

Hancock County Board of Commissioners
Regularly Scheduled Meeting
February 2, 2021

Commissioners met for a regular session. Those present were Board of Commissioners President John Jessup, Commissioner Vice President Marc Huber, Commissioner Bill Spalding, County Attorney Scott Benkie and Auditor Debra Carnes. Commissioner Jessup called to order the February 2, 2021 Hancock County Commissioners Board meeting at 8:02 AM.

Highway Updates

- Gary Pool (Highway Engineer) notified commissioners two RFP's are out for bid to capture INDOT funding for 600 W, Segment 4 and Bridge 18. Bids should start to arrive in the Auditor's office soon.
- United Stinemyer contract has reached a reasonable agreement.
- Expecting 7 new INDOT contracts to clear the additional funding.
- Wrote 7 Metropolitan Transportation Plan grant applications, McCordsville is running with 3 of those grants. Additionally, McCordsville asking INDOT for funding on 550 N.
- Wet, heavy, windy snowstorm. Highway continues to work on the cleanup. Accidents are low. About 15 mailbox calls. Currently assisting with replacing standard mailboxes to generate goodwill.
- Ninestar cable line was not where it was supposed to be located on 300 N job and this alteration has created challenges.
- Highway and the Airport were unable to reach an agreement on ROW or a pond; Segment A by the Airport will require an underground water storage be placed under the pavement. This will result in a closure of 600 W at 300 N to 400 N for this project. Gary said the airport expressed concerns it would create bird issues. Commissioner Huber said it is disappointing the Airport can't give a few feet and a ditch. Gary estimates the road closure at 2 months.
- Gary discussed Senate Bill 208 for dedication of ROW for developments and notified Commissioners he is opposing this Bill. Currently, dedications and improvements are required to build for profit and it has an effect on public safety. We require you to dedicate some ROW and do improvements if you make a profit and impact the public, you should put the public back to at least where it started. This Bill removes any requirements for builders to dedicate ROW or make improvements and puts this on the Community.
- Gary requested signatures for materials on the detour from SR52.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the contract with INDOT for the material cost for the damage on county roads from the US 52 project, DES #1400033 in the amount of \$3,910. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Dedicate ROW Fulkerson Estates

Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept 50' half ROW for Fulkerson Estates Minor Subdivision. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Maintenance Update

- Dean Mullins (Maintenance Supervisor) notified Commissioners he had complaints about untidiness at the Memorial Building. The contractors have been notified.
- The Purdue Building has been sprayed for ant issues.
- Concerned with door problem in the Annex Building (sticking, mechanicals etc.).

- John Jokantas (Director for E911) addressed the Annex door problems. Mechanicals have been in the doors since the building opened 17 years ago. MAG locks are proposed at \$2,660 per pair of doors at 5 sets of doors.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve the installation of MAG locks on 5 sets of doors in the Annex not to exceed \$17,500 to be paid out of the 2019 GO Bond. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Johnson Control update; Community Corrections units are still set for March, Memorial Building split-systems should be finished in two weeks and they will start on the boiler in April, Memorial Building mortar repair has not been talked about, Highway Department and Purdue Building heaters will be replaced February 17th-22nd and weather stripping is completely finished.
- Due to cold weather, calls are coming in. Electric heaters are setting thermostats down and then dumping cold air throughout the building.
- Discussed Community Corrections 5 thermostats not working. PDF is looking at prices for replacement thermostats, prices are at \$50-\$75 each. Commissioner Huber said this is the first time hearing this, he thought inmates were in there. Commissioner Jessup asked Dean to have PDF install thermostats and he will discuss with Johnson Controls.

Claims & Payroll

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

Commissioner Minutes

Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve the Commissioners minutes for January 19, 2021 as presented. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Certify Local Health Officer

Commissioner Huber made a motion to certify Dr. Sharp for the Local Board of Health appointment as the Health Officer for the County. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Surveyor's Office

- Susan Bodkin (Surveyor) requested \$15,000 additional appropriation for Non-Navigable Streams Fund.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to recommend to the County Council to additionally appropriate \$15,000 for Non-Navigable Streams Fund for the removal of log jams. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- The Surveyor requested to correct a resolution that was passed on fees.
- Commissioner Huber introduced Resolution 2021-2-1 amending Resolution 2020-2-1 a resolution to designate drainage, erosion, and sediment control fees pursuant to county Ordinance 154.065. The only changes are adding the metes and bounds to the minor subdivision in Section A and Section F under #1 single family dwelling is \$200.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-2-1. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

