

STEBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
November 2, 2015

The Steuben County Commissioners met at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, November 2, 2015, in the Commissioners' Room of the Steuben Community Center. Present this day were Commissioners Ronald L. Smith, James Crowl and Lynne Liechty. Also present were Ruth Beer, County Council Vice President, Ken Shelton, County Councilman, Jim Getz, County Councilman, Dan Caruso, County Councilman, Kim Koomler, Auditor and Donald Stuckey, County Attorney.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the claims submitted for payment this day totaling \$370,530.15. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

James Crowl made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 5, 2015, Commissioners' Meeting and the minutes from the October 13, 2015, Special Meeting. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

The Commissioners signed the minutes from the September 21, 2015 and September 30, 2015, Commissioners' Meetings that were approved at the previous meeting.

Vicky Meek, EMS, submitted a letter requesting permission to purchase one (1) stair chair, in the amount of \$3,082.00, from her LOIT small equipment budget 301-4000.05. James Crowl made a motion to approve that request. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

The Commissioners reviewed the list of elected officials and county employees that want to be a part of the Courthouse Study Committee. The Commissioners scheduled the first meeting for Tuesday, December 1, 2015, at 8:00 a.m., in the Commissioners' Room. It was further stated that the meeting should not exceed thirty (30) minutes.

Koorsen Fire & Security submitted Contract Proposals for testing of the Backflow Preventers because they are not covered under the blanket policy that is currently in place. Donald Stuckey, County Attorney, reviewed the contracts and stated that there is a termination penalty of one year annual fee and he does not approve of that. Ronald Smith stated that the agreement is good for one year but the assessed fee is only good for one year so after the first year they can increase the price. James Crowl said that he does not agree with that. Ronald Smith stated that since Koorsen services the rest of the fire system, he believes that the Commission Board should ask them to either keep the price the same for all three (3) years or build the backflows into the current price. Donald Stuckey was given permission to speak to Koorsen regarding the proposed Contract and will have feedback regarding this issue at the next regularly scheduled Commissioners' Meeting

Frank Charlton, Plan Commission, came to the Commissioners regarding a rezone for Couperthwaite. Mr. Charlton stated that on October 7, 2015, a Plan Commission Meeting was held and a rezone request from Brian and Patricia Couperthwaite, 35 Lane 330, Big Otter Lake, came before the Commission. Mr. Charlton stated that the Plan Commission does give a positive recommendation by a 6-1 vote and one abstention for this rezone. He said that they request to rezone the property from Lake Residential (LR) to Local Business (LB). Frank Charlton stated that there has not been any negative feedback on this rezone and the required public notice was sent. James Crowl made a motion to pass Ordinance Z-15-01 on its first reading. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

**Second and Third Readings
Steuben County, Indiana
Zoning Ordinances Z-15-01**

Thereupon, County Commissioner, Lynne Leichy, moved that all rules of procedure of the County Commissioners which might prevent, unless suspended, the second and third readings of Steuben County Zoning Ordinance No. Z-15-01, 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
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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
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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
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The President of the Steuben County Commissioners, Ronald L. Smith, declared publicly Zoning Ordinance No. Z-15-01, 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. Zoning Ordinance No. Z-15-01 is on file in the Auditor's office. Zoning Ordinance No. Z-15-01 reads as follows:

ORDINANCE Z-15-01

It is hereby ordained by the County Commissioners of Steuben County, Indiana, that the following described real estate in Steuben County, Indiana, which is currently zoned Lake Residence (LR) shall hereinafter be zoned as Local Business (LB):

Commencing at an iron pipe found at the Northwest corner of Lot #14 in the First Addition to North Otter Lake Subdivision as platted; thence North 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East (assumed bearing) 338.80 feet along the East right-of-way line of a 40 foot platted road to the Southwest corner of land described in Deed Record 119, Page 204; thence North 89 degrees 57 minutes 07 seconds East 99.96 feet along the South line of land described in said Deed Records to an iron pin found at the true point of beginning; thence continuing North 89 degrees 57 minutes 07 seconds East 75.00 feet along said South line to an iron pin found at the Southeast corner of land described in said Deed Record; thence North 00 degrees 01 minutes 50 seconds East 299.66 feet to an iron pipe found on the South right-of-way line of State Road 120 at the Northeast corner of land described in said Deed Record; thence North 89 degrees 58 minutes 46 seconds West 110.00 feet along said South right-of-way line to an iron pin found; thence South 00 degrees 01 minutes 50 seconds West 160.00 feet to an iron pin found; thence South 35 degrees 06 minutes 00 seconds East 60.82 feet to an iron pin found; thence South 00 degrees 01 minutes 50 seconds West 90.00 feet back to the true point of beginning, containing 0.665 acres subject to legal highways and easements of record. Said tract being a portion of that described in Steuben County, Document Number 14-07-0090.

Map #76-03-27-120-102.000-006

DATED: November 2, 2015

STEBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

ATTEST:

Kim Koomler, Steuben County Auditor

Frank Charlton, Plan Commission, also came to the Commissioners regarding an alleyway vacation. Mr. Charlton stated that on October 7, 2015, a public meeting was held regarding VPW-15-01 for McNamara. This alleyway is a 12 foot wide alley in Pleasant Lake. This request comes to the Commissioners with a positive recommendation of 5-3 and one abstention. James Crowl stated he is in favor of it. Frank Charlton stated that there has not been any negative feedback regarding these vacations. James Crowl said that Mr. McNamara has shown a lot of good, cleaning things up, etc., and he thinks the appropriate thing to do is to close the alleyway. Ronald Smith opened up the meeting for public opinion. Lee Mason, 1300 W. Main Street, Pleasant Lake, Indiana, said that he is in favor of the vacation. Mr. Mason stated that his alley had been closed and he participated in other closures in the area as well. He said that the alleys are very inconvenient and it's better to have them shut. James Crowl made a motion to vacate the alleyway. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Frank Charlton, Plan Commission, submitted alleyway vacation VPW-15-02 for Myers and Chipman. Mr. Charlton said that on October 7 a public meeting was held for the vacation of this alleyway. The request comes to the Commissioners with no recommendation. The reason for no recommendation was because there was not a quorum of the majority of the votes. It was a 3-3 and one abstention. Mr. Charlton stated that this alley is an extension of the previous alleyway that was just vacated. He said that there were some concerns about the people on each side of the alley having access to their garages. The Plan Commission Board asked if they would have an agreement drawn up and recorded, in interest of the people on both sides of the alley. Donald Stuckey reviewed the agreement and thinks there are some issues with the language. It was stated that Burlage & Associates is going to prepare the final agreement for recording. Ronald Smith opened up the meeting for public opinion and there was no public input. James Crowl made a motion to vacate the alleyway under the condition that the proper documentation is recorded by Mr. Burlage and the Plan Commission provided a copy of that documentation. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

**Second and Third Readings
Steuben County, Indiana
Ordinance 3133**

Thereupon, County Commissioner, Lynne Leichthy, moved that all rules of procedure of the County Commissioners which might prevent, unless suspended, the second and third readings of Steuben County Zoning Ordinance No. 3133, 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
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Nays
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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
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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
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The President of the Steuben County Commissioners, Ronald L. Smith, declared publicly Ordinance No. 3133, 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. Ordinance No. 3133 is on file in the Auditor's office. Ordinance No. 3133 reads as follows:

ORDINANCE NUMBER 3133

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE STEUBEN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGARDING THE VACATION OF A PLATTED ALLEY, Original Plat of Pleasant Lake**

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

WHEREAS, the Petitioners own or have legal interest in certain real estate which is contiguous to the platted way or place proposed for vacation;

WHEREAS, notice by publication to the population at large by legal ads placed in the Herald Republican on October 23, 2015 and notice by certified mail to abutting property owners no later than October 23, 2015, has been properly made consistent with Indiana Law;

WHEREAS, the Petitioners have 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 public 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 PUBLIC WAY IN STEUBEN COUNTY, INDIANA, **IS HEREBY VACATED:**

The platted alley lying between Lots 33 and 34 and between Lots 28 and 29 of the Original Plat of Pleasant Lake, as shown in Plat Book 1, page 51, Recorder's Office of Steuben County, Indiana, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Northwest corner of Lot 34 of said Original Plat of Pleasant Lake, thence South 00 degrees 49 minutes 39 seconds East (assumed bearing), along the West line of Lot 34 and the West line of 28, a distance of 264.17 feet (264 feet-plat) to the Southwest corner of said Lot 28; thence North 76 degrees 07 minutes 44 seconds West 12.00 feet to Southeast corner of Lot 29; thence North 00 degrees 49 minutes 52 seconds West along the East line of Lot 29 and the East line of Lot 33, a distance of 264.10 feet (264 feet-plat) to the Northeast corner of said Lot 33; thence South 76 degrees 27 minutes 26 seconds East 12.00 feet to the point of beginning, containing 0.07 acre, more or less. Subject to easements of record.

THENCE, all of said vacated portion of the platted way, described in the attached description, shall pass in fee title to the owners of the adjacent property to the east and west.

Map# 76-11-15-420-627/628.000-017 (Lots 28 & 29) and

Map# 76-11-15-420-612/613.000-017 (Lots 33 & Pt 34 & S 24' of Lot 34)

Map# 76-11-15-420-629.000-017 (S 24' Lot 34)

STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF

COMMISSIONERS

11/2/15

First Reading
11/2/15
Second Reading
11/2/15
Third Reading

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

ATTEST:
Kim Koomler, Steuben County Auditor

Frank Charlton, Plan Commission, discussed the letter that was received from Tammara Porter, an attorney representing Mr. and Mrs. King, regarding an easement that was moved by the Commissioners. Mr. Charlton stated that there is a piece of property on Lake George owned by Scott Rode. There was a 12 foot easement in between Mr. Rode's two properties. Mr. Rode requested to have the easement vacated because at that time, he had planned on adding on to his house and with that easement being there, he was too close to it already. Mr. Rode agreed to move the easement to the other side of his property and they just moved the easement. Donald Stuckey stated it was just an ingress, egress to the lake. Frank Charlton stated that where the easement used to be, there was a huge tree and some stones around it, etc. During the meeting, one gentleman wanted the County to remove the seawall, which the County refused to do. It was stated that the new easement has steps built into the seawall.

Discussion has now come about regarding the new easement and people claim that Mr. Rode is not allowing people use that new easement. Frank Charlton stated that after the easement was vacated and switched, the neighbors were so rude and nasty to the Rode's they sold the house and moved. Since the Rode's do not live there anymore, the neighbors now are requesting that the easement be switched back to the way it used to be.

Donald Stuckey stated that he read the letter from Attorney Tammara Porter. He said that there is a 12' easement there with ingress and egress to the lake, he doesn't understand what the problem is. Frank Charlton and Vina Conti both stated that the ability to access the lake is still there. The letter stated that the Rode's denied access to the King's. Frank Charlton stated that the Rode's own the property but there is an easement that goes down through there. Donald Stuckey stated that if the Rode's are giving the neighbors a hard time about using the easement, the Commissioners do not get involved in those issues. Mr. Stuckey stated that the Commissioners just vacate easements. James Crowl stated that at the time, you could not put a dock or boat there, you could go to the lake to go swimming, and that is what that particular access is for. Frank Charlton stated that since this has happened, the Rode's have sold both properties and on the portion where the easement used to be, there is a carport and a fence.

Ronald Smith opened up the meeting for public comment. Dan King, 215 Lane 21B, stated that his property is directly behind where the new easement was granted in replacement of the vacated easement. Mr. King stated that he was initially against the vacation of the alley because there were six (6) rights that a Steuben County Circuit Court Judge granted all residents of Forest Park. Mr. King said that Scott Rode assured the residents that a new easement would be placed against the westerly property to replace the vacated easement and those rights would be placed into that easement language. Mr. King said that he then switched his vote to approve the vacation of the easement because the rights would be granted with the new easement; however, that is not what occurred. Mr. King stated that the only right that was granted was an ingress/egress right so the recording of the new easement stripped away six (6) rights that a County Judge granted Forest Park residents.

James Crowl stated that the Commissioners moved, not changed, the easement. No rights were changed, they are still the same in his eyes. Donald Stuckey stated that was also his recollection. Frank Charlton stated that during the meeting, the Rode's did agree that everything that was happening on the old easement would also happen on the new easement. Ronald Smith said that this would be a mitigation because all of the rights of the first easement went with the second easement. Donald Stuckey stated that there has been a lot of new case law since 1986 that may change the decision of the Court.

Mr. King stated that the major right that they are having issues with is that while the Rode's say that ingress/egress is allowed, they do not allow a parent to supervise their children while they are in the water. Donald Stuckey stated that he doesn't believe that there is anything in the current easement that prohibits someone from sitting on the end of the easement supervising their children while they are in the water. Mr. Stuckey stated that

there is a disagreement on the interpretation of what the new easement says. Donald Stuckey said that you cannot put anything in the easement, no picnic tables, etc., but you are allowed to go back and forth and stand on the easement. Mr. King stated that according to the Rode's, it is ingress/egress, from the road to the water only. No standing, no supervising, no sitting, no watching, that is the way their attorney wrote it. Donald Stuckey stated that he is not going to argue with the Rode's because they are not in attendance at this meeting, but he believes that is an incorrect interpretation.

Mr. King said that it is important to them that the Commission Board realize that the residents of Forest Park lost those six (6) rights though that vacation and wanted to know if there was any way to have that issue revisited. Donald Stuckey stated that he is not going to go that far as he does not have both documents with him. Mr. Stuckey stated that there is nothing in the new easement prohibiting someone from sitting on the end of the easement watching children swim in the water. Mr. Stuckey stated that he believes the conclusion drawn by the Rode's has been incorrect and they don't live there anymore anyway. Mr. King stated that the Rode's still have a financial interest in the property. Donald Stuckey stated that he is concerned about the fact that the Rode's came in and represented that they wanted to change the easement because they wanted to build. The Plan Commission and the Commissioners used that representation as the basis for the change and then the Rode's didn't build. Mr. Stuckey stated that fraud has possibly been perpetrated upon the Plan Commission and the Commissioners by the Rode's and he believes it is worth an inquiry and he will write a letter to them.

William King, 75 Lane 201BA Forest Park, stated that he was the one that came in May to bring the issues to the Commissioners' attention. He said that since that time, cars, trucks, dumpsters, etc., have been parked on the easement. He also stated that the Rode's have put thousands of dollars into the house and have been using the easement like a driveway since May.

Judge Allen Wheat, Circuit Court, introduced CASA Director, Kristi Bachman. Judge Wheat stated that whenever a CHINS case gets filed, there has to be a CASA volunteer or a Guardian Ad Litem appointed. Judge Wheat stated that CASA has encountered financial issues and is asking the Commissioners for assistance.

Ms. Bachman stated that in 2007 their allocated funding from Steuben County was decreased by \$6,000.00 and that funding has never been restored. She said that annual allocations through Steuben County total \$22,000.00. Ms. Bachman stated that CASA serves an average of 100 children per year in Steuben County and that number has been exceeded for 2015. She reported that CASA has 13 volunteers in Steuben County and a few volunteers from other counties that serve in Steuben County as well. Ms. Bachman stated that the CASA staff also takes cases for children when no volunteers are available.

Kristi Bachman reported that the cost of advocacy per child is on average around \$700.00. The only other alternative for Steuben County is to replace the CASA program with an attorney Guardian Ad Litem who will receive approximately \$50.00-\$75.00 per hour and CASA volunteers have volunteered around 3,000 hours this year alone. Kristi Bachman stated that the majority of the funding comes from the County and State matching grants and State funds change from year to year just as the County funds can.

Ms. Bachman stated that the CASA program is a five-county program and each program relies heavily on the other. She reported that they have been informed that funding must be decreased by \$24,000.00 in 2016. In addition to that, the State grants are projected to be \$15,000.00 less than they were in 2015. With rising expenses they are facing a \$60,000.00 deficit for 2016. Ms. Bachman stated that she is aware that the County Budget for 2016 has already been approved; however, she is not asking for additional funds for 2016. She said that currently CASA is renting a small space in the Community Center and the current lease expires on December 31, 2015. Having that small office allows the CASA program to save a lot of money in mileage and gas. Ms. Bachman asked the Commissioners to allow CASA to stay in the office and waive the fee for 2016. Lynne Liechty made a motion to allow CASA to continue to stay in the office in the Community Center and waive the fee for 2016. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Jennifer Sharkey submitted Frontier utility permit #2753 for approval. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve that utility permit. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Ms. Sharkey stated that she attended the pre-final construction meeting, for the 200 N/200 W project, with INDOT and the Contractor on October 28, 2015. She said that everything looked good and checked out fine. The proper paperwork will be finished and the project will be closed out. Ms. Sharkey reported that the emergency vehicle pre-emption system was tested on October 28 as well.

Ms. Sharkey submitted two (2) Change Orders for approval. Change Order #5 is a time extension for the intermediate completion date since they were sixteen (16) days behind due to the utility delay. Change Order #6 includes the addition of road closure assemblies, a mailbox assembly, back plates to the signal to make it more visible and there was also a change in the chemical stabilization. James Crowl made a motion to approve Change Orders #5 and #6. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Jennifer Sharkey said that the railing on the Bike Trail is almost completed and some of the benches have also been installed. She also reported that the pavilion and the pavement markings will be done soon as well. A lot of the items are there; however, the Bike Trail is not yet officially open to the public until the pedestrian crossings are constructed and operational.

She stated that the HAWK Signal is being serviced by NIPSCO and will be under INDOT's jurisdiction but the 200 N crossing assembly will be County property and service. Ms. Sharkey stated that she talked with REMC and currently the County only has one membership with them and that's through EMA. She said that all of the bills could continue to go through EMA since that account is already be set up and then EMA could distribute the billing to the appropriate department. The other option is to set up a new membership which costs \$25.00 and then have it billed to the proper department. Ronald Smith stated that he believes the crossing is on City property and thinks it is the City's liability since the City annexed that property. Jennifer Sharkey said that since the crossing is used for the County Trail and placed in the Bike Trail easement that may make it a County owned and maintained facility. Donald Stuckey stated that most likely it is the County's responsibility to maintain it. Lynne Liechty made a motion to create a new REMC account and to have demand testing done so a flat rate is billed. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Ms. Sharkey stated that the permit for Maple Street has been submitted to INDOT. She also stated that she submitted the truck turning movements, for the Lurecraft property, to INDOT for review. Ms. Sharkey said that they are still waiting on the environmental permits from IDEM and the Army Corp of Engineers. She said that the large drainage structure is ordered. Jennifer Sharkey said that once INDOT reviews the truck turning movements, if they approve it, then they can move forward with discussions on alternate delineation. At the present time it is still a fence and the request to have it a curb has been acknowledged by INDOT.

Ms. Sharkey stated that the Stage I design of the 200 N/SR 827 project was submitted to INDOT on the 20th and she met with the consultant on the 27th to review the plans. She said that a quarterly meeting is scheduled for November 10 at INDOT to discuss the project. Ms. Sharkey stated that INDOT sent her an email saying that they plan on doing an intersection study at SR 827 and 200 N to determine what modifications, if any, will be necessary to the intersection.

Ms. Sharkey stated that the bridge inspection has been completed and a bridge inspection meeting is scheduled for November 12 to determine the future inspection cycle. Ms. Sharkey reviewed the bridge report and she stated that unfortunately Steuben County is now 3rd in the State.

Ms. Sharkey also submitted two (2) reimbursement vouchers for 200 N/200 W intersection improvements, in the amount of \$6,315.49 and \$9,929.00 for approval. James Crowl made a motion to approve the two (2) reimbursement vouchers. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Jennifer Sharkey reported that there is a 100% reimbursable railroad grant that is available through INDOT and she would like to submit an application. The Grant is in the amount of \$10,298.00 and it would fund advance warning signs and pavement markings at the railroad crossings. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the grant application. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Ms. Sharkey stated that she has been working with Rick Shipe on the County Park well permit and she would need the Auto CAD files for the County Park Community Building.

Ms. Sharkey also stated that she has been working on the AIC sign placement applications and she needs exact locations of where the signs will be placed in order to submit the applications.

Ronald Smith asked Jennifer Sharkey about the speed limit on the County Park Road. Commissioner Smith said there is no posted speed limit sign and he wasn't sure if it was an assumed 30 MPH road. Ms. Sharkey also stated that in the spring a traffic study will be done on CR 200 W to see if 50 MPH is the appropriate speed with the new signal installed.

Emmett Heller, Highway Superintendent, updated the Commissioners on work being done at the Highway Department.

Jody Kinsey, USI Insurance, came to the Commissioners to report back to them on her findings and to figure out how to move forward. Ms. Kinsey stated that she did lock in the underwriting so the County didn't jeopardize themselves for any additional underwriting decisions to come from the reinsurance carriers. Jody Kinsey reported that she has a meeting scheduled with Cameron Hospital next week to see if they are willing to contract with the County for additional discounts.

Jody Kinsey stated that the Commissioners need to decide if they are comfortable with moving forward with a single hospital system instead of the dual choice of Parkview and Lutheran. Ms. Kinsey stated that will save the County \$86,000.00 in true costs. She said if that is done, there are requirements on how the benefits are structured for out of network costs. For out of network costs, the deductible would increase from \$500.00 to \$1,500.00. A 30% coinsurance differential is also required and currently the plan is 20% coinsurance so it would increase to 50%. A \$5,000.00 difference on the out of pocket maximums is also required and that would increase to \$6,000.00 for out of network claims. Jody Kinsey stated that approximately 75 employees are in the Lutheran system and approximately 165 in the Parkview system. The Commissioners took no action on changing the available networks.

Ms. Kinsey also spoke to the Commissioners about premium contributions. Melissa Shepherd wanted to know the thoughts of the Commissioners regarding increasing the premiums that are withheld from employee paychecks. Jody Kinsey stated that currently, the amount being taken from the employee's paychecks is \$5.00 per month for insurance coverage. Ms. Kinsey stated that the \$5.00 represents about 1% and the average is around 15%. Ronald Smith stated that is extremely reasonable. James Crowl agreed that it is reasonable; however, the average salaries in Steuben County are low compared to those in other counties. Commissioner Crowl stated that the insurance is one thing that the employees have and to only give them a \$500.00 raise for 2016 and then raise the insurance, puts the burden back on the employees. Commissioner Crowl said that it is great insurance, but the pay structure is much below other counties.

Jim Getz, County Council and Ruth Beer, County Council Vice President, stated that when Council gave the \$500.00 salary increase, they anticipated that offsetting a possible insurance increase.

Ronald Smith stated that he is not opposed to a moderate increase. James Crowl stated that a great deal of the County's clerical staff are very much underpaid. Lynne Liechty recommended contacting the employees that are on the Lutheran plan to see if they had an issue with changing to Parkview and get their input. Melissa Shepherd stated that open enrollment is November 20, 2015, so they were hoping that decisions would be made today.

Ronald Smith stated that he would support going from \$5.00 a month to \$15.00 a month to be withheld from the employee paychecks. Lynne Liechty stated it was a step in the right direction. Lynne Liechty made a motion for the amount to be withheld from the employees paycheck be \$15.00 a month instead of \$5.00. Ronald Smith seconded that motion. Ronald Smith called for a final vote and the motion carried with two (2) ayes and one (1) nay.

Melissa Shepherd, Payroll and Benefits, came to the Commissioners regarding an update to Hylant's presentation they gave at a previous meeting. Ronald Smith stated that he spoke to some of Hylant's customers and he received a positive response. Ms. Shepherd stated that in order for consideration, Hylant and the other companies

will need to contact her earlier in the year for her to get the information around. Ronald Smith requested that a letter be sent to Hylant and communicate that to them.

Gary Fair, Community Center Maintenance, came to the Commissioners with invoices from Delta T Mechanical for the Community Center boilers. Mr. Fair stated that it has been nine (9) years since Trane did updates on the controls and we've had problems since day one. He stated that eventually new controls will be needed. Mr. Fair also reported that some bearings are going bad and it is very loud down by the Purdue Extension kitchen. James Crowl made a motion to pay the invoices from Delta T Mechanical from Cum. Cap. 1138-000-4000.15. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Gary Fair inquired about the Washington Street property and if any progress has been made. Donald Stuckey stated that he has not yet received the appraisal. Mr. Stuckey stated that he will try to contact the appraiser and find out what is going on.

Mr. Fair also stated that he hasn't heard anything from Russ Ruckle, the Surveyor, after his initial contact with him. He stated that he pulled the blue prints for Mr. Ruckle and he hasn't heard anything since. Donald Stuckey said that he hasn't had any contact with Mr. Ruckle, but he would contact him.

Paul Jones, American Legal Publishing, submitted a quote in the amount of \$1,966.32 to update the Steuben County Code of Ordinances. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve that quote. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Donald Stuckey updated the Commissioners on the RESPoly Flow contract. He stated that it is moving along slower than anticipated; however, hopefully it will be wrapped up in the next couple days.

Jeff Peters, Peters Municipal Consultants, LTD., submitted a General Obligation Bond Engagement Letter. Donald Stuckey stated that he reviewed that letter and he approves the wording. Lynne Liechty made a motion to sign the Engagement Letter. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

The Commissioners received a Bicentennial Letter of Proclamation regarding the raising of the flag on December 11, 2015. Kim Koomler, Auditor, stated that on December 11, the Proclamation must be read and the flag raised. Ronald Smith stated that he's supposed to be on the Bicentennial Committee and every meeting they have is scheduled when he's in Fort Wayne. Commissioner Smith requested communication be sent to June Julien that he would like to attend the next meeting.

Tami Mosier, Purdue Extension, submitted a request to use a county owned vehicle to travel to Purdue University and to have other local PCARET members travel with her on November 9, 2015. James Crowl made a motion to approve that request. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Steve Short, Potawatomi Snowmobiler's, Inc., Insurance Coordinator, submitted a letter requesting permission to run the Potawatomi Snowmobile Trail through the County Park again this year as they have done in the past. Mr. Short also submitted a copy of their Certificate of Liability Insurance. James Crowl made a motion to approve that request. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

James Crowl stated that the Steuben County Cemetery Board needs to schedule a meeting. Ronald Smith stated that Commissioner Crowl is the President of that Board and he may call a meeting if he wishes.

James Crowl reported that Mr. Schmucker has applied for a CAFO with the State of Indiana.

The Commissioners received the following correspondence: First Group Engineering, Inc. re: ADA/Title VI Compliance; NEIndiana re: News Release; Angola Area Chamber of Commerce re: Newsletter; NEIndiana re: NEIndiana Regional Partnership welcomes Kosciusko County; State of Indiana re: From the Desk of Lt. Governor Sue Ellsperman; Connecting Communities re: The Northeast Indiana Trail Plan; IU Public Policy re: October 2015 Newsletter; Indiana State Department of Agriculture re: Meeting Notice; Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs re: Requesting use of In-Kind Contribution; NACo re: County News Alerts; INDOT re: LPA Newsletter.

STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Ronald L. Smith, President, South District

James A. Crowl, Vice President, Middle District

Lynne A. Liechty, North District

Attest: _____
Kim Koomler, Steuben County Auditor
elw