

## **COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

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

DATE 05-24-2018

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

**Faith Weir, Veteran Service Officer-** Faith Weir, County VSO, came before the Commissioners with the 2018 first quarter report. During the first quarter, the office has assisted with 259 claims and has awarded over \$500,000 in Veteran benefits to County Veterans and their families. Faith also stated that the office has participated in a few events and is helping coordinate a Military Appreciation Day to be held on August 11 at the American Legion. The Veteran Service Office will continue to update the Commissioners each quarter.

**Tabatha Eblen, Clerk-** Tabatha Eblen, Jason Pattison, and Della Swincher came before the Commissioners to request the local attorneys to have access to the Clerks Office JTS public records system. By having access, the attorneys will be able to view public court documents from their office or from the Court rooms. This change will be more efficient for the attorneys as well as the court offices. Tabatha Eblen requested that the Commissioners have the IT Department set up appointments for attorneys to come in and have the system installed on laptops. Commissioner David Bramer stated that the Commissioners will have an administration meeting with the IT Department and discuss this project.

**Jenny Slover, Animal Shelter-** Jenny Slover explained that the animal shelter has recently seen an increase in the weekend workload due to many adoptions, phone calls, walk-ins, etc. Jenny has been doing research on the option of using employees from the National Able Network, a training program for people over 55 years old. By utilizing the National Able Network, the shelter could have employees at no cost to the County and would also benefit those working by helping teach job skills for future employment elsewhere. Jenny has already presented this to the Animal Shelter Advisory Board and to County Attorney, Joe Colussi. Both, the board and Colussi, are in favor of the program. Commissioner Norbert Schafer made a motion for the Animal Shelter to pursue the program for additional employees. Commissioner Robert Little seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0.

**Robert Phillips, Highway Superintendent-** Robert Phillips has been researching the best leasing options for the purchase of a new road grader for the Highway Department. With the purchase of a 2016 grader, the best option is 36-month lease for \$6500 per month. This also includes a 5000 hour/ 5-year warranty. Phillips explained that the grader the department currently uses could be sold on govdeals.com with a \$15,000 reserve, which is also the trade-in value. If sold, he could use that money for a down payment on the new grader. In other business, Robert Phillips attended a FEMA meeting with Troy Morgan in Switzerland County. FEMA will reimburse the County 75% of the costs associated with the flood damage. Phillips stated that the work to be completed will cause some time restraints and may push other scheduled jobs back. Phillips stated that Upper Dry Fork is the largest concern for needing FEMA reimbursement. Further discussion followed regarding several projects the department will continue to address in the coming weeks. The new Asphalt Zipper will arrive May 31 and Phillips hopes to train at least four employees on the equipment. Phillips states that the zipper will help improve PASER ratings on blacktop roads throughout the County. Robert Phillips has been coordinating with Great Lakes Chloride to bring dust control to the county during the first week of July. Residents have the option to purchase additional dust control for their homes at \$125/ 100 ft.

**Troy Morgan, EMA-** Troy Morgan announced that the FEMA Disaster Recovery Center will be setting up at the Brown Gym at 11am on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The mobile center will be available to flood victims for three days, beginning Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> from 9a-7p. In other business, at the request of Commissioner Schafer, Troy Morgan presented an outline of the EOC grant requirements. Currently, EMA uses the Health Department as the EOC but will need to establish a permanent location. Further discussion followed regarding the importance of the EOC and its equipment, if the need arises. Morgan also has found that Jefferson County is one of the few counties in our district that does not employ an EMA administrative assistant. Morgan presented a draft of job duties and requirements of an assistant position and explained how his office would benefit from an additional position. Morgan stated that due to certain grants, half of EMA salaries are reimbursed to the County. Commissioners will take the EOC and the additional position under advisement.

In other business, Commissioner Schafer is still researching the options of the book scanning program. He said he will be presenting an idea soon to the Commissioners. Commissioner Schafer stated the Regional Development Authority will meet again in Jefferson County on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Also, the Jail Exploratory committee will be meeting again to continue jail discussions. And, there will be a meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup> at 4pm in the Commissioners office with Andrew Lanam, CPA. Mr. Lanam has performed a financial assessment of County funds and will present that data at the meeting.

Commissioner Robert Little made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Norbert Schafer seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry Eblen, Auditor

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David Bramer, President

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Norbert Schafer, Member

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Robert Little, Member