

## **COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

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

DATE 09-16-2021

Commissioner David Bramer called the meeting to order, and led The Pledge of Allegiance along with Robert Little and Ron Lee. Commissioner Robert Little 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.

**2021 Gravel Road Conversion Program-** County residents, Randy and Barbara Romans were present at today's meeting to request a decision to be made from the September 2<sup>nd</sup> and September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding his willingness to pledge \$50,000 (with stipulations) towards paving a portion of Bishop Hill Road (from Bear Bridge to the entrance of Joyce Cemetery, located at 7000 E Bishop Hill). Highway Superintendent, Robert Phillips addressed the highest scoring road, which is Poplar Ridge and stated that Bishop Hill would only move up a few ranks with the edits that Barbara Romans suggested at a previous meeting. Phillips advises the commissioners to turn down the \$50,000 pledge and not pave the requested portion of road. Further discussion followed involving many opinions on the matter. Commissioner Ron Lee said he felt he needed to do additional research on the project before he could make a decision. Later on, Brooksbury resident Kay Gross, spoke in favor of the gravel road conversion program.

**Sherry Chapo, Lack of Public Access-** County resident, Sherry Chapo questioned the lack of video recording for County meetings. Chapo requesting reasoning as to why the recording stopped in March and why the County has not made efforts to record meetings. President of the Cable Advisory Board, Debbie Kroger attended the meeting to provide an explanation regarding the status of the Cable Advisory Board. Kroger stated there are several vacancies on the advisory board and have been unable to hold quorums. Chapo also questioned the annual budgets for the boards. Debbie Kroger invited Sherry Chapo to attend the next meeting in October to hear updates on the CAB and get answers to a lot of her questions.

**Dossett Consulting Contract-** Auditor, Heather Huff presented a contract from the Circuit and Superior courts to hire Dossett Consulting for auditing of claim records to seek savings of indirect costs. Huff stated that the Clerk, Auditor and Prosecutor's offices currently utilize Dossett. Commissioner Robert Little made a motion to accept the contract between Dossett Consulting and Jefferson County for the Circuit and Superior Courts. Commissioner Ron Lee seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0.

**Trash Card Sales-** County Auditor, Heather Huff has received approval from the Indiana State Board of Accounts to create a trash card sale policy for the ability of the Auditor's Office to sell trash cards at the sites on two separate occasions each year. Huff said that the office will sign a certain number of cards out of the office and residents will be required to bring exact change to the site to receive their annual trash cards. Huff will determine the two weeks and notify the public. She anticipates a week in November and a week in January. Huff presented the policy at the September County Council meeting and received unanimous approval. 2022 trash cards will remain at \$50. Commissioner Ron Lee made a motion to accept the policy as presented by Auditor Huff. Commissioner Robert Little seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0.

**Jail Facility Change Orders-** 1) EH Construction Change Order #2 \$53,537.00. Commissioner Ron Lee made a motion to approve the change order. Commissioner Robert Little seconded the motion. Motion 3/0.

**Highway Update-** Robert Phillips updated the commissioners on a new road treatment that was recently laid on Hutchinson Lane. The Bio-restore application will help extend the life of the asphalt.

**Archivist/Grant Update-** County Archivist, Erica Cline updated the commissioners on the recent SIRPC meeting she attended. She also announced that she has recently obtained her certificate from the State of Indiana that certifies her to apply for OCRA grants for the county. Cline also updated the commissioners on the status of the Revolving Loan Fund, which has a balance of \$49,039.65. 11 out of the 12 businesses are still on track for their loan forgiveness after 2 years.

One business has been notified that they will lose their grant opportunity forgiveness if delinquent payments have not been paid by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**East Geyman Hill-** Resident, Jean Padgett complained about the recent chip and seal done on Geyman Hill. She explained the burden the chip and seal has on her and home. Her son was also in attendance. Danny Padgett made various complaints that were related to law enforcement issues and road issues. Robert Phillips stated he would send crew out to see if the road needed to be re-swept.

**Animal Shelter-** Commissioner Robert Little updated the audience on the status of the animal shelter. The Animal Shelter Advisory Board attended the September County Council meeting and it was decided to add more full time staffing and a salary increase for the director, to help find better applicants for the open interim animal shelter director position. Little also stated the Department of Corrections has agreed to take all the dogs at the shelter for the staff to be able to do a deep cleaning of the kennels. The City of Madison has also provided assistance with cleaning the inside and outside of the facility. Animal Control Officers, Janet Barnes and Paul Geyman are checking in at the shelter each day while the shelter is without a director. Several members of the audience addressed their concerns with the current situation of the shelter and concerns about the former director. The majority of issues discussed came down to budgeting that the shelter receives from the County, City and Town of Hanover. Auditor Huff stated that the budgets are currently being reviewed and that each entity may need to review what their portion to the shelter is.

In other business, Steve Meier provided an RDA update and Commissioner Ron Lee announced the next Residential Treatment Subcommittee meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm.

Commissioner Ron Lee made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Robert Little seconded. Motion passed 3/0.

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

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David Bramer, President

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Robert Little, Member

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Ron Lee, Member