

## **COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

Jefferson County Public Safety Center, 620 Green Road, Madison, Indiana

DATE 08-10-2023

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

**United Consulting Bridge Inspection-** John San Giorgio, Bob Stein, and Melissa Stone from United Consulting attended the meeting to provide a presentation of the county-wide bridge inspection. United Consulting recommended the top three bridges to be placed on a replacement list: 1) Bridge 107 Sugas Hollow Road over Brushy Fork Creek 2) Bridge 137 CR 1250 W over Dry Branch Lewis Creek 3) Bridge 12 New Bethel Road over West Fork Fourteen Mile Creek. United also recommended the following bridges to be placed on a rehabilitation list: 1) Bridge 6 West Street over Crooked Creek 2) Bridge 171 Ohio River Scenic Way over Clifty Creek 3) Bridge 172 Ohio River Scenic Way over Crooked Creek 4) Bridge 173 West Main Street over the abandoned railroad. Commissioners thanked United for their work on the bridge inspections for Jefferson County.

**Highway Department Update-** Highway Superintendent, Robert Phillips attended the meeting to provide department updates. Phillips stated that the department submitted grants for federal aid earlier in the year. Phillips has reviewed and scored the RFPs for the following bridges:

1. Des 2201624-Clifty Hollow Road over railroad tracks- Awarded to SJCA
2. Des 2201625-Clifty Hollow Road over Crooked Creek- Awarded to BLN
3. Des 2201626- Clifty Hollow Road over Clifty Creek-Awarded to United Consulting

Phillips also said the department is working on chip sealing projects. CCMG paving has been completed. Thermal plastic will be laid near the railroad tracks on Dawson Smith. Recycled millings will be used for shoulder stone. The department continues to work on storm damage projects. The Town of Hanover is having a "touch a truck" exhibition on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Phillips will be taking a plow truck over for residents and kids to view.

**Animal Shelter Update-** Director, Tricia Parker stated that an anonymous donor assisted with cat adoptions to help decrease the cat population. Parker thanked everyone that has adopted in the past few weeks. The State Veterinarian is requesting the shelter to collect ticks from cats and dogs for research on the Asian Longhorn tick. Parker said if any residents see the ticks on cows, to contact the shelter and shelter staff would come out and take a sample. The camera system has also been updated at the shelter and two new signs have been placed above the kennels that the Community Foundation has sponsored.

**EMA Update-** EMA Deputy, Matt True updated the commissioners on the various projects he has been working on. The Rave notification system was recently updated for the National Weather Service alerts. True has requested Rave to provide additional training for the 911 dispatch center and EMA to ensure the departments are fully trained on sending alerts to the public. True has spoken with County IT Department on the laptops located in the EOC. Several laptops are operating on Windows 5 and will need to be updated to Windows 10. True has also had discussion with ETC regarding a quote for the Health Department and Logistics building to update the security systems. True spoke with the Coast Guard about the upcoming grant window for a new boat. Discussion followed about the 40 AEDs that has recently been purchased by Bethany Legacy Circle Foundation. True will work with the other departments to get the AEDs out to the proper locations and deputy vehicles.

**Archivist Update-** Brian Amick attended the SIRPC meeting this week. SIRPC will be attending the next meeting to discuss the owner-occupied program and open bids.

**Noise Ordinance-** At the July 27<sup>th</sup> Commissioners meeting, the commissioners read the first reading of a new noise ordinance for the County. Due the amount and range of public comment from social media and from online form submittals, the commissioners have decided to modify and revise the ordinance to incorporate the comments received. Once the revisions are completed, a new draft ordinance will be prepared and shared on the county website for public review. The ordinance will then be read at an upcoming commissioner meeting and be considered as the first reading. Commissioner Little stated that the public was upset about the agriculture being omitted from the ordinance. Commissioners offered public comment from residents. Below are a few topics that were discussed during the forum:

- The City noise ordinance would apply within the City limits. Questions rose about the buffer zone, the ordinance would apply to the buffer zone.
- A resident spoke up stating that the ordinance was an overreach. Little stated that the ordinance was not meant to infringe on anyone, the intent was to aid in respecting neighbors.
- A resident wanted to know if there was any data showing the need for the ordinance. Residents requested the commissioners to write the ordinance themselves and use county data to establish the ordinance.
- Residents asked where the ordinance came from. Little stated that the ordinance was found in other counties and should have included agricultural exemptions.

In other business, Commissioner Lee stated the next residential treatment committee will meet on August 24th to discuss the University of Cincinnati needs assessment. Commissioner Little provided a jail construction update, stating that the fencing is to be completed in the next couple of weeks, HVAC is being tested, the kitchen is complete, the paving will be completed soon, the doors and security systems are also being tested and should be finished soon. Commissioner Little thanked Corporal John Schoenstein for his work on the jail project and mentioned that Schoenstein was instrumental in saving the county money on the FFE (fixtures, furnishings and equipment).

Commissioner Ron Lee made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner David Bramer seconded. Motion passed 3/0.

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

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Robert Little, President

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Ron Lee, Member

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David Bramer, Member