

STEBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
March 19, 2018

The Steuben County Commissioners met at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, March 19, 2018, 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, Jim Getz, Steuben County Councilman, Dan Caruso, Steuben County Councilman and Kim Meyers, Steuben County Auditor.

Tim Troyer, Sheriff, submitted the completed Staffing Analysis that was requested by EMC Insurance. He said that the analysis shows the jail staff at a nine (9) person deficit. Lynne Liechty made a motion to forward the recommendation from the Staffing Analysis to County Council for consideration. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Sheriff Troyer also submitted a quote from Padded Surfaces by B&E for repairs that are needed to the padded cell at the Jail in the amount of \$3,965.00. James Crowl made a motion to approve the quote from Padded Surfaces by B&E. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Tim Troyer also submitted a quote to repair the dryer at the jail and also a quote to replace the dryer. Sheriff Troyer said that the dryer is getting so old that parts are hard to find and it is recommended that the dryer be replaced instead of repaired. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the purchase of a new dryer in the amount of \$4,582.00. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Clint Knauer, Plan Commission, submitted Amendment No. A-18-01 to the Zoning Ordinance of Steuben County, Indiana for approval. Mr. Knauer said that the Board decided to change measuring from the side property line to the foundation, measuring 5' from the side property line to the foundation and allow for a 12" overhang into that 5' setback and add an exempt accessory structure definition to the ordinance. Clint Knauer said that several meetings were held and they also had a stakeholder group meeting that included realtors, private citizens and builders.

Mr. Knauer said that the vote was 7-0 to go foundation to property line, 6-1 to go 5' with the 12" overhang and 7-0 on the accessory structure definition. He said that the overall vote to bring the Amendment to the Commissioners was 7-0. Lynne Liechty made a motion to pass Zoning Ordinance Amendment No. A-18-01. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

**Second and Third
Readings Steuben
County, Indiana
Amendment No. A-18-01
To the
Zoning Ordinance of Steuben County, Indiana**

Thereupon, County Commissioner, James Crowl moved that all rules of procedure of the County Commissioners which might prevent, unless suspended, the second and third readings of the Steuben County Amendment No. A-18-01 to the Zoning Ordinance of Steuben County, Indiana, 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 Lynne Liechty 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, Lynne Liechty, 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 James Crowl 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, Lynne Liechty, 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 James Crowl 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 the Ordinance Amending the Zoning Ordinance of Steuben County, 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. The Amendment No. A-18-01 to the Zoning Ordinance of Steuben County is on file in the Auditor's office. Amendment No. A-18-01 to the Zoning Ordinance of Steuben County reads as follows:

STEUBEN COUNTY, INDIANA

COMES NOW, the Board of Commissions of the County of Steuben, Indiana, and pursuant to the authority vested by I.C. 36-7-4-100, et seq., as amended by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, and all acts amendatory thereto, enact the following:

AMENDMENT NO. A-18-01

To the

**ZONING ORDINANCE of Steuben County, Indiana
A Part of the Master Plan for said County**

WHEREAS, Steuben County adopted a new Subdivision Control Ordinance on July 3, 2008, which became effective on August 1, 2008, amended most recently on March 1, 2016.

WHEREAS, the Steuben County Zoning Ordinance was implemented to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community;

WHEREAS, IC 36-7-4 and IC 14-28-4 grants local governmental units the authority to develop, adopt, and enforce land-use and developmental standards within their jurisdiction.

WHEREAS, some changes are necessary for the Steuben County Zoning Ordinance to be consistent with the minimum standards and language requirements;

WHEREAS, after due deliberation by the Steuben County Plan Commission, it was determined that the Steuben County Zoning Ordinance should be amended to adopt the minimum standards and language requirements.

