

Hancock County Board of Commissioners
Regularly Scheduled Meeting
December 29, 2020

Commissioners met for a regular session. Those present were Board of Commissioners President John Jessup, Vice President Brad Armstrong, Commissioner Marc Huber, County Attorney Scott Benkie and Financial Administrator Mary Bowmer. Commissioner Jessup called to order the December 29, 2020 Hancock County Commissioners Board meeting at 8:02 AM.

Highway Updates

- Highway Engineer presented Commissioners with approved 2021 bids for acceptance.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the bid from Stoops for Alternate #2 for the dump truck with the trade for \$123,400. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the bids from Leonard Excavating and Trisler Construction Company for large and small equipment as presented. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the bids from S&M Precast Inc and Civil Con for pipe quotes as presented. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the bid from American Pavement Inc. for crack seal at \$.72 per linear foot. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the bids from Accurate Striping Inc. as our primary provider and Indiana Traffic Services as on-call for traffic markings as presented. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the bid from CGS for gravel products, triaxle and asphalt hot mix as presented. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the bid from US Aggregates for #53 at \$5.65/ton and #11 stone at \$13.00/ton. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the fuel bid from Harvestland for 87 Gas Fixed at \$1.897 and Diesel on Road Fixed at \$2.2329. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the final inspection of the environmental site Contract R-41265. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the supplemental request for \$51,750 for Segment B on the Mt. Comfort Corridor due to the changes in design. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- 4-way stop at 200 N & 400 E is complete and working well.
- Community Crossings Grant (CCMG) is expected to open up in January. The CCMG will assist with funding micro surface for Fortville Pike, 600 N and 1050 E. The Highway Engineer would like to widen Fortville Pike and he is working with property owners.
- New Palestine is moving utilities for the RAB at 500 W & 300 S. They did not apply for a grant and lost out on that.
- Airport projects are moving along smoothly.
- Highway Engineer thanked Commissioner Armstrong for his service.

- Commissioner Armstrong thanked the Highway Engineer for taking Highway Department to levels it had never been before.

Claims & Payroll

Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve claims and payroll. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Minutes

Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve the Commissioners minutes for December 15, 2020 as presented. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Ratify Approval for Terminix for Purdue Building

Commissioner Huber made a motion to ratify approval for Terminix treatment at the Purdue extension building for an ant issue that needed addressed immediately for \$745; to be paid out of Contractual Services. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Maintenance Update

- Maintenance Department updated commissioners on projects in the county buildings.
- Prosecutors office is completed.

PDF Mechanical Proposal

Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the contract with PDF Mechanical LLC for the chiller replacement in the Annex Building with a base bid of \$190,000, alternate #1 (Daikin Chiller) \$110,760 and alternate #4 (Fountain VFDs) \$6,637 for a total price of \$307,397 to be paid out of the 2019 GO bond proceeds. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Green Township Fire Fighter Air Tanks

- Commissioner Jessup asked what the request was for Green township fire fighter air tanks. Financial Administrator said Lisa Mohr with the Green Township Trustees office came and requested new air tanks for the fire fighters because they were extremely old; the total cost is \$170,000, they have \$102,000 and need \$68,000. They went to local banks to get a loan, but the banks were not willing to make the loan long enough for them because she could only make payments twice a year.
- Commissioner Jessup suggested they do this as pre-distribution and fund through the LIT Public Safety Distribution and give them \$125,000. He added the tanks will serve the whole county and the county should pay for them. Commissioner Huber added he has always been a strong supporter of the volunteers having what is needed to do their jobs. The least we can do is to provide the equipment needed to do the job. Commissioner Armstrong said we agree with the need and would like to pursue the need and see if Council will allow us to fund the need.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to request the funding of the air tanks for Green Township Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$125,000 to be paid for out of LIT Public Safety Distribution 2021. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Resolution 2020-12-12 Reappoint Economic Development Commission Members

- Commissioner Huber introduced Resolution 2020-12-12 Reappointment of Economic Development Commission members; Commissioner John Jessup, County Councilmember Mary Noe and City Councilmember Gary McDaniel for a term ending December 31, 2021.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-12-12. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioners Discussion

- Commissioner Jessup asked the County Attorney who appropriates money at the county level? The County Attorney said the County Commissioners decide. Commissioners are the executive body, Council acts like Congress. The County Attorney said requests should come from Commissioners first, then Council.

Talitha Koum Women's Recovery House

- Commissioner Armstrong made the motion due to County Council authorizing a claim to be paid that was never before the Board of Commissioners; Commissioner Armstrong proposes an emergency expense of \$35,000 to be paid to Talitha Koum's House due to revenue shortfall; to be paid from Food & Beverage. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- The County Attorney suggested the Commissioners discuss this at the next Budget Meeting. Commissioners agreed this was an ongoing problem. Commissioners discussed a Resolution addressing County Council authorizing payment of claims prior to authorization from the Hancock County Board of Commissioners. The County Attorney assured Commissioners that he will be more attentive if this transpires again. Commissioner Jessup pointed out if he had received a prior phone call regarding this situation, he could have received approval from the other two commissioners and ratified the motion at this meeting.

Dedicate 1.67 Acres ROW Heron Creek Phase III, Section 1

Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to accept 1.67 acres of dedicated ROW for Heron Creek, Phase III, Section 1. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Introduced Ordinance 2020-12F Operation of Off-Road Vehicles

- Commissioner Armstrong said at the last Commissioners meeting on December 15th Ordinance 2020-12F was introduced regulating the operation of off-road vehicles.
- Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-12F. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Drainage Board Appointment

Commissioner Huber made a motion to appoint Eric Mohr to the Drainage Board to replace Ronnie Mohr for the remaining term ending January 31, 2022. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Award Presented to Commissioner Armstrong

- Stephanie Yager with the Indiana Association of County Commissioners (IACC) on behalf of the Indiana Association presented Commissioner Brad Armstrong with IACC's achievement award winner for the 2020 Central District Distinguished County Commissioner of the year. Commissioner Armstrong is finishing his third and last term as Hancock County Commissioner. During these 12 years he has guided his county through the 2009 recession financial crises, established an Economic Development Plan, stabilized and improved county

infrastructure and facilitated the construction of the new county jail complex with option to reduce the nature of addiction related crimes. Commissioner Armstrong serves on the following boards; Area Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Drainage Board, Economic Development Council, Regional Water & Sewer District Board and the Solid Waste Management District Board. These efforts were all difficult, time consuming and had no guarantee of success. Yet through his perseverance the jail is being built, thousands of jobs are in dozens of industries that were not here twelve years ago, roadway conditions are two pazer points higher, which is quite an accomplishment on a scale of 1-10 and total fatal accidents are down to a level where Hancock is in the top quarter designation as safest in the state. All of this was accomplished with no deficit spending. County Engineer Gary Pool stated that "Life is truly better in Hancock County due in large part to Commissioner Armstrong's leadership efforts over the last 12 years." It takes a special individual to dedicate the time, develop a vision, building consensus, promote teamwork and enjoy political victory for 3 consecutive terms. This Distinguished County Commissioner has focused his efforts on making his county a great place to live and raise a family. In honor of his distinguished and exceptional service resulting in significant positive impact to his county, the "2020 IACC Central District Distinguished County Commissioner of the Year" is the Honorable Commissioner Armstrong serving Hancock County.

- Commissioner Huber presented Commissioner Armstrong with a plaque from the County for his service and expressed it was a privilege and an honor to serve the county with him. Commissioner Jessup thanked Commissioner Armstrong for his service to the county.

Emergency COVID Sick Leave Discussed

- Benefits Administrator notified Commissioners the COVID emergency paid sick leave runs out on Thursday, December 31, 2020 and requested plans to address COVID leave for employees. Commissioner Jessup suggested requesting Council appropriate a line item in the interim and in the meantime create a policy to address COVID emergency sick leave. Commissioner Jessup said this should be discussed with Council and a new line item requested in the interim and a policy needs to be established.
- Sheriff Burkhart said the Sheriff's department follows the CDC COVID essential worker guidelines for contact. An employee can work until they are symptomatic.
- Commissioner Armstrong said he believes if an employee is symptomatic, they should not come to work. However, if you do not have symptoms, he has a difficult time paying sick leave. The Benefits Administrator asked if all employees should be following essential worker guidelines? Commissioner Armstrong said initially they allowed the department head to have leeway on COVID sick leave, because they have the daily interaction with their staff. Commissioner Huber said at some point you have to draw the line and people have to be responsible. This is not a good situation for anyone. Commissioner Armstrong feels 10 days is sufficient leave. The Benefits Administrator asked for clarification on a day here, a day there versus 10 consecutive days. Commissioner Huber said COVID leave is strictly 10 days relief for COVID positive employees for only one time. Commissioner Jessup agreed 10 days one time. Commissioner Armstrong agreed and added this would be strictly for only COVID positive cases, not exposure.
- Commissioner Huber clarified effective January 1, 2021 Hancock County Employees can use one time only for COVID positive test 10 days Emergency Sick Leave. If you are unsure use sick time or personal days, until COVID test results are available.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to allow all Hancock County full-time employees 10 days paid total for COVID leave in 2021; this is a one-time enactment, subject to change if an

employee has a COVID positive test (giving back sick time and/or personal days).

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

- Commissioner Jessup asked the Benefits Administrator to work with the County Attorney to create a policy/resolution to address emergency COVID sick leave.

Commissioner Armstrong Thank You to Hancock County

Commissioner Armstrong thanked the citizens of Hancock County for allowing him to serve the last 12 years. He thanked Commissioners Jessup and Huber, expressed appreciation in working with them and for always putting the constituents first. Commissioner Armstrong expressed he was proud of three hires, Gary Pool in the highway department, John Jokantas in E-911 and Scott Williams in the building department. These departments elevated to the next level with these hires and he was proud of the accomplishments in these departments. He thanked the County Attorney, Scott Benkie and expressed he was a good addition. Thanks to everyone. Commissioner Armstrong congratulated Bill Spaulding, the new commissioner and wished him best of luck!

The Hancock County Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM.

Hancock County Commissioners

Commissioner John Jessup, President

Commissioner Brad Armstrong, Vice-President

Commissioner Marc Huber

Attest: _____
Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor