

Hancock County Board of Commissioners Minutes

August 24, 2009

Commissioners met in regular session. Those present were Commissioner Derek Towle, Commissioner Brad Armstrong and Commissioner Tom Stevens. Auditor Robin D. Lowder was also present. Attorney Ray Richardson arrived at 7:59AM. The recording began at 7:30AM.

In The Matter Of)

Hancock County Highway)

Draining of Ponds and Wetlands on 600 East Stimulus Project)

Joseph Copeland Hancock County Engineer appeared before the Commissioners to inform them some of the property owners near the 600 East stimulus project near 500 South close to Blue River are concerned their ponds and wetlands are being drained. Continued construction requires the dewatering of an area north of Big Blue River to install a large culvert. Joe indicated he believed the swamp ground is too far away to be damaged by construction activities on the road. United is getting a proposal from Earth Exploration and Joe also recommended Christopher B. Burke & Associates. Joe believes that next spring things will be back to normal, but the county will closely monitor the ground water. Milestone is working toward sealing some storm sewer pipe joints that are leaking. The wetland constructed for the county west of the road is still holding water.

Sprinkler Systems in the Right of Way – Commissioner Armstrong received a call from Browning Development regarding permission to install a Sprinkler System in a right of way. County Highway Engineer Joe Copeland said the county policy was to have the sprinkler system shown on your plans. Commissioner Towle concurred with Joe Copeland that the decision had been made to decide on a case by case basis on sprinkler systems in the right of way. They need to file a plan and apply for a permit. It will then be brought before the Commissioners. The County is not to be held responsible if the system would need to be moved at a later date.

Mt. Vernon School Entrance - The Entrance into the Mt. Vernon Elementary school is almost completed. There is an issue with some trees. The trees that were to be there have not been planted. They also are not on the Landscape Plans. Joe does show them on his approved plans. The Department is corresponding with Browning to resolve the situation.

Subdivisions Needing Surfacing – There are several subdivisions in sugar creek that need to be surfaced. The developer said he is obtaining contracts with asphalt companies now.

Mowing of Weeds South on 600 West – Alan Wicker the weed specialist appeared before the Commissioners to inform them he had complaints on a property South on 600 West. The owner of the property produced a certificate of official Wildlife Habitat. The county attorney Ray Richardson told Alan he didn't think they could defend this situation in court. The Commissioners felt the property didn't really meet the criteria of what they intended when they adopted the new ordinance. Mr. Wicker was concerned about the neighbors who had lodged the complaint. The Commissioners stated they did not intend for owners of unimproved property to be forced to mow their property. Their intent when they adopted the ordinance was to target those properties with structures that are being neglected.

In The Matter Of)

Terminix)

Pest Control Presentation – Steve Vaughn appeared before the Commissioners to present them with a proposal for pest control. Most of the county facilities would be sprayed every other month except for the jail. The jail would be sprayed every month since they have a cafeteria and it is a high traffic area. They would come out at no charge if we had a special issue in-between sprayings. He agreed to freeze the prices for 2 years. We could also stop the contract at any time we chose. The county would define for Terminix exactly which buildings would be included. He is to come back with a specific price and contract after the county supplies him with all the information.

In The Matter Of)

The Emergency Operating Center)

Sheriff Bud Gray, Greenfield Police Chief John Jester, and acting E.O.C. Director Connie Hoy appeared before the Commissioners to recommend Greg Shamblin Jr. to fill the vacant position as a E.O.C. dispatcher. Commissioner Tom Stevens made a motion for Greg Shamblin Jr. to fill the vacant position as an E.O.C. dispatcher. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

In The Matter Of)

E.O.C. Interim Director's Salary)

The Commissioners also stated they had authorized Connie Hoy to be compensated with the E.O.C. Director's salary when they appointed her as interim E.O.C. Director. The compensation is to be retroactive to the date of her appointment.

E.O.C. Director Applicants – Sheriff Gray reported the E.O.C. Board is doing interviews on Tuesday to fill the E. O. C. Director position. They hope to have a recommendation for the Commissioners in a couple of weeks, no more than 30 days. Sheriff Gray will bring the E.O.C. Board's top three resumes to the Commissioners. The Commissioners will then meet with the applicant the E.O.C. Board recommends in a public meeting.

In The Matter Of)

Ordinance 2009-8C)

Increasing The Foreclosure Administrative Fee)

Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2009-8C Increasing The Foreclosure Administrative Fee. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

In The Matter Of)

Prosecutor's Office)

Law Enforcement Fund)

Prosecutor Dean Dobbins appeared before the Commissioners to request adopting an ordinance that would create a Law Enforcement fund for forfeitures to be receipted into. This would help defray expenses. If this is not done the money then will go into the school fund. The Commissioners advised Prosecutor Dobbins to seek approval from the council.

In The Matter Of)

Former Hancock County Coroner)

Dan Devoy)

Dan Devoy the former Hancock County Coroner appeared before the Commissioners with a request to keep his former Coroner's badge. He had the badge placed on a plaque. The present Coroner has asked him to return the badge due to some of the circumstances that have occurred in the county. When Dan was Coroner he had filled out a survey and the Health Department was awarded \$1000. He felt this helped defray the cost of his badge. He stated if the Commissioners asked him to return the badge he would abide by their decision. The Commissioners stated it was not under their control what action he was to take.

In The Matter Of)

Senior Center)

Linda Hart of the Senior Center appeared before the Commissioners to have them adopt a Resolution for a grant from INDOT to purchase transportation for the Center. Commissioner Stevens made a motion to adopt Resolution 2009-8-2. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion was carried 3-0.

In The Matter Of)

United Way)

Commissioner Towle stated United Way had requested to place a sign on the courthouse lawn. Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to allow United Way to place a sign on the Courthouse lawn. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

In The Matter Of)

Kids Play Children's Theater)

Commissioner Armstrong made a motion to allow Chris Schaefer of Kids Play Children's Theater to rent the basement of the Memorial building for \$100 a month for a period of a year. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0. The Commissioners stated Kids Play was responsible for their janitorial duties.

In The Matter Of)

Commissioners' Minutes August 17, 2009)

Commissioner Stevens made a motion to approve the Commissioners' Minutes of August 17, 2009. Commissioner Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

In The Matter Of)

RQAW)

Jail & Judicial Long Range Planning)

RQAW gave a presentation on Hancock County Judicial Needs Assessment. Various County Officials were in attendance. They have extensive building experience over the State of Indiana. The company only uses in-house staff. They have three phases. Strategic Planning, Space Programming and Conceptual Design. They will design, build and see the project to completion.

The Recording stopped at 12:11PM.

Hancock County Commissioner

Commissioner Derek Towle President

Commissioner Tom Stevens

Commissioner Brad Armstrong

Attest: _____

Robin D. Lowder

Hancock County Auditor