E911 Request

- John Jokantas (Director of E911) requested a replacement employee.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to allow the replacement of a public safety dispatcher in the E911 center. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

- Discussed replacement E911 console furniture project final stages and negotiated grand total price to \$152,868.70. Originally the price was expected around \$200,000
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve the quote from Watson Consoles for console furniture update project at the E911 Center in an amount of \$152,868.70 to be paid from the 2019 GO Bond. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Discussed open appointments for the EOC Policy Board and the EOC Management Board. Commissioners asked the County Attorney to look at Ordinance 32.18 and Ordinance 32.19
- Notified Commissioners he would have to go back to Council to request additional appropriation for Building Maintenance. The maintenance contract will end soon for the company that takes care of our UPS battery back system.

Senior Services Update

- Suzanne Derengowski (Director of Senior Services) requested Hancock County pass through grant funds for the 2020 Second Quarter 8370 Cares Act for \$83,270. The Director requested a meeting with Commissioners to discuss a shift to 5307 for 2022. A meeting is scheduled to discuss one provider (IndyGo) for the direct receipt for grant funds. Commissioner Jessup said we need to create a new layer that funnels funds back to Senior Services to provide the services they currently provide and look at expanding services. Commissioner Huber suggested a committee of one Commissioner and two County Council members to gather information.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to be the pass through for Senior Services second quarter of 2020 reimbursement from the Cares Act in the amount of \$83,270. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Commissioners discussed a joint meeting with County Council to discuss Senior Services. Commissioner Jessup will talk to the Budget Committee about Senior Services. Commissioner Jessup stated he would request a joint meeting of the Board of Commissioners and County Council to discuss Senior Services rural transportation funding and other items.

NineStar

- Mike Burrow (President/CEO of NineStar) thanked Commissioners for time to discuss the duties and responsibilities of a water company versus fire protection. He confirmed NineStars' commitment to work with all fire chiefs to find a solution. There is a solution that addresses both the concern of fire protection while also addressing how we grow the water utility in rural and unincorporated areas.
- Mike discussed with Commissioners the dynamics of running a water company. He clarified the IURC does not require water companies to provide fire hydrants. NineStar is absolutely committed to invest in rural water services and do want eventually fire protection, but the dilemma is in how we are regulated as a water utility. Customers are needed to run water lines. It is required once you pump and treat water, water must be turned over every three days. When you talk several hundred feet or half mile of 8" or 12" pipe that is a lot of gallons. Five houses don't use enough water to turn over, so this still requires water to be flushed out of the system. To get what the fire marshal calls fire flow (i.e. hydrants), a water tower is needed. A water tower cost \$2M, then when you increase well capacity and treatment capacity the cost is \$4M. The trouble is you put more water in the system than is required to be turned over every three days. Your potentially storing water for a fire event but flushing the system every three days. Ideally you want every gallon you pump to be used by the customer and not dumped on the ground. He discussed with commissioners the crawl, walk, run concept. The crawl is to get a system up and running (proof of concept is

investing), the walk is to get enough customers (proof of concept is attracting developers) and the run is once you have enough customers connect to another system.

- Mike confirmed public safety is a concern and requested Commissioners to hold not only NineStar accountable, but the fire marshals accountable and developers accountable in trying to come up with a solution. Mike requested Commissioners not legislate something that could potentially kill any rural development in the county. He expressed interest in a committee to discuss further and broker a solution. Commissioners thanked NineStar for their commitment to public safety.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Update

- Marciann Miller (CASA Director) presented Commissioners with a snapshot of year one and thanked them for their support.
- Commissioners thanks the Director.

Probation Contracts

- Josh Sipes, (Chief Probation Officer) discussed the juvenile detention contract and reminded Commissioners in October of 2019 the contract increased the number of beds and this increased cost, but not the appropriation line. This line should have increased \$12,500 for 2021 and 2022. Commissioners agreed juvenile detention needed its own line item.
- Josh requested approval for recovery house contracts that have expired. The County Attorney has reviewed them. The Dove Recovery House is 6 beds at \$24,000 for 1-1-21 to 12-31-22 and Talitha Koum Women's Recovery House is 4 beds at \$16,000 for 1-1-21 to 12-31-22.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to enter into the service agreement with Talitha Koum Incorporated for recovery beds for females; 4 beds at \$16,000 per year. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to enter into the service agreement with The Dove Recovery House for Women, Inc. for 6 beds at \$24,000. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Josh requested support to approach Council for a salary ordinance change. In November the Office Manager contracted COVID and ended up in hospital and is still working towards a full recovery. The first week in December, he contracted COVID and was down two weeks. Then a third person contracted COVID and we were operating without the top two people plus an administrative person. Kerry Ellison is the secretary for the adult division picked up the slack (i.e. payroll, billing, deposits, oversaw the admin staff there, worked front desk) and he requested support for a 5% salary increase, retroactively for a total of \$1,800. The \$1,800 will come out of a User Fee Fund, so no county money will be needed. The request is to appropriate \$1,800 and additional \$200 to cover the PERF. Commissioners agreed 3-0 and were in support.
- Josh requested a part-time employee train with a retiring employee and if the person works out hire them for this position when it becomes available.

Sheriff's Department

- Sheriff Burkhart requested Commissioners declare surplus many law books.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to declare surplus three pallets of miscellaneous law books from Hancock County Sheriff's Department library for the 2021 County Auction #5. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Sheriff Burkhart presented Commissioners with the Annual Federal Equitable Sharing Report and requested signatures.

- Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve the Annual Federal Equitable Sharing Report as presented by Sheriff Burkhart. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Auditor's Office

- Debra Carnes (Auditor) presented commissioners with a job description for a Benefits Resource Administrator position need. The current position is a 35 hour a week Payroll/Benefits Administrator (Mary McCoy). If Mary left, she has accumulated \$10,000 in comp time, vacation and sick time. Commissioner Huber did not feel this new position would accomplish what the county needs. He was concerned in a year, we would ask for an HR position, because we can't keep up with the changes. Commissioner Jessup said if we hire an HR person, the first item they will ask for a deputy position. Auditor Carnes said we have outgrown a Payroll/Benefits Administrator position, this position needs to be two positions, not one. Commissioner Jessup clarified you are the department head and you are telling us this position is needed; Council is on board and will fund it, then I am ok with it. I do think we should look at a consultant. Kevin Mandrell (Director of Employee Benefits for Walker Hughes Associates) said you don't want the HR Consultant doing clerical work. Commissioner Spalding said when I hear Mary McCoy is here at 9:30 PM working late, that does not sit well with me. I don't want to lose an employee with a great wealth of institutional knowledge and try to replace it sadly, with somebody today, because she has a fantastic work ethic. I think we need to consider this. Auditor Carnes said she does a good job but needs some relief and expressed appreciation for the Commissioners consideration. Kevin presented Commissioners with a consulting contract to assist with the hire of the Benefits Specialist priced at \$800. Auditor Carnes did not feel it was necessary since she already created a job description, taken from the work Irwin previously did. Auditor Carnes requested BOC allow her to hire this position as presented and she could begin advertising as soon as possible. Commissioner Jessup said based on the discussion today, he will discuss an HR consultant at the budget meeting tomorrow.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to allow the Auditor to pursue employment of a Benefits and Resource Administrator per the proposed job description with changes noted. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Kevin discussed Shrader and Associates HR Consulting agreement for \$10,000. Commissioner Jessup clarified this is baby step one of many, so the first year could be the most expensive, but we would not be stuck with a huge yearly salary. Commissioner Jessup said we will not act on this today, he will talk with Council on the direction this is going. This will not solve the problem; this is the start.

Payroll/Benefits

- Mary McCoy (Payroll/Benefits Administrator) requested policy changes in regard to time off. She also requested Commissioners look at donating sick time for people out of sick time, it's too broad.
- Commissioner Jessup asked Mary to email suggestions to the Commissioners.

2020 Animal Control Invoice

Commissioner Jessup made a motion to recommend to County Council to additionally appropriate \$41,021.44 to pay for 2020's Animal Controls Agreement and additionally appropriate for Animal Control in 2021's budget total of \$195,449 for a total appropriation of \$195,572.44 to make the total Animal Control budget \$350,000 the agreed amount. Also asking

County Council for the 2022 budget to make the corrections moving forward. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Fields Tree Service

Commissioner Huber made a motion to ratify decision of Commissioner Jessup to pay a partial payment to Fields Tree Service in an amount of \$7,568 due to work stoppage due to County issues. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

The Hancock County Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 11:58 AM.

Hancock County Commissioners

Commissioner John Jessup, President

Commissioner Marc Huber, Vice-President

Commissioner Bill Spalding

Attest: _____
Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor