

Hancock County Board of Commissioners
Regularly Scheduled Meeting
May 19, 2020

Commissioners met for an Emergency Session. Those present were Board of Commissioners President John Jessup, Vice President Brad Armstrong, Commissioner Marc Huber, County Attorney Scott Benkie, Auditor Debra Carnes and Trish George, Secretary to Board of Commissioners and County Council. Commissioner Jessup called to order the May 12, 2020 Hancock County Commissioners Board meeting at 7:59 AM.

Highway Updates (Gary Pool, Highway Engineer)

- Requested signatures for Clark Dietz Contract and discussed the construction inspection on Segment A. 600 W north of the roundabouts (RAB) will be constructed December 9th; this is paid 80% by the state; the total contract for this is \$770,500.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the inspection contract with Clark Dietz DES #1600633 not to exceed \$770,500. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Updated Commissioners on RAB's at 300 S and 500 W New Palestine will be constructed next year for \$20,000. 300 S and 600 W currently is a two way stop with regular accidents reported at this location. Commissioner Armstrong said for the record he would like to see a roundabout at this location.
- 2019 Annual Operations Report presented.
- Highway Department received a Care Act complaint and is meeting with the Department of Labor today.
- Microsurface bids were received. Commissioner Huber opened and read into minutes the following bids for Highway; Pavement Solutions Inc. \$344,407.95 and Strawser Construction Inc. for \$347,797.24. The County Attorney and Gary will review the bids.
- INDOT notified Highway 1050E will be closed a couple months for an overlay.
- Working with Greg Guerrettaz (Financial Consultant) to be certain funds are in place for projects. Gary feels Highway is in a sustainable position based on revenues and expenditures. Asphalt prices have declined.
- 600 West will be closed for 2 weeks.
- 300 North will have a short closure. Homes and businesses will have access. The road will open before school starts.
- Scott Benkie (County Attorney) reviewed the microsurface bids and found them satisfactory. Gary requested the Commissioners accept the lowest bid.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the bid from Pavement Solutions Inc. for microsurface not to exceed \$344,407.95 to be paid out of the Community Crossings Grant. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Maintenance (Dean Mullins)

Updated Commissioners on PPE for departments.

Claims/Payroll

Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve Claims and Payroll as presented. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Minutes

Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve the Commissioner minutes for April 28, 2020, May 5, 2020 and May 12, 2020 as presented. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

COVID-19 Update

Jason Wells, Hancock Hospital liaison updated Commissioners on COVID-19 progress. After discussion with Jason, Commissioners felt Hancock County is in-line for the Governor's June 14th goal date.

Progress House Agreement (Josh Sipes, Chief Probation Officer)

- Requested Commissioners sign the Progress House Contract. There was a change from 3 days to 7 days. Scott Benkie (County Attorney) said it would be easier to amend the original contract from 3 to 7 days.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to amend the Agreement with Progress House Inc. Under Hancock County Scope of Services #2 it shall say "within 7 business days after initial assessment contractor shall provide Hancock County with a client treatment plan". He explained it goes from 3 days previously to 7 days. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Hospital Board of Trustees Luncheon

Commissioners agreed to August 11, 2020 at 12:00 PM for lunch at the hospital with the Hospital Board of Trustees, County Council and Board of Commissioners.

COVID-19 Policy

Commissioner Huber made a motion to ratify the motion to allow Jason Wells, Hancock County's Liaison to craft a COVID-19 Policy for Hancock County Offices. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

RQAW Update on Jail/Dustin Fry

Updated Commissioners on new jail progress. Dustin reported the job site is progressing well.

Community Corrections Update (Pat Powers, Director)

- Updated Commissioners on cleaning up and closing Community Corrections. Pat recommended the coin operated 5 washer/4 dryers be declared surplus and the perishable items be donated to Hope House and Soup Kitchen. He suggested toiletry items and lockers be given to the jail. Commissioner Armstrong questioned legalities of donating perishable items. Commissioners clarified items were paid with fees. Pat felt the bedding could be kept for future use.

- Commissioner Huber made a motion to declare surplus the coin operated washer/dryers from Community Corrections. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. Commissioners discussed. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to declare surplus and authorize the donation to charity of perishable commissary items contingent on legal opinion. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Recommended RF Units and GPS Units (home detention equipment) be declared surplus and sold. Commissioner Huber asked why this equipment couldn't be used? Pat replied the equipment is outdated.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to declare surplus the 115 Home Detention RF Units and 35 Home Detention GPS Units from Community Corrections. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. Commissioners discussed. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Notified Commissioners that Community Corrections has two vehicles. One vehicle owned for the field officer and one vehicle leased from Enterprise. Commissioners agreed, at this time, no action was needed and the vehicles could sit. Commissioners requested Pat notify Enterprise that the new truck is no longer needed.
- Commissioner Jessup asked Pat how many employees are being terminated? Pat replied 15 employees. Commissioner Jessup asked if the employees were notified of termination? Pat said they were notified, then it was rescinded and now the termination is on hold. Commissioner Jessup would like to give terminated employees two options. They can choose to take the termination or allow the terminated employees to stay on using vacation/sick time and accrue time, while exploring potential lateral transfers. Pat said 5 of 10 employees chose to apply to the Sheriff's Department. PTO is estimated at \$30,000 for the terminated employees. Commissioner Huber expressed disappointment lateral options weren't available for the terminated employees. Commissioner Jessup said he feels the Sheriff is doing the right thing by opening the application process and evaluating based on skill and ability rather than just hiring them.
- Commissioners agreed they would pay 4 pay-periods of COBRA. Commissioner Jessup wanted to clarify that it is the employee's choice if they want to take the separation lump sum payout today, they can. If they want to stay on and burn accrued time while they explore a lateral transfer in the county that's acceptable. Employees can do either, it is the employees' choice.
- Commissioner Armstrong made a motion for the laid off Community Corrections employees allowing them to stay employed with Hancock County using paid time off including sick days to apply for other county positions; or those not seeking new employment with the county shall utilize paid time off in the order of vacation, comp time and then sick days; to be decided by Friday May 22, 2020. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Fire Departments Request for Funds/Dave Sutherlin (Fire Chief)

- Requested LIT Public Safety Funds for 8 fire departments.

- Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to accept the applications for distribution of LIT Public Safety Funds as presented. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Commissioner Armstrong proposed a Resolution of Need to support the pre-distribution funding for the application of the LIT Public Safety funds as presented. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Veterans Burial Benefits/Bob Workman (Veterans Service Officer)

- Requested Veterans burial benefits for families and spouses increase from \$100 to \$250. Bob said Hancock County is at the lowest in the state for reimbursement. Hancock County is currently at \$100. Bob requested Commissioners raise reimbursement to \$250, the law allows up to \$1,000.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion as of 1/1/2021 Veterans burial benefits increase to \$500. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Emergency Management/Joe Fitzgerald (Deputy Director)

- Notified Commissioners the new wall system is currently at \$74,256 and they are over the approved \$60,000 due to integration issues. Since installing the new system, they found the current system is very outdated and additional cables need to be replaced. Commissioners were not pleased these cables were not in the original estimate.
- Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to authorize an additional \$15,000 from the 2019 GO Bond for EOC updates. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Recess Board of Commissioners Meeting

- Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to recess the Hancock County Board of Commissioners at 9:58 AM. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Commissioner Jessup reconvened the Hancock County Board of Commissioners at 10:00 AM.

Log Jam Arm of Brandywine & Sugar Creek/Susan Bodkin (Surveyor)

- Requested a log jam on the Arm of Brandywine Court, John Jessup Property be removed. Commissioner Jessup clarified this was not his property, it was another John Jessup.
- Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to authorize clearing of log jam at Arm of Brandywine to be paid out of Non-Navigable Streams. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Susan requested another log jam removal on Sugar Creek behind Valley Green.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to allow the log jam to be removal behind Valley Green on Sugar Creek and paid out of Non-Navigable Streams. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Resolution 2020-5-6

BOC Approving Order of Hancock County Area Plan Commission

- Commissioner Huber introduced Resolution 2020-5-6, a Resolution establishing the TIF districts South of I-70 in the Mount Comfort Corridor Area.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-5-6. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Sheriff's Department Update/Sheriff Burkhart

- Presented a facial recognition system to the Commissioners for the courthouse. This system will also check for a temperature and set off a warning if body temperature is a certain level. It would eliminate individual temperature checks. Commissioner Armstrong said he would like to see if there is a demand for this. Commissioner Jessup verified the temperature guns are on order. Sheriff Burkhart said yes. Commissioner Jessup thanked the Sheriff for the information and said he would like to wait.
- Commissioner Jessup asked if the Courthouse Building were passing out masks to public. Sheriff Burkhart said he did not think so. Commissioner Jessup wanted to clarify the procedure for the courthouse. He noticed security officers were not wearing mask and he wanted to keep things consistent. Sheriff Burkhart said this has been discussed and will need to change.
- Sheriff Burkhart explained as inmates come-in they will need to be placed in isolation and the best way is to place them in current jail cells and move inmates that have been through quarantine to the Community Corrections area. Commissioner Armstrong asked if Sheriff Burkhart had a Scope of Work yet? Sheriff Burkhart clarified he is in the process of compiling information. Commissioner Huber asked for prices and the estimated number of cells required? Sheriff Burkhart said at this point it is hard to estimate, he is unsure what will happen when the courts open. The current jail cells need to have a metal plate on the door to be isolated with a window and food tray door. Commissioner Huber struggles with this because of a CDC rule, then it doesn't matter the cost, it must be done. Is this a monetary decision, not what we need for the health and safety and what's required for COVID-19? County Attorney Scott Benkie said if the Sheriff doesn't abide by the rules and quarantine there are liability and legal issues. Commissioner Huber said the Sheriff has done a great job. Scott said there is a backlog of warrants and the Sheriff cannot predict the influx of inmates.
- Presented the Commissioners with the proposal from Fitzgerald & North Service Company for \$26,730 to repair the hot water storage tank. He could pay this out of Building & Maintenance, he noted it was a COVID-19 expense to create isolation areas. Commissioner Jessup suggested the Sheriff pay the invoice and request reimbursement from County Council.
- Reported 2500 remaining mask in the County PPE. Commissioner Jessup instructed the Sheriff to order 2500 additional mask.
- Presented Commissioners with pricing on updating the radio system. Commissioner Huber made a motion to purchase the radio equipment from ER&S for the new jail to

be paid out of FF&E portion of the bond not to exceed \$201,807.56. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

- Suggested the two Community Corrections vehicles be used for the prosecutor and probation who currently use two of his vehicles that are 2011 and have over 130,000 miles. This would provide newer vehicles for the prosecutor and probation department.

Health Department Update (Dr.Asphy, Hancock County Health Officer)

Reported 301 COVID-19 positive cases and 24 deaths due to COVID-19. The average is 5-7 positive COVID-19 per day, while today there were an additional 10 cases.

June 2nd Claims Approval

Commissioner Huber made a motion to allow President, Board of Commissioners John Jessup to sign the claims June 1st to be paid on June 3rd due to meeting date changes Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Election Day Signs on Lawn

Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to authorize election candidates to place two signs per candidate at the Courthouse Annex per the duration of early voting and election day voting. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 2-0.**
Commissioner Jessup abstained.

Scott Benkie County Attorney left the meeting at 11:17 AM

Firearm Discharge Ordinance Discussion

Commissioner Jessup discussed with Sheriff Burkhardt modifying the Firearm Discharge Ordinance for 300' within residences. The Commissioners are exploring modifying the Ordinance to exclude personal residence. The Commissioners believe you should be able to shoot from your porch if no one is in danger. Sheriff Burkhardt said he does not disagree with that statement and would be in favor of this change.

Riley Day Festival

Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve the Riley Festival use the Board of Commissioner Room, the Annex Entry Hall for photographs and exhibits from October 1 through October 4th with set-up September 29th and the courthouse lawn for vendors. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

The Hancock County Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Hancock County Commissioners

Commissioner John Jessup, President

Commissioner Brad Armstrong, Vice-President

Commissioner Marc Huber

Attest: _____
Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor