

STEBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
April 16, 2018

The Steuben County Commissioners met at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, April 16, 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, Kim Johnson, Steuben County Assessor and Kim Meyers, Steuben County Auditor.

Randy Strebige, BoAC, submitted the first quarter profit and loss sheet from fuel sales and the value of their inventory at the Airport. Mr. Strebige reported that the Airport Manager recruiting is going well and they are down to a few candidates. He said that they will have face to face interviews on April 24, make the final decision in their May Meeting and then start training on June 1.

Randy Strebige said that they have been advertising the available empty space that they have at the Airport for rent but they are not getting a lot of feedback. Mr. Strebige said that having a large sign along US 20 advertising the available space may help fill the vacant spaces.

Mr. Strebige reported that some time ago, the FAA funded the acquisition of approximately 80 additional acres at the Airport with the anticipation of constructing an east-west runway. That project failed the test with the FAA and now the excess land on the east side of the Airport is being used as farmland. Since FAA grants funded 95% of purchase of this land, the use is limited to farming, mowing or aviation purposes and the land use can't be converted unless a study is conducted that the FAA has established parameters for. Randy Strebige said that the study is proposed at \$35,000.00 and there may be ways to reduce that cost. Mr. Strebige said that he doesn't expect action today, but he wanted to talk about the vision of that land. He said that currently they receive \$3,000.00 - \$4,000.00 a year from the farmer on it and that is the best that can be expected at this point in time unless a release from the FAA is obtained.

Helen Briskey, 3122 S. 675 S., Hamilton, Indiana addressed the Commissioners regarding the conditions of the road and the drainages issues by her home. Ms. Briskey said that there has always been drainage issues, now the road conditions have gotten progressively worse and it is now a safety issue. She said that the Highway Department is well aware of the issues. She said feels that at this point she is being ignored and she won't stand for that. Ms. Briskey said that the roads have degraded to the point where they hold water, drain off, then there are washouts and soggy sides. She said that you have to drive down the middle of the road and if there is oncoming traffic, you have to stop and pull over and wait until the other car has driven by. When you pull over you have to be careful because there is mud on each side of the road because if you are not careful, you will get sucked into the mud and not be able to go anywhere. Helen Briskey said that this is an ongoing issue, the County Highway Department has been notified about it time and time again, she's also contacted her Councilman recently, but she's not getting any action. She said that she feels like a third rate citizen because she lives in the country, her property doesn't generate community income and they don't live on a lake or paved road, so they are getting overlooked.

Margaret Michel, 3270 S 675 E, Hamilton, Indiana addressed the Commissioners about the same issue and she also submitted photos of her woods, drainage issues and road conditions. Helen Briskey drew a diagram on the dry erase board explaining what is happening with the dirt road and why it is holding water. Ms. Briskey said that when the Highway Department scrapes, it builds the dirt up even more so the water has no place to go.

She asked if the Highway Department has a preventative maintenance program and asked if her road was on it. The Commissioners said that her road is on the preventative maintenance plan. Ronald Smith said Ms. Briskey is not a third rate citizen because she lives on a dirt road. Commissioner Smith said that he lives in the country, on a gravel road and right now he has to travel in the center of his road as well because the sides are soft. He said that he also has fields laying full of water, his pond is overflowing and everyone is having water and road issues right now, it isn't just her road, it's the roads throughout the county. Commissioner Smith said that berming and ditching needs to be done and they are aware of that, but they may also be limited due to the County right of way. Ronald Smith said that they will pay attention, the Highway Department is sitting here as well and her coming to the Commission Board was the proper thing to do. Commissioner Smith said that with Highway sitting here they can turn attention Ms. Briskey's way, but anyone that lives in the country is the same as everybody else that lives

anywhere. He said that the quality of the gravel in past years was not good quality gravel and the County Highway has improved that tremendously. Commissioner Smith said that Mr. Crowl is probably the strongest advocate of getting the roads drained so attention needs to be turned their way and they will help make that happen. Helen Briskey said that is the same promise that the Highway Department has been making her for five (5) years.

Margaret Michel said unnecessary erosion of fields, ditches and roadways has happened due to the tiles not being maintained. She said unpaved roads need constant sometimes excessive maintenance compared to paved surfaces and that maintenance is not being done. Mrs. Michel said that they are not discussing Commissioner Smith's road, they are discussing 675. She said that it is impassable, nothing is being done and it's ridiculous. Helen Briskey said that the neighbors all make phone calls and nothing is being done. She said she saw a Highway Department truck checking everything out this morning and she figured they were probably on their way here.

Mrs. Michel said that it is stated that the Surveyor maintains a Cornerstone Record Book and the information determines the location of parcels within the County. In addition, the Surveyor supervises all drain construction, reconstruction and maintenance. The Surveyor also serves as an ex-officio member of the County Drainage Board and as a member of the County Plan Commission. Mrs. Michel said that there are a few drains in her photos that haven't been touched as there are weeds all around them, there may be broken tiles as well and nothing is being done about it. James Crowl asked how far off the road the location in her photo was. Mrs. Michel said maybe three (3) feet off the road. Helen Briskey said that there is access to that drain. James Crowl asked if it was a County or private drain and Ms. Briskey said that it is a County drain, put in by the County and it has not been maintained since. Helen Briskey said she has videos and photos on her phone that are very convincing. She said that there is a spot by her mailbox that she digs out with a shovel to get the water off the road so she can access her mailbox.

Margaret Michele also asked who she can call so she doesn't have mosquitos this summer because she won't be able to use that side yard due to the water. She also stated that she's losing her woods.

Lynne Liechty said that she's been here four (4) years and this is the first time she's heard of this issue. Margaret Michel said that Mr. & Mrs. Holiday have called and other neighbors may have as well. Commissioner Liechty said that may be the truth, but they haven't been to a Commissioners' Meeting or a Drainage Board Meetings to address their concerns. Helen Briskey said that her representative knows the area, the Surveyor knows the issue and he has been out to the area. Lynne Liechty again stated that the issue has not been in front of the Commissioners. Ms. Briskey asked why the Surveyor hasn't brought it up because he's been at her house, put flags up and said he'd get right on that, so why hasn't he done anything? Margaret Michel said that it sounds like there is a communication issue within the Departments and it needs to be corrected. Helen Briskey said she shouldn't have to come in front of the Commissioners because contacts the people and they should come in front of the Commissioners. She said that she should only come if there is an issue. Ms. Briskey said that she's contacted those people time and time again and nothing has been said to the Commissioners.

James Crowl said that he has been on 675. Commissioner Crowl said that he's also been out to Mr. Holiday's property when they were working on the front of his yard. Mr. Holiday was complaining about the water at that time and they did everything that could have been done about five (5) or six (6) years ago. Commissioner Crowl said that they tried to do their absolute best. James Crowl said he's trying to not get upset, but Ms. Briskey is insulting two (2) of the people that the Commissioners are responsible for. He said Steuben County is an area of ups and downs and there are water problems everywhere, especially right now. James Crowl asked Ms. Briskey to please bear with the Commissioners as they will do anything they possibly can, once the conditions are right. He said you can't go out this time of year and mud things up, you just can't. Margaret Michel said that they respect that. James Crowl said that they need to respect the Highway Department and let them do their job as soon as they can.

Ms. Briskey said that she feels insulted when she calls, leaves a message and never gets a call back. She said that she leaves her name, address and phone number every time she calls and she never gets a call or any sort of response other than they are busy. Mrs. Michel said that she also calls and doesn't get a call back, but she's told they will be in that area. She said that she doesn't believe showing the photos to the Commissioners is insulting, she's showing what is going on and she's not expecting it to be fixed today.

Commissioner Crowl said that he could take them to many places in Steuben County that look very similar to their area. Mrs. Michel said that if this issue exists all over Steuben County, then he just admitted that maintenance isn't being done. James Crowl said that is not the case. Helen Briskey said that Ohio is considered the black swamp, their issues are addressed properly the first time and they are maintained. Commissioner Crowl said that Ms. Briskey and Mrs. Michel have made their point. Margaret Michel asked if they need to come back in thirty (30) days. James Crowl said if they choose, they can come back as the door is always open to them. Mrs. Michel said she understands that the door is open, but asked is there a reason they should need to come back. James Crowl said that is their choice. Helen Briskey and Margaret Michel said that they want to see an improvement. Commissioner Crowl said that nothing can be done until that water goes down. Mrs. Michel said that she would give the Commissioners and Highway Department thirty (30) days to show up and maybe put a flag or something.

Ms. Briskey asked about the washout in her road and asked why something can't be done before someone flips their car and goes into the field? Margaret Michel said that back in 1999 a school bus went off the road and into the woods because of the road condition and non-working tile. Mrs. Michel said that if the Commissioners repair their road they won't complain anymore. Helen Briskey said that if they don't start seeing something being done, they will be back because they are not going to stay quiet anymore. She said it has been years and they expect better than this. Mrs. Michel asked that the Commission Board take this matter seriously.

Randy Brown, EMA Director, submitted a grant application for a reimbursable salary grant in the amount of \$23,093.00 and another grant application for an update in the amount of \$19,564.00. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the two (2) grant applications. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Mr. Brown also informed the Commissioners that he is in need of storage space for sandbags and a flood kit that is provided by the State of Indiana. He submitted quotes for potential storage space options. The Commissioners stated that they want to check to see if the garage at the old Humane Shelter is currently being used. The Commissioners tabled the matter until the next meeting on Monday, May 7.

Debbie Lewis, WIC, said that the State Auditors were here and they expressed concerns with the current WIC facility. Ms. Lewis said that more space is needed, the intake area is supposed to be confidential and there is need for an additional lab area which she has temporarily located into her office. She said the Auditors were also concerned with the setup of the lab area as it is inadequate. Debbie Lewis said that the Registered Dietician is supposed to be doing classes but there is no room for those classes. Ms. Lewis said that due to these issues, they are interested in the old WorkOne area on the first floor of the Community Center. She said that the State Auditors toured the space and they think a couple things will need to be fixed. Ms. Lewis said they were happy there are less stairs for when the elevator is broken, they thought the smaller windows were good because it wouldn't be so cold, there would be room for a private breast feeding area and the confidentiality problem would be fixed.

Debbie Lewis said that currently there are no network lines in the old WorkOne office for phones or internet, the carpet is worn and dirty, partial walls would need to be built, a set of cupboards would need to be installed, the walls need to be painted and a sink to wash hands would have to be installed. Ms. Lewis said that the State would be willing to pay for some of the upgrades, but she needs to know what financial help the County would provide.

Ronald Smith said that the area would be appropriate for her needs and the Commission Board told her to go for it. Debbie Lewis said that she's not sure who would pay for the carpet or to update the area. The Commissioners told her to see what the State would put towards the project with the County not contributing any funds. Ms. Lewis said that the State also wants to know how much rent would be a month. Lynne Liechty said she would get with Gary Fair. Ms. Lewis said that she would need numbers soon because she is working on her budget.

Mary Allred, EMS Director, said that each year there are special events that require EMS staff to use overtime. Ms. Allred said that the entities holding the events pay the County and the funds go into the General Fund. She is proposing to use an agreement that allows the medics to do the events on their own time with the entities actually paying the medics. She is hoping that this will entice the medics to sign up for the events because she struggles getting these events covered.

James Crowl asked what happens if the Ambulance gets another call. Mary Allred said that the crew at the event would be a dedicated crew and one of the on-duty ambulances would take the other calls. Donald Stuckey said that the agreement submitted by Ms. Allred is sufficient. Ronald Smith asked if something happens to the Ambulance during the event would it still be covered under the County insurance. Donald Stuckey said that the County would still be covered. Mary Allred said that the Ambulance would only be used for transports if needed and there would still be an ambulance transport and billing process, this agreement only covers the employees. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the agreement. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Lynne Liechty said that she went through the EMS billing outsourcing information and made some calls to get more information. She said that the people she talked to were very positive.

Kylee Harris, Event Center Coordinator, requested permission to continue the Rental Software Subscription at the County Park. Ms. Harris said that the Annual Subscription is \$500.00. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the continuing the Annual Subscription. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Ms. Harris also submitted a quote for swim area buoys from [www.marine-rescue.com](http://www.marine-rescue.com) in the amount of \$135.00 each. Erin Schiffler, Commissioners' Secretary, said that she also did research and [www.marine-rescue.com](http://www.marine-rescue.com) had the cheapest buoys; however, they would not say what the shipping costs were. Ms. Schiffler said that she looked on Amazon and she found buoys for \$186.40 each with free shipping. James Crowl made the motion to approve the purchase of four (4) buoys from Amazon with the Commissioners' Credit Card. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Frank Charlton reported that REMC has furnished poles for the horse arena. Mr. Charlton said that he has not yet heard from the asphalt company on the paving of the County Park roads.

Mr. Charlton said that there's an issue with the lights at the Event Center. He said that they are buzzing and flickering. Mike Votaw said that he has what is needed, it is just a matter of getting out there and installing the switches.

Mr. Charlton also said that they will be shocking the wells because campers will be arriving in a couple weeks. He also reported that two (2) telephone poles by the Goat Barn fell over and he is working on cleaning those up. Mr. Charlton said that REMC is being generous and they are giving him security lights and bulbs to replace the ones that were damaged from the falling poles.

Jennifer Sharkey, Highway Engineer, submitted NIPSCO Utility Permit #2812 for approval. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the Utility Permit. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Ms. Sharkey said that there was a joint meeting regarding the CR 200 N/SR 827 Project on April 4. She said that they are looking at a five (5) day road closure for the railroad crossing on 200 N in early May, but that is not verified yet. She said that Brooks Construction would like to start June 1 on the 200 N. Project and have a thirty (30) day road closure beginning on June 7; however, that is dependent on utilities being relocated by the end of April. Ms. Sharkey said that NIPSCO electric is the main utility that needs to be relocated on 200 N, but they have other relocation efforts on US 20 that has to be done before they do 200 N.

Jennifer Sharkey said it has been proposed that US 20 will be closed beginning June 20 for about 100-120 days. Ms. Sharkey said that there was a railroad coordination meeting on April 11 and there are a couple design changes. Ms. Sharkey submitted reimbursement vouchers for the Construction Inspection done by GAI and for the Utility Coordination Engineering done by American Structurepoint. James Crowl made a motion to approve the reimbursement vouchers. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Jennifer Sharkey said that she has the Bridge Inspection Reports but a few pages had to be swapped out due to load rating calculations that were done recently. She said that the load restriction of 9 tons was posted on Bridge

#17 on Hanselman Road and will be working with the consultant to see what kind of engineering or maintenance activities they can do to remove that load rating. Ms. Sharkey submitted a reimbursement voucher for the Inspection Services. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the reimbursement voucher. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes. James Crowl asked if Ms. Sharkey was pleased with how the bridge inspections were going. Ms. Sharkey said that she is, but with the federal highway changing some of their inspection requirements and mandates, it is fine overall but it costs more on the local side and now one bridge is on a yearly rotation since the standards have changed.

Ms. Sharkey said that the Purchase Order was received for 200 N Phase II and the Notice to Proceed was sent to the consultant. She said that the funds have been appropriated in MVH and they are in the process of scheduling a project kick-off meeting with INDOT.

Jennifer Sharkey submitted the Bike Trail Phase II Inspection Contract with BF&S in the amount of \$136,000.00 for approval. Ms. Sharkey said that since they were the engineers on the project, they sent a supplemental agreement that would add on to the original contract. Ms. Sharkey said that the contact was approved by Donald Stuckey.

Ms. Sharkey also submitted the notice of award for Brooks Construction for the Bike Trail Project. She said that they were the low bidder in the amount of \$1,539,211.00.

James Crowl requested to talk about a letter that was sent from County Council and correspondence from Representative Denny Zent. Commissioner Crowl said that Representative Zent is meeting tomorrow with Ways and Means in Indianapolis regarding possible funding for the Bike Trail and for that reason he thinks it would be advantageous to hold off on doing anything with the Bike trail to see what Representative Zent has to say. James Crowl said that he has also talked to Senator Kruse about this issue. He said that both Senator Kruse and Representative Zent are both very positive about monies for the Bike Trail.

Jennifer Sharkey said that due to the weather, there is some time to hold off on the Bike Trail Phase II. The Commissioners decided to hold off until the next Commissioners Meeting on May 7.

Ms. Sharkey said that Brooks Construction has a proposed timeline of mid-May for the Old 27 Mill and overlay project from Baker Road to the I-69 exit south of the Outlet Malls. She said that is a 75/25 State Grant. She also reported that the Culvert Replacement Project on 20 N will be done in house and they have the materials on site. That project is tentatively scheduled for August, weather permitting.

Jennifer Sharkey said that she met with the Toll Road on April 5 and determined that the road condition of Baker Road is a PASER 8. She said that the Toll Road has offered to investigate to apply a bio sealant to the roadway in advance of their project to help preserve the existing condition, but more details are forthcoming.

Ms. Sharkey requested the Commissioners to review the Long Range Transportation Plan, Fleet Plan and the Planning Guide for the Highway Department, specifically regarding department structure which would help with some of the coordination and communication activities.

Jennifer Sharkey reported that there was a request from a resident from Lane 880 Snow Lake about a Soil and Water Conservation District Grant for vegetation to be planted in County Right of Way. Ms. Sharkey said she spoke to the Conservation District and she will be at the Drainage Board Meeting to speak about it as well. She said that the resident would be the grant applicant and he would have to maintain the vegetation; however, the County would have to sign off as owners of the property and verify that the vegetation would not be disturbed for ten (10) years. Jennifer Sharkey said her only concern was if the County would have to do bridge maintenance activities in that area and would need access. The Commissioners requested more information and would like to talk about the issue at the Drainage Board Meeting.

Ms. Sharkey informed the Commissioners that Steuben County has approximately 1,280 miles of roadside berms. Currently, they can complete about a mile of berming a day. If the Highway Department was to do all of those miles, it would take three and a half years if they worked every single day, eight (8) hours a day doing only berming to complete the entire County. Ms. Sharkey said that they strive to make sure they maintain berming

activities, in addition to the other responsibilities of the Highway Department which also includes over 10,000 culverts across the County. She said that they do take complaints to heart as they want to serve the public to the best of their ability and they try to do that accordingly.

Emmett Heller, Highway Superintendent, said that seventeen (17) items were placed on auction. Sixteen (16) items sold and one (1) didn't meet the reserve. Mr. Heller said that Erin Schiffli put a lot of effort into the auction, fielded a lot of calls and emails and he thanked her for her efforts. Mr. Heller said that half of the items have been picked up so far.

Mr. Heller said that they continue to inspect and replace culverts on the roads that are going to be prepared for FDR this season. He said weather permitting, they will start making gravel this week and on the 11<sup>th</sup> they made 420 tons of cold patch.

Emmett Heller asked the Commissioners if the rental insurance limit could be increased because the equipment that has to be rented to make gravel needs to be insured for over and above what the limit is now. James Crowl made a motion to increase the rental insurance limit to cover the gravel making equipment. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Jennifer Sharkey said that the rental equipment funds are in the budget this year and she wanted to know if they have to request permission every time something is rented. Erin Schiffli said that last year the Highway Department was required to request permission to rent equipment and she wanted clarification whether or not the Highway Department has to ask for permission before they rent the equipment. The Commissioners said that permission to rent each piece of equipment is not needed.

Charles Malinowski, MALCON, said that there are some changes in the Ambulance Reimbursement Program and the money is not there like it once was. Mr. Malinowski said that this was a Pilot Project back in 2013 that covered the initial claiming of Medicaid reimbursement on ambulance services. He said that in 2011 the County received a little over \$36,000.00 and for 2012 the County received \$39,000.00 for the cost of only \$1,000.00. In 2013 the traditional Medicaid insureds changed from the fee for service to managed care and the federal government reimbursed a portion of that. Because of that change, in 2013 the County received just over \$55,000.00 in reimbursements. Mr. Malinowski said that unfortunately the reimbursement on the managed care portion has gone away so in 2016 the County only received about \$12,000.00 in reimbursements. He said that overall Steuben County has brought in \$203,000.00 to date from the reimbursements, less MALCON's fees, so the County has net about \$158,000.00 in total reimbursements.

Mr. Malinowski submitted a proposal for a Fuel Tax Refund with the Department of Revenue for the quarter ending September 30, 2018 through December 31, 2020 and retroactively going back to 2015 and 2016. He said that during the 4th Quarter 2017, the Highway Department and EMS recovered \$4,800.00. Charles Malinowski said that in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2018, 47 cents per gallon of diesel fuel used will be reimbursed plus a proportional use because of the size of the vehicles. Mr. Malinowski said that for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2018 there is a total refund of \$6,408.00 coming back to the County for the Highway Department and EMS. He said that the County and MALCON share 50/50 in the reimbursement up to \$3,000.00. Mr. Malinowski also submitted a Power of Attorney that would allow MALCON to answer any questions from the Department of Revenue and keep the ball rolling where the paperwork is concerned. Donald Stuckey said he has no issue with the Proposal and the Power of Attorney. James Crowl made a motion to approve the Proposal for the Fuel Tax Refund and the Power of Attorney. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes. Kim Meyers thanked Lori Hickey and Erin Schiffli for helping get the information around for Mr. Malinowski.

Brett Hays, NICC, submitted the TANF Grant Reimbursement Request in the amount of \$72,832.50 for approval. James Crowl made a motion to approve the Grant Reimbursement Request. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Mr. Hays reported that he is still obtaining quotes for the mold removal at Work Release.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the claims submitted for payment this day totaling \$195,571.00. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

April 16, 2018 Commissioners' Meeting Continued

James Crowl made a motion to approve the minutes from the Commissioners' Meeting on April 2, 2018. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

The Commissioners signed the minutes from the March 19, 2018, Commissioners' Meeting for the Index Book, which were approved at the prior meeting.

Rae Delaney, Payroll, submitted the April 13, 2018 payroll in the amount of \$381,632.75 for approval. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the April 13, 2018 payroll. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to officially approve the repairs needed to the Annex furnace in the amount of \$2,000.00. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Zachary Mahan, GIS Coordinator, requested permission to attend the IGIC Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana. James Crowl made a motion to approve that request. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Matt Brinkman, Region 3a, submitted a Workforce Development Claim Voucher in the amount of \$29,250.00 for Course Tuition. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the Claim Voucher. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Kris Treadwell, COA, submitted a Section 5311 Claim Voucher for approval and signature. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve that Claim Voucher. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Mary Allred, EMS Director, submitted March 2018 Closeouts in the amount of \$6,467.00 and March 2018 Writeoffs in the amount of \$380,376.88, for approval. James Crowl made a motion to approve the March Write Offs and Closeouts. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

The Commissioners asked Erin Schiffli to schedule interviews for the position of Courthouse Maintenance Supervisor for either the morning of April, 19 or the evening of April 23, 2018.

Donald Stuckey said that he needs a number for the 4-H Fair Board Agreement. He said that the 4-H wanted an agreement for 25 years and he's heard that some people may think that is too long. Ronald Smith said he doesn't have a problem with 25 years. Donald Stuckey said that the 4-H Board does not want an exit clause because the whole purpose of the agreement is that the County is committed for 25 years. Lynne Liechty said she doesn't like not having an exit clause. James Crowl said that the people who want to donate money want the 25 year commitment and if that commitment isn't there, they won't donate. Donald Stuckey said that if there was mutual consent, an agreement can always be terminated.

Donald Stuckey said that Janet Tidd, Fidelity Title, requested a letter of intent regarding the WeKon & Scott(David Knepper)/Weatherhead property. Mr. Stuckey said that the weed liens were going to be paid for by the parties and they would not be withdrawn from the closing funds. He said the letter states that the Commission Board is willing to discharge all real property taxes and penalties along with all ditch assessments and penalties due and payable to May 1, 2018, in return for net proceeds from the sale of the real estate. Mr. Stuckey said that specifically, the Commissioners do not discharge any weed control liens assessed by the City of Angola and the net proceeds is defined as the gross sales price less the normal closing costs. Donald Stuckey said that the taxes and the ditch assessments are substantial and the property value is much lower. He said that it is not on the tax rolls now and that number is going to continue getting bigger, but it is up to the Commissioners to decide. Donald Stuckey said that it does not set a precedent and the Commissioners aren't bound by this in the future because he can't think of another property that would be similar to this. Mr. Stuckey said that in the past, on a property that needed total rehab, they have reduced or forgiven taxes and there is a statute that permits the Commission Board to do that. Donald Stuckey said that the Commissioners will still have to go through the formal process with this property once the money is received so the Auditor can then take it off the rolls. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the letter of intent. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

April 16, 2018 Commissioners' Meeting Continued

The Commissioners received the following correspondence: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints re: Church Open House; John Patterson re: limbs in Pigeon Creek; IACC re: Council Spring Quarterly Conference; NEIndiana re: Caucus Materials; Kathy Armstrong JDAI re: Steering Committee; Stacey Meek NICC re: Advisory Board Meeting; Stacey Meek NICC re: Advisory Board Minutes; Rodney Renkenberger, Maumee River Basin re: Agenda and Minutes; Janel Meyer SWCD re: Board Meeting Agenda; Stacey Meek NICC re: Meeting Reminder; Jack Krouse re: Indiana County Jail Newsletter;

STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Ronald L. Smith, President, South District

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James A. Crowl, Vice President, Middle District

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Lynne Liechty, North District

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