

## **COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

Jefferson County Courthouse, Room 103, 300 E. Main St. Madison, IN 47250

DATE 02-17-2022

Commissioner Ron Lee called the meeting to order, and led The Pledge of Allegiance along with Robert Little and David Bramer. Commissioner Robert Little made a motion to approve the previous meetings minutes, all accounts payable, and payroll claim dockets. Commissioner David Bramer seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0.

**Faith Weir- VSO Year End Report-** Veteran Service Officer, Faith Weir presented her annual report to the Commissioners. JSVSO filed 1954 claims/applications, 5714 total phone calls, 1749 total appointments (in office and home visits). Weir updated the commissioners on other various office duties, programs and the monetary benefits to Jefferson County Veterans and Dependents. The following financial numbers are underestimated due to the amounts coming from reward letters that are brought into the office. Annual Compensation \$1,204,298.95; Retroactive \$707,479.71; Total Compensation \$1,911,778.66; Burial Allowance \$18,500; Total Tax Free to Veterans and Dependents \$1,930,278.66. Faith announced a welcome home event that will take place on May 4<sup>th</sup> for the Vietnam Veterans at the VFW. More information will be given at a later date.

**Annual Board of Finance Meeting-** Commissioner David Bramer opened the Annual Board of Finance Meeting. Treasurer Deputy, Meghan Hoskins read last years' minutes from the meeting that took place on February 5, 2021. Commissioner Robert Little nominated Commissioner Ron Lee as the president of the Board of Finance. Commissioner David Bramer seconded the motion. Motion passed 2/0, with Ron Lee abstaining. Commissioner Little made a motion to nominate Melinda Klopp as the Treasurer of the Board of Finance. Commissioner Bramer seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0. Commissioner Bramer made a motion to approve the February 5, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Robert Little seconded. Motion passed 3/0. Meghan Hoskins presented the Board with the 2021 interests and statement balances. The following amounts are interest gained over 2021: German American \$31,942.12; First Financial \$1,206.91; Farmer's Bank of Milton \$14,349.97; PERF \$1,783.86; Credit Card \$4,019.15; German American EFT \$1,890.23; German American FSA \$309.01. Overall the interest gained was \$55,501.25. Hoskins also presented tax sale statistics and stated that all but 1 property sold at tax sale. Commissioner David Bramer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Robert Little seconded. Motion passed 3/0.

**Amber Finnegan, Court Services-** Executive Director, Amber Finnegan requested a part time facilitator position be changed to a full time position. Finnegan said that additional cost of the salary and benefits would be covered by grant funds. Commissioner Bramer made a motion to approve the position change, so long as the costs are covered. Commissioner Robert Little seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0. In other business, Finnegan announced that the Court Services Case Managers would be re-titled as probation officers. Finnegan has also applied for a grant to cover a 16-month contract for an employee to serve as a grant administrator for the residential treatment committee. Finnegan also announced her resignation, which will take place on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Laserfiche Cloud Upgrade-** County Archivist, Erica Cline presented a contract to upgrade the current laserfiche data to the cloud storage. This will also open up a lot of opportunities for departments and the public. The money for this upgrade was encumbered by the County Council last year. Commissioner David Bramer made a motion to approve the contract for Laserfiche for \$21,765.99. Commissioner Robert Little seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0.

**Broadband Ready Ordinance 2022-01-** Commissioner Robert Little made a motion to forego the second and third readings. Commissioner Bramer seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0. Commissioner Little made a motion to approve ordinance 2022-01. Commissioner Bramer seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SEEKING TO BE  
DESIGNATED AS A BROADBAND READY COMMUNITY

**WHEREAS**, Jefferson County by and through the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners seeks to promote private investment in broadband infrastructure, and

**WHEREAS**, Jefferson County by and through the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners seeks to be designated as a Broadband Ready Community pursuant to I.C. §5-28-28.5,

**NOW THEREFORE**, Jefferson County by and through the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners adopts the following provisions pursuant to said statute:

Sec. 1. As used in Chapter 28.5 Broadband Communities Development Center (I.C. §5-28-28.5), “permit” means any local permit, license, certificate, approval, registration, or similar form of approval required by policy, administrative rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution with respect to a project.

Sec. 2. As used in said chapter, “project” means the construction or deployment of wireline or wireless communications facilities to provide communications services (as defined in I.C. §8-1-32.5-3) in a unit.

Sec. 3. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Jefferson County Code, ordinances, regulations, policy or practice, the following shall apply to a Broadband Project:

The Board shall:

- (a) Appoint a single point of contact for all matters related to a project;
- (b) Establish procedures to allow all forms, applications, and documentation related to a project to be filled or submitted and signed by electronic means;
- (c) Review and approve or reject all applications for a permit related to a project within ten (10) business days after an application is filed or submitted;
- (d) Assure that after an application is approved pursuant to I.C. §5-28-28.5-7 (a), any inspections, including any additional necessary approvals, related to a project will occur in a timely and expeditious manner.

Sec. 4. The Board or any applicable department of Jefferson County shall adopt adequate processes and procedures to implement the provisions of the above Sec. 3. Processes and procedures established hereunder may not do the following:

- (a) Require an applicant to designate a final contractor to complete a project;
- (b) Impose a fee to review an application or issue a permit for a project;
- (c) Impose a seasonal moratorium on the issuance of permits for a project; or
- (d) Discriminate among communications service providers or utilities with respect to any action described

In the section or otherwise related to a project, including granting access to public rights-of-way, infrastructure and poles, river and bridge crossings, and any other physical assets owned or controlled by Jefferson County, Indiana.

Sec. 4. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from its passage. Further this Ordinance shall become a Chapter of the Jefferson County Code of Ordinances designated Chapter \_\_\_\_ when said code is adopted.

**Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance Update-** The Plan Commission has selected Taylor, Seifker and Williams to update the zoning and subdivision ordinances. The county attorney has reviewed the contract and funding is in place for the update. Commissioner David Bramer made a motion to accept the contract with TSW for \$74,960 to update the ordinances. Commissioner Robert Little seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0.

**SR 56 Closure-** At last weeks' meeting, INDOT submitted a letter of understanding to Robert Phillips in regards to using Lost Fork as an unofficial detour for a bridge and small structure replacement on SR 56. INDOT will close SR56 for a period of 120 days in 2 locations, between the dates of April 1, 2022 and October 30, 2023. A citizen has expressed some concerns to Phillips. Phillips will make contact with INDOT and request additional signage. Phillips will also work to develop an ordinance regarding weight limits on county roads.

**Small Structure Inspections-** The Highway Department would like to contract with USI to inspect 30 small structures within Jefferson County. The contract would stipulate that each structure fee would be \$300 each, and not to exceed \$9,000. Commissioner Robert Little approved the contract with USI to provide inspections. Commissioner Bramer seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0.

During public comment, Madison Township Fire Chief, Robert Black thanked the Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency for their efforts in providing the EMA drone during a brush fire on Dugan Hollow. Black said the drone technology will be very beneficial to each fire department and to the citizens of Jefferson County. Commissioner Bramer stated that with the update of the zoning and subdivision ordinances, TSW will also look into creating a storm water management plan. Bramer said the ARP money could be used to create a plan. The next Residential Treatment Committee meeting will be meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Commissioner Lee and Robert Phillips are working with INDOT to possibly provide street lights at Jefferson Manor II/SR 56, JA Berry Lane/SR 7, and Esplano Dr/SR62.

Commissioner Robert Little made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner David Bramer seconded. Motion passed 3/0.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Heather Huff, Auditor

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Ron Lee, President

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Robert Little, Member

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David Bramer, Member