

**Hancock County Board of Commissioners  
Regularly Scheduled Meeting  
March 30, 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 March 30, 2021 Hancock County Commissioners Board meeting at 8:00 AM.

**Highway**

- Gary Pool (Highway Engineer) notified Commissioners the digital INDOT contracts were not working and requested Commissioners make a motion allowing the Highway Engineer to sign off on contracts with INDOT for Hancock County.

DES	LPA	SCM#	EDS NO.	PD	Contract Type	Phase
1702754	Hancock County	46347	A249-21-L200154	Kindred	1 Amend	CN
1702754	Hancock County	51133	A249-19-L190004	Kindred	1 Amend	PE
1702756	Hancock County	50876	A249-21-L210021	Kindred	Original	CN
1702756	Hancock County	50920	A249-20-L190071	Kindred	1 Amend	PE
1902793	Hancock County	50944	A249-21-L210026	Kindred	Original	CN
1802940	Hancock County	50945	A249-21-L210027	Kindred	Original	CN
1600949	Hancock County	51142	A249-19-L180102	Kindred	1 Amend	CN
1902796	Hancock County	51554	A249-21-L210044	Kindred	Original	PE
1902793	Hancock County	51918	A249-21-L210049	Kindred	Original	PE
1902793	Hancock County	51919	A249-21-L210050	Kindred	Original	RW
1802940	Hancock County	52207	A249-21-L210064	Kindred	Original	RW
1802940	Hancock County	52209	A249-21-L210065	Kindred	Original	PE

- Commissioner Huber made a motion to allow the Hancock County Highway Engineer to sign off on INDOT LPA contracts for 2021 DES#'s 1702754, 1702754, 1702756, 1702756, 1902793, 1802940, 1600949, 1902796, 1902793, 1902793, 1802940, 1802940. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Gary had letters printed and requested Commissioners signatures on thank you letters to key players at the state house for assistance with the CAT IV Grant.
- Request for Proposals (RFPs) will be out next week for countywide bridge inspection, Segment B inspection, Bridge 85 and Bridge 146 design.
- Municipal building RFP is out.
- Gary sent OPUS a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and requested the County Attorney to review the document. He also had an MOU for a detour that INDOT wants to put in for the County Attorney to review, so he wants the County Attorney to review both MOU's.
- Working on damages on 500 West from the Walmart site (base stabilization). Trucks will use the road regardless if there are signs or not.
- Engineer working from home on cell phone and remote computer this week, due to wife recuperating from knee surgery.

### **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 Commissioner minutes for March 16, 2021 and the joint Commissioner and Council meeting for March 16, 2021 as presented. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### **Sheriff's Update**

- Sheriff Burkhardt requested approval for out of state travel for deputies.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve out of state travel for Deputy Ryan Nasby, Deputy Dillen Sexton and Deputy Aaron Forshey for the Street Cop Interdiction Mastermind one day seminar on May 10, 2021. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Sheriff Burkhardt updated Commissioners on his taser order. He explained this is a 5-year program and \$52,000 is appropriated in CCD; this was already budgeted. The order was downsized from 52 to 40 tasers. He gave Commissioners a breakdown to review.

### **Building Maintenance Update**

- Commissioner Huber said Dean called him about the trees cut at the Purdue Building; he said Fields Tree Service completed their work. The area will need to be graded, seeded and the old fencing hauled away. Commissioner Huber asked Dean to have Ground Control Services take care of grading and seeding.
- Dean Mullins notified Commissioners the chiller was set on the Annex Building Monday, next controls will be set-up, they are progressing good. Hook-up will take one to two weeks.
- Dean said Johnson Controls had to order correct parts for the Annex Building and will return on April 19<sup>th</sup> to finish lighting. The Courthouse and Annex Building has lighting that needs completed. Purdue, Memorial, Highway and 911 lighting are finished.
- Memorial Building had some complaints on the cleaning. Dean said the building work needs to be finished before a thorough cleaning is done. Commissioner Jessup said Johnson Controls took a look and would have someone do a thorough cleaning. Commissioner Spalding asked if the contractors get the bulk of it cleaned up. Dean said they clean, but they are not a cleaning crew. The Parks Department had their janitor clean some, but it was a lot for him to handle. The Parks Department has backed off cleaning that building.
- Dean asked if Hancock County needed to have someone clean the Memorial Building. Commissioner Huber said he thought Greenfield was responsible for the cleaning. Attorney Benkie said he thought Greenfield signed the MOU and he would check with Greenfield Attorney Morelock. Commissioner Huber asked Attorney Benkie to check into the MOU.
- Commissioner Spalding updated Commissioners on the sidewalk issues. The Annex building sidewalk seemed fine at this time. The Courthouse sidewalk needs to be replaced. Commissioner Spalding will reach out to City of Greenfield to coordinate the sidewalk concrete work.
- Dean said the door work at the Annex started on Monday.
- Commissioner Jessup asked if Dean had found anyone to take care of the cabinet doors. Dean said no, the three people he talked to have not gotten back to him. Dean has another lead on someone to fix the cabinet doors.
- Dean talked to the contractor about clean-up at the 911 building. Commissioner Huber said the contractor would finish up there when the weather permitted.

- Commissioner Huber made a motion to pay Fields Tree Service the remainder of their quote for the tree removal at the Purdue Extension Building in the amount of \$10,032. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### **IT Surplus Items**

- Bernie Harris (IT Director) notified Commissioners he had many surplus items in the basement that have been compiling for 5 years and he would like to get rid of them. He asked how Commissioners would they like to handle this. Commissioner Huber asked Sheriff Burkhart if he could put the IT Department items in with his surplus sale. Sheriff Burkhart said yes. Commissioner Huber asked Director Harris if he could provide a list and pictures to the Sheriff's Department. Director Harris will provide a list and pictures.
- Director Harris said he has many hard drives for disposal. The Sheriff's Department has a place they recommended.
- Attorney Benkie said the NineStar Agreement says they have under Exclusive Rights; "NineStar shall have unrestricted use of such recording during and after the term of agreement." Attorney Benkie feels this is a little broad. Commissioner Spalding asked what language he would suggest? Attorney Benkie said he would suggest "subject to approval from the Commissioners" Commissioner Jessup said it also says exclusive right to record and replay the meeting. Does this limit our right to record our own meetings? We do that as a matter of public record. Attorney Benkie said we have to do that by statute anyway. Attorney Benkie noticed Council is to be paid the sum of \$6,000, I am assuming that is something Commissioners were onboard with? They are recording not only the Council Board, but Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Huber said they are paying that free to upgrade the recording equipment. Commissioner Jessup said the agreement should say pay to County, not Council. Commissioner Huber said pay to Hancock County to be used for video upgrades.
- Director Harris asked Attorney Benkie to send him the requested changes.
- Director Harris said he is getting ready to update the NAS in our servers. He has been working with Dell on a deal and hopes to save the county \$50,000.

### **Dedication of ROW**

- Mike Gibson (with Harold Gibson Land Surveying) presented Commissioners with a 50' dedicated half ROW for Hills Over Sugar Creek.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the dedicated 50' half ROW for the Hills Over Sugar Creek as presented. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### **Johnson Control Update**

- Russ Patrick (Construction Manager for Johnson Controls) updated Commissioners on work in the county buildings.
- **Purdue Building:** Mechanical installation has been completed. Lighting has been completed. Punch list items remain.
- **Highway:** Mechanical systems have been completed. Lighting upgrades completed with punch list items. Some fixtures are on back order; should have answers by 26th.
- **Memorial Building:** Boiler room demo will tentatively begin the end of March. Asbestos inspection was completed March. Asbestos abatement information was sent to Commissioner Jessup. Still awaiting a resolution. Boiler replacement will follow as weather permits. Steam trap replacement will happen at the same time as the boiler replacement. New thermostat

control valves for radiators will be installed as the new traps are installed. Building exterior improvements (lintel repair, tuck pointing, etc.) will be scheduled when weather permits (possibly mid-April). Lighting upgrade started on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Order new fixtures for the room and punch list items. The cleaning situation has been discussed. A thorough cleaning has been ordered once work has been completed. Currently waiting on the window replacements.

