

## Hancock County Board of Commissioners Meeting

April 7, 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. Commissioner Armstrong called to order the April 7, 2020 Hancock County Commissioners Board meeting at 8:42 AM.

### Highway

- Gary Pool (County Engineer) requested the Commissioners signatures for a cash bond release (street lights and signs). Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to release a bond on David Easley Company for the amount of \$26,251. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion.

#### **Motion carried 3-0.**

- Gary is anxiously waiting on the Community Crossing Matching Grant announcement.
- Gary reported operations are running smoothly with the COVID-19.
- RFP design 2 bridges and 1 road (No INDOT money yet just positioning)
- RFP construction inspection Seg A (Clark Dietz/Structure Point)
- Gary received a customer complaint on Buck Creek Road regarding truck traffic. Commissioner Huber suggested a sign on the north and south end of street stating "No Thru Trucks". Commissioner Armstrong agreed. Gary will work on an Ordinance for this.
- Gary reported a customer in Portolan Plains having drainage issues. Gary blocked the pipe as residents had previously requested.
- Gary is still trying to purchase diesel hot box (trade 1 dura patch/trade 1 old hot box).
- Gary is looking for the next big capital project (such as help with 600 West North; Interchange 200 West or 600 East; 300 North; 600 E; 600 West South to County Line)

### RQAW Update

- Dustin Frye (Director Construction Services) notified Commissioners work continues and is progressing well. Per CDC guidelines Garmong has added handwashing stations and additional portalets. Garmong encourages sub-contractors to maintain the same crews and not intermingle crews from other jobs. Storm lines will be finished this week; sanitary sewer to start; starting parking lots; earthworks are progressing well; foundations are 1/3 complete; Unit A is done; Unit B is being laid out and getting ready to be started; Unit A electric will be started; first shipment for the metal building arrived. Structural steel should be up in two weeks. Once earthwork is finished in the next week or so they will start roadwork and finish intersection US 40. They have moved into the design development phase with the administration building; this is the end of the design development contract with Garmong and then Dustin meets later with them. Dustin is seeing subcontractors hesitant to give pricing that is extended out a long time before it would start, as well as limited information from a schematic design package. There tends to be inflated numbers. They can operate another 3 weeks with the design phase they have, then they would need to ask to get through construction documents on the admin contract.
- Commissioner Jessup said we would like to go through with the design and would like the contract at the next meeting. With that being said, he said they would need to have

conversations with Council in light of all that is going on to discuss revenue shortfalls that may put a hiccup in the timeline. Dustin said he will clarify if he needs a Notice to Proceed.

- Commissioner Jessup expressed concern with Garmong creating issues and many unwarranted phone calls. Dustin reported talking to Garmong initially and they said the check had not been received and later the check was found in their mail. Commissioner Armstrong said he does not want a situation like this happening again. Commissioners agreed. Commissioner Jessup requested the Auditor send a confirmation of payment to Dustin, then it is out of our hands. Debra will forward her confirming email to Dustin as confirmation.

#### **Recess Board of Commissioners Meeting**

- Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to recess the Hancock County Board of Commissioners at 9:01 AM. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Commissioner Jessup reconvened the Hancock County Board of Commissioners at 9:37 AM.

#### **Hancock County Mutual Aide Association / Fire Fighters of Hancock County**

- Dave Sutherlin (Buck Creek Township Fire Department) representing the Hancock County Mutual Aide Association and 8 departments; Greenfield Fire Territory would be exempt. Dave made a LIT request for 8 departments of the Mutual Aide Association that service Hancock County. This is for building and vehicle insurance only for each department. The total amount requested is \$128,213.
- Commissioner Jessup would like to see Dave back at the May 19<sup>th</sup> Commissioners Meeting after he addresses County Council.

#### **COVID-19 Discussion**

- Commissioner Jessup said there have been a lot of phone calls and Steve Long (President & CEO Hancock Hospital) is here to assist with discussions on COVID-19. Commissioner Jessup thanked the Health Department for the COVID-19 data they received and more data was received from Steve at the hospital. He would like to assess where we are today and where we are going. Commissioner Jessup would like to have discussions on how to ramp the economy back up. It is just not a light switch to be flipped to start everything up, but he can see a light at the end of the tunnel.
- Steve said he couldn't agree more, this has been a devastating time for the country, the state and for the county. We see it all over the place, the economic hardship, this is not something I thought I would ever see. I am standing here in a mask, scrubs and gloves. This is a big deal. This is a disease that doesn't have a natural boundary and if we didn't slow the spread, it could overwhelm the healthcare system. We have seen this in other parts of the world, in New York City and other parts of the country. He said Commissioners were very forward thinking and issued the Orange Watch, the city issued their emergency declaration, and everybody got on board (law enforcement, EMA, Health Department and Hospital, etc.). Everybody was incredibly supportive of this. We all knew what could happen, it would kill the economy. If we were successful in bending the curve and making it not as bad as could have been, everybody would look at us and say we were crazy. Everybody's saying this, so we have been successful. It's still growing, but not as fast as anticipated. It should level out in the next week or two, so this is good news. What we have done is working. This disease is not something to conquer, it won't go away and it is a way of life. There's a light at the end of the tunnel. It could have been awful, but the Commissioners were leaders and said we have to do

this, you did a phenomenal job. We have to manage this disease and get the economy up and running. Steve said he was incredibly thankful the Health Department, EMA, law enforcement, schools, businesses and healthcare came on to this like nothing I have seen before. I am proud of this county! We are not done because we don't want to kick this thing up. Steve is concerned about the fall with schools reconvening. Light is at the end of the tunnel and what we are doing is working.

- Commissioner Armstrong said the hospital planned for and has the capacity for this to spike over the next week to two weeks and no one would end up on the street. He feels we are near the peak and can go from there. Commissioner Huber said everyone in the county stepped up and he appreciates everyone's efforts. Steve congratulated Misty Moore (Emergency Management Director) on the great job she has done. Also, he congratulated Dr. Aspy and Crystal Baker (Office Manager) of the Health Department. He thanked Craig Felty, RN (Chief Operating Officer) and Dr. Julia Compton (Radiation Oncology Specialist) from Hancock Hospital.

#### **Steller Communities Presentation**

- Mike Dale (Director of Planning Department) introduced Joanie Fitzgerald (Planning Director for Greenfield) to recap the Steller Communities Program. The Steller Communities consist of Hancock County Community Foundation, Town of Shirley, Town of Fortville, City of Greenfield and Hancock County. In year one, completion of Lizbuth Ann's Kitchen, a complementary project in Greenfield that created a new event space. Expansion of team to include the Town of Shirley. Preparation of programs and funding to engage community during construction. The State Program designates regions as "Stellar". The program originally launched in 2011 to recognize individual rural communities that identify comprehensive and collaborative plans for community and economic development. In 2018, the program evolved into a regional approach requiring at least 2 communities to apply together.
- Teresa Hester (Clerk/Treasurer) presented Commissioners with a Memorandum of Understanding Agreement for signature.
- Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to enter in the Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with Shirley and Hancock County as presented, providing design oversight for the trails project. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **Equipment purchase from GO Bond**

- Joe Fitzgerald (Deputy Director Emergency Operations Center) requested assistance with updating software infrastructure for the EOC from the GO Bond.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve the purchase for the digital display upgrade at the EOC including the 3 year software agreement in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 to be paid out of the 2019 GO Bond. Contingent on Council's approval to continue funding after the initial 3 year period. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **Sheriff's Annual Jail Report / Surplus Vehicles**

- Sheriff Burkhart presented Commissioners with the Annual Jail Report.
- Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to accept the March 31, 2020 Jail Report. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

- Commissioner Huber made a motion to declare surplus the 2016 Chevy Traverse VIN #189646 and the 2015 Ford Interceptor VIN #A28511. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Sheriff Burkhart requested a Hancock County Preferred Buyer account with sub accounts through Amazon Prime. There is buying power with more accounts.
- Commissioners agreed this should be brought up at the Budget Meeting.

#### **Health Department Update**

Dr. Aspy updated Commissioners on testing. Hancock County has a total of 85 positive test today and possible 2-3 deaths (100 test pending). 5-6 days is the turnaround for the test.

#### **Recess Board of Commissioners Meeting**

- Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to recess the Hancock County Board of Commissioners at 10:57 AM. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Commissioner Jessup reconvened the Hancock County Board of Commissioners at 11:52 AM.

#### **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 March 31, 2020 as presented. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **Commissioners Business**

- Commissioner Jessup said in light of the emergency, there was a grant that came available to the Hancock County in conjunction with the City of Greenfield and Hancock Health per the Executive Order issued by Governor Holcomb. Certain emergency related items may be handled outside of public meetings and then ratified at the next available called meeting. Discussions were had and Commissioners voted for Hancock County to take part in a CDC Grant for \$250,000 and contribute 2% matching on the grant plus \$2,000 for a total of \$8,250. Hancock Health would like to use this grant in conjunction with us for possible COVID related site preparedness for the influx of any COVID-19 patients. There was also discussion with Council to fund COVID related projects.
- Commissioner Jessup moved to ratify the action taken outside the Commissioners regularly scheduled meetings. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Commissioner Jessup said there was another vote by the Board of Commissioners to approve an amount not to exceed \$8,500 for the upgrades at the EOC to allow for web conferencing to facilitate meetings being held remotely. County Council was conferred on that action and given approval. Commissioner Jessup would like to ratify the action taken outside our meeting to fund the EOC upgrades not to exceed \$8,500. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Commissioner Jessup said since Election Day moved to June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Board of Commissioners scheduled meeting will need to be moved to another date and asked for suggestions. Commissioner Huber made a motion due to Election Day moving to June 2<sup>nd</sup>, we move our meeting date from June 2<sup>nd</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup> with a start time of 9:00 AM. Commissioner Armstrong

would like reminders as this date approaches. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

- Hancock County Board of Commissioners discussed and will hold an Executive Session April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 AM. Commissioners would like Department Heads available 15 minutes before and 15 after their scheduled time for the CCD Budget meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Commissioners will call each Department Manager as needed.

**The Hancock County Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 12:26 AM.**

## **Hancock County Commissioners**

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Commissioner John Jessup, President

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Commissioner Brad Armstrong, Vice-President

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Commissioner Marc Huber

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor