

STEBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
April 17, 2017

The Steuben County Commissioners met at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, April 17, 2017, in the Commissioners' Room of the Steuben County Community Center. Present this day were Commissioners Ronald Smith, James Crowl and Lynne Liechty. Also present were Donald Stuckey, County Attorney, Ruth Beer, Steuben County Councilwoman, Wil Howard, Steuben County Councilman, Dan Caruso, Steuben County Councilman and Kim Koomler, Steuben County Auditor.

James Crowl made a motion to approve the claims submitted for payment this day totaling \$302,380.86. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

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

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

The Commissioners signed the minutes from the March 20, 2017, Commissioners' Meeting for the Index Book, which were approved at the prior meeting.

Mary Allred, EMS Director, submitted March EMS Writeoffs in the amount of \$163,226.81 for approval. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the March EMS Writeoffs in the amount of \$163,226.81. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Mary Allred, EMS Director, submitted March EMS Closeouts in the amount of \$2,743.37 for approval. James Crowl made a motion to approve the March EMS Closeouts in the amount of \$2,743.37. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

The Commissioners reviewed the request from the Steuben County Council on Aging, for a roadside letter board, which was tabled at the last meeting. For lack of a motion, the request died and was not taken any further.

The Commissioners received quotes from ZipSpider and Locl.net for the installation and monthly service fee for wireless internet at the Steuben County Event Center. Lynne Liechty stated that ZipSpider plans to use a lift to access the area to install the wireless internet in the large Event Room and the County would have to pay for that. Lynne Liechty stated that Tami Sumney, IT Director, felt more comfortable with ZipSpider even though they were not the low quote. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the quote from ZipSpider, in the amount of \$2,340.20, based upon the recommendation of Ms. Sumney. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Donald Stuckey, County Attorney, opened the Ambulance Bids. The only bid received was from Braun in the amount of \$233,607.00. James Crowl made a motion to accept the bid from Braun, in the amount of \$233,607.00. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Gary LeTourneau, Communications Director, submitted information on IN-TERT and a Letter of Participation to the Commissioners. Lynne Liechty stated that TERT allows dispatch centers to trade employees when there is a shortage or an emergency in another county. Commissioner Liechty said that it does involve some meetings and further participation on Mr. LeTourneau's part. Lynne Liechty made a motion to accept and sign the Letter of Participation for IN-TERT. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Terry Smith, 35 Lane 101 Crooked Lake, came to the Commissioners regarding a lot located next to his home that is owned by the County Commissioners. Mr. Smith said that he and his wife have maintained the property in question for the last three (3) years and they weren't sure who owned it. He said that when he spoke to the Auditor's Office he found out that the Board of Commissioners owned it and they would like to purchase that property. Kim Koomler stated that Donald Stuckey needs to be included in this and a survey possibly needs to be

done as well. James Crowl stated that the reason that property is owned by the County is because when any work is needed on that channel, there is access. Commissioner Crowl said that if the lot is sold and work is needed on the channel, the County would be trespassing on the lot in order to do the work on the channel. Terry Smith said that he is wanting to build on that lot. James Crowl said that the Highway Superintendent, County Engineer and the County Surveyor need to be contacted about this as well. Ronald Smith informed Terry Smith that the Commission Board would take it under advisement.

Clint Knauer, Building Commissioner, reported to the Commissioners that John DeMarco has requested to retire his position on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Knauer had three (3) candidates submit letters showing interest. Ronald Smith made a motion to appoint Karen DeForest as an alternate to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Lori Hickey, Chief Deputy Auditor, submitted the Miscellaneous Claims for approval. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the Miscellaneous Claims. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Frank Charlton, County Park Superintendent, requested official approval to remove two (2) old meters located at the old campground office, in the amount of \$512.94. James Crowl made the motion to officially approve the removal of the meters. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Barbara and Dave Short, DAS Services, came to the Commissioners to discuss the Petition for a Variance that is going to be heard by the Board of Zoning Appeals in May. Barbara Short, Owner, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of DAS, introduced herself and Kevin Buzzard, Assistant Vice President and Director of Sales, Dave Short, Founder and Dan VanGordon, Project Contractor. Ms. Short stated that the company was founded by Dave Short 24 years ago. At that time he had one (1) welder that he purchased, fabricated a trailer and started the business with no money. Now, 24 years later, DAS is a multi-million dollar company in Steuben County.

Barbara Short stated that when the land was purchased, they had to purchase two (2) acres and those two (2) acres is becoming too small. They built a 60x80 section on the land and at that time there was an 82' setback requirement from the road. Since that time, they have added on two (2) more sections and they are needed to add on a third section.

Ms. Short said that they are in need of a dedicated conference room and office space. She said that they also need a dedicated area to assemble and test the presses. She said that some of the presses are 60 feet in length and that is why they are requesting a 10' setback from the BZA to give them the additional 15' across the 60' section of the building so they have the space to assemble and test the presses.

Barbara Short also stated that currently, their parking is maximized and they are running out of room. She said that they have outbuildings that they keep items in, a large dumpster, an area for semis to turn around and there just isn't enough room. Ms. Short said that if they can add on the addition and have the 10' setback along the fence, they would shift back the outbuildings, field hopper and increase parking. She also stated that there are a few trees that are along the fence row that have gotten overgrown and DAS plans on taking those down as well.

Ms. Short stated that the 82' setback requirement from the road has been changed and is now 50', which they just found out about. She said that they could go towards the road; however, it would be more complicated and they would tear up existing sidewalks and landscaping.

Barbara Short said that they wanted to come and speak with the Commission Board because they have talked with the other two (2) neighbors as well.

Ms. Short said that currently their press customer is having their presses built in India and they are now able to build and repair them here in Steuben County. This request is due to an expansion that they could not foresee, but it is needed.

Lynne Liechty said that she has a concern about only having a 10' setback in case of emergencies. Commissioner Liechty asked if DAS has looked at other buildings in the area. Barbara Short said that they have

looked at other buildings in the area. Ms. Short said that they will be maintaining a clear shot from road to the back of the building in case there ever was an issue. She also reported that they have had excellent Fire Marshal Inspections every year. Ms. Short said that she understands the setback; however, the campers are right up against the fence with no setback. She said if it was a shared responsibility that would be ideal.

Dan VanGordon, VanGordon Construction, 895 N. 275 W., Angola, stated that in defense of DAS when he looks at side setbacks in GB zoning, it's a 30' combined setback. Mr. VanGordon said that a fire wouldn't be fought from the end of the building. He said that DAS maintains a very tidy complex and it is not considered a highly flammable shop since they work with raw iron. Mr. VanGordon stated that the camper that is right up against the fence is more of a detriment to DAS than DAS is to the campers. Mr. VanGordon said that the campers used to drive across the DAS property to get to their campers, used to put up ladders to go over the fence to get ice cream and shoot fireworks from the property. To stop all of that, DAS gated their complex.

Ronald Smith stated that he had three (3) bullet points he would like to have taken into consideration. First, he would like to have an opinion from the Fire Department and their Inspector. Secondly, since DAS is required to have a 10' setback, he thinks that the campers should have a 10' setback as well. Third, if all of the trees are removed, a vegetative buffer could be put in its place. Clint Knauer asked who would be doing the planting. Ronald Smith recommended that DAS be responsible for the vegetative buffer.

Ronald Smith stated that if manufacturing jobs can be kept here as opposed to having goods carried into the Country, that's what needs to be done. Commissioner Smith said that the Commission Board needs to be a conforming, cooperative partner in this process.

Dave Smith stated that they are bringing high paying skilled job positions into the County. Mr. Smith said that they come from the IMPACT Institute.

Clint Knauer said that the setbacks are set on the zoning district. The County Park has different zoning with potentially non-conforming lots and he's not sure what the standard is.

Craig Benson, Attorney for DAS, stated that he advised his clients that unless the Commissioners are in favor of a setback, the BZA won't approve the petition. Mr. Benson said that with supportive help, it may get passed by the BZA.

James Crowl said that a 20' or 15' setback would be more acceptable as he feels that a 10' setback is very close. Lynne Liechty said that if the three (3) concerns are addressed, she's good with it.

Craig Benson asked if it would be appropriate for DAS to come to the next Commissioners' Meeting with the other information. The Commissioners said that it would be appropriate for them to come to the next meeting.

Frank Charlton, County Park Superintendent, submitted quotes for a new furnace and air conditioning unit at the County Park Home. Lynne Liechty made a motion to accept the low quote from Armstrong's Heating and Air Conditioning, to be paid from Cum. Cap. 1138-000-4000.15. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Mr. Charlton stated that the water at the Park has been turned on and new signs are being installed. He also reported that the pollinator patch is moving forward.

Mr. Charlton informed the Commissioners that he had a camper complain about the County charging for mooring spots like they do dock spaces.

Kylee Harris, County Park Assistant Superintendent, reported that when guests to the Event Center type in the address in their GPS, it does not direct them to the correct location. Ronald Smith stated that he will speak to the GIS Coordinator.

Erin Schiffli, Commissioners' Secretary, stated that the County Park received a bill from Lakeland Electronics for an additional projector that was installed in the Event Center Great Room. Ms. Schiffli stated that

Lakeland Electronics inadvertently left it off of the final billing. The Commissioners wanted the original blue prints of the audio/visual equipment reviewed to make sure two (2) projectors were requested.

Jennifer Sharkey, County Engineer, submitted a draft letter to be sent to Frontier regarding the de-escalation costs on the Bike Trail, for review. Donald Stuckey stated that the letter was adequate and could be sent.

Ms. Sharkey reported that she will be approaching the Council in May to appropriate the \$175,000.00 reimbursement from the Maple Street Project for roadwork.

Ms. Sharkey said that they are still moving forward with the right of way and environmental permits for the 200 N/SR 827 Project. She said that project is scheduled to go to letting in January, 2018 with construction soon to follow.

Jennifer Sharkey said that she has not yet received the Bridge Inspection Contract back from INDOT.

Ms. Sharkey stated that she met with the City of Angola regarding maintenance contracts on the traffic signal at 200 N/200W. She said it would be best, on the administrative side, to do separate agreements with the contractor. She reported that the City Engineers are currently working on that.

Ronald Smith asked about the landscaping for the 200 W Beautification Project. Jennifer Sharkey stated that the landscaper that she had originally coordinated with has not been responsive via email, phone calls, visits, etc. Ms. Sharkey said that the Committee may have to look at different landscapers for that project. Ronald Smith said some time ago there were private individuals who were willing to do some of the funding and he thinks that needs to be re-explored.

James Crowl informed the Highway Department about Terry Smith approaching the Commissioners regarding purchasing the piece of real estate next to his home on the channel. Commissioner Crowl said that he would talk to the Surveyor about this issue as well. Ronald Smith stated that for the record, Terry Smith is no relative of his.

James Crowl reported that he was approached by Rus Strang on the road right of way that is owned by the County and moving the water from one side to the other side. Emmett Heller and Jennifer Sharkey said that they have looked at that area several times. Ms. Sharkey said that what they have done appears to be working. Jennifer Sharkey said up to a certain point she thinks it was part of the interstate right of way that was turned over to the County but then, once the corner is turned, it's still interstate right of way. Jennifer Sharkey said that they cleaned the catch basin last year when they were notified, but they will go check it out again.

Ronald Smith asked about waiting on the ADA upgrade in Pleasant Lake. Jennifer Sharkey said that they should be okay because the plan to make it ADA accessible is in place.

Emmett Heller, Highway Superintendent, stated that they made 530 tons of cold patch last week. R. (Randy) Smith & Sons, out of Michigan, who works out of the back of the Klink gravel pit, has made a new product of crushed pea stone. Mr. Heller said that new product was put in the cold patch and will be used in the chip and seal this year as well. He said that they should get better wear out of it than limestone and the cost is about 60% of limestone.

Mr. Heller said that they did start to produce gravel and he thanked the Commissioners to allow the Highway Department to do that. He said that they are generating about 200 tons an hour. He said that it is a very nice material and it is packing very well.

Emmett Heller said that they had to replace a 12" culvert on 300 N due to burning leaves and grass damaging the culverts. He said that they will have to look at how people burn leaves and grass or change back to using metal culverts instead of plastic.

Mary Allred, EMS Director, came to the Commissioners regarding a potential rate increase. Ms. Allred stated that Steuben County is the lowest in ambulance charges in northeast Indiana and she is not aware of the last time charges were increased. She said that she would like to see at least a 40% increase in ambulance charges.

Mary Allred was notified by Three Rivers Ambulance Authority out of Fort Wayne and they have, for the last several years, taken a patient out of a nursing home and transporting them to the Cleveland Clinic once a month. Ms. Allred said that this is 100% revenue and it can average \$140,000.00 a year.

James Crowl stated that if these transports are done, another ambulance has to come in and take care of the people in this County because safety of the County is number one. Mary Allred said that she would up staff and make sure that Steuben County is covered.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to increase the rates by 40% and to have it effective as of May 1, 2017. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Ronald Smith asked how this would impact the clients. Ms. Allred stated that the reimbursement stays the same with Medicaid reimbursements and commercial insurance would have the customary amount they pay. EMS would see the impact of cash payments from automobile insurance payments and worker's comp.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to increase the mileage for transports and to transport to contiguous states only, effective immediately. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

James Crowl discussed the request for a shooting ordinance that was made at the last Commissioners' Meeting. Commissioner Crowl said that he believes it is up to the Department of Natural Resources, the State of Indiana and the Federal Government to take care of it. James Crowl made a motion that the Steuben County Board of Commissioners does not wish to be a part of the process. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes. Ronald Smith requested that a letter be sent to Bruce Watson informing him of the decision.

The Commissioners received the following correspondence: BoAC re: Memorandum; Indiana Department of Transportation re: Overnight lane closures; INDOT re: Input on selection of future highway projects; Maumee River Basin re: Proposed Resolution; Maumee River Basin re: Proposed resolutions to comply with Indiana State Board of Accounts; SWCD re: Board Meeting; Maumee River Basin re: Agenda & Minutes; State of Indiana re: OCRA Dates to know; INDOT re: Public Hearings; NEIndiana re: RDA Annual Report; SWCD re: Approved minutes.

STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Ronald L. Smith, President, South District

James A. Crowl, Vice President, Middle District

Lynne Liechty, North District

Attest: _____
Kim Koomler, Steuben County Auditor
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