

**Hancock County Board of Commissioners**  
**Regularly Scheduled Meeting**  
**July 21, 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, Auditor Debra Carnes and Trish George, Secretary to Board of Commissioners and County Council. Commissioner Jessup called to order the July 21, 2020 Hancock County Commissioners Board meeting at 8:03 AM.

**Highway Updates / Gary Pool-Engineer**

- Requested signatures for A&F Segment B on 600 W Supplement 1 & 2 for a total of \$635,315.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept Supplemental Agreement #1 and #2 between Hancock County and A & F Engineering for property purchase and RAB work for the 600 W project for a total contract price not to exceed \$635,315. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- On the county roadway side, the segment south of Broken Arrow Drive down to the school, a RAB will be added at 200 S at the offset intersection. Drainage problems are on the eastern side of the road and these issues will be addressed. The contract will increase from \$285,000 to \$348,520 the majority of that is in the RAB design about \$50K for that.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the Supplemental Agreement #1 between Hancock County and USI Consultants DES #1702754, maximum contract price not to exceed of \$348,520. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- RAB surfacing was rained out, will continue this next weekend to finish.
- Contractors have started overlays in neighborhoods. The neighborhoods have reacted in a positive way to micro surfacing/micro sealing and A lot of the grant is being used to do this. Some contractors would like to do a news article on this project and requested the Commissioners to participate. The focus would be on injuries, potholes and not leaving neighborhoods behind. Commissioners were supportive of this idea.
- SJCA presented Commissioners with pictures of the bridges they have redone for Hancock County and requested pictures.
- Presented Commissioners with a spreadsheet of distribution and July is down -19% in local road and street and -23% in MVH. Gary reminded Commissioners his budget has working capital for a rainy day.

**Dedication of ROW**

- Harold Gibson presented Commissioners with a dedication of ROW for Bo's Run and Black's Minor Sub.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept 35' half ROW for Bo's Run. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept 45' half ROW for Black's Minor Sub. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### **Maintenance Update / Dean Mullins**

Updated Commissioners on Maintenance Department.

### **New Jail Update / Dustin Fry RQAW**

- Updated Commissioners on the jail progress.
- Commissioner Huber met with Nine Star and Susan Bodkin, Surveyor to work on utilities to the new jail. Commissioner Armstrong on the record is concerned with Council's funding for utilities at the new jail. Commissioner Jessup will meet with Councilmember Shelby to discuss Council funding. Commissioners authorize Commissioner President John Jessup to speak on behalf of the Commissioner's.

### **Claims & Payroll**

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

### **Invoice for Courthouse**

Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve the payment to Interior Construction Services, Inc. in an amount of \$23,461 to be paid out of the 2019 GO Bond proceeds for the work at the Courthouse to expand space for Probation. Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### **Commissioner Minutes**

Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve the Commissioner minutes for July 7, 2020 as presented. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### **Economic Development Council Update / Randy Sorrell-Director**

- Randy returned for the Public Hearing for the CDBG program, revolving fund loan grant application. This helps create a small business revolving loan program. The funding is through a grant application with OCRA. At the July 7<sup>th</sup> Commissioner meeting Commissioners agreed to support an application to the CDBG program. The next step is a public hearing, which was set for July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9 AM. This was properly published in the newspaper and proof of publication was given to the Auditor's office. Randy created a sign-in sheet for anyone there to sign. The Application was accepted by Office of Community and Rural Affairs.
- Commissioner Jessup opened the Public Hearing at 9:03 AM for the purpose of public comment on Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) \$100,000 COVID-19 Response Program. Commissioner Jessup asked if there was anyone to speak in favor? Commissioner Jessup asked if there was anyone to speak in opposition? Commissioner Jessup closed the Public Hearing at 9:03 AM. Commissioner Jessup said let the record show there was no public comment in favor or opposition.
- Randy said proof of publication in the paper was given to the Auditor's office. Commissioners reviewed proof of publication and accepted. OCRA requested a part of the Application was a formal action taken by the Board of Commissioners. Randy

put together a Resolution for the Commissioners and read into the Minutes Resolution 2020-7-7.

- Commissioner Huber introduced Resolution 2020-7-7, a Resolution authorizing the submittal of COVID-19 Response Program – Phase 2 Grant.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-7-7. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Randy expressed concern over unemployment; two separate companies reached out with concerns they could not get employees to come back to work. In May, Hancock County's unemployment was 10% and the states was 14.2%. In June, Hancock County's unemployment was 9.2% and the states was 11.2%. Numbers are inflated because people do not want to go back to work. Commissioner Armstrong asked if there was a way to assist in getting people back to work (i.e. letter on our behalf or meeting with our congressional representative). Randy said this would be helpful.
- Randy updated Commissioners on a big project on Mt. Comfort road. The RDC is convening in a virtual Executive Session to meet with the company executives on Friday, July 31st at 9 AM. The Executive Session is a statutory exception to a meeting. We would like to invite the County Council and Board of Commissioners. Randy requested the Commissioners schedule an Executive Session meeting. There would not be any action taken, but this would be the first time the company executives will be meeting with the decision makers.
- Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to hold an Executive Session in a joint meeting with the RDC for the purposes of meeting with and interviewing an industrial commercial development and convened by a non-profit Economic Development Corporation created for that purpose. Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at 9 AM. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **Senior Services / Bob Long**

- Requested signatures for 2020 Service Agreement Claim for the Auditor's office. Need approval on the current quarterly INDOT claim for \$30,203.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion for Hancock County to be the pass through for the Senior Services Second Quarter Grant \$30,203. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **Pennsy Trail Update / Mary Ann Wietbrock**

- After a letter was sent, the trampoline on the trail has been removed. Found out the electrical cable was not live and Nine Star will remove the cable after crops are harvested. The Next Level Trails Grant Funds have been redistributed due to COVID-19. Cost estimates were presented to the Commissioners to purchase 4 parcels of property (totaling 4.21 acres) as part of the grant process. These were signed last year for grant purposes. The cost estimate was completed by Yale Real Estate Services at \$136,825. The ROW Engineer was estimated by First Group Engineering for the title work and legal paperwork to purchase at \$48,000 with a total of \$184,825. The Pennsy Trails would donate \$65,620; this was donated by some significant partners such as Hancock County Community Foundation, Nine Star, Hancock Regional Hospital, Rotary Club and many donors. The property owners have been patiently

waiting. Mary Ann requested the County Commissioners approve the purchase of sections between 500 and 600 for the purposes of the trail as it was designed preliminary. The property owners main concern was drainage.

- Commissioner Armstrong confirmed \$119,205 would secure ROW for that segment of trails. Mary Ann said yes. Commissioner Armstrong said he is supportive of this and would fund through Economic Development Income Tax; but this needs to be taken to County Council. Commissioner Huber expressed concerns with paying \$32,000 an acre, he felt it was on the high end.
- Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to approve pending funding and County Council approval the ROW purchases for the Pennsy Trail as presented in an amount not to exceed \$119,205 and Commissioners recommended to fund from the EDIT balance. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Commissioner Armstrong encouraged Mary Ann to contact County Council for funding. Scott Benkie, County Attorney suggested Mary Ann discuss at the Budget Meeting August 5th. Mary Ann said she will get on both agendas to discuss Pennsy Trails.

#### **Release Bond for Surveyor**

- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the Performance Cash Bond for Winding Oaks LLC in the amount of \$10,000 for Bo's Run swales. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the Maintenance Bond for Indiana Excavating Services, LLC in the amount of \$22,500 for Bo's Run storm sewer and swales. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **Ordinance 2020-7C dissolves Hancock County Exposition Board**

Commissioner Huber introduced an Ordinance 2020-7C and read into minutes. This Ordinance dissolves the Hancock County Exposition Board. This ordinance will be adopted at the August 4, 2020 Commissioners meeting.

#### **Johnson Control Assessment**

- Jennifer Payne (Business Development Executive w/Johnson) asked Commissioners if they had questions on the Project Development Agreement they received. She said this agreement was sent to Scott Benkie, County Attorney for review. Scott said it was legally acceptable. Commissioner Huber questioned Customer Capital Contribution to be determined at contract signing, then price and payment terms is \$58,500. Commissioner Jessup said if they develop a plan and we do not move forward with the project and use someone else, then this payment is expected. If we enter into the second agreement to do the project then this fee is waived. Jennifer explained this is money already set aside in the budget. Commissioner Huber said the hope is to get money back through the savings of the project. Jennifer said you will see everything before it goes to contract. Commissioner Huber verified this is guaranteed savings. Jennifer said yes.

- Commissioner Huber made a motion to enter into the Project Development Agreement between Hancock County Board of Commissioners and Johnson Controls as presented. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **Replacement Employee / Debra Carnes-Auditor**

- Replacement employee requested for an employee retiring; a full-time employee has been trained to move into this full-time spot at \$40,150 with no increase and a part-time employee trained to take over for the other full-time employee spot at \$34,000 no salary increase and she will hold on replacing the part-time employee at this time.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to allow the replacement employees in the Auditor's Office at no salary increases just replacement only. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **Log Jams/Approval Heinrich Rate Study / Susan Bodkin-Surveyor**

- Requested approval to remove two log jams; one for Chris Seifert on Little Sugar Creek and one for Bill Spalding on Sugar Creek.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to allow the tree removals for Chris Seifert on Little Sugar Creek and Bill Spalding on Sugar Creek to be paid out of Non-Navigable Streams. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Requested approval for a study of the Heinrich regulated drain allowable release rate study for \$28,730.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to accept the contract from Christopher Burke Engineering, LLC for Professional Services for the Heinrich Regulated Drain Allowable Release Rate Study in an amount not to exceed \$28,730. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

#### **RFP Console Workstations/Declare Surplus Exacq Vision Server John Jokantas-E-911 Director**

- Requested to surplus an old server.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to declare surplus Exacq Vision Server ER1419135735. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Requested purchase of cameras for E-911 building. Most exterior cameras are not working. This will replace the 8 exterior cameras with 4 groups of 4 cameras with 360 degree around the building as well as seeing at night. He plans to trade in the server to assist with funding. Also looking at cameras for the Annex and door access.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve the Nelson Alarm quote for the new cameras and the labor at the EOC in an amount not to exceed \$15,288 to be paid out of the 2019 GO Bond. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Barry Ritter with Ritter Strategic Services prepared RFP for PSAP workstation furniture.

- Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve the RFP for the PSAP workstation furniture as presented. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Barry said the advertising responsibility is the County's. Scott suggested Barry send the RFP notice to himself and the Auditor. Barry would like to advertise tomorrow for July 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Globe Life / Iris Jane**

- Presented Commissioners with a folder of information. Employees who sit down with Globe Life would receive \$3,000 accidental death coverage for themselves, for their spouse and \$1,000 for each dependent child. The next benefit will be a no cost discount card they will receive within 10-14 business days that helps save them 85% off vision, dental, prescription drugs and chiropractic care. Most health insurance does not include chiropractic care because it is considered cosmetic. Insurance to cover grandchildren is available, cancer policy cash payouts, critical illness cash payouts, pre-tax savings and many more benefits. Globe Life is flexible in meeting with employees through virtual Zoom meetings.
- Commissioner Armstrong prefers not making changes until open enrollment time in November. He would like to gather more information. Commissioner Huber agreed. Commissioner Armstrong said maybe Mary McCoy could help with reviewing contracts. Commissioner Huber said it looks like there are several good features to Globe Life and renewal is the time to consider a change.

#### **Discuss 18-Month Criminal Justice Strategy Plan**

- Commissioner Jessup opened discussion for an 18 month criminal justice strategy plan for facility needs, sentencing, court openings, etc. to be sure we are on the same page.
- Sheriff Burkhart updated Commissioners on jail status; jail population is 107 and 11 at other facilities. Mofab is currently welding doors in the jail. The Sheriff said he is doing his best to prevent lawsuits. He noted space for females is a concern.
- Judge Marshall, Superior Court II, said he does not bring anyone from the jail to court, unless they are going home from there. He utilizes video when possible. If they want to talk to the prosecutor or their lawyer they can. However, they will be brought to court for trials.
- Commissioner Armstrong said our assets are; we have a retrofitted jail and the Sheriff has a process to bring new people in, a 100 people could be in the jail, we have the Community Corrections building that could be use in this way or another. Judge Marshall said ideally a jail, a fully functioning Community Corrections and a fully functioning Probation Department, but currently that is not realistic. Judge Marshall said the courts reopening plan was approved and they are up and running. He said the courts are currently running smoothly and video is working well. Commissioner Huber concerned with spending \$150,000-\$200,000 for an additional 100 beds for only one year. Judge Marshall said the justice system can't delay sending people to jail for one year.

- Wade Kennedy, Community Corrections Executive Director believes in the work release program, but currently it is not feasible. Commissioner Armstrong would like to see work release up and running in November 2021. Wade vowed to work towards getting a work release program restarted.
- Commissioner Jessup inquired if anyone foresees a flood gate opening at some point? Sheriff Burkhart said DUI's, batteries are being incarcerated, but warrants, probation violations, things of that nature, are not.
- Brent Eaton, Prosecutor said consistent contact with law enforcement over the county reveals there are warrants to pursue, but at this time, low level warrants are not being pursued. Proactive enforcement isn't in the normal posture, because there is not room in the jail. The sooner there is more jail space the better for public safety. The Sheriff has done an amazing job keeping his facility secure. This says a lot about the people in this community, that there is not a massive spike in property crime. Brent expressed he would like to see work release back, when it is feasible.
- Commissioner Armstrong said it sounds like Commissioners need to put the \$150,000 plus into additional jail space. Commissioner Jessup asked if anyone would like to add any additional comments. Commissioner Armstrong encouraged Community Corrections to work with the Sheriff to do a slow ramp up portion of work release. Commissioner Huber would like to see some mental health and drug addiction programs, he would like to see something positive out of the program.

**The Hancock County Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 11:43 AM.**

### **Hancock County Commissioners**

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Commissioner John Jessup, President

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Commissioner Brad Armstrong, Vice-President

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Commissioner Marc Huber

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