

## Hancock County Board of Commissioner's Meeting

August 20, 2019

Commissioners met in regular session. Those present were Board of Commissioner's President Commissioner John Jessup, Commissioner Marc Huber, County Attorney Scott Benkie, Auditor Debra Carnes & Deputy Auditor Trish George. Commissioner Brad Armstrong was not present. Commissioner Jessup called to order the August 20, 2019 Hancock County Commissioners Board meeting at 8:00 am.

### Highway

- Gary presented for approval contracts for the construction/inspection of 300 North, reimbursed at 80% through the state. This is a \$6M project, the contract is through United Consulting for \$693K. Commissioner Huber made a motion to enter into consulting contracts with United Consulting for DES #1297608 and DES #1400744 for the inspection on County Road 300 North, East of 600 West over the bridge at 63 at Buck Creek not to exceed \$693K. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 2-0.**
- Gary introduced Mary Ann Wietbrock (Pennsy Trail) to present for a \$5M trail grant. This grant application is for towns that connect and partnership (they want to see connections). The grant is due in October. Mary Ann is using the TAP Grant as 20% local match for a Federal Grant to complete the Pennsy Trail. Commissioner Huber made a motion to apply for the address request at 400 West and the Pennsy Trail Head to establish an address there. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 2-0.**
- INDOT, who has jurisdiction may be able to reduce accidents on US40 and 600 East by creating a J-turn. Lewis (INDOT Engineer) was present to answer questions. Construction would be in 2024 and cost over \$1M. Commissioner Huber concerned with semi-truck traffic.
- Last week of hard construction (wrapping up paving/chipping). 600 East will be finished after bike ride on the 24<sup>th</sup>.
- September 5<sup>th</sup> 4-8pm Hancock Health grand opening (I-70 & 600 West).
- New Sealcoat binder is more effective on brush test. Haven't been able to test hardness yet. July was the hottest month on record since 1880. Hottest day ever was 1936.

### Maintenance

- Dean Mullins (Maintenance) presented Commissioners with three estimates for the Commissioners to review.
- Dean notified Commissioners of broken concrete at Courthouse by the statues. Dean has a quote for tile exposed on a lot (to the West) the County owns, a storm sewer was hit and broken by a snowplow and needs repaired.
- Dean notified Commissioners on the Northwest corner of the courthouse in the middle of the roof, the tiles fell out. It's exposed and Jaime is coming in to look at it. Dean will send the Commissioner's concrete estimates.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve the quote from Carlton Construction LLC for the roof at the Purdue Extension Office and the gutters in an amount not to exceed \$21,310K to be paid out of building maintenance, as long as they wave the 50% down. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 2-0.**

### **Assured Partners, Inc.**

Eric Dryfus with Assured Partners, Inc., they are an employee benefits and property casualty firm. He has worked with 12-15 counties across Indiana successfully. Eric talked about Hancock County running a self-insured plan and Blue Cross was simply paying the claims. Hancock County is footing the bill and Anthem is simply the network flipping the bill. Eric noticed Hancock County was already doing some great things with the local hospital, health savings, the clinic and benefits offered. But, what's being done outside the clinic and what's done in the retail world there is no regulations what a hospital can charge. Assured Partners looks at directly contracting with the provider. Hospitals work off of a retail price tag. Eric is offering a full diagnostic evaluation of Hancock County's program with no obligation. He would like to show Hancock County a better way of self-funding that will benefit the employee, but also benefit the county and the tax payer. Assured Partners and a third partner administrator will negotiate benefits. Eric has seen significant savings with other counties. Commissioner Huber and Jessup confirmed they would like to see an assessment for savings. Commissioner Huber said he could go through the Auditors office for information, but not go directly through Anthem for information. Debra Carnes (Auditor) said she will run everything through Scott Benkie (County Attorney) before releasing information to Eric.

### **Log Jams (Sugar Creek & Brandywine)**

Susan Bodkin (Surveyor) notified Commissioners of two log jams: Gary Edwards (Sugar Creek) and Karen Wells (Brandywine). Karen's seems to be the worst jam and it is extremely large. Susan hopes there is enough money to do both log jams. Log jams will be paid through the Non-Navigable Funds. Commissioner Huber made a motion to allow the removal of the log jams at Sugar Creek and Brandywine at the Edwards and Wells properties to be paid out of the Non-Navigable Streams Fund. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 2-0.**

### **Resolution for New TIF Area (Mt. Comfort)**

- Randy Sorrell (Director HEDC) presented for approval the final steps for the confirming Resolution 2019-8-10 for New TIF Area (Mt. Comfort).
- Commissioner Huber introduced Resolution 2019-8-10. It's a Resolution establishing the south allocation area into a TIF district, which is primarily south of I-70 to US-40 and then 700 West to the township line.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to adopt Resolution 2019-8-10. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 2-0.**

### **Walker Hughes Agency**

Kevin Mandrell (Walker Hughes Agency) appreciated the Commissioners giving him a couple of minutes. He saw his buddy Eric Dryfus on the Agenda so he thought he would pop in. Kevin spoke to Brian Brees (Patriot Insurance Group) our current insurance provider and believes there are some opportunities to save money. Kevin said a lot of the stuff Eric mentioned today is the reference based pricing and things we talked about a year ago and he touched on the pharmacy, which Indiana has a program for county governments, cities and towns. Kevin spent a lot of time with Steve Long (President & CEO, Hancock Hospital). You don't want an adversarial positioning, you don't want to posture the County against the hospital and unilaterally mandate

some of the reference based pricing that was somewhat eluded to in Eric's presentation. Kevin spent a lot of time discussing this with Steve and they have other clients in the county they do reference based pricing for. He asked Steve why are you charging 800% times the Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement, where Anthem reimburses at 300%. When you say 300% that's a big number compared to what the Hospital is taking on a Medicare/Medicaid patient. Kevin said Steve will tell you there is a lot of room between the Anthem discount and what he is willing to take and it clearly will help the county save money. There is actually law suits Kevin said he could give reference to against the firm Eric worked for. There is a right way to do it and a wrong way to do it. Kevin said you know who I am, I have been around the County for a long time. We have a local office now in town with Walker Hughes. Kevin does believe there is room for improvement and he could do a better job. Kevin said there is a place Steve could live comfortably and the county would see some benefits.

#### **Request for E-911 Center Computer Replacement**

Bernie Harris (IT Director) requested for John Jokantas (E-911 Director) a replacement computer to be paid out of E-911 CCD for \$2,127.87. This would allow his computer to be at the same level as the dispatchers. His computer would be repurposed for another staff member. Commissioner Huber made a motion to allow for the computer replacement at the 911 Center not to exceed \$2,127.87 to be paid for out of 911 CCD. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 2-0.**

#### **Jail Maintenance Issues**

- Sheriff Burkhart updated Commissioners on jail maintenance issues. The first invoice is for Marathon Engineering Corporation for \$23,452 for a padded room that is in shambles. You can see from pictures it is tore up and it was last updated in 1987.
- DSL 2k, estimate is to pressure test the generator tank, put chemicals in it and put fuel back for \$2,460.70 and the pressure test is \$450.
- Sallyport Door, for the Southside motor door for \$7,830.25. This is the last door to be replaced.
- RSQ, for the sprinkler system (a valve) for \$2,408.

#### **Claims & Payroll**

Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve claims and payroll as presented. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 2-0.**

#### **Commissioner Minutes**

Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve the Commissioner Minutes for 8/6/19 as presented. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion. **Motion carried 2-0.**

#### **Zoey's Place Funding**

- Sargeant Bridget Foy requested assistance with Zoey's Place funding, she requested from County Council to be funded from a fund. County Council suggested the Commissioners fund and they agreed \$20,000 could come from the 2019 budget and be added as a line item for the 2020 budget.

- Commissioner Jessup said County Council can make whatever arbitrary changes they want to make to the Commissioners budget, maybe send us a memo as to what they decided; what's best for the Commissioners. If they want to send us a memo, if they don't, then they clearly run the County.

#### **Revise Smoking Ordinance 2018-12G**

Sandra Aspy, MD (Health Officer) asked to speak on the proposed amendment to revise the smoking Ordinance. Discussion was had as to whether or not the Health Department would be able to provide input for an amended Smoking Ordinance. Dr. Aspy stated that this Ordinance has been instrumental in keeping our community healthy, it's saved lives. It keeps insurance cost down. It should stand as it is. She would like to know what the amendment process is.

Commissioner Jessup said we have just opened it up for discussion and would like the health department's input on specific exclusions for businesses that are solely in business for selling legal tobacco products that would allow for consumption of that product in a separate area. We are not trying to slide anything past anybody, we want input from the Health Department and the hospital. Commissioner Huber said Commissioner Armstrong had talked to someone at the hospital and they conveyed they would like to be involved and obviously the Health Department would like to be involved as well. Dr. Aspy said well the Health Department is involved they are charged with enforcing the State Code. Commissioner Jessup stated that we know where the health department stands on it, we know where the Hospital stands on it and so I think we had discussion and I think we are going to formulate the change we would like to see and then we will let you comment on it. We will have a public meeting, I'll be supportive of having an evening meeting where we will all come in here and then in the end, we will make a decision on it. If we decide to change it, we will get beat up. If we decide to not change it, we will get beat up and thank God for Facebook, but we are going to try and make the best decision we can to protect the rights of everyone in this county not just non-smokers. Dr. Aspy said thank you for your time.

#### **Alternatives Request to Place Crosses in Courthouse Lawn**

Madison Garrity (Alternatives) requested to place crosses in the courthouse lawn for domestic violence victims, Oct 16<sup>th</sup>-Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Huber made a motion to allow Alternatives to place crosses in the NW corner of the courthouse lawn for domestic violence awareness month October 16 and removing them November 1. Commissioner Jessup seconded the motion.

**Motion carried 2-0.**

#### **Hancock County COAD MOU**

Jim Peters (Hancock County COAD) explained the COAD works under the direction of emergency management part of the government. We have been delegated certain specific responsibilities to prepare for and respond to any disasters. The law that created COAD was part of FEMA, in that the COAD's aren't a legal entity to own property. We have a fiscal agreement with Hancock County Community Foundation to handle our funds and disbursement of funds. We have gotten grants to purchase an enclosed work trailer that will be housed at the EOC and will be used partially for storage and then in the event of a disaster it will be taken out into the county as a work trailer. The issue is the trailers are titled and we don't have the legal status to do that. So we are requesting an agreement that the county would hold title. Commissioner Huber would like to verify insurance coverage.

**Residential Standards**

Mike Dale (Planning Commission) updated the Commissioners on the Planning Commission. They would like to set up a sub-committee to discuss residential architectural standards within the zoning ordinances that addresses the quality of development for residential housing projects. The Planning Commission hoped this would encourage a higher quality of development and not have as strict standards in areas closer to municipal parts of county. Mike said he would forward the Commissioners comments to the Planning Commission.

**Budget Review**

Commissioner Jessup commented there is no point to have budget hearings and for them to vote on stuff just to renege the next time when no one’s paying attention. Commissioner Jessup believes their whole system is bunk.

**Hancock County Commissioners**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner John Jessup, President

\_\_\_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Brad Armstrong, Vice-President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Marc Huber

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