WHEREAS, the notice of public hearing on said amendment was published as required by I.C. 36-7-4-604; and,

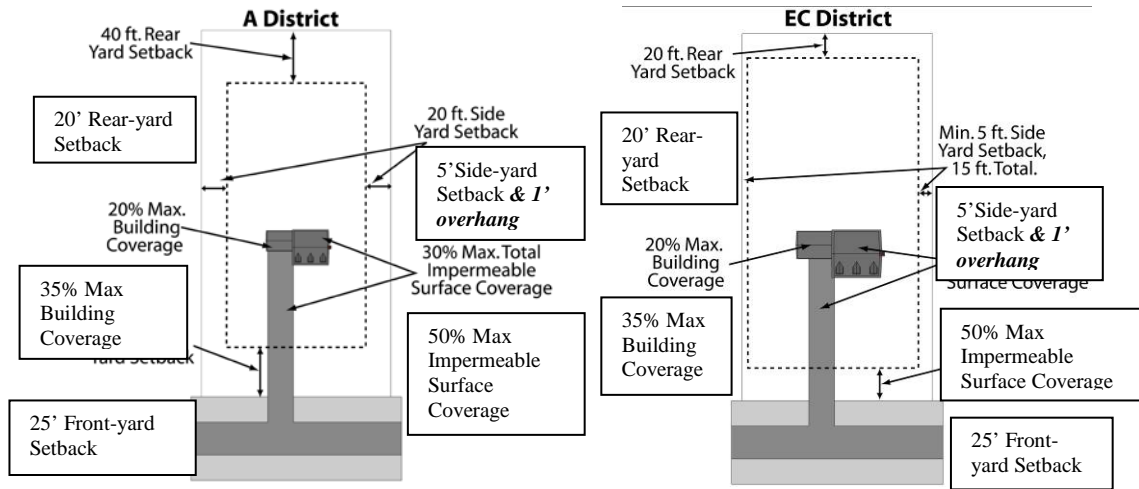
WHEREAS, on the 7th day of March 2018, the Plan Commission held a public hearing on said Amendment and, after due deliberation, did certify a FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION OF A-18-01 by a 7-0 vote, to AMEND the Zoning Ordinance of Steuben County to read:

CHAPTER 03 AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL DISTRICTS

Section 03.04 Building Dimensional Requirements

All Structures shall be subject to the dimensional regulations of the following table.

Districts	Min. Setbacks (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)					Max. Building Height (j) (Stories/Ft.)		Max. Lot Coverage (k)		Min. Ground Floor Area Per Dwelling	
	Front or Roadside Yard (Ft.) (g)	Side Yards (h)		Rear Yard (Ft.)	Lake-front Yard (Ft.) (i)	Without Basement	With Basement	% Building Coverage	% Total Impermeable Surface	One-Story dwelling (Sq. Ft.)	Two or More Story Dwelling (Sq. Ft.)
		Smallest Side (Ft.)	Total of Both (Ft.)								
A Agriculture	25	5	10	20	50	2 st. 27 ft.	3 st. 35 ft.	35	50	784	600
EC Environmental Control	25	5	10	20	50	2 st. 27 ft.	3 st. 35 ft.	35	50	784	600



Section 03.04 Setback from Road:

(g) The front/road yard setback shall be measured from *the foundation of the building to the road right of way or private road easement.*

Section 03.04 *Setback from Side-yard:*

(i) *The side-yard setback shall be measured from the foundation of the building to the property boundary line; and a one (1) foot overhang may project into the required yard setback.*