- **Community Corrections:** Mechanical (RTU's) installation has been completed. PDF Mechanical commissioned controls Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>.
- **Courthouse:** Replacement of VAV box reheat will be scheduled after Community Corrections is complete. Lighting upgrades in process. Fixture at the top of the dome not in the scope of work. Cove out of scope. Check with customer on adding into scope. Other areas can be looked at to add to the scope.
- **Annex:** Lighting upgrades have been completed. Material and dumpster will be located on the back parking lot far East side. Two parking spots shall be blocked off on west side of material storage area. Additional material is needed for the Commissioner meeting room. The material will be delivered to the Annex building as soon as the week of March 15<sup>th</sup>. Issues with diffusers may cause damage due to age of fixture.
- **911 Building:** Lighting upgrades began on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Punch list items, breaker tripped but has been resolved. Mechanical system completed. Building envelope completed.
- **General discussion:** Lighting; looking into helping with design in dispatch area. Lighting finish this week with what they can finish and return on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Lighting walk through on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Lighting M&V week on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Commissioner Spalding asked for the progress report to include dollar amounts on percentages finished.
- Russ noted fire caulk is usually red, but we have found a tan fire caulk and this will be questioned by the Fire Marshal. Certification paperwork will come with the tan fire caulk. This caulk can never be painted over. Paperwork will be posted at the building and left with Dean. Auditor Carnes requested additional paperwork to be kept in the Auditor's office.

### **Planning & Building Departments 2020 Annual Report**

- Mike Dale (Director Planning Department) and Scott Williams (Building Inspector) presented Commissioners with the 2020 Annual Report for Planning and Building Departments. Mike and Scott reviewed the report with Commissioners.
- Commissioners thanked Mike and Scott. Commissioner Huber asked Mike for updates on Planning Commission and how they would operate with agenda items and notices. Mike said Planning agreed the cutoff date for revising the agenda would be ten days prior to the meeting. The agenda will be published on the website the first week of the month, ten days prior to the meeting date. Changes to the agenda will only be allowed 10 days prior to the meeting. Commissioner Huber said that will give everyone a week and half to decide if they need to attend a meeting.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the 2020 Annual Report from the Planning and Building Departments as presented. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion.

**Motion carried**

**3-0.**

### **Weed Specialists**

- Dean Folkening (Weed Specialist) informed Commissioners last year that Bernie Harris (IT Director) told him his computer needed to be updated, it was not accepting some of the new programs the county was updating. Bernie recommended a laptop computer with a docking station and he opted to do this. So, Bernie is in the process of setting up a laptop currently.

Dean requested a county cell phone with a data plan. This could be used, while out in the county on inspections. This would allow Dean to work on reports in the field. The phone cost would be \$199 and a \$50 monthly fee. Dean will check with Highway Department to see if he could be added to their plan.

- Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve the Weed Specialist to get a cell phone to allow for remote work with the laptop through the Highway Department's vendor if possible. If not, he will come back to Commissioners. The cost would be \$200 for the phone and a \$50 monthly fee. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**
- Commissioner Spalding noted this is the third person that has asked for a cell phone, do we need to have a cell phone policy because this is going to be a continual issue. Auditor Carnes offered to bring up cell phone accounts at the next department meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Greenfield Main Street Events**

- Debra Smith with Greenfield Main Street Events requested to use the courthouse lawn and plaza for five different events. The first event is Bikes in Bloom, May 9 – June 20<sup>th</sup> which includes the Annex Pillars, the Courthouse Square and on the Plaza. The bikes are affixed to the poles, rails or pillars. The next event is May 14<sup>th</sup> requesting use of the Plaza for a second Friday food truck event. National Road Yard Sale June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, request use of Courthouse Lawn and Plaza for this Main Street would sell booth spaces. This is a revenue generator for Main Street. Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup> again this is a second Friday food truck event and Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup> for another potential food truck event. Commissioner Huber and Debra discussed starting the food trucks at 12 noon on those Friday event days.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve use of the Courthouse lawn, Plaza and Annex for the Bikes and Bloom on May 4<sup>th</sup> – June 20<sup>th</sup>; Friday Event May 14<sup>th</sup> for the Plaza; the National Road Yard Sale, June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> for the Courthouse lawn and Plaza; the Friday event July 9<sup>th</sup> for the Plaza and the Friday September 10<sup>th</sup> use of the Plaza for the Greenfield Main Street events. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

#### **Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement**

- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement for Mary Zurbuch who sits on the Redevelopment Commission and is a sub-consultant to United Consulting on the 300 North roadway improvements project for summer 2021. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement for Steve Vail who sits on the Redevelopment Commission, this is just an annual disclosure statement. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement for David Sutherlin who sits on the Redevelopment Commission and is on the Buck Creek Township Fire Department. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

#### **Benefits Resource Administrator**

Auditor Carnes introduced the new Benefits Resource Administrator, Connie Cross. Connie said she was proud to be a part of the Auditor's team and the Hancock County team. She lives in Greenfield with her husband and has lived here since 2008. She lived in Shelby County in Shelbyville prior to that and grew up there. Her career started with the State of Indiana as a clerk position and worked there over 20 years in various positions. She evaluated state applications at the state, in Shelbyville she worked in the Unemployment Office as an Employment Specialist, then progressed to Supervisor, Office Manager, HR Generalist and then held various HR

Generalist positions. She worked at Stanley Black and Decker until they closed their doors and then came here to Hancock County. Commissioners welcomed Connie Cross.

### **Surveyors Department**

Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve Surveyor Bodkin to sign the short form agreement between owner and engineer for Professional Services between the Hancock County Surveyor and American Structurepoint, Inc. with the revised changes. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

### **CCD Budget Scheduled for May 4, 2021**

Auditor Carnes notified Commissioners CCD Budgets are scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup> and their Agenda will be blocked for this.

### **CDC Guidelines/COVID-19 Protocols**

- Dr. Julia Compton (Hancock Hospital Physician) and Dr. Sharp (Hancock County Health Officer) were present. Commissioner Jessup requested the Hospital and Health Department updates and thoughts on the Governor's recent changes effective on April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Dr. Compton said we are up to approximately 50,000 vaccines at this time. When we look at the number of people vaccinated, the number of people who have had COVID in the community, we are getting close to herd immunity. We feel we are 10,000 people away from hitting herd immunity in Hancock County. Please note, we are the 5<sup>th</sup> highest county in Indiana based on percentage of population for folks vaccinated. The question is the mask mandate with the Governor's recent changes.
- Dr. Sharp requested Commissioners be a little stricter than the Governor for a short period of time. He would like a little more time, rather than walking away and thinks we would have a much greater chance of beating this terrible thing. Dr. Sharp expressed concern for another surge and requested Commissioners extend the mask mandate until the end of April and re-evaluate the first of May.
- Commissioner Spalding asked the doctors if the 50,000 vaccinated are citizens of Hancock County. The doctors said yes. Commissioner Spalding asked what the herd immunity percentage is supposed to be? Dr. Compton said 60%. Commissioner Spalding said so if I do the math with 78,000 citizens in Hancock County, herd immunity is at 64%; so we are at herd immunity right now. Dr. Sharp said there is controversy as to what percentage we are at, I think we are closer to 85,000. Dr. Compton and Dr. Sharp would like some of the younger people (16 years) and above vaccinated before the mask mandate changes.
- Commissioner Jessup said we have had to do what the Governor said for the last 14 months and he never agreed with the mask mandate. So, if in his omnipotent wisdom thinks mask are not needed, I will follow his direction. Commissioner Huber said I struggle with this, you need to be cautious, but I think the county has done a tremendous job. No one talks about the mental health, no one has the flu, depression, addiction and when do you draw the line. I am not a medical professional, in 2-3 years there will be a lot of issues with what this 12-14 months has caused. Dr. Sharp agreed, there is definitely some issues with emotional issues. Dr. Sharp asked if another month would make a difference. Commissioner Huber asked did we think flattening the curb for how many days would make a difference and we are 14 months into this? This is really a hard thing, some don't know they have it and sadly some have lost their lives to it; it's tragic but where do you draw the line, when is enough, enough. If we extend it two weeks, then you come back and we extend it another two weeks, when do we rip the band-aid off. In one person's opinion, we have met herd immunity and in another we are only 2/3 of the way there. I am not saying what's right or what's wrong, you are the

professionals. Part of the problem is, there are so many professionals with different opinions. Dr. Sharp said keep in mind the Health Department is doing 200 shots a day and the hospital is doing 1,000 a day. Commissioner Huber said you have done an amazing job here, at the hospital and all over the county. Dr. Sharp said we are so close and are requesting another 2-3 weeks. Commissioner Spalding said we can consider; we can't confirm yet what we will do. Dr. Compton said there is a strong push here to go forward with the Governor's mask removal recommendation, although medically we agree with Dr. Sharp. She asked Commissioners to endorse and recommend to the media and others, to continue doing what they should be doing (i.e. washing hands, wear a mask and social distance). Next, she asked Commissioners to support all the businesses allowing them to have some say in their own masking recommendations. Commissioner Jessup said that is what we have done all along and relied on the common sense of Hancock County. Commissioner Huber said no one is saying don't wear a mask, if you feel like you need a mask and feel comfortable wearing one that's your right. You have to do what's right for yourself. Commissioner Spalding said after a year we all know how to wash our hands, how to stay clear of people, how to not to come to work if we are ill and I think we can expect the people of the county to continue doing a good job.

- Dr. Aspy wanted to point out the vaccine total does not include fully vaccinated people. She wanted to point out 135 people died from this. If we had an intersection where a 135 people died, we would look at it. We would ask is it safe to re-open. She strongly encouraged Commissioners to follow the recommendations from the Medical Community.
- George Langston, Hancock County Citizen stated his constitutional rights and state rights have been violated for 14 months. COVID is here and we need to learn how to live with it. If you want to wear a mask, wear one; if not, don't wear one. We need to get people back to work and get on with our lives. When people come across the border not tested for COVID, this tells me it is not a big deal.
- Debra Smith, Executive Director for Greenfield Main Street Events said she wanted to speak on behalf of the Greenfield Businesses as well as citizens. We held an event downtown and we worked with the Health Department following their guidelines and recommendations to make sure it was a safe event. We are a not-for-profit and our funding comes from these public events. This was a free event open to the public. We had 800 kids with parents and grandparents which totaled about 2,000-2,500 people. The event was from Noon to 5 PM and was outdoors. We followed guidelines sanitizing each truck after each kid and from the community's feedback, it was a fantastic event. The community appreciated having something outside; we were strict and followed guidelines. We allowed them to make their own decisions on mask; some did and some didn't. Some businesses require a mask and some don't, it's their right. From what I have seen in the community people are making that decision for themselves.
- Commissioners thanked Dr. Compton and Dr. Sharp.

#### **Discussed Senior Services**

- Commissioner Jessup spoke with an IndyGo representative and received some answers and discussed concerns. The representative was not able to answer a lot of questions, but requested a Resolution moving forward with IndyGo. Commissioner Jessup said we have to move forward with IndyGo or lose Federal Funding.
- Commissioners discussed a resolution versus a letter to IndyGo requesting a commitment for a dollar amount for the County's urban transit program. Attorney Benkie felt a letter would be more appropriate. Commissioner Jessup said IndyGo said they were just the pass through,

but as the conversation progressed, he was told they control the allocation and make the decisions.

- Commissioner Spalding asked if an Ordinance needed to be created to put the stimulus money into a bank account? Auditor Carnes said they have not sent out a sample ordinance yet. Commissioner Spalding said so we need to wait for the sample ordinance? Auditor Carnes said yes, that would be best. It would have the guidelines in it. A joint meeting has been mentioned.
- Suzanne Derengowski (Executive Director Senior Services) recommended a PowerPoint meeting with IndyGo to assist with further understanding the changes in Senior Services.

**The Hancock County Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 11:17 AM.**

**Hancock County Commissioners**

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Commissioner John Jessup, President

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Commissioner Marc Huber, Vice-President

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Commissioner Bill Spalding

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