

**Hancock County Board of Commissioners**  
**Regularly Scheduled Meeting**  
**June 1, 2021**

Commissioners met for a regular session. Those present were Board of Commissioners President John Jessup, Commissioner Vice President Marc Huber, Commissioner Bill Spalding, Auditor Debra Carnes and County Attorney Scott Benkie. Commissioner Jessup called to order the June 1, 2021 Hancock County Commissioners Board meeting at 8:00 AM.

**Highway Department**

- Gary Pool (Highway Engineer) discussed House Bill 1190 for local truck permitting and notified Commissioners a resolution may be needed later.
- Pennsy trail ROW is secure between 500 W to 600 W. An MVH restrictive line item will be needed for a grant; this will be for an OCRA trails grant through DNR to be available in the next couple of months for \$600,000 or so.
- The CCM Grant for \$665,000 will be used for micro surface and striping for Fortville Pike, 600 N and 1050 E (should arrive in 2-3 weeks).
- Vectren Gas Line on CR 350 N will be paid through RDC for \$120,000.
- RFP for Bridge 146, 85 and Segment F to be completed this week.

**Claims & Payroll**

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

**E-911**

- John Jokantas (Director E-911) requested approval for out of state training.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve out of state travel for Greg Shamblin to attend the APCO Annual Conference from 8/15/21 through 8/21/21. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve out of state travel for John Jokantas, Greg Shamblin and Tabitha Ebersol to attend the IAED 911 Navigator Conference from 7/11/21 through 7/15/21. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Director Jokantas requested Commissioners declare surplus 15 old lockers to be sold to Huntington County.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to declare surplus 15 old lockers at E-911 to be sold to Huntington county. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Director Jokantas informed Commissioners DC Group could save Hancock County \$4,000 a year for UPS & Batteries. Director Jokantas will address concerns with changes in the DC Group service contract. Commissioners did not sign the agreement.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to enter into a contract with DC Group for UPS Battery Backup Maintenance Contract for E-911 for a yearly amount of \$2,000 annually with a three year term. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Director Jokantas notified Commissioners of the elevator repair contract for \$6,774.07. He discussed how the different elevators in the county used different vendors and not just one vendor. Commissioner Huber requested this be discussed with our insurance company and revisit at the next Commissioner meeting. County Attorney Benkie will forward and discuss with the insurance company.

- Director Jokantas discussed next the Motorola Solutions Quote for over the air programming capabilities. At some point a full-time person will need to be hired or consider over the air programming for mobile radios. Commissioner Jessup suggested discussing at the budget meeting.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion in support of Motorola Solutions Contract for air radio programming and management project in the amount of \$143,500 showing support from the Hancock County Board of Commissioner to the County Council requesting their preference on funding. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Director Jokantas discussed the E-911 Revenue Bond for \$550-\$750. County Attorney Benkie will prepare a Resolution of Need for the next meeting.

#### **Facility Management**

- Dean Mullins asked Commissioners about surplus items and items for trash. Commissioners would like all items listed as surplus and then dispose of them if they are not sold at auction. Dean asked about Christmas decorations. Auditor Carnes clarified Christmas decorations are purchased at the expense of the office holder and were left when they moved on. Auditor Carnes offered to send an email for the Christmas decorations since they are not county property.
- Commissioner Huber discussed advertising Dean's job since he is retiring. Auditor Carnes offered to post the Facility Management's job opening on the Hancock County website.
- Auditor Carnes notified Commissioners regular dumpsters were missing from the courthouse and now the recyclable dumpsters are missing; they are down to one dumpster now. Commissioners discussed with Director Jokantas security cameras for this area. Director Jokantas said he would check with CGS on the missing dumpsters at the courthouse to see if they removed them. Director Jokantas notified Commissioners he is looking into a grant to pay for additional security cameras around the courthouse.

#### **RQAW Update on New Jail**

Dustin Frye, Director of Construction Services for RQAW reported the jail continues to progress on schedule. Drywall is nearly complete, walls are being painted, the site is being cleaned up and windows are being installed. Signage quotes are being finalized. Draft RFP will be emailed soon for Commissioners review.

#### **Accept ROW**

- Philip Going (Accura Express Land Surveying) requested to dedicate 35' half ROW for Steve/Alexia Brammer Minor Sub.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the dedicated 35' half ROW for Steve/Alexia Brammer Minor Subdivision. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Philip requested to replat Michael M. Larrabee Jr. on Stinemyer Road dedicate 50' half ROW on Stinemyer Road and 18½' half Additional ROW on CR 550 W (total 35' half ROW).
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the 50' half ROW for the replat of Michael M. Larrabee Jr. Minor Subdivision on Stinemyer Road and accept the additional 18½' half ROW on CR 550 W (total 35' half ROW). Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **Hancock County 4-H Fair Update**

Cheryl Jones (County Extension Director) and Junior 4-H Leaders updated Commissioners on 4-H progress and their contributions to the county.

#### **Proclamation Amateur Radio Week**

- George Stant requested Commissioners issue a Proclamation in honor of Amateur Radio Week. Commissioner Jessup read into meeting minutes the following Proclamation in honor of Amateur Radio Week.
- *County of Hancock, Office of County Commissioners, Proclamation, June 1, 2021*  
*WHEREAS, the County of Hancock has licensed Amateur Radio Operators who have demonstrated their value in public assistance by providing emergency radio communications; and*  
*WHEREAS, these Amateur Radio Operators donate these services free of charge to the County, in the interest of the citizens of the County as well as the world; and*  
*WHEREAS, these Amateur Radio Operators are on alert for any emergency, local or world-wide and practice their communication skills during the American Radio Relay League's Field Day exercise; and*  
*WHEREAS, this years Amateur Radio Field Day will take place June 26<sup>th</sup> thru June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (following COVID-19 protocols); as*  
*NOW, THEREFORE, WE John Jessup, Marc Huber and Bill Spalding, County Commissioners of County of Hancock hereby declare the week of June 21<sup>st</sup> thru June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as **AMATEUR RADIO WEEK***  
*In recognition of this important emergency preparedness exercise, we call upon all citizens to pay appropriate tribute to the Amateur Radio Operators of Hancock County.*

#### **Vacate Alley Request**

Wilma Mack requested Commissioners vacate an alley behind her house which she has maintained for 40 years. Commissioner Huber requested she notify the Highway Engineer. Auditor Carnes said she would make sure the Highway Engineer was aware and assist Ms. Mack through the process.

#### **Ordinance for SWMD IDEM Grant**

- Commissioner Huber introduced Ordinance 2021-6A establishing the IDEM Community Recycling Grant Fund 5902.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to suspend the rules and adopt Ordinance 2021-6A on day of introduction. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2021-6A. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **Gibson Teldata Agreement**

Commissioner Huber asked the County Attorney the status on the Gibson Teldata Agreement. The County Attorney informed Commissioners he is still working on it.

#### **Assessor's Office**

- Assessor Molinder requested to enter into an agreement with Leonor for personal property audit services.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to allow the Hancock County Assessor to enter into the Business Personal Property Audit Services Contract with Leonor LLC per this agreement. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **Accept ROW**

- Harold Gibson (H.Gibson Land Surveying, LLC) requested to dedicate 50' half ROW for Centennial North Minor Sub.

- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept 50' half dedicated ROW along 500 W for Centennial Minor Subdivision. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Harold Gibson (H.Gibson Land Surveying, LLC) requested to dedicate 35' half ROW for DDR Creekside Minor Sub.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the dedicated 35' half ROW for the DDR Creekside Minor Subdivision. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **Surveyors Office**

- Surveyor Bodkin asked Commissioners if service years were to be continued, make them retroactive, roll them into the salary and start new, keep them and freeze them? The survey was completed and the majority would like to roll them into the current salary and end service years. She said this is something Commissioners need to consider when making recommendations to Council.
- Surveyor Bodkin reported the two big log jams they were holding money for, were almost complete with leftover money. With this update, she requested to remove a large fallen tree at the fairgrounds and another tree in the Fall along Sugar Creek.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve the large tree cleanup at the fairgrounds and the tree cleanup along Sugar Creek to be paid out of Non-navigable Streams pending funding availability. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Surveyor Bodkin asked Commissioners about an antique drafting table in storage. She had an inquiry regarding purchasing it. County Attorney Benkie said the desk needed to be listed on inventory and then declared surplus.

#### **Resolution for Vernon Township Sirens**

- Commissioner Huber introduced Resolution 2021-6-1 a resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Hancock County, Indiana taking possession of the emergency sirens in Vernon Township.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-6-1. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **Prosecutors Office**

- Prosecutor Eaton and Shelli Poppino (Director of Operations) notified Commissioners they have deleted the supplemental pay line from the Elected Prosecutor's pay line as well as the Chief deputy Line, which over the last six years combined is \$60,000. After researching, over \$212,000 has been returned to the General Fund.
- Prosecutor Eaton requested a vehicle lease expense line. The vehicle is used by the office investigator weekly for subpoenas, acquiring witnesses, investigation, etc. The Prosecutor's office has reached out to the Sheriff's Department for his contact, but they have been unresponsive.
- Commissioner Huber requested Enterprise attend the next scheduled meeting to update Commissioners and discuss fleet policy.
- Prosecutor Eaton requested to move \$5,000 from the part-time line to the STOP Prosecutor position which has increased 33%. Commissioners requested the Prosecutors office hold on this request until the Salary Study Committee is complete.
- Prosecutor Eaton requested a STOP Paralegal position with a salary of \$35,852 with \$18,000 requested from a grant.

- Commissioner Huber made a motion the Board of Commissioners recommends to County Council approving a STOP Paralegal Position with salary of \$35,852. Commissioner Spalding seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Prosecutor Eaton requested to create a line for performance based incentive to be paid for high performers to be renewed every time an assessment period is completed. This would be based on merit with objective criteria. Commissioner Huber said he could support this, if an elected official had the money in their budget. Commissioner Jessup said he would not vote on this today, but he offered to discuss at the budget meeting. Commissioner Spalding agreed and suggested holding the request.

#### **Hospital Petition to Vacate**

- Ron Pritzke (Attorney for Hancock Regional Hospital) requested to vacate a public way. He provided appropriate paperwork to Commissioners and the Auditor.
- A public hearing is scheduled for June 15<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM to complete the process to vacate a public way.

#### **Commissioner Discussion**

- Commissioners discussed with Sheriff Burkhart additional deputies needed for the county. Commissioners agreed to recommend to Council adding 9 additional deputies.
- Commissioners discussed and agreed to recommend to Council raises for the Sheriff's Department at 24% (no less than 18%) and non-law enforcement at 7%.

**The Hancock County Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 11:33 PM.**

#### **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