CHAPTER 04 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT

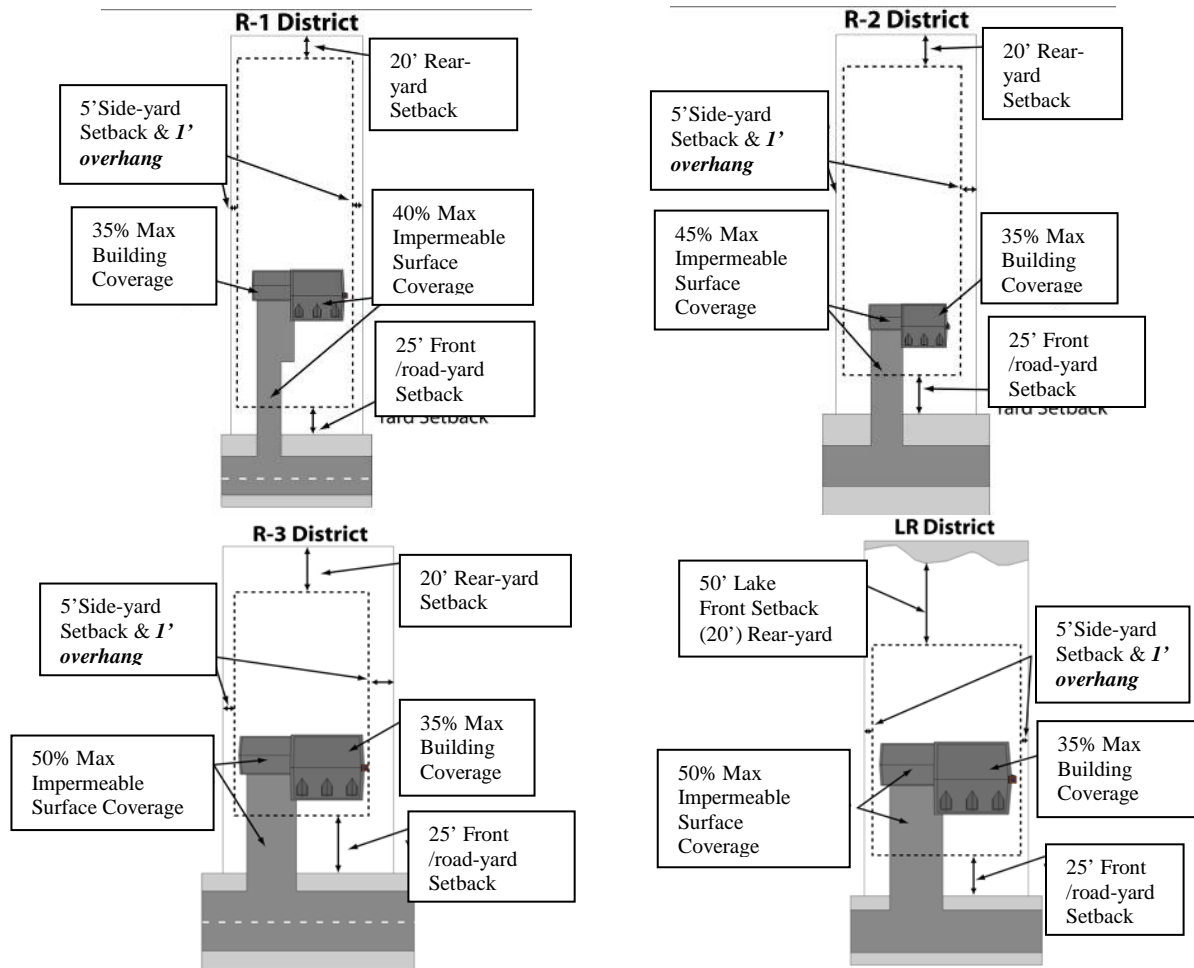
Section 04.04 Building Dimensional Requirements

All structures shall be subject to the dimensional regulations of the following table.

Table 04.04

Building Dimensional Requirements

Districts	Min. Setbacks (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(k)					Max. Building Height (Stories/Ft.)		Max. Lot Coverage (j)		Min. Ground Floor Area Per Dwelling	
	Front or Roadside Yard (Ft.) (g)	Side Yards (h)		Rear Yard (Ft.) (d)	Lake-front Yard (Ft.) (i)	Without Basement	With Basement	% Building Coverage	% Total Impermeable Surface	One-Story Dwelling (Sq. Ft.)	Two or More Story Dwelling (Sq. Ft.)
		Smallest Side (Ft.)	Total of Both (Ft.)								
R-1 Residence	25	5	10	20	50	2 st. 27 ft.	3 st. 35 ft.	30	40	960	840
R-2 Residence	25	5	10	20	50	2 st. 27 ft.	3 st. 35 ft.	35	45	784	600
R-3 Residence	25	5	10	20	50	2 st. 27 ft.	3 st. 35 ft.	35	50	784	600
LR Lake Residence	25	5	10	20	50	2 st. 27 ft.	3 st. 35 ft.	35	50	840	720



Section 04.04 Setback from Road:

(g) The front/road yard setback shall be measured from *the foundation of the building to the road right of way or private road easement.*

Section 04.04 *Setback from Side-yard:*

(i) The side-yard setback shall be measured from the foundation of the building to the property boundary line; and a one (1) foot overhang may project into the required yard setback.

CHAPTER 05 MANUFACTURED HOME DISTRICT

Section 05.05 Building Dimensional Requirements

All structures not located in an approved mobile home park shall be subject to the dimensional regulations of the following table.

Districts	Min. Setbacks (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)					Max. Building Height		Max. Lot Coverage (j)		Min. Ground Floor Area Per Dwelling	
	Front or Roadside Yard (Ft.) (g)	Side Yards (Each) (Ft.) (h)	Rear Yard (Ft.)	Lake-front Yard (Ft.) (i)		Stories	Feet	% Building Coverage	% Total Impermeable Surface	One-Story dwelling (Sq. Ft.)	Two or More Story Dwelling (Sq. Ft.)
MH Manufactured Home Residence	25	5	20	50		2	35	35	45	784	600

Section 05.05 Setback from Road:

(g) The front/*road* yard setback shall be measured from *the foundation of the building to* the road right of way or private road easement.

Section 05.05 *Setback from Side-yard:*

(i) The side-yard setback shall be measured from the foundation of the building to the property boundary line; and a one (1) foot overhang may project into the required yard setback.

CHAPTER 11 ACCESSORY BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES & USES

Section 11.03 Porches, Decks and Patios

(g) Exempt Accessory Structures: Docks and seawalls are not regulated by this Ordinance, but shall meet all Indiana Department of Natural Resources standards. However, any structure placed on a seawall or dock shall be regulated by this ordinance.

BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED, THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF STEUBEN COUNTY (BE / NOT BE) AMENDED AS PER SAID AMENDMENT NO. A-18-01.

PASSED this 19th day of March, 2018, by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Steuben, Indiana, to be in full force and effect from this date forward.

STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

3/19/18
First Reading

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

3/19/18
Second Reading

3/19/18
Third Reading

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 Conti.

**RESOLUTION OF ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT
AMENDMENT RECOMMENDATION**

By the

STEBEN COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION

WHEREAS, on 7th February 2018, the Steuben County Plan Commission received the proposed Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment, and said amendment was designated Petition for Amendment No. A-18-01; Developmental standards for Agriculture, Environmental Control, Residential & Manufactured Home Zoning Districts, and Accessory Structures;

WHEREAS, the required notice of public hearing of the proposed Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment was published as required by law;

WHEREAS, The Steuben County Plan Commission by a 6-1 vote to amend Chapter 3, Section 03.03, Table 03.04, Chapter 4, Section 01.04, Table 04.04, Section 04.04, Table 04.04; & Chapter 5, Section 05.05, Table 05.05 regarding side-yard setback;

WHEREAS, The Steuben County Plan Commission by a 7-0 vote to amend Chapter 11, Section 11.03 by adding item (g) Exempt Accessory Structures;

NOW THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED, the Steuben County Plan Commission by 7-0 vote, DOES RECOMMEND CERTIFICATION of the attached Zoning Ordinance Amendment A-18-01;

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED, the Steuben County Plan Director is hereby directed to present a copy of the Resolution to the Board of Commissioners for the County of Steuben, Indiana.

This is to certify that the above is a true and exact copy of the Resolution approved at the meeting of the Steuben County Plan Commission held on March 7, 2018.

Certified and signed this 13th day of March, 2018.

STEBEN COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION

Attest: Larry Gilbert, President

Attest: Clinton W. Knauer, Plan Director

Mr. Knauer, Plan Commission, also submitted a Petition for Vacation of a Platted Easement VPW-18-02. He said that the owners want to vacate the current easement and move it. Mr. Knauer said that the Petition comes to the Commissioners with a 6-0 favorable recommendation with one person recusing themselves. James Crowl made a motion to approve VPW-18-02. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

ORDINANCE NUMBER 3142

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

REGARDING THE VACATION OF A PLATTED EASEMENT, FIRST ADDITION TO FOREST PARK

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

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 EASEMENT IN STEUBEN COUNTY, INDIANA **IS HEREBY VACATED:**

An Ingress-Egress Easement to Lake George over the west 10 feet of Lot numbered 15 in the First Addition to Forest Park as shown in Plat Record No. 2, Page 59 of Steuben County, Indiana.

THENCE, all of said vacated public easement, described in the attached description, shall pass in fee title to the owners of Lot 15 (Map# 76-03-15-410-210.000-006)

STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

3/19/18
First Reading

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

Second Reading

Third Reading

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

**CERTIFICATION OF THE VACATION OF A PLATTED EASEMENT
FIRST ADDITION TO FOREST PARK**

BY THE

STEBEN COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION

VPW-18-02 (Daniel & Beth Strasser)

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2018, the Steuben County Plan Commission received a request to Vacate an Easement; said request was designated Petition for Vacation of a Platted Easement VPW-18-02,

WHEREAS, the required notices of public hearing on said Petition For Vacation of a Platted Easement were published as required by law; and

WHEREAS, the Steuben County Plan Commission conducted a public hearing on said Petition for Vacation of a Platted Easement on March 7, 2018;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Steuben County Plan Commission has a **favorable recommendation** by a six (6) –zero (0) vote, one (1) recuse, for the certification of the following Petition for the Vacation of a Platted Easement:

(VPW-18-02) Daniel & Beth Strasser petition for the vacation of a platted easement. Platted easement is over the west ten (10) feet of Lot 15, in the First Addition to Forest Park. Proposed vacation located at 720 LN 201 Lake George, Section 15 of Jamestown Township. (Map#76-03-15-410-210.000-006)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Plan Director is hereby directed to present a copy of this Certification to the Board of Commissioners of the County of Steuben, Indiana.

This is to certify that the above is a true and exact copy of the Petition approved at the meeting of the Steuben County Plan Commission held on March 7, 2018.

Certified and signed this 13th day of March, 2018.

STEBEN COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION

Larry Gilbert, President

ATTEST: Clinton W. Knauer, Plan Director

After the meeting, it was noted that three (3) readings were not done of Ordinance 3142. This Ordinance will come back to the Commissioners at their April 2, 2018, regularly scheduled meeting for the purpose of entering the 2nd and 3rd readings into the record.

Ronald Smith stated that he would like to try staggering the Building Inspector's hours for one year. Commissioner Smith said that the Building Department is a special business in County Government and he believes at times it would be to the advantage construction businesses to have a Building Inspector available either before or after regular business hours. Ronald Smith said that he feels that the Commission Board short changed the Building Department in not trying this. James Crowl said that he is fine with the decision that was made in the last Commissioners' Meeting. Lynne Liechty stated that she wants to keep the hours as is and they can be reviewed at a later date.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the claims submitted for payment this day totaling \$389,637.33. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

March 19, 2018 Commissioners' Meeting Continued

Frank Charlton, County Park Superintendent, updated the Commissioners on the County Park. He said that there has been more rentals at the Event Center and seasonal campers are turning in their contracts with payment.

Mr. Charlton also stated that the Horse and Pony Club would like to install three (3) arena lights at the horse arena. He said that they are willing to pay for the installation of the lights. James Crowl made a motion to allow the Horse and Pony Club to install three (3) lights at the horse arena. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Donald Stuckey, County Attorney, reported that he has been in contact with Mike Votaw, Lakeland Electronics, and is in the process of scheduling a meeting. The Commissioners requested that Mr. Stuckey get a date that works for Mr. Votaw for the meeting and a Commissioner will be present.

Ronald Smith told Frank Charlton that he plans on delivering trees at the County Park.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the minutes from the Commissioners' Meeting on March 5, 2018. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

The Commissioners signed the minutes from the February 20, 2018, Commissioners' Meeting for the Index Book, which were approved at the prior meeting.

Mary Allred, EMS Director, submitted February 2018 Closeouts in the amount of \$5,056.07 and February 2018 Writeoffs in the amount of \$504,436.29, for approval. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the February Write Offs and Closeouts. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Donald Stuckey submitted the 2018 Economic Development Plan for review and approval. The Indiana statute that required an EDIT Plan has been repealed; however, Mr. Stuckey thought that it would be proper to keep a similar plan in place. James Crowl made a motion to approve the 2018 Economic Development Plan. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Rae Delaney, Payroll, submitted the March 16, 2018 payroll in the amount of \$384,736.89 for approval. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the March 16, 2018 payroll. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Jennifer Sharkey submitted REMC Utility Permit #2807 and Frontier Utility Permits #2808 and 2809 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 said that there has been tree and right of way clearing for the utility relocation on 200 N. She said that the railroad costs from INDOT were received and INDOT will manage the coordination but the County is still responsible for 20% of the costs. Ms. Sharkey said that the total cost is \$521,834.00 and the County is responsible for 20% of that. She informed the Commissioners that \$2,000.00 of that was already paid, so INDOT will invoice the County for \$102,366.80. She said that once that invoice is paid, the City of Angola will reimburse the County in the amount of \$51,183.40. Ms. Sharkey said that the funds are in place for those expenses.

Jennifer Sharkey stated that she has had phone calls from the residents on 200 N and she plans on calling them back this week to update them on the progress.

Ms. Sharkey said that she received hard copies of the Bridge Inspection at Road School and she will bring those to the Commissioners for review. Jennifer Sharkey also submitted a reimbursement voucher for 80% reimbursement from the federal funds. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve reimbursement voucher. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Jennifer Sharkey said that INDOT should be sending the purchase order for the 200 N/I-69 Project soon. She said that County Council approved moving the funds for this project from CEDIT to MVH and that was done to help with the funding of the Bike Trail. Since the Council did not approve the Bike Trail funding from CEDIT, Ms. Sharkey asked if the project should be moved back to CEDIT.

Ms. Sharkey said that bids for the Bike Trail Phase II are due on April 2. She reported that there are some trees that need to be removed and several of them can be removed by the Highway Department. Ms. Sharkey said that the reason for proceeding with the tree removal is due to the Indiana Bat Law. Large trees cannot be removed after April 1 unless an Environmental Specialist confirms there are no bats in the trees to be removed.

Jennifer Sharkey said that the Bike Trail Fund had just over \$28,000.00 remaining and she wants to confirm that these funds are available if they move forward with engineering expenses since it was for Bike Trail use only.

Ms. Sharkey said that she will be submitting the paperwork to INDOT for the Old 27 Project and the 20 N Project.

Jennifer Sharkey said that she will be meeting with the Toll Road's Representative on Tuesday, March 27 to review the County's infrastructure and current road conditions prior to their project and maintenance of traffic detour. She said this meeting will enable them to agree upon the conditions prior to the project and the same process will also be done after the project to determine what damages resulted. Ms. Sharkey said that the Toll Road has funds built into their contract for potential damages to the County facilities. She reported that the Toll Road Project will probably start in July.

Ms. Sharkey submitted a thank you letter to the Commissioners for allowing her to attend the American Society of Civil Engineers Fly-In. She said that the letter also discusses what topics were brought to the attention of the elected officials at the federal level. Ms. Sharkey said that Representative Banks was interested in Steuben County's Airport and asked for her to keep him abreast of any activities or projects that may be needed there.

Ronald Smith asked that Ms. Sharkey keep the Commission Board apprised of complications that result in not funding the Bike Trail. Commissioner Smith said that somehow a step needs to be taken back to take a look and see how it can still be accomplished because this is not the time to drop the ball on a project in so many years of time and money has been invested. Ms. Sharkey said that she has spoken to other organizations and groups that have financially participated or provided in-kind services regarding their concerns. She said that she is working on keeping everyone informed so that they can continue on working together.

Emmett Heller updated the Commissioners on projects being completed by the Highway Department.

Mr. Heller requested permission to spend up to \$12,000.00 on a new Patch Truck. James Crowl made a motion to approve that request. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

George Pifer said that he spent two (2) hours picking up trash from the bridge on 100 N down to 290 W. He wanted to know if there was a County Ordinance in place which is punishable by making someone pick up trash. Donald Stuckey said that you can't force anyone to do anything. Mr. Stuckey said that there is a Littering Ordinance and a State Statute regarding Littering which is punishable with a fee. Jennifer Sharkey said that the Highway Department does not normally pick up trash along the roads; however, if there are large items that need to be picked up they sometimes help with that.

Elten Powers, Pleasant Lake Lion's Club Secretary and Carolyn Powers came to the Commissioners regarding activities surrounding Frankenfest. Ms. Powers said that the Indiana Humanities is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the publication of Frankenstein. She said that Cahoots is having a Frankenfest and she requested to use the Courthouse lawn on Saturday, October 13, 2018 for yard games and activities for children. James Crowl made a motion to approve that request. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Mr. Powers requested to use the Community Center Auditorium for the Pleasant Lake Lion's Club Minstrel Show "It's Alive!" on October 27, 2018 and he also requested a fee waiver. Mr. Powers said that there are three (3) seats on stage reserved for the Commissioners if they would like to participate. Lynne Liechty made a motion to permit the Pleasant Lake Lion's Club to use the Community Center Auditorium and to approve the fee waiver. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

James Crowl stated that a Cemetery Board Meeting needs to be scheduled. Ronald Smith said that it may be appropriate to meet at Larry Griffith's home. Commissioner Smith asked James Crowl to put that together.

Mike Sevits, Annex Maintenance, submitted a quote to repair the ambulance bay door that was damaged. Erin Schiffli, Commissioners' Secretary, stated that the claim has been turned into insurance and she has not heard anything on it yet. Mr. Sevits also reported that the epoxy floors will be done over the weekend.

Ronald Smith stated that the funds for the property acquisition were not appropriated by County Council. He said the direction given was that a formal proposal, no more than the average of the two (2) appraisals, be submitted to the Realtors contingent upon getting the funding approved by County Council. James Crowl said he would like to give Donald Stuckey the permission to approach the realtors and try to negotiate on the price of the homes.

Conflict of Interest Statements for four (4) County Employees were submitted to the Commissioners for approval. These are done annually; however, they now need to be approved by the Commission Board and uploaded to Gateway. James Crowl made a motion to approve the Conflict of Interest Statements. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Ronald Smith notified Erin Schiffli that he would take the Tahoe to the AIC District Conference on Wednesday, March 21.

Bill Schmidt said that it was discussed at the last meeting if the Building Commissioner worked for the Plan Commission and it was determined that he does not. Donald Stuckey said that there is a special carve out for the Plan Commission to hire the Plan Director and that is what the statute says. Mr. Schmidt said that he feels that this matter needs to be cleared and cleaned up. Bill Schmidt said that Clint Knauer was hired inappropriately by the Plan Commission to be the Building Commissioner and there's nothing in the minutes that indicate that the Commissioners ever hired him. Mr. Schmidt said that Mr. Knauer has been functioning in that job and being paid on the recommendation of the Plan Commission and they had no authority to give that recommendation. He suggested to the Commissioners that they may want to officially hire him as the Building Commissioner so he is properly in place and properly paid. Donald Stuckey said that the Plan Commission is permitted to hire the Plan Director and the Plan Commission entered into an agreement regarding the combination of the two (2) offices. Mr. Stuckey said that the Plan Commission hires the Plan Director and the Commissioners hire the Building Commissioner, theoretically.

James Crowl said that the two (2) departments were put together and when Clint was hired the Commissioners didn't have any say in it until he was introduced to them. Mr. Stuckey said that the Commissioners have been directing Mr. Knauer and paying him, so he is already considered an employee. Bill Schmidt said that he's suggesting to correct the issue since Clint Knauer was never officially hired as the Building Commissioner. Donald Stuckey said that in his opinion, Mr. Knauer is an employee of the County as the Building Commissioner. James Crowl said that the Commission Board requested him to get his classes, he's been out inspecting and he's been directed by the Commission Board. Donald Stuckey said that the Commissioners made the requirement that Mr. Knauer obtain his Building Certifications.

Bill Schmidt said that he felt budgets could be affected by this issue and there may be questions of who the employees of the Building Department works for. Donald Stuckey said that they work for the Commissioners. Mr. Stuckey said that the Commissioners direct Mr. Knauer on the Building Department side, the Plan Commission directs Mr. Knauer on the Plan Commission side.

Mr. Schmidt said that there was a situation where a question was raised about the function of the Building Department and the appeal came to the BZA. Donald Stuckey said that it should have gone to the Commission Board. Mr. Stuckey again clarified that the Commissioners control the Building Department and the Plan Commission has control over the Plan Director.

Mike Marturello said that last week County Council turned down the funding of the Bike Trail and asked what stones were going to be turned over to find funding. Ronald Smith said that Jennifer Sharkey has the creative financing mind and also knows how much money has to go where and to whom as there are some outstanding obligations due to engineering, etc. Commissioner Smith said that they have to keep looking for the funding and try not to spend EDIT down so far. James Crowl said that if the Bike Trail is postponed, the EDIT fund can build itself up. Lynne Liechty said everything is in place and currently there is a Bike Trail to nowhere. Ronald Smith said that there are monies elsewhere, so it can be done.

Craig Benson said that he spoke to Donald Stuckey regarding the tax abatement on a piece of property owned by Dave Knepper, WeKon & Scott. Kim Meyers said the document that was received by Mr. Stuckey's Office had no dollar amount, no legal description, it was very vague and she does not feel very comfortable with it. Mr. Stuckey said that the Treasurer needs to give him a number. Kim Meyers said that they need more information. Donald Stuckey said that the numbers are changing daily because of the tax proration and that is part of the problem. Craig Benson said that the City of Angola has some weed cutting liens attached to the property as well. Mr. Stuckey said that the City Liens are going to be paid out of the proceeds and the County will be getting around \$10,000.00-\$12,000.00. Craig Benson said that the County would receive the net proceeds so the current owner of the property would not be receiving any monies. Donald Stuckey said that they were getting ready to close and the Title Company requested a statement from the Treasurer showing that the property taxes were going to be eliminated. The County is going to be receiving the net proceeds from the sale which is a lot less than the taxes owed. Kim Meyers said that she does not know who contacted the State Board of Accounts. Donald Stuckey said that he would speak to Missy Bixler, Treasurer, regarding the taxes.

Brett Hays, NICC, submitted the January TANF Grant billing in the amount of \$48,667.50 and February TANF Grant billing in the amount of \$69,525.00 for approval. James Crowl made a motion to approve the TANF Grant billing. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Mr. Hays also requested approval to apply for next year's TANF Grant in the amount of \$791,437.50. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the application for next year's TANF Grant. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Mr. Hays asked for the Commissioners to grant Kim Meyers, Auditor, authority to sign the contract. Lynne Liechty made a motion to grant Kim Meyers to sign the contract. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Brett Hays notified the Commissioners that the recommended installation of smoke detectors at the Old Jail that came from Koorsen cannot be done. He said that the smoke detectors must be in an area that is heated and cooled and the area that they recommended the installation is not heated and cooled and would cause the detectors to fail.

Mr. Hays said that he is still getting quotes on the mold situation at NICC.

Tom Green, Steuben County Soil and Water, said that he forgot to get Commissioners Liechty's signature on Board Appointment Certifications during their Annual Meeting. Lynne Liechty signed the Board Appointment Certifications.

Jennifer Sharkey, Highway Engineer, came back to the Commissioners with the formal documentation for the work to be done on the railroad crossing during the CR 200 N/SR 827 Project that was discussed with the Commissioners earlier in the meeting. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the formal documentation. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

The Commissioners received the following correspondence: Janel Meyer, Steuben Soil & Water re: Board Meeting Minutes; NEIndiana re: Caucus Advance Materials; Matt Meersman SJRBC re: Update; IACC re: Call to Action – Federal Broadband Benchmark; Janel Meyer, Steuben Soil & Water re: Preliminary Agenda.

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
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