

Hancock County Board of Commissioners Meeting

March 31, 2020

Commissioners met in regular session. Those present were Board of Commissioners President John Jessup, Vice President Brad Armstrong and Commissioner Marc Huber, County Attorney Scott Benkie, Auditor Debra Carnes and Trish George Secretary to Commissioners & County Council. Commissioner Armstrong called to order the March 31, 2020 Hancock County Commissioners Board meeting at 8:00 AM.

Highway

- Gary Pool (County Engineer) is waiting on the Community Crossing Matching Grant announcement.
- Due to COVID-19 some of his supplies are shaky; currently he is ok.
- Since the Federal and State government are working from home, they have become less efficient.
- Gary requested an Executive Session to discuss 600 West. Commissioner Armstrong suggested an Executive Session at 8 AM on April 7th and move the regularly scheduled Commissioners meeting to 8:30 AM. Commissioners agreed 3-0. Debra Carnes (Auditor) to advertise the Executive Session and time change for the Commissioners meeting.
- Lisa Bayne on 300 North is upset with the developments there.
- Gary asked Commissioners to start considering their next big capital projects; do we help McCordsville North; do we do an interchange at 200 West or 600 East (\$15-\$20M) or 600 West to south County Line road (\$15M); or 200 West interchange (\$15-\$20M) in combination with widening 300 North extending that development to Greenfield (\$20M) or 600 East (\$15-\$20M) or 600 West to the North (\$85-\$90M).
- Gary said his team is fully operational.
- Gary informed Commissioners the Bridge on 52 is closed and he will put some signs up.

Claims / Payroll

Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve Claims and Payroll as presented. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Minutes

Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve the Commissioner Minutes for 3/17/2020 and the Emergency Commissioner and County Council Minutes for 3/19/2020 as presented. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Surveyors Department

- Susan Bodkin (Surveyor) requested approval to purchase a trailer as discussed at the previous meeting. Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve the purchase of a Cargo Mate enclosed trailer for the Surveyors Office to be paid out of the Perpetuation Fund in the amount of \$4,999. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Susan also discussed request for Drainage Board Meetings for projects to move forward (encroachments, variances for 6" tile for a house to be built). Commissioners suggested meeting next week April 7th after the Commissioners regularly scheduled meeting.

Discussed 4-21-20 CCD Meeting

Commissioners discussed the best way to handle the 4-21-20 CCD Meeting with the many departments. Commissioners thought it best if departments submitted copies before the meeting and the Commissioners could call each one for discussion if needed.

Planning Department

Mike Dale (Director of Planning Department) concerned about cancelled meetings and how to manage the workload. There are virtual meetings available, but how to get the public notified of the virtual meetings is a concern. Commissioner Armstrong said some could be done through virtual meetings, but some could not. He would not be opposed to change the meetings to early May. Commissioner Huber said any virtual meetings should be notified certified mail to keep everyone informed. Commissioner Armstrong agreed. Mike said we could do Plat meetings. Mike suggested doing live and virtual. Commissioner Armstrong said if Mike could check into this and get back with the Commissioners next week.

E-911

- John Jokantas (Director E-911) said the Sheriff of Shelby County and Hancock County E-911 did not have a formal agreement for 911 service. John presented Commissioners with a copy of the Shelby-Hancock County back-up MOU Agreement.
- Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding with Shelby County Sheriff's Office/Shelbyville Police Department providing back-up service for 911 services. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- John requested to turn a current position into a Deputy Director position. This will alleviate some of John's 12-14 hr days and will assist with a better chain of command. The pay would be at \$55,000 year, since it is later in the year the pay would be \$39,000. The person will not require insurance. Commissioner Jessup asked if Council agreed to carry this in the 2021 budget. John replied yes. John said he is on the agenda with Council on April 8th. Commissioner Armstrong noted this is a new position and will need to be advertised and a new Salary Ordinance will be needed.
- Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to authorize the hiring the position of Deputy Director with salary not to exceed \$55,000. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioners Agenda 4-21-20 for CCD Request

Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve the proposed Commissioners Agenda for April 21, 2020 for the 2020 CCD request. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 2-0.**

Buck Creek Township Fire Department Update

Dave Sutherlin (Fire Chief) wanted to verify the Commissioners meeting April 7th. Dave said a lot of credit should be given to the Emergency Management Director Misty Moore. She has worked tirelessly getting the PPE items they needed. Dave said their trend is 120-130 runs a month; of those 15-20 sick people runs. Since March 16th they have had about 30 runs (many difficulty breathing). Its paramount we follow guidelines when we handle these patients. PPE's played an important roll; this is not a guarantee we won't get a sickness, but it help. The hospital is keeping everyone well informed. Commissioner's appreciated the update.

Sheriff's Department Update

- Sheriff Burkhart updated Commissioners. Fitzgerald & North finished up air handler controllers. The air handlers move air throughout the building. We have created blocks for isolation areas and we are limiting the amount of people in the building. Any new arrivals are quarantined. The population has decreased to 167; we are working to get low level offenders released. Misty Moore (Emergency Management) has done a phenomenal job. Guards are wearing masks and doing temperature checks when they arrive and when they leave. Sheriff Burkhart said it's nice to see how everyone came together in this event.
- Commissioner Armstrong asked if there was anything he foresees in the next couple weeks that he would need. Steve Long at the hospital posted a phenomenal video about distancing. Sheriff Burkhart said they are trying to draft a letter to businesses regarding distancing. Commissioner Armstrong said he's seen some gas stations proactively cleaning and some not. Sheriff Burkhart asked if Commissioners could put a letter on letterhead endorsing distancing recommendations. Commissioner Armstrong would like to address businesses that are working without PPE supplies.
- Dave Sutherlin (Fire Chief) wanted to address the hospital situation. Dave said 90% of people we pick up are going to Marion County. Hancock Regional numbers are from Henry County. Amazingly with all this, hospitals are not on diversions. If we don't keep the distancing up, there may be need for hospitals to divert. Dave said at this time, all is working well.
- Sheriff Burkhart worked with the hospital and they created a public safety hotline and health care worker hotline. This should shorten the time limit for public health and safety employee testing. They have a line directly to the hospital to get tested. If they are symptomatic they can go to Lilly for testing and get results in 40 hours. This will help get people back to work quickly. Sheriff Burkhart said he talked with Pat Powers (Community Corrections) and work release has stopped. He has a facility full with 67 in-house and we are feeding 220 (including Community Corrections). Community Corrections inmates go for walks around the building.

101 E Main Street Mural

- Ellen Kuker introduced herself and said we are working to bring murals to Greenfield. We are now targeting the 101 E Main Street Building. Steve Craney and Jay Cook who own this building have a bicycle shop at this location. The owners are on-board for the mural (an agricultural scene) and have donated toward the project. We have an artist on contract for the building. Ellen requested approval to block off the parking spots directly east of the building. She noted they are looking at May, but it could be a June or July start date and could take 1-2 weeks to complete. They will put signs up as to why parking is not available. All safety precautions will be taken to protect the artist and anyone using that parking lot.
- Commissioner Huber said he would abstain from this. He is one of the owners for 101 E. Main Street and has not been contacted and is not familiar with this. As far as any financial support from any of the owners at 101, I am not familiar with any of that. Ellen said she was just requesting from Commissioners permission to use those parking spots for a 1-2 week period. Ellen did not realize Commissioner Huber was an owner. She said Jay and Steve came to one of the meetings and were really excited about it. Ellen said she was told each of them donated \$500. We would not put the first stroke of paint on the building until all owners saw the rendering and approved it. That is within the building agreement. Commissioner Huber said ok, we three didn't realize this on the radar. Once again, I am not against it, it's just I wasn't involved. Ellen said this is a volunteer board and she was given the task of requesting

the use of the parking spots. Commissioner Armstrong said his concern would be in August if the parking lot would be damaged from the equipment due to high temperatures.

- Commissioner Armstrong made a motion authorizing approval of using the parking lot for staging a scissors lift for the purpose of painting a mural on the building at 101 E Main Street for a period not to exceed 14 days and they would be responsible for any damage to the parking lot. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. Commissioner Huber abstained from the vote. **Motion carried 2-0.**

Election Day Holiday

Commissioner Armstrong made a motion the previously scheduled paid holiday May 5th move to June 2nd because Election Day moved. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Dedicate ROW Fielder Acres Two Minor Subdivision

Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the 70' half ROW Fielder Acres Two Minor Subdivision. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Cash Performance Bond Jordan Morris

Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the cash performance bond for Jordan Morris for \$8,000 for JA Wheeler MS L1, 8" tile. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

New Jail Utility Bills

Commissioners agreed to pay utility bills for the New Jail from the LIT Bond, then after we receive certificate of occupancy then it would go to normal utilities.

Walker Associates Bills

Debra Carnes (Auditor) said a transfer of \$17,210 is needed for Walker Associates. Commissioner Armstrong said we did not allow for an increase in the 2020 Budget for new employees. Commissioner Armstrong would like to defer this to Council. Debra said if Council approves this, do you have a place ear-marked to pay this? Commissioner Armstrong told the Auditor to transfer where she deemed necessary.

Mask for County Employees working with the Public

- Commissioner Armstrong suggested providing mask for employees working in the offices, he believes there is enough available. Commissioner Huber said he does not want to take away from first responders. Commissioner Armstrong said these are surgical mask not the N95 mask and he thought County employees using mask would sit a good example for the county. Commissioner Huber said if they are available, but he does not want to take from the first responders. I don't disagree, I am just looking at 3-4 weeks ahead. Commissioner Armstrong said Misty Moore (Emergency Management) will coordinate with Debra Carnes (Auditor) and she will send an email to Department Heads and let them know about available mask.
- Debra clarified that Commissioners want Elected Officials and Department Heads to maintain what they are doing until otherwise notified. Commissioner Armstrong added or a higher authority notifies you.

- Debra said Mary McCoy (Payroll) is tracking employee hours on our vouchers for COVID-19 for possible reimbursement at a later time.
- Debra Carnes (Auditor) notified Commissioners there will be an update at the next meeting for outsourcing the Human Resource person versus hiring in-house. A list of pros/cons is currently being worked to present to the Commissioners.

The Hancock County Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Hancock County Commissioners

Commissioner John Jessup, President

Commissioner Brad Armstrong, Vice-President

Commissioner Marc Huber

Attest: _____
Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor