

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Jefferson County Public Safety Center, 300 E Main Street, Madison, Indiana

DATE 10-20-2022

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

County Health Insurance Renewal- HR, Heather White presented a recommendation from the insurance committee to renew the medical insurance with Custom Design Benefits. The projected increase at midyear was almost a 10% increase. But, the increase actually came back at a 2.7% increase over last year's rate. Due to the timing of receiving the rates, White has not yet determined what the employee costs will be. Our broker, USI, is also looking into the least expensive option for vision insurance. Commissioner Robert Little made a motion to approve the insurance renewal with Custom Design Benefits, with the 2.7% increase. Commissioner Bramer seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0. White made mention that she attempted to get quotes from other brokers, but other brokers were not competitive enough to quote.

Poll Worker Pay Increase- Clerk, Tabatha Eblen requested an increase of meal pay and daily pay for poll workers. Eblen stated that the pay has not been raised since 2016 and with inflation, the coverage for meals is not adequate for poll workers. She suggested the \$6 per meal, be raised to \$10 per meal or \$20 per day and the pay scale to increase to \$200 for inspectors, \$175 for democrat judges, and \$150 for clerks and republican judges. County Council has already approved this increase at their October meeting. Commissioner Bramer made a motion to approve the suggested rates. Commissioner Robert Little seconded. Motion passed 3/0. A resolution will be created by the County attorney to reflect these changes.

Owner Occupied Rehab Program- Patty Jackson held a public hearing for the Owner Occupied Pilot Program. SIRPC will apply for an OCRA grant for \$250,000 using matching grant funds that SIRPC received from a USDA grant. Jackson is hopeful that if awarded, the grant will assist 18 households with repairs such as roofing, water heaters, hvac, electrical and plumbing upgrades and ADA access to the threshold of a home. If awarded, SIRPC will follow the sealed bid process using a scope of work that will be determined by a licensed home inspector. Commissioner Lee read aloud a resolution allowing SIRPC to apply for the grant. No public comments were asked. Jackson closed the portion of the public hearing. Commissioner Robert Little made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner David Bramer seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0.

Hanover Community Gardens- Commissioner Bramer spoke on behalf of the Hanover Community Gardens. The group has requested \$5000 to be used for matching grant funds for the gardens. Commissioner Bramer made a motion to approve a \$5000 donation from the Special Projects (1191). Commissioner Little seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0.

Madison Riverfront Development- Commissioner Lee spoke on behalf of the Madison Riverfront Development. The organization has requested \$45,000 to be used towards the construction of the riverfront project. Commissioner Little made a motion to approve the donation from Historic Preservation (4903). Commissioner Bramer seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0.

Ordinance Terminating the Cable Advisory Board- Lori Hedges, member of the cable advisory board, was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to illness. She had reached out to Commissioner Lee to request that the second reading be tabled at this time. Commissioner Little stated they will table the 2nd reading until the next meeting.

Spyglass- Commissioners have agreed to have a telecommunications audit provided by Spyglass. Spyglass will audit all invoices from the County to make sure the County is paying for services received. If Spyglass finds savings for the County, the County will pay Spyglass 50% of the cost savings found. Commissioner David Bramer made a motion to approve the audit with Spyglass. Commissioner Little seconded. Motion passed 3/0.

Highway Department- Superintendent Robert Phillips was in attendance to provide various department updates. Phillips received 2 bids for the bridge on East Prong Road. McAlister Excavating bid \$86,300 and All Star Paving bid \$338,800. Commissioner Bramer made a motion to approve the bid received from McAlister Excavating for \$86,300. Commissioner Little seconded. Motion passed 3/0. Phillips stated that the bid opening for 750 N will take place on November 3.

Gravel Road Conversion- Phillips announced 3 roads to be considered for the 2023 gravel road conversion to hard surface. Roads are listed in order of highest score:

1. 850 W, from SR 362 to Swan Road. Estimated project cost \$98,800
2. East Prong, from Lonnis Hill to Lee Hill. Estimated project cost \$40,000
3. 450 W, from Paynesville Road to Reed Road. Estimated project cost \$90,000

Phillips requested the commissioners approve all three roads for consideration of hard surface. Commissioner Robert Little made a motion to approve the three roads, for an estimated cost of \$228,800, improving the roads to a hard surface. Commissioner David Bramer seconded the motion. Motion passed 3/0.

EMA Update- EMA Director Troy Morgan provided an update on the recent flooding in the Brushy Fork community. Morgan and the Highway Department have submitted all documents to FEMA are waiting for the results from the combined damages from Switzerland, Ohio and Jefferson Counties. Morgan stated the burn ban is still in place. Morgan provided documentation that he reviews daily, which states the reasoning for the burn bans. Morgan will continue to monitor the weather conditions and update the commissioners on when then ban can be lifted. Morgan does expect the current ban to be in place for the next week to 10 days, weather permitting.

In other business, Commissioner Little provided an update on the animal shelter improvements and stated that the jail project is still ahead of schedule. Commissioner Bramer stated a kick off meeting regarding the Stormwater Management Plan will be held November 18th. Commissioner Bramer also said that a public meeting will be held sometime in November for the public to review a draft of the zoning and subdivision ordinances. The public will be able to ask questions and provide feedback on the proposed ordinance update. Commissioner Lee stated the next residential treatment committee will meet on November 17th. The Committee has decided to hold a meeting on the 3rd Thursday of each month, unless otherwise stated.

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

ATTEST: _____
Heather Huff, Auditor

Ron Lee, President

Robert Little, Member

David Bramer, Member