

STEBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
May 1, 2017

The Steuben County Commissioners met at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, May 1, 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, Jim Getz, Steuben County Councilman and Kim Koomler, Steuben County Auditor.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the claims submitted for payment this day totaling \$502,237.74. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the minutes from the Commissioners' Meeting on April 17, 2017. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Kim Johnson, Assessor, discussed the Heritage Barn Deduction with the Commissioners. Ms. Johnson said that HB 1215 went into place last year and it changed some of the language in the law. She said that Steuben County has 1,100 barns that are categorized as T2; however, she is not sure if they are all Mortise and Tenon because she assesses from the exterior. Ms. Johnson said that the code allows for a \$50.00 Public Safety Fee that would be applied to people whom apply for the Heritage Barn Exemption if the Commissioners pass the Resolution.

Kim Johnson asked the Commissioners if they felt there was a need for the \$50.00 Public Safety Fee which would be allocated into a special fund that goes directly to the Townships in which the barns are located. The funds then get allocated to the Fire and Police Department.

Kim Johnson asked if the Commissioners make a decision at a later date, could it be made retroactive to May 1 since it was brought to the public's attention today. Donald Stuckey said that it could not be made retroactive as there are publication requirements.

Lynne Liechty requested Kim Johnson to rerun the numbers with a \$25.00 fee. The Commissioners took the matter under advisement.

Barbara Short, DAS, came with information that was requested by the Commissioners at the last meeting. Ms. Short said that the Fire Chief looked at the situation and put a favorable opinion in writing. She also submitted a quote from Lawnscape for twenty-one (21) Arbor Vitae Trees to be planted and they would also install a soaker hose so the trees are watered.

Ms. Short said that they are hoping that the Commission Board would give DAS a good endorsement to the BZA. She said that the other two (2) neighbors are going to send letters and be at the public hearing as well.

James Crowl stated that the lots in the Campground were laid out years ago when campers were quite small and now they are a lot larger. Restructuring those lots in order to give a 10' setback would be tough, so turning them would be the only way. Commissioner Crowl also addressed the trees that are to be removed.

James Crowl said that he has no problem with a setback, but he feels that 10' is a little too close and that 15' is as close as it should go. Commissioner Crowl stated that ultimately the BZA has the decision. Lynne Liechty made a motion for a positive endorsement for the 10' setback to the BZA. Ronald Smith seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes and one (1) nay. Ronald Smith said that a letter would be sent to the BZA.

Kim Johnson, Assessor, submitted a Contract for Personal Property Review with Nexus for approval. Ms. Johnson said that the Nexus Group would charge less than \$25,000.00 for the audit. She said that they do have a daily fee; however, they will not exceed 50% of what they find during that day. Ms. Johnson said that this audit is not required, but she has the ability to do it at any time. Kim Johnson said that personal property is a self-assessment and their depreciation schedule is submitted. She said that when Counties do these audits, they find out that business are under reporting. Lynne Liechty said that she's not for it because with business nowadays, things are hard enough as it is. The Commissioners stated that they are below neutral on this matter and no motion was made.

Alex Dobson, Veterans' Affairs Officer, came to the Commissioners to update them on his office. Mr. Dobson said that he has logged 176 visits into his office since the beginning of the year. He said that he has tracked and logged six (6) WWII, four (4) Korean, thirty-seven (37) Vietnam, eleven (11) Gulf and two (2) Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans since the beginning of the year. Mr. Dobson said that he gets a lot of phone calls, does house calls, etc.

Mr. Dobson reported that he has worked with Turning Point Shelter to help the homeless Veteran's in Steuben County. He said that there are plans in place and he gets notified right away. He then notifies the VA so the Veterans can get assistance right away.

Alex Dobson said that he is working with getting transportation for Veterans from Steuben County to the VA Hospital.

Mr. Dobson also reported that he got his PIV Card which gives him direct access to the VA computers. He said that he has been meeting with Congressman Jim Banks as well. He also informed the Commissioners that Annual Training for his Certification is coming up in June of this year.

He informed the Commissioners that there is an event called 422 that has been started at the Angola American Legion and will take place on Memorial Day Weekend.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Dobson for his work with the local Veterans.

Gary Fair, Community Center Building Manager, came to the Commissioners regarding the previous quote that was approved from Mike Rathburn Masonry for the waterproofing of the Community Center. Mr. Fair stated that Mr. Rathburn inadvertently gave him someone else's quote and the correct quote for the waterproofing at the Community Center is actually in the amount of \$11,350.00, not \$9,121.00. Mr. Fair stated that there is an increase of \$2,229.00; however, this quote is still lower than the others that were received previously. Lynne Liechty made a motion to accept the amended quote from Mike Rathburn Masonry. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Mr. Fair also spoke about the Health Department and their plans to purchase a generator with grant funds. Kris Thomas, Health Department, submitted a letter requesting permission to place the generator on county property and that the Commissioners pay for the natural gas to run the generator. James Crowl made a motion to permit the Health Department to place the generator on county property and that the Commissioners pay for the natural gas to service the generator. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Gary Fair requested to have the funds that were acquired from the sale of an old stove hood that was in his office, put into the vending account for the possible purchase of a new vending machine. Kim Koomler stated that he would have to go to Council and request the funds to be appropriated. James Crowl made a motion to submit the request to Council. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Frank Charlton and Kylee Harris updated the Commissioners on the County Park. It was reported that the wireless internet is installed and working at the Event Center, the Event Center parking lot light has also been installed and the campers moved in today.

Lynne Liechty said that a camper brought some concerns to her attention. She said that in 2016 there was a ruling made that the seasonal campers will receive one (1) boat mooring slip with their campsite and if they wish to have an additional mooring slip, they have to pay an additional \$600.00. Commissioner Liechty suggested that if the campers can fit more than one watercraft in their slip, they should be allowed to do that. She said if they have to have another mooring slip, they have to purchase it for the \$600.00. Frank Charlton said that a particular camper that raised concerns has two (2) jet skis and a pontoon and he's not sure if that would fit in one (1) slip.

Kylee Harris stated that she contacted the DNR about the question of whether or not charging for the mooring posts was proper. She said that the DNR told her that the County can charge for the mooring posts up to a certain distance.

Jim Getz, Steuben County Councilman, raised concerns with trying to make all of the watercrafts fit in one (1) slip. Mr. Getz said that if the camper has an additional two (2) watercrafts, he can buy two (2) other posts.

Lynne Liechty said that the rates for the campers have been raised and there are empty campsites.

Frank Charlton reported that the boat trailers will be parked at the far end and he has made it clear to the campers that they can leave their boat trailers, but they have to maintain the area.

Lynne Liechty made a motion that more than one watercraft shall be allowed in a boat slip, if it fits and does not obstruct waterway traffic or other people's boat slips. If another boat slip is needed, it has to be purchased for an additional \$600.00. Ronald Smith seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes and one (1) nay.

Kylee Harris said that she found gray pots online to put outside of the Event Center. Ms. Harris said that these were the cheapest flower pots that she could find. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the purchase of six (6) pots at the maximum amount of \$250.99 each. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Frank Charlton reported they have sprayed the area of the pollinator patch. