

STEBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
November 6, 2017

The Steuben County Commissioners met at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, November 6, 2017, 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, Steuben County Councilwoman and Kim Meyers, Steuben County Auditor.

Alex Dobson, Veterans' Affairs Officer, notified the Commissioners that he is now the Four County DAV Coordinator. Mr. Dobson stated that Tami Sumney, IT Director, installed a separate phone line for the DAV calls and there is a possibility that he will be receiving four (4) more vans. He said it is his hope that the vans will be disbursed throughout the four county area. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Dobson and told him to talk to Gary Fair regarding the parking of the DAV vehicles.

James Crowl made a motion to approve the claims submitted for payment this day totaling \$606,265.83. Lynne Liechty 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. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the Monthly Comparison Report. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

James Crowl made a motion to approve the minutes from the Commissioners' Meeting on October 16, 2017. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

The Commissioners signed the minutes from the October 2, 2017, Commissioners' Meeting for the Index Book, which were approved at the prior meeting.

An Amended 2017 Capital Improvement Plan was submitted for approval. The change was to add \$13,610.00 for Aviation matching grant funds and to add \$135,000.00 for an Airport Weather System (AWOS). Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the Amended 2017 Capital Improvement Plan. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Clint Knauer, Plan Commission, stated that a Petition for a Vacation of Utility Easement was submitted to the Plan Commission. Mr. Knauer said that this Petition has come before the Plan Commission twice and the first time it was tabled due to a request by the utility company. The parties came to an agreement that they would vacate this agreement and then move the easement to either end of the property so the middle was unobstructed since family was inheriting lots. Clint Knauer informed the Commissioners that at the final meeting, the Plan Commission voted 6-0 with one (1) abstention to give a positive recommendation to the Commissioners to vacate the easement. James Crowl said that everything the Plan Commission requested be done has been done. James Crowl made a motion to approve the Petition for a Vacation of Utility Easement. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

**Second and Third Readings
Steuben County, Indiana
Vacation Ordinance No. 3139**

Thereupon, County Commissioner, Lynne Liechty moved that all rules of procedure of the County Commissioners which might prevent, unless suspended, the second and third readings of Steuben County Vacation Ordinance No. 3139, for final passage and adoption of said Ordinances at this meeting without reading the said Ordinances in full but reading the title only. This motion was seconded by James Crowl and was on the call of the roll adopted by the following vote:

Ayes
3

Nays
0

Under the suspension of the regular rules, County Commissioner, James Crowl, then moved that the Ordinances be read for the second and third readings by title only and thereby be ready for passage and final adoption in this meeting. This motion for the second and third readings for final passage and adoption of said Ordinances was seconded by Lynne Liechty and on the call of the roll was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes
3

Nays
0

The County Auditor then read aloud the title of said Ordinances for the second and third readings. Thereupon, County Commissioner, James Crowl, moved for final passage and adoption of the Ordinances in full applicable regulations to establish such Ordinances. This motion for final passage and adoption was seconded by Lynne Liechty and on the call of the roll adopted by the following vote:

Ayes
3

Nays
0

The President of the Steuben County Commissioners, Ronald L. Smith, declared publicly Vacation Ordinance No. 3139, to have been duly passed and adopted. Thereupon, said Ordinances were signed by all members of the County Commissioners present and attested by the County Auditor. Vacation Ordinance No. 3139 is on file in the Auditor's office. Vacation Ordinance No. 3139 reads as follows:

ORDINANCE NUMBER 3139

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE STEUBEN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**REGARDING THE VACATION OF A PLATTED UTILITY EASEMENT, LAKE FARM ESTATES
SECTION 3**

WHEREAS, the Petitioner has filed a Petition for Vacation of a Public Way pursuant to Indiana Code 36-7-3-12/13/16;

WHEREAS, the Petitioner owns or has legal interest in certain real estate which is contiguous to the public way or place which they propose to vacate;

WHEREAS, notice by publication to the population at large and notice by certified mail to abutting property owners has been properly made consistent with Indiana Law;

WHEREAS, the Petitioner has paid the expense of providing legal notice;

WHEREAS, the vacation of the public way **would not** hinder the growth or orderly development of the unit or neighborhood in which it is located or to which it is contiguous;

WHEREAS, the vacation **would not** make access to the lands by means of platted way, difficult or inconvenient;

WHEREAS, the vacation **would not** hinder the public's access to a church, school or other public building or place; and,

WHEREAS, the vacation **would not** hinder the use of a public way by the neighborhood in which it is located or to which it is contiguous,

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THAT THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED UTILITY EASEMENT IN STEUBEN COUNTY, INDIANA **IS HEREBY VACATED:**

A fifteen (15) feet wide each side of the plated common property line between Lots numbered forty-three (43) and forty-two (42) in Lake Farm Estates Section Three (3), as recorded in document numbered 95-02-0083 in the Steuben County Recorder's Office, Angola, Indiana.

THENCE, all of said vacated utility easement, described in the attached description, shall pass in fee title to the owners of part lots 42 and 43 (Map# 76-04-35-121-108.000-007)

11/6/17
First Reading
11/6/17
Second Reading
11/6/17
Third Reading

STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Ronald L. Smith, President Southern District
James A. Crowl, Central District
Lynne A. Liechty, Northern District

ATTEST: Kim Meyers, Steuben County Auditor

I affirm, under the penalties for perjury, that I have taken reasonable care to redact each Social Security Number in this document, unless required by law. Vina L. Conti

Vina Conti, Plan Commission, also submitted the Wyatt Farm Plat for signature.

The Commissioners reviewed the Community Center Office Rental Leases. Lynne Liechty made a motion to leave the monthly rents the same as in 2017. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Paul Jones, American Legal Publishing, submitted an estimate for the Supplement to the Steuben County Code of Ordinances in the amount of \$700.00-\$1,300.00. James Crowl made a motion to approve the estimate for the Supplement to the Code of Ordinances. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

The Commissioners discussed the two (2) properties that are for sale on South Wayne Street. Ronald Smith stated that Commissioner Crowl met with the Real Estate Agent for the corner property and was given information that the other piece of real estate is also for sale. Commissioner Smith said that the County would have a nice campus if those two (2) pieces of property were acquired. James Crowl made a motion to go to Council with the purchase request. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes. Once permission is obtained, Lynne Liechty made a motion to take the funds from EDIT and if that is not permitted, funds shall be taken from Cum. Cap. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes. James Crowl requested Erin Schiffli, Commissioners' Secretary, to contact the realtor, once permission to move forward is obtained, and let her know that she is responsible for one appraisal and the County will be responsible for one as well. Donald Stuckey requested to be notified on what the County Council decides so he can move forward with contacting the Appraiser.

Rae Delaney, Payroll and Benefits, submitted payroll for approval. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the payroll claims. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Kris Thomas, Health Department, submitted a Certificate of Appointment for Dr. Jeanne Engle to reappoint her to the Board of Health. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the reappointment of Dr. Jeanne Engle. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Kris Thomas also submitted a list of three (3) candidates to fill William Boyer's position on the Health Board. James Crowl made a motion to appoint Vicky Meek to that vacant position. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

The Commissioners were notified that Randy Strebbig and Todd Gorman's appointments to the Board of Aviation Commissioners are set to expire on December 31, 2017. Lynne Liechty made a motion to reappoint Randy Strebbig and Todd Gorman to the Board of Aviation Commissioners. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Jody Kinsey, USI, stated that she received updated renewal information from the carriers and she still believes that the option presented from Crum and Forester (US Fire) is saving the County in both fixed costs as well as expected claims. She said that there has been two (2) specific lasers put on individuals and those are lower with Crum and Forester as well. Ms. Kinsey said that she brought disclosure paperwork for both options today and the rates can be locked in. Lynne Liechty stated that she would like to follow the recommendation and made a motion go with Crum and Forester. Donald Stuckey asked if adequate money has been appropriated for 2018. Kim Meyers, Auditor, said that she would have to check; however, there is a large sum that is put in the line item in the Commissioners' budget for the admin costs. Jody Kinsey stated that the bottom line number is \$3,983,931.00 with expected costs at \$3,334,000.00. James Crowl asked how much the employees would have to make up for it. Kim Meyers said that the Commissioners would have to talk about it. She said that part of this is what comes out of the employees paychecks, not just what is in the budget, but she said she will have to run numbers to get the concrete number. Ronald Smith said that Kim Meyers needs time to look at this and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

June Julien submitted reappointments of Ronald Smith and Hitesh Patel and new appointments of Michael Votaw and Tom Peet to the Tourism Bureau. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the reappointments and new appointments to the Tourism Bureau as recommended by June Julien. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

James Crowl made a motion to reappoint Ronald Smith to the Cemetery Board. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Gary Green, Fremont Public Library, stated that Brian Kaiser would like to be reappointed to the Fremont Library Board. Lynne Liechty made a motion to reappoint Mr. Kaiser to the Fremont Library Board. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Tom Sanborn indicated that he would like to be reappointed to the Alcohol Beverage Board. James Crowl made a motion to reappoint Tom Sanborn to the Alcohol Beverage Board. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Jessica Christen, Steuben County EDC, requested a fee waiver for the multi-purpose room on November 9, 2017, in order to hold a Steuben County Industrial Guild Educational Seminar. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the fee waiver. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Gary Fair, Community Center Building Manager, submitted a Maintenance Contract Rider from Kone Elevators to remove an old lift at Community Corrections from the current Contract. James Crowl made a motion to approve the Contract Rider. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Mary Allred, EMS Director, submitted October Write Offs in the amount of \$250,577.16 and October Closeouts in the amount of \$1,449.00 for approval. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the October Write Offs and Closeouts. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Charles Malinowski, MALCON, submitted an Excise Fuel Tax Refund Pilot Program Commitment Letter for approval. James Crowl made a motion to approve the Commitment Letter. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

The Commissioners scheduled a County Park Improvement Committee Meeting for Thursday, November 16, 2017, at 9:45 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room.

Erin Schiffler, Commissioners' Secretary, requested guidance on what to do when insurance brokers approach her and other Auditor's Office Personnel regarding offering insurance benefits for County Employees. Ronald Smith stated that the Commission Board does not wish to receive proposals at this time and they have already made their decision for 2018.

The Commissioners discussed a possible hiring freeze. James Crowl said that an HR person will be hired in January and there is also a Weights and Measures position open so a hiring freeze cannot be enacted. Ronald Smith said that the needs of the County will be taken care of and they do not want any expansion in terms of the various departments. Commissioner Smith said that it is theory and philosophy but not law because otherwise it ties the Commissioners' hands to fill the job positions that are coming available. Donald Stuckey stated that the budget provides for a certain number of spots and if they hire within the budget he doesn't see how it would be a problem but if they wanted to add people it would require the Commission Board and the County Council to approve the positions.

Tami Sumney, IT Director, stated that she needs to replace the core switch stack in the 911 Center. Ms. Sumney said that it has been in place since 2011 and it is at end of life in January, 2018. Ms. Sumney stated that Cisco won't support it anymore and there are no security patches so it needs to be replaced. Tami Sumney said that it would cost \$23,126.75 for the switch and she also wants to contract ENS for \$5,000.00 to come and install everything. Ms. Sumney said that ENS is willing to take half of the money on order and then the remaining half from the 2018 budget. James Crowl made a motion to approve the purchase of the core switch stack and to contract ENS to help with the switch over. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Todd Gorman, BoAC, stated that he is requesting a transfer of funds from the fuel account for the purpose of purchasing a compact tractor. Mr. Gorman stated that it is a pre-owned New Holland 45 and they would like to set aside an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00 from the fuel account which currently has \$64,000.00 in it including cash and inventory. He said that recently the Oliver tractor's transmission went out and it is not worth putting any money in it to repairing it. Mr. Gorman said that they did find a buyer for the tractor for \$2,500.00 and that has already taken place, so they are in need of purchasing the new tractor. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve going to County Council for the transfer of funds not to exceed \$20,000.00. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Brett Hays, NICC, submitted a Contract with Symplexity for iCloud backup. Donald Stuckey, County Attorney, stated that he reviewed and approves the Contract. James Crowl made a motion to approve the Contract with Symplexity. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

David Rosebrock, President of the Crooked Lake Association, came to the Commissioners regarding the boat ramp that is to be constructed on the 76 Park. Mr. Rosebrock said that Charlie Keller, Vice President of the Board, Dan Heiner and Tom Dickson are also in attendance. He thanked the Commissioners for the County Park on Crooked Lake and stated that it is a great asset. He said that they appreciate the greenspace because much of the lake is very populated and densely developed.

Mr. Rosebrock stated that the Crooked Lake Association came together and decided to voice their concerns about the potential planned use of the 76 Park for a new boat ramp and parking area. He said that when you go and take the time to look at the 76 Park it is a very beautiful piece of property and they've seen more use of it in recent years. He said people use it for picnics, family gatherings, photographs, etc. and they think taking that space for a parking area and a boat ramp would cut a big chunk out of it and they want to make certain that they voice their concerns. Mr. Rosebrock said that their main question is why not relocated the ramp to the south, out of the channel, facing it more westerly and use the parking area that is already there.

Mr. Rosebrock said that he received a drawing and he understands that it is not to scale and there is no dimensions, but it appears that the parking lot takes a majority of the 3.5 acres. He said that he found out subsequently that perhaps is not an accurate map and is not necessarily the way it will be. Mr. Rosebrock said that they hope the Commissioners explore all options.

Lynne Liechty stated that if the ramp was moved, it would result in the loss of boat docks because of the 300 foot clearance required around the boat ramp. Commissioner Liechty stated that on the diagram that Mr. Rosebrock has, it appears that the parking takes up the pavilion and everything; however, that is not the case and is not something the Commissioners want. Kylee Harris, County Park Assistant Superintendent, stated that she believed there was an issue with getting permits for moving the boat ramp, it was going to take approximately 5 years and then the channel was going to have to be dredged as well. Lynne Liechty also added that the ramp needs to be ADA compliant and the County Park has to be ADA compliant in 2018. James Crowl said that if the boat ramp was to be moved, it was going to be the tax payer's money paying for it. Lynne Liechty stated that going this route, the DNR is contributing \$50,000.00 or more towards a new boat ramp and parking area.

Lynne Liechty said that the DNR will be providing a better drawing at a later date because the drawing that Mr. Rosebrock has is not to scale. Ronald Smith thanked Mr. Rosebrock and stated that the Commission Board wants to be good players with the Crooked Lake Association. Commissioner Smith said that he was there when the DNR did the walk through and they very much said that they want to preserve as much green space as possible and they gave the parameters of what could and could not be done. He said that the DNR has also installed other ADA compliant ramps in the area and they are going to be great assistance to the County with this project. James Crowl also clarified that this is a 20 year lease with the DNR and that the County is not selling the property.

Donald Stuckey stated that when the final DNR survey comes in, it can be sent to the Crooked Lake Association for their information. The Commission Board thanked the Crooked Lake Association for their attendance.

Kylee Harris, County Park, stated that things are running smoothly at the County Park and that they got the lights turned back on in the Campground. Ms. Harris said that Frank Charlton will be back from vacation late on Friday afternoon.

Kylee Harris reported on the squatter issue at the County Park Campground. She said that they are having problems getting a hold of them. Donald Stuckey stated if it is necessary, he will get a private process server to deliver the paperwork.

Ms. Harris stated that Liz Scofield, from the Craft Fair that was held at the Event Center this past weekend, was very impressed and wants to discuss a possible agreement for renting the entire County Park Grounds. She said that they are interested in not only using the Event Center, but the Lion's Building as well with wagon rides in between the buildings.

Liz Scofield stated that normally they bring in approximately a couple thousand people to the Craft Fair and they had a very good response this year as well. Ms. Scofield said that the building is gorgeous, but she can only have about half the vendors that they could at Fairview. She said that she would like to use the other building as well so the other vendors would have a space.

Kylee Harris said that they would like to reserve their date for next year and come up with a contract with both buildings and the grounds so they could do the wagon rides. Liz Scofield said that she would like to reserve the first Saturday in November and Kylee Harris said that both buildings are currently available. Ms. Harris said that Ms. Scofield partnered with RISE in order to get the nonprofit rate for the Event Center; however, there is not a nonprofit rate for the Lion's Building. Ronald Smith said that a County Park Committee Meeting has been scheduled and this matter is something that can be discussed at that time.

Jennifer Sharkey, County Engineer, submitted A&D Specs Utility Permit #2739RC for approval. James Crowl made a motion to approve that Utility Permit. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Ms. Sharkey also submitted NIPSCO Utility Permits #2797, #2798 and #2799 for approval. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve those Utility Permits. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Ms. Sharkey stated that the letting date for the 200 N/827 Project is still scheduled for January, 2018. She said that she met with the railroad company and their consultants regarding the railroad crossing. Since this is a federal aid project, the County does all of the road improvements and is financially responsible for the local share of the railroad crossing. Ms. Sharkey said that the railroad company would hire their own consultant to do the design work in that area.

Jennifer Sharkey submitted a reimbursement voucher for the preliminary engineering in the amount of \$4,466.66 for approval. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the reimbursement voucher. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Ms. Sharkey reported that the bridge inspections were completed in October, which is Steuben County's compliance month. She said that she had a quarterly report conference call with INDOT to update them on the project and a draft report from the consultant should be received within the next 45 days.

Ms. Sharkey submitted the contract for the 200 N Phase II preliminary engineering and right of way engineering services with American Structurepoint for approval. She said that the total compensation for this contract is \$440,932.00 and 80% of that is reimbursed. Ms. Sharkey said that this contract was approved by INDOT as well. James Crowl made a motion to approve the contract with American Structurepoint. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Jennifer Sharkey stated that the alternate design for the Bike Trail Phase II has been finalized and they are still working on the right of way process. Ms. Sharkey submitted three (3) parcels for approval. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the parcels. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes. Ronald Smith stated that the Commission Board would like to have each right of way acquisitions to come for approval.

Ms. Sharkey stated that she plans on touching base with Tami Sumney, IT Director, after the first of the year regarding running the fiber to the Highway Department and creating a timeline.

Jennifer Sharkey submitted the Bike Trail Maintenance Agreement with the City of Angola for approval. Ms. Sharkey said that it is the same as last year and will cost \$10,000.00 for snow removal and mowing services along the Bike Trail. She said that this agreement covers up to the trailhead and anything further than that will have to be discussed at a later date. James Crowl made a motion to approve the Bike Trail Maintenance Agreement. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Jennifer Sharkey requested permission to attend the State Advocacy Training in Washington, D.C. on Monday, November 13 and to use it as a continuing education day. She also requested to use the County Vehicle to transport herself to Indianapolis for the flight. Ms. Sharkey also said that she will be attending a seminar at Purdue on November 16. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve Ms. Sharkey's requests. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

George Pifer asked what exactly the 200 N. Phase II Project entailed. Ms. Sharkey stated that they are looking at widening the travel ways and adding a paved shoulder similar to the tapered section that was a part of the 200 N/200 W Intersection Project. She also informed Mr. Pifer that the bridge is not a part of the project.

Emmett Heller, Highway Superintendent, reported that they had some water issues in the County after the heavy rains yesterday.

Mr. Heller stated that they have been trimming trees around the County. He said they have also built an additional salt bin at the highway barn and that resulted in the parking lot on the south of the building being moved to the front of the building. Mr. Heller said that lights will be installed out there in about two (2) weeks.

Emmett Heller reported that another Western Star was put on the road and about ¾ of the radios have been installed. He said that he is checking with a couple companies on snow blades as well.

Jack Bireley, stated that he's trying to figure out how the County and the Town of Hamilton communicate with each other, etc. Ronald Smith stated that the Commissioners do get calls that advise them of issues with certain matters. He said that the Town of Hamilton came up with a wetland issue on Mr. Bireley's property.

Mr. Bireley stated that he came to the Commissioners to get the State Highway Right of Way vacated, he located the drain and then he went to Brent Shull, Hamilton Town Manager, and gave him the paperwork. Mr. Shull informed Mr. Bireley that he needed a letter from the Commission Board and from Larry Gilbert, Surveyor. Mr. Bireley stated that he didn't think Mr. Shull needed a letter as the decision was stated in the minutes. Mr. Shull then stated that the property may be in the wetlands so he told Mr. Bireley to contact the Army Core of Engineers.

Donald Stuckey stated that the County has nothing to do with the ILP and what it takes to get one. Mr. Stuckey said all the Commissioners have to do with is the abandonment of the right of way. He said that Mr. Bireley has provided the legal description as requested, it's signed by the Surveyor and he can prepare the ordinance to abandon for the next Commissioners' Meeting. Mr. Stuckey said that Mr. Bireley is entitled to the property and being able to obtain an ILP has nothing to do with the abandonment.

Kristi Bachman, CASA, came to the Commissioners to discuss the possibility of gaining access to wireless internet in their office. Ms. Bachman stated that they would like to somehow access the County internet as their phone hot spots are not ideal. Lynne Liechty stated that the County has no wireless but does have a secured internet connection and outside entities are not allowed to use it because of the security risk. Kristi Bachman said that she has done more checking on this issue and she is looking into obtaining a MiFi.

Ms. Bachman stated that they currently have two (2) keys and one of them is good for afterhours; however, they do not have the key fob to allow them access to the building. She said that they don't have to access the building afterhours very often, but she was going to bring in a filing cabinet over the weekend and she did not realize she wouldn't be able to gain access to the building. Gary Fair stated that CASA does not have a key fob to enter the north door, but they do have a key to open second floor and their office space. Mr. Fair said that they have been limited to that and he told them that they did not have any after hour's access. James Crowl stated that every time a swipe card is used, it registers who comes in that door. James Crowl made a motion to allow CASA to have a key fob for after hour's access to the Community Center. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Gary Fair, Community Center Building Manager, submitted quotes for the new proposed HR office area. Mr. Fair said that the total cost for the project would be \$8,140.27. He said that he added an additional \$500.00 for the lighting and the switches that need to be changed out as well. Mr. Fair also stated that there won't be any charge for permits to redo the walls and the ceilings in that area and everything will be to code. Kim Meyers said that Cum. Cap. would be the appropriate fund to use. James Crowl made a motion to approve the low quotes obtained by Mr. Fair for the HR office area. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Ruth Beer, County Council, came to the Commissioners to discuss the possibility of a Horse Drawn Carriage Fee Ordinance. Ms. Beer said that she is just asking the Commissioners to entertain the thought of imposing a fee on horse drawn vehicles. She said that this is nothing the Council has talked about, it's just something that she's been thinking about. Ms. Beer said that she also does not want to give the impression that if it is passed, that it would be something to make the County a lot of money. Ruth Beer said that her goal is to be fair because there are people that already pay plate fees in this County and have for years. Ms. Beer went through options that could be discussed on how the fees are to be paid and how much the fees would be. James Crowl stated that a number of years ago the Commissioners researched it. At that time, the Bishop said absolutely not and the Sheriff at the time said that he would not patrol it. Commissioner Crowl also said that they requested that flashing lights be placed on their carriages and to this day they still do not have them. Ronald Smith stated that currently this Community is without a Bishop and they have a Bishop from Adams County that is superintending this Community. The Commissioners took the matter under advisement.

Phil Pieri, Nordic Energy, came to the Commissioners regarding the Event Center being removed from the CHOICE Program. Mr. Pieri contacted NIPSCO and he was notified that because of non-payment of the settle-up amount per the contract, the Event Center was terminated from the program. Erin Schiffl, Commissioners' Secretary, stated that the \$2,700.00 was a settle-up fee from not using enough gas at the Event Center and the worry

is that at the end of every year, the County will get hit with a large bill. Ms. Schiffli said that a Change Order was submitted for the upfront costs and then NIPSCO reimbursed those funds. Phil Pieri stated that because of that, he recommended not getting back on the CHOICE Program because of this contract with NIPSCO.

Donald Stuckey stated that he has not yet heard back from the Waste District.

Matt Brinkman and Jonathan Dorsey, Region IIIA, came to the Commissioners regarding possible grant opportunities for the County Park. Ronald Smith stated that most counties have a Park Plan and Steuben County is one of the few that does not. Commissioner Smith thought that Steuben County should be looking at a three (3) or five (5) year Park Plan and in that have a projection of goals, what kind of structures are needed, etc. Donald Stuckey stated that in order to seek grants a formal County Park Board must be in place, which means they have taxing authority. Lynne Liechty stated that she believed there was a three (3) year waiting period to receive grant funds after a Park Board is established. Commissioner Liechty stated that because of the maximum levy, it wouldn't be possible. Kim Meyers stated that it would be like the Board of Aviation as they fall inside the max levy. Ms. Meyers said that it would affect the General Fund if the Commissioners add another rate and the Commissioners would also relinquish all control. Matt Brinkman stated that most towns and counties do have Park Boards in place. Matt Brinkman stated that one of the very first questions on the grant applications is whether or not a planning study was done. Mr. Brinkman said that many times that is viewed as a threshold item and if you have it they can move forward and if not, the application doesn't go any further. Jonathan Dorsey stated that even if the Steuben County Park is not eligible for grants there are private organizations that like to see Park Plans in place. Lynne Liechty agreed to work with Region IIIA on this matter.

Doug Smith contacted Erin Schiffli and stated that he wanted to come to the next Commissioners' Meeting. Mr. Smith wrote a letter to the Plan Commission and the Commissioners in May, 2017, claims that he did not receive a response and that he has grievances to file against the Plan Commission. James Crowl spoke to the Plan Commission about this issue and he said that Mr. Smith was in violation, the Plan Commission caught him and there was a penalty. Doug Smith then came back and got the permit. He said he would take care of it and he did not do what he was supposed to do. Donald Stuckey stated that Mr. Smith has a right to get on the Plan Commission agenda but it is not a matter for the Commissioners as the Commissioners aren't supposed to be involved in Plan Commission business. James Crowl stated that if Mr. Smith has a grievance it needs to be taken to the BZA, not the Commissioners. Donald Stuckey stated that it is a Plan Commission matter and should be addressed at a Plan Commission Meeting. Mr. Stuckey stated that he will write a letter to Doug Smith.

Fred Collinger brought up the 76 Park and the proposed boat ramp again. He said that children and parking areas do not mix so a fence would have to be constructed in between the two. Mr. Collinger said that the boat ramp could be moved out of the channel. Ronald Smith said that he sees more conflict with vehicles and foot traffic where the ramp is currently than where the proposed location is.

Another audience member stated that he thinks that a Park Board is needed and that is the best thing that the Commissioners talked about today. He said that he didn't want to use 76 Park if something else could be done as he feels using the 76 Park is still a disadvantage to the boaters.

Ronald Smith stated that there has been an inquiry concerning the Public Defender Board because someone feels that there are too many attorneys from DeKalb County serving as Public Defenders in Steuben County. Commissioner Smith asked Donald Stuckey what needs to be done. Donald Stuckey stated that most Public Defenders are younger attorneys and Steuben County has an aging bar that is not interested in being Public Defenders. Mr. Stuckey said that attorneys have to be found and other counties run into the same issue. Ronald Smith feels that the Steuben County Public Defender Board is bringing in individuals where they can find them.

Kim Meyers stated that she did some calculations on the insurance rates and the Commissioners need to make a decision on which company they would like to lock in rates with. Ms. Meyers stated that there is money in other funds in addition to the payroll deductions. She said that the concern is that they've increased it ten percent (10%) and she increased it five percent (5%) so there is a chance that an additional will need to be requested from Council depending on how the claims experience goes in 2018. Ms. Meyers said that in the meantime, the Commissioners need to take a hard look at some of the changes that Jody Kinsey has been discussing with the Commission Board over the last couple years.

Rae Delaney stated that currently the County is with Gerber Life but Crum & Forester/US Fire, Option 2, came in lower for 2018. Ms. Meyers stated that if a decision is not made today, the numbers could increase. Lynne Liechty made a motion to lock in the rates with Crum & Forester/US Fire for 2018. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes. Lynne Liechty also recommended that the Commission Board take a close look at only offering one (1) provider in future years.

Donald Stuckey started a discussion on the Airport Manager position. Kim Meyers stated that a job description has been created by WIS and it needs to go to the Personnel Committee for approval.

The Commissioners received the following correspondence: Stacey Meek NICC re: 2018 schedule for Advisory Board Meetings; Steuben County Soil & Water re: Newsletter; Janel Meyer, Steuben County Soil & Water re: Preliminary Agenda; Stacey Meek NICC re: Reminder and Minutes; Stacey Meek NICC re: Reminder of next Advisory Board Meeting; IN.gov re: October 25 email from Commissioner Bennett; Dave Gee Region IIIA re: Brownfield Application – Reschedule; Dave & Janet Rosebrock re: New Boat Launch; Dave & Janet Rosebrock re: 76 Park at Crooked Lake; Dave & Janet Rosebrock re: Website Contact Request; NEIndiana Regional Partnership re: Master Opioid Prescribing; Knowledge City re: Online Training; Jack Krouse re: Correctional News Facility of the Month; Matt Meersman re: St. Joe River Basin Meeting Reminder; Kathy Dowe re: Website Inquiry; NEIndiana re: Caucus Legislative Agenda re: 2018 MCCNEI Legislative Platform Presentation; IACC re: Indiana Rural Economic Development Model; Lauryann Thieme re: 2017 Local Recreation Leaders Survey.

STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Ronald L. Smith, President, South District

James A. Crowl, Vice President, Middle District

Lynne Liechty, North District

Attest: _____
Kim Meyers, Steuben County Auditor
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