Jennings County Commissioner's Meeting
4-8-21 @ 6:30 p.m.
ETC Building / Elsner Hall
In Person and by Zoom

All Commissioners were present.

Matt opened the meeting with the pledge.

Jim Reeves, County Highway was present requesting additional appropriations to put into the new grant fund numbers for the various projects. Jim will be taking the money out of the cum bridge cash and then will be transferring the money from CEDIT to Brownstown Road Project. The construction part of Bridge 76 will be taken from MVH Restricted to cover the construction.

Matt asked for a motion to present to county council. Shane made the motion. Bob seconded, passed unanimously.

Jim also presented a letter from South Decatur Senior High School asking for a discounted rate to hold their prom at the community building. Shane asked Jim what the full rate for rental was and Jim told Shane it was $600. There was discussion on cutting the fee, a discounted rate, and who would be cleaning the building.

Matt recommended allowing them have it for $300 and they do all of the clean-up. Bob made a motion to allow them to have it for $300 and they do the clean-up. Shane seconded. Passed unanimously.

Charlie St. John was there in regards to the right of way at 3626 Highway 50, he was asking if it could be made less intrusive. Currently, it is 160 feet from the center line of the road of his driveway. He would like to put a sign up for his business as the current sign cannot be seen. He wants to put a sign up, landscape, maintain, and secure the property. The dimensions are 133 feet wide x 40 feet wide at his parking lot and 87 feet wide at the highway with the radiuses. He would like to ask permission to do all of these things on the county right of way. Matt recommends going through area plan to get approval on what he wants to do on the property. But if I, were you, I would not want to abandon the right of way because if there ever was or is an issue then it's not only is your problem, it is the county's problem. (Wreck or anything like that.) Matt thinks it would be in everyone's best interest for the county to keep the right of way and just allow Charlie to use it, mow and put his sign up. Charlie also wants to plant trees.

Shane makes a motion to have Charlie get with Marie to put the sign up. Bob seconded; Matt made it unanimous.

Marie, Area Plan Director indicated the sign will be in the county's name as it is on their property. Is that, ok? Matt suggested putting it in both of their names. He said he will sign off on it. Matt signed the application.

Bakertilly Bond Letter. Alex is presenting the Bakertilly Bond Letter. The bond was issued in 2020 and Bakertilly is the county's financial advisor and will continue to advise the county on the bond issue and any matters regarding the bond. The agreement with Bakertilly for the continuing obligation for the life of the bond. Shane made a motion to sign the Bakertilly engagement letter, Bob seconded, passed unanimously. Matt signs the Bakertilly Bond Letter.

Next is the ordinance SBOA requires the county to adopt to receive the stimulus money from congress. Alex explained what the money can be used for. On number 2 of the ordinance, the county council must appropriate money in the fund before money can be used out of this fund. As well as the oversight it is required the auditor has to review to use the money, consult with the county attorney, and the financial advisor. Matt indicated it was a big deal and a lot of money. Alex indicated that it will be paid out over the next three years.

Matt asked for a motion to adopt the ordinance. Bob made the motion to adopt the ordinance. Shane seconded. Passed unanimously.

Matt asked about the stimulus money being used for infrastructure. Alex stated that it is one of the criteria. Matt asked if Jim could have used this instead of having to have appropriations. Could we not have done some of those projects with this as roads and bridges are infrastructure. Alex said county council would still need to appropriate the money to that fund for that purpose. Tessia mentioned that the money Jim was putting into the funds would be reimbursed.

Alex said there was a memo sent out this week regarding opening the county government buildings. The governor lifted the mask mandate and left it up to the county on whether the county wanted to continue with the mandate or use it as an advisory. The commissioners lifted the mandate on wearing masks. The executive order from the governor requires that while working or attending the covid vaccination clinic must wear a mask. The health department would like to require that masks be worn at their regular clinics, not just the covid clinic. The commissioners said they had discussed the mask wearing in the meeting and had agreed but it was inadvertently left off of the memo. The commissioners agreed that masks are required at all of the health department's clinics.

Tyler Technologies Contract. Alex spoke in regards to the Tyler Technologies contract. Currently the assessor's office contracts with Tyler Technologies for the reassessments and part of Randy's goals are to bring the reassessments back in-house. To save the cost of the contract, the amendment before the commissioners will reduce the fees that are being charged from Tyler. Randy stated that is money that will not be paid to Tyler. The money will be staying in the reassessment fund. From last quarter to this year, it totals $50,088. Matt asked if the money has to stay in the reassessment fund? Randy stated, yes, that is where Tyler was being paid from. Matt asked if there were limitations as to what that money can be spent on other than reassessment? Randy said there are seven items within the reassessment fund that those monies can be spent on and stated he would get the information to the commissioners.

Shane made the motion to amend the contract with Tyler Technologies. Bob seconded. Matt made it unanimous.

Best Way Disposal. Alex presented the contract for Best Way Disposal. The bid was previously accepted and has been reviewed by the solid waste district attorney and Alex. Neither parties have issues with the contract.

Bob made the motion to approve the Best Way Disposal contract. Shane seconded. Passed unanimously.

Eagle Point. Tessia presented the Eagle Point quote for two new servers. The current servers are out of date and need to be replaced. The quote for those two servers is $13,656. Discussion was had about the need of the servers and having to replace them.

Shane made the motion to approve the two servers to Eagle Point for $13,656. Bob seconded, passed unanimously. Tessia said this will now allow for the recorder to be on the server with LOW.

Tessia indicated the commissioners have a request for an employee to work from home and needs to be voted on. Shane asked how long this was for. Alex stated that it was for two weeks. Shane made motion to allow the employee to work from home. Bob seconded. Passed unanimously.

TIF Management Report. Tessia presented the TIF Management Report and stated she needed them to acknowledge that they had received the report. Matt stated that the commissioners did receive the TIF Management Report.

Courthouse Security Upgrades. Matt said there was one thing that came to him today. Randy Taggart, the person that was approved to do the courthouse security upgrades two weeks ago has made the commissioners aware of another issue. Jerry Shepherd has looked at it and he has recommended that we install two additional panic buttons; the additional cost is $440 over what was allotted for the security upgrade of two weeks ago. Both, Randy and Jerry, recommend that we install the two panic buttons. The office holder also recommends that we do it, so I am going to recommend that we install the two panic buttons.

Shane made the motion to approve the $440. Bob seconded it. Passed unanimously.

Alex informed the commissioners that they could all sign vouchers and each commissioner has equal rights under the statue in each signing vouchers. No policy is needed. Matt and commissioners split the vouchers between them to sign.

Matt indicated they needed a motion to approve prior minutes for 3/11/21, 3/17/21 and 3/18/21. Shane made a motion to approve the prior minutes, Bob seconded. Passed unanimously.

Matt asked for a motion to sign payroll and claims. Bob made the motion to sign payroll and claims. Shane seconded. Matt made it unanimous.

Matt and Tessia talked about the Monthly Comparison Report. Matt shared with Shane and explained that the commissioner's have to acknowledge any negative funds by initialing each fund that is negative. This will indicate to SBOA, during an audit, that the commissioners are working on getting it corrected.

Matt said he thought this Saturday was the big shot clinic at the government building. If anyone needs to get a shot use this opportunity.

Shane asked when we would be going back to the annex building for the meetings and Matt stated they want as many shots in arms and until the health department thinks they can manage by going back upstairs to do them; then we can take our room back.

Questions from Zoom was addressed. They are asking what happened to the CSL Admin that was on the agenda. CSL Admin asked to be taken off of the agenda.

Matt and commissioners signed the titles for the Sheriff's department so the vehicles can be taken to auction.

Discussion was had on replacing a hydraulic cylinder on an escalator of $6,082.

Matt asked if anyone had anything else?

Bob made motion to adjourn, Shane seconded. Passed unanimously.

Tessia Salsman

Tessia Salsman, Auditor

Bob Willhite

Bob Willhite, Vice-Chairman

Matt Sporleder

Matt Sporleder, Chairman

Shane Boswell

Shane Boswell

Jennings County Commissioners Executive Meeting
April 15, 2021

Matt Sporleder, Shane Boswell and Robert Willhite were in attendance. The meeting took place by Zoom for discussion of strategy with respect to litigation that is either pending or has been threatened specifically in writing, pursuant to Indiana Code § 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(B).m.

Tessia Salsman

Tessia Salsman, Auditor

Bob Willhite

Bob Willhite, Vice-Chairman

Matt Sporleder

Matt Sporleder, Chairman

Shane Boswell

Shane Boswell

Jennings County Commissioner's Meeting
ETC Building / Elsner Hall
In-person and by Zoom
April 22, 2021

All members are present.

Matt opened the meeting with the pledge.

Tim Hunt – HWC Engineering – Introduced himself as a past resident and 1975 graduate of Jennings County and have family in Jennings County. Has been with HWC Engineering with over five years.

Approximately three years ago HWC Engineering became the city engineer for the city of North Vernon. Brought before the commissioners is a Retainer Agreement similar to the city's. The agreement you have is not contractual to use HWC Engineering at all. HWC Engineering is a full-service engineering firm with the headquarters located in Indianapolis with 5 satellite offices (New Albany, Terre Haute, Muncie, Hammond and Lafayette and coming by the end of the year downtown North Vernon).

Full service is defined as planning, economic development, studies, surveyors, inspections and also adopting standards. They have done the stellar project, the plaza, the expansion, front facades for downtown North Vernon. HWC is offering their services on an as needed basis.

HWC Engineering is looking at the fairgrounds projects as a possible layout and possibly some drainage projects in the future. HWC has their own drone that is very economical to bring the drone crew and do the whole fair ground and is downloaded on auto CAD file so the surveyor can use it. If there is a need for HWC services an agreement would need to be put in place.

Shane Boswell clarified that if the county doesn't use HWC for anything we owe HWC nothing.

Matt states that the agreement that was presented to the commissioners as an on-call agreement as needed. Matt indicated they have this type of agreement with others as well.

Shane made a motion to table the HWC Engineering until next meeting, Bob seconded, passed unanimously.

Matt asked if he had looked at the fairgrounds and Tim said that he had and had received copies and made additional copies of the plans. He has looked at it and was not sure what was wanting to be accomplished and did not know where to begin. Matt indicated the fair was around June 15th and would look at wanting to start after the fair in order to get completed by the time bad weather arrives.

Alex Zimmerman, County Attorney. Bringing the **lawsuit ordinance** back for consideration. We have the three drafts, the initial ordinance that was discussed, the second ordinance with changes as directed (Page 2-C & 2-E / See ordinance). The biggest change in the new version is that it takes the county council out of it because under IN law the commissioners are the legislative and the executive branch of county government. County Council's role is the fiscal body and they appropriate the money. There is not a legislative role for county council that relates to the first two versions that was drafted. This would infringe on the commissioner's role as the executive branch of county government. It was suggested, at budget time the commissioners request a certain amount in a line item for attorney's fees and if a request was made the auditor or staff could present to county council a request additional appropriation for that fund.

Alex's recommendation is to table this one for more time to review. Shane indicated that he had calls asking if department heads were protected or do, they have something else? Alex said they are not contemplated in this and believes the county should cover their fees. He further said that hopefully this does not happen again but he thinks for employee-to-employee disputes we probably ought to address the process in the employee handbook that says these disputes need to go to some neutral third party. Shane indicated some form of mediation for two employees. Matt indicated his concern if the commissioners decide to do this the possibility of council not allocating the funds and puts the burden back to the commissioners to try to find where the money is going to be moved from. Alex indicated there are no guarantees because of the way the structure of county government is set up. Alex said he could not guarantee the council would or would not appropriate any money if this situation ever arose again. Matt thinks everyone needs to be on the same page if a lawsuit ever happens again. Discussion was had. Shane made a motion to table until next meeting. Bob seconded. Passed unanimously.

Jodi Comer – SIRPC. – Presenting for Patty Jackson. They contract with INDOT every year to do rural traffic counts. SIRPC does a thorough count of rural roads every three years. A report was distributed that informed them that the INDOT site has been updated and is not user-friendly. If the county needs information on the counts please call the office and SIRPC will help get the information to you. INDOT contacted SIRPC last year to expand their rural program and do state and non-state owned, SIRPC will be doing US 50, 7, and 3. During the discussion on the list of rural counts from INDOT you can call the office for clarification or questions.

The money through the owner-occupied housing grant through IHCDA will not be available until 2022 as it was given to another agency. Jennings County had received the housing grant in 2017.

SIRPC applies for funds through a housing preservation grant. SIRPC applies for the funds to match the housing grant. SIRPC would like to ask permission to apply for those funds on our behalf. If the funds are awarded, the funds can be used to match a bigger grant through OCRA. No decision needs to be made right now.

Bob made motion to allow SIRPC to apply for grant on commissioner's behalf, Shane seconded, passed unanimous.

Matt Sporleder spoke on the **proposed piping change for the jail's HVAC pipe.** There is a description from Greg and he is asking for $11,799 additional money that had not already been previously approved. Discussion of concerns of not liking additional requests. It was explained it would allow certain repairs to be made without the entire system being down. It is agreed that it should have been caught in the initial process and part of the initial bid and it was not and so they are now asking for an additional $11,799. It was reiterated of the benefits of adding it and the entire system not being down.

Shane made motion to approve the $11,799 for the HVAC Pipe Replacement Project. Bob seconded it, passed unanimously.

Matt Sporleder spoke on a personnel issue and needing to schedule an executive session to handle the personnel issue. It was agreed to meet in person. Nicci and Tessia will work on the schedule and getting it posted.

Nicci Lucas, Human Resources. Mary Kilgore, **Recorder is requesting to hire a part-time employee** as her part time employee has been terminated. The potential new employee has agreed to start on May 1st.

Shane made the motion to allow Mary to hire to replace. Bob seconded, passed unanimously.

Shane made a motion to **approve the prior minutes**, Bob seconded, passed unanimously.

Kathy from EDC, updated the commissioners of being successful on the $250,000 grant through OCRA, to help support businesses through the **Covid Relief Fund**. The city of North Vernon was funded $250,000 making a total of $500,000 that will be shared with our local businesses.

Bob made a motion to sign payroll and claims. Shane seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Shane made a **motion to adjourn**, Bob seconded and passed unanimously.

Tessia Salsman
Tessia Salsman, Auditor

Bob Willhite
Bob Willhite, Vice-Chairman

Matt Sporleder
Matt Sporleder, Chairman

Shane Boswell
Shane Boswell

Jennings County Commissioners Executive Meeting
April 28, 2021

Matt Sporleder, Shane Boswell and Bob Willhite were in attendance. The meeting was held at the Jennings County Government Center, Human Resources Office, at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, to discuss, before a determination, an individual's status as an employee, pursuant to I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(6)(B). No subject matter was discussed in the executive session other than the subject matter specified in the public notice.

Kitty Shepherd, Chief Deputy Auditor

Kitty Shepherd, Chief Deputy Auditor

Bob Willhite

Bob Willhite, Vice Chairman

Matt Sporleder

Matt Sporleder, Chairman

Shane Boswell

Shane Boswell