

Hancock County Board of Commissioners
Regularly Scheduled Meeting
July 7, 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 7, 2020 Hancock County Commissioners Board meeting at 8:01 AM.

Highway Updates / Gary Pool (Engineer)

- Negotiating for lower contract prices.
- In search of a replacement employee for a mechanic retiring next week. Also open is a truck driver position, a permit manager position and another mechanic position.
- Highway has cut back work due to funding issues.

Claims

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

Commissioner Minutes

Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve the Commissioner minutes for June 30, 2020 as presented. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Release Bond for Surveyor

Commissioner Huber made a motion to release the Performance Cash Bond for Paul Holden in the amount of \$2,462.50 for relocation of county tile. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Annex Chiller Replacement

Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to enter into a contract with Circle Design Group to make specifications and do administration in an amount not to exceed \$22,000 for the chiller project. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioners Court AV System

- Bernie Harris (IT Department) presented Commissioners with a proposal to update the Commissioners Court AV System. The components will allow for future growth. Commissioner Huber expressed concern with Nine Star's compatibility. Bernie confirmed he would have Nine Star and Diversified work together.
- Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to enter into a contract with Diversified in an amount not to exceed \$27,428.75 to be paid out of bond proceeds pending legal review and pending compatibility with Nine Star Service; to be signed by Commissioner President John Jessup. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Maintenance Update / Dean Mullins

- The Memorial Building needed a window air conditioner replaced in the Mental Health Office.
- Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to authorize the air conditioning replacement for Mental Health Department in the Memorial Building not to exceed \$600 to be paid out of CCD Building Maintenance. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Hancock County Mutual Aide Association (Fire Fighters of Hancock County)

Dave Sutherlin (Buck Creek Township Fire Department) representing the Hancock County Mutual Aide Association (8 fire departments) reappeared before Commissioners. He notified Commissioners he went to Council and they requested he make a Capital request through the Bond. Commissioners directed Dave to fill out the appropriate paperwork for a capital request.

New Jail Update / Dustin Fry RQAW

- Updated Commissioners on the jail progress and requested signatures for Change Order #2.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve Change Order #2 this allows for construction of Administration Building at the new jail the change order is not to exceed \$5,417,101. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Stellar Communities Grant

Mike Dale (Planning Department) introduced Joanie Fitzwater, City of Greenfield Planning Director to present Stellar Communities grant. Joanie explained Stellar Communities is a collaborative effort from the State. The purpose is to build collaboration within the County. Joan provided a presentation handout for the Commissioners to review. Also present were Teresa Hester, Town of Shirley Town Clerk and Linda Ostewig Talitha Koum Treatment Center.

Vacate Easement

Mike Dale (Planning Department) presented a request from Randy and Amy Murphy to vacate a drainage/utility easement in Sapphire Springs (formerly Every Meadows subdivision located at 700 N and 250 E in Hancock County) between lots 26 and 27. The statute gives responsibility and authority to the Commissioners to vacate an easement. Mike said he will assist to facilitate the easement. The owners have provided all the necessary information, so the next step would be to draft an ordinance to vacate the easements and determine a time for a public hearing. This involves giving public notice of a hearing, the statute requires the Auditor to perform the steps. The petitioner is responsible for paying for the expenses for advertisement for the public notice. It must be published in the local paper 10 days prior to the public hearing. The petitioner must send the notice via certified mail to each owner of land that affects the area that is vacated. The Auditor will perform the steps for the petitioner and the petitioner will reimburse the Auditor for the expenses. At the hearing the Commissioners will adopt the Ordinance to vacate easements. Upon adoption the Auditor will provide a signed copy of the Ordinance to the Recorder for recording and maintain a copy in the Auditors Office.

Within 30 days after adoption of the Ordinance, then it is appealed at Superior Court or Probate Court. The code site is 36-7-3-16 which redirects the reader to IC 36-7-3-12. The County Attorney received information to draft the Ordinance.

Rutledge Rezone/Ordinance 2020-7A

- Mike Dale (Planning Department) presented a rezone request for Rutledge 14.75 acres from IBP to A (500 W 100 S). Last month's Planning Commission meeting gave favorable recommendation for the Commissioners to rezone.
- Commissioner Huber introduced Ordinance 2020-7A rezoning of 500 W/100 S in Greenfield from Industrial Business Park (IBP) to Agriculture (A) with a commitment the owner waives his right to remonstrate.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-7A as presented with the zoning commitments. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Lauth Rezone / Ordinance 2020-7B

- Mike Dale (Planning Department) presented a rezone request for Lauth 76.5 acres from R2.5 to IBP (7400 W 350 N). Last month's Planning Commission meeting gave favorable recommendation to the Commissioners to rezone.
- Commissioner Huber introduced Ordinance 2020-7B rezoning 76.5 acres from R2.5 to IBP with the commitments; no parking lot or structures, primary use hotel/motel, boat/RV storage and mini warehouse self-storage.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-7B as presented with commitments. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Planning Department Request a New Comprehensive Plan

Mike Dale notified Commissioners he will be requesting from Council funds to embark in a New Comprehensive Plan update. Gary Pool (Highway) recommends \$250,000. The plan would involve an extensive transportation study into land use projects. Randy Sorrell is excited to get an economic plan incorporated into our Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Armstrong feels this is critical and worthwhile.

Johnson Control Assessment

Jennifer Payne (Business Development Executive w/Johnson) presented Commissioners with a Hancock County Preliminary Findings. Jennifer found \$42,000-43,000 annual utility savings. This does not include operational savings. Since the evaluation, Duke passed a 7% increase which will change the estimated savings. This is a self-funded program; no tax or utility increases will be needed. The work will be paid for through savings Johnson Controls helps the County recoup. If savings are not accurately projected, Johnson will write a check for the shortfall. Commissioners were interested in a project agreement pending legal review. Jennifer will forward a project agreement to Scott Benkie, County Attorney for legal review.

Community Corrections / Wade Kennedy (Executive Director)

- Currently Community Corrections has four vehicles in the lease program with Enterprise; a 2019 Ford for the Director, two 2019 Chevy Traverses for field officers and a 2020 Ford Explorer for another field officer. The lease for the 2019 Ford F150 is a two year lease (until 2021). Enterprise likes trucks returned yearly for resale to recoup higher equity. There is one 2019 Chevy Traverse not being used due to the suspension of the work release program. There is a -\$1,200 equity for trading in the 2019 Ford pickup for a 2020 and by turning in the 2019 Traverse we will save \$12,000.
- Wade questioned building maintenance responsibilities; although there are no issues currently. Commissioners agreed this would fall under the Commissioners. Wade formally requested cleaning assistance for the building.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to approve the trade-in of the Ford F150 pickup truck early due to the residual equity in it and replace it with a new truck and terminate the lease for one of the Traverses for Community Corrections. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**
- Commissioner Armstrong asked how many people were on home detention? Wade replied 95. Commissioner Armstrong clarified Community Corrections is taking care of 95 people with 9 employees and trying to figure out the administrative side. Wade said the statute is 35-1 for field officers; he clarified himself, 5 field officers and 3 admin staff (bookkeeper, home detention coordinator, court liaison). He said when the courts pick-up, it will become hectic.

Economic Development Council / Randy Sorrell (Director)

- Randy presented Commissioners with a revolving fund loan grant application. He presented Commissioners with 2 handouts (COVID-19 Response Program Phase II and the Hometown Business Preservation Initiative Program from Purdue). This helps create a small business revolving loan program. The funding is through a grant application with OCRA. Proposals are due June 26th and Applications are due July 31st. The proposal was initiated with a phone call and the application is due next. A city, town or county can apply. This would allow us to help small businesses in the county and he requested the Commissioners be the lead applicant. No match is required. But a public meeting would need to be scheduled for the next Commissioner meeting.
- Commissioner Huber made the motion; Hancock County Commissioners would be the lead applicant for the CDBG program. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.** Randy will advertise to hold a public hearing for CDBG program July 21st at 9AM.
- Commissioner Huber made a motion to hold a Public Hearing for the CDBG program at the next Commissioners meeting July 21st at 9AM. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Dedication of ROW

- Steve Cooper presented Commissioners with a dedication of ROW for Chase Minor Sub.

- Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to accept 35' half ROW for Chase Minor Sub. Commissioner Huber seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Sheriff Burkhardt Update

- Notified Commissioners AED's were distributed to the Annex, Court House, Police Cars, Prosecutor's Office, Highway and E-911 Center. Training was completed for employees available. A 5 minute YouTube video will be sent to all employees.
- Notified Commissioners he has been receiving many inquiries to reopen the jail. The Sheriff would like to work on a plan together, he noted the Judges are anxious to open. Commissioner Huber stated he would like everyone to be on the same page.
- Commissioners expressed they would like a Criminal Justice Strategy session with the goal of strategizing an 18 month plan for the Hancock County criminal justice system. This will entail how to mitigate COVID-19 for the next 18 months. The Hancock County Commissioners would like for the Hancock County Judges, Sheriff, Prosecutor, Probation and Community Corrections to participate in this strategy meeting. The meeting will be July 21st at 11 AM.

Animal Control Discussed

Commissioners discussed animal control. Commissioners requested the County Attorney to draft a letter to the City of Greenfield.

The Hancock County Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Hancock County Commissioners

Commissioner John Jessup, President

Commissioner Brad Armstrong, Vice-President

Commissioner Marc Huber

Attest: _____
Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor