail planning and give input. As a teacher he has watched the student population grow from 3,100 students to 4,100 students today (growth and development will continue). The trail plan is important and directs the type of development you want for the county.

Tim McCarthy is an avid biker. He noted this is a low year and he only has about 800 miles. Also, this is the first time in years he hasn't been run off the road. The trail plan is wonderful because it allows you to plan forward, think of those things from a safety perspective as well as recreation. He is also here representing the homeowners association at Meadow Lark Estates (they meet on annual basis by rule, but on a quarterly basis regularly). They discuss the trails quite often and there are positives/negatives to it. Intersections are a concern. One of the reasons we like the trails regardless of positives/negatives it is a long term plan and it sits up a process to discuss and improve things. Homeowners are concerned with access to the trails. What are the access points to the trails? Security and safety measures is a concern.

Dr. Mike Fletcher does not live in Hancock County, but has been a physician for 30 years in Hancock County. Two of four daughters live in Hancock County. As a physician the issues of health statistics when it comes to how people become healthy, stay healthy and the contribution we as a physician or as a hospital make is only about 10-15%. The majority of health we drive comes from hereditary, living environment, basically comes from life style changes. When it comes to exercise, managing weight, tobacco use, diet and things like that, the trail plan gives our residents the opportunity to exercise but it also makes a statement about us as a community for other people. Either residents wanting to move into the community or businesses wanting to come into the community. It's beneficial for employers to come to communities that support health because the work force is less expensive. Children are another consideration, because the obesity rate in children today are rising. Most of us are guilty of spending too much time inside working on gadgets. This is building an infrastructure for our children and our grandchildren.

Commissioner Armstrong noted there are problems with the existing trail plan and it needs to be modified. Commissioners are elected to represent every one equally. Doing nothing is not sustainable. Changing the trail plans is an option. South of Fortville on 200 W doesn't seem to make sense now. Commissioner Armstrong suggest sending back to revise. Commissioner Huber noted there are obstacles with the Pennsy Trails as well. The 200 W and Mohawk are a concern. He would like consultants to go back and look at 200 W. Commissioner Armstrong wants to clarify imminent domain because this will create problems with existing projects. We would not want to use imminent domain to take any off alignment trails but if it's part of a roadway this needs to be addressed and clarified. Off alignment trails in farm fields needs to be addressed. Commissioner Huber said in incorporated areas trails are more desirable, than unincorporated areas. As subdivisions are built trails infrastructure can be put in to connect them. Commissioner Jessup agrees trails are a good thing. Just to reiterate we are not interested in taking land forcibly. But I want to agree with Charlie who said I don't want to invest a lot of money into trails, but having a roadmap for trails is a good thing. Commissioner Armstrong would like to send this back to the Planning Commission meeting.

Commissioner Huber made a motion to send Hancock County Trails Plan back to the Planning Commission to review what was discussed today and get more public input and bring back for review. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Final Weed Report

Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the 2018 Final Weed Report as presented. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Enterprise Fleet Management Program

Brad Burkhart and Pat Powers would like to try leasing vehicles from Enterprise. Together they need 7 vehicles. Commissioner Armstrong would like to try this as a Pilot Program. County Attorney Ray Richardson said if the vehicles total over \$50,000, bids will need to be sent out for bid per Indiana Law.

Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to find a way to enter into a contract with Enterprise for fleet management for 7 vehicles. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

The Hancock County Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 11:00 am

Hancock County Commissioners

Commissioner Brad Armstrong, President

Commissioner John Jessup, Vice-President

Commissioner Marc Huber

Attest: _____
Robin D. Lowder
Hancock County Auditor