

STEBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
January 7, 2019

The Steuben County Commissioners met at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, January 7, 2019, in the Commissioners' Room of the Steuben County Community Center. Present this day were Commissioners Ronald Smith, James Crowl and Lynne Liechty. Also present were Donald Stuckey, County Attorney, Ruth Beer, County Councilwoman, Jim Getz, County Councilman and Kim Meyers, Steuben County Auditor.

Donald Stuckey opened the Highway Bids. The Commissioners accepted them for review and recommendation by the Highway Department.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the claims submitted for payment this day totaling \$368,367.31. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

James Crowl made a motion to approve the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Miscellaneous Claims in the amount of \$788,804.80. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Vina Conti, Plan Commission, submitted a Petition to Vacate that was filed by Kevin and Catherine Summers to vacate a ten (10) foot platted alley between lot 5 and 6 in Rose Lawn Addition. Ms. Conti said that on September 5, 2018, the Plan Commission gave a negative recommendation by a 7-1 vote. She said that after that meeting, the Petitioners submitted an Affidavit of Heirs and a Warranty Deed from one of the heirs. Ms. Conti said that there was also a letter in opposition from Robert Stone, whom lives across the street.

Kevin Summers stated that since the Plan Commission Hearing, there has been two (2) title companies, Titan Title and Fidelity Title, that have done research on that platted alleyway all the way back to the original owners. Mr. Summers said that it has not changed hands since then. He said it was initially platted as a public alleyway for Rose Lawn 1<sup>st</sup> Addition and had nothing to do with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition. .

Donald Stuckey said that the Commissioners have the right to vacate the platted alley; however, as far as the Affidavit, that is a separate issue. James Crowl said that he doesn't think the Commissioners have ever gone against what the Plan Commission recommended. Kevin Summers said that at the time of the Plan Commission Hearing, there was not sufficient information for them to make a favorable decision.

Glen Wallace, 3065 W. Sycamore Beach Road, stated that he owns the lot next to the Summers. Mr. Wallace said that he is in favor of vacating that ten (10) foot alley way.

James Crowl said that the neighbors on the back lot have used the alleyway in the past. Donald Stuckey said that he needs time to review the new information and it is unfair to expect the Commissioners to decide on the matter when they just received the new information. Mr. Stuckey said that he needs to do his own research as well. James Crowl asked if this should go back to the Plan Commission because of the new information. Donald Stuckey said that if it is not a dedicated alley, if someone owns the underlying deed or if the Commissioners do the opposite of what the Plan Commission recommended, it would have to go back to the Plan Commission.

Bill Schmidt, Plan Commission, stated that if there is more information for the Plan Commission to review, it would seem appropriate for it to be sent back to the Plan Commission.

Ronald Smith said that the matter will be brought back to the Commissioners when Donald Stuckey has reviewed the documents and gives a written opinion to the Commissioners. James Crowl asked that Mr. Stuckey also give the written report to the Plan Commission.

Jennifer Sharkey, Highway Engineer, submitted NIPSCO Utility Permit #2827 for approval. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve NIPSCO Utility Permit #2827. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Ms. Sharkey stated that they are advancing with the Preliminary Engineering on the 200 N Phase II Project. She submitted a reimbursement voucher for approval. James Crowl made a motion to approve the reimbursement voucher. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Jennifer Sharkey resubmitted the US 20 reimbursement request to the Commissioners. James Crowl said he thought that it should have been more money, but then he was told that it went off of the previous rating of the road. Ms. Sharkey said that the County will encounter this situation with SR 327 as well, so the Highway Department is working with INDOT to identify local detour routes. She said that was not done on the US 20 project and it was communicated to INDOT that the County was never consulted regarding local detour routes. James Crowl made a motion to approve the US 20 reimbursement request. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Ms. Sharkey said that the Sewer District has their Northeast District Project planned for this year and a preconstruction meeting is scheduled for Wednesday.

Jennifer Sharkey reported that they will be finalizing the Road Improvement Plan this month and will deliver it to the Commissioners in February for review.

Ms. Sharkey stated that she and Commissioner Smith attended the Next Levels Trails Grant Meeting in Fort Wayne last month. She said that there is an 80/20 matching grant with \$70 Million available for regionally significant projects and \$20 Million for locally significant projects. Ms. Sharkey said from what she understands, only \$25 Million will be awarded the first round and she does not believe she is in a position at this time to apply for the first round because there is some preliminary work that should take place prior to that. She said that if the Commissioners and Council are supportive, an application could be submitted for the second round. Ms. Sharkey also reported that there is an opportunity to partner with the City of Angola. She said that down state they look favorably upon the regionally significant projects, which our trail is because it is on the State Visionary Trail. Ms. Sharkey said that there would be a little bit of effort in the City Limits and then the County would continue further south on Old 27.

Jennifer Sharkey said that a feasibility study was done in 2007 for the northern end of the Bike Trail so she would like to do something similar with the southern end. Ms. Sharkey requested permission to get a proposal from BF&S to do a feasibility study for that southern leg of the Bike Trail. She said that she believes the City of Angola is open to a partnership when the application process comes around for design and construction.

Mike Marturello, Herald Republican, asked when the Trail gets to the DeKalb/Steuben line if it would be up to DeKalb County to carry it down to Waterloo. Ms. Sharkey said that was correct.

Ronald Smith asked Jennifer Sharkey that since Old 27 was a national highway could that land be acquired in some way without having to purchase it. Ms. Sharkey said that they would have to go through some records; however, she believes that they have the right of way already. She said she would have to get the documentation around to prove that. Jennifer Sharkey said that the road inventory records show that the right of way is dedicated towards the road but the legal documentation needs to be compiled.

Ms. Sharkey said that she would like to have BF&S get a proposal together for possibly the first meeting of February so it can be reviewed. Toby Steffen, BF&S, said that would be enough time for them to compile the proposal.

Amanda Cope, City of Angola Engineer, said that they are invested in trails. The City's trail is done, they have helped with the County Bike Trail as well and Steuben County is a trail community, so they are interested. Ms. Cope said showing a partnership or a cooperative agreement between the City and County would also make the application stronger. James Crowl made a motion to move forward with a partnership with the City of Angola and to move forward with a proposal. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Jennifer Sharkey reported that she will be presenting to INDOT for grant funding for the 200 W/100 N Roundabout next Tuesday, January 15. She said that they should know by the end of February if funding is approved.

Ms. Sharkey also submitted the Planning Guide and Reference Document to the Commissioners.

Emmett Heller informed the Commissioners that the Highway Department implemented the Foremen on January 2. He said that they have been getting good input and people are taking ownership.

Mr. Heller said that 200 tons of salt was delivered last week; however, it took almost three (3) weeks to get that. He said that they have approximately 550 tons on the ground and 500 tons of mixed sand and salt in the barn.

He said that they took the bed off of the next Dump Truck to get painted and anticipates it being on the road by the end of January.

Emmett Heller notified the Commissioners that he locked in the 2019 Fuel Rate and submitted the below confirmation.

### FUEL CONFIRMATION

Dec. 28, 2018

To: Steuben County - Emmett Heller

This is to confirm the following fixed fuel prices for the period of Jan. 1, 2019 thru Dec. 31, 2019 at our EP 24 Stations.

#### EP 24 STATION PRICING:

80,000 gallons+/-	PDX-4 ON ROAD	\$ 2.1513	+
.48 state taxes	\$ 2.6313 total		
60,000 gallons+/-	87E-10+ GASOLINE	\$ 1.7768	+
.29 state taxes	\$ 2.0668 total		

Please sign as confirmation of our agreement and email or mail back to Ceres Solutions Cooperative  
Thank you for your business!!

Bruce Richman  
Energy Products and Services Administrator Steuben County  
Phone: (800) 720-0550 ext. 219  
Email: brichman@ceres.coop

Mr. Heller also requested permission to request that the Auction proceeds, just short of \$10,000.00, be appropriated so the Highway Department can use those funds to possibly purchase a culvert truck and/or a roller. Lynne Liechty made a motion to permit Mr. Heller to approach County Council regarding the appropriation of the Auction proceeds. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Kim Meyers, Auditor and Melissa Bixler, Treasurer, submitted the Monthly Comparison Report for review and approval. James Crowl made a motion to approve the Monthly Comparison Report. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the minutes from the Commissioners' Meeting on December 20, 2018. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

The Commissioners signed the minutes from the December 3, 2018, Commissioners' Meeting for the Index Book, which were approved at the prior meeting.

Rae Delaney, Payroll, submitted the December 21, 2018 payroll in the amount of \$385,965.25 for approval. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the December 21, 2018. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Ms. Delaney also submitted the January 4, 2019 payroll in the amount of \$410,463.40 for approval. James Crowl made a motion to approve the January 4, 2019. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the Official Bond for William Harter, Coroner. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Pat Kirkpatrick, EMS Director, submitted December Closeouts in the amount of \$4,322.30. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the December Closeouts. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Mr. Kirkpatrick also submitted December Write Offs in the amount of \$18,768.27 for approval. James Crowl made a motion to approve the December Write Offs. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Donna Thrasher, MSD, requested to use the Community Center Parking Lot on April 27, 2019, 4:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. on April 28, 2019, for the Angola High School Prom. James Crowl made a motion to approve that request. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Gary Fair, Community Center Building Manager, submitted an Agreement for Testing of Closed Water Loops at the Courthouse and Community Center from Watcon, Inc., in the amount of \$720.00. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the Agreement from Watcon in the amount of \$720.00. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Mr. Fair also submitted quotes for LED retrofitting for the lights in the west stairwell in the Community Center. James Crowl made a motion to accept the low quote from Ross Electrical Contracting in the amount of \$1,175.00. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Gary Fair informed the Commissioners that he has a meeting with the City of Angola on Thursday, January 10 regarding the wall at the Courthouse.

Frank Charlton, County Park Superintendent, reported on the graffiti at the County Park. Mr. Charlton said that Shoup's Duraclean came out to see if they could remove the paint from the garage door and they have received quotes on the signs. Donald Stuckey said that the Prosecutor would be the one to determine whether or not charges are filed if they find out who was behind the vandalism.

Frank Charlton said that he contacted Lakeland Electronics about installing cameras down by the beach area. Mr. Charlton submitted a quote for four (4) cameras.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the amended 2019 Camper Contract. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Kylee Harris reported that she has forwarded on the Craft Fair Contract to the Craft Fair Coordinator as well.

Rodney Snyder, on behalf of Pat Kirkpatrick, EMS Director, came to the Commissioners regarding a program called "I am responding." Mr. Snyder said that the program is very beneficial and is already used in E-911. He said that the upfront cost would be \$860.00 with an annual fee of \$800.00. James Crowl made a motion to

approve the purchase and annual fee for the "I am responding" program. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Mr. Snyder informed the Commissioners that right now there are fourteen (14) paramedic positions and three (3) EMT positions. He said that they would like to ask the Council to list three (3) of the EMT positions as Paramedic/EMT because there are three (3) candidates that are working towards being Paramedics but are currently EMT's. Mr. Snyder said that they will not get the Paramedic pay until they are actually a Paramedic. He's hoping if they are able to do this, the EMS Department will be fully staffed for the first time in a long time. Lynne Liechty made a motion to permit Mr. Kirkpatrick to go to County Council with this request. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Donald Stuckey stated that he has not yet received a dedication for the Strasser Vacation.

The Commissioners requested that a Cemetery Board Meeting be scheduled and that the Auditor shall be included in that meeting. Erin Schiffli was directed to contact the Board Members for their availability.

James Crowl said that he spoke to Mike Sevits regarding the thermostats at EMS. Commissioner Crowl said that Mr. Sevits needs to work it out with the EMS Director and the EMS Director needs to work it out with the employees. If any more damage happens, someone else is going to be responsible other than the Commissioners and the invoices will not be paid from the Commissioners' Budget. Lynne Liechty said that Patrick Kirkpatrick has to hold them accountable. The Commissioners requested that a memo be sent to Mr. Kirkpatrick and Mr. Sevits.

James Crowl stated that there is a vending machine in the Annex that has not been filled for awhile. Kim Meyers said it is not Mr. Sevits' job to do it and one of the Sheriff's employees has been taking care of it and stocking it. Ms. Meyers said that she doesn't know what happens to the money because it doesn't come through the Auditor's Office. She said that she was told that person owned the machine and they were providing this service to the people in the Annex. Lynne Liechty said she would like to have it removed and install a County owned vending machine like the other buildings. James Crowl requested to have this matter put on the agenda for the next meeting and have the Sheriff come in.

Jeff Bassett, Business Impressions, submitted a Cost Per Print Agreement for copiers in EMS, Coroner's Office, County Park, Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Squad Room, Payroll Department and EMA for signature. The Agreements were approved in the Commissioners' Meeting on December 20; however, Mr. Bassett didn't have the Agreement at that time.

Donald Stuckey asked if the trails grant was being funded by the State or Federal Government. Toby Steffen, BF&S, said that it is strictly State Funds.

James Crowl said that there are cameras everywhere except in the Community Center. He said that there are several entrances that are open on a daily basis with absolutely no security whatsoever. Commissioner Crowl said that for the benefit of the people coming in and out and the employees that work here, there should be some sort of cameras and/or security. Ronald Smith said that they have keys to get in. James Crowl said that he is talking about during business hours and the Commissioners spend thousands of dollars on security everywhere else except for right here. Lynne Liechty said that cameras would be beneficial.

James Crowl made a motion to keep the Commission Board Officers the same as 2018. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

James Crowl made a motion to have Donald Stuckey continue as the County Attorney.

James Crowl asked for the status on the demolition of the Old County Home. Erin Schiffli said that they are thirty (30) to forty-five (45) days out and they will notify her a week or so ahead of time so she can work on getting the gas and electric terminated. Ms. Schiffli said that she spoke to Jeff Sine and once demolition starts, the insurance can be removed from the building.

The Commissioners received the following correspondence: Janel Meyer, SCSWCD re: Board Meeting Agenda; BoAC re: Memorandum 12-18; BoAC re: Memo 12-2-18; Northeastern Center re: 2018 Summary of Business; IACC re: TI-ROSC Training.

STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

---

Ronald L. Smith, President, South District

---

James A. Cowl, Vice President, Middle District

---

Lynne Liechty, North District

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kim Meyers, Steuben County Auditor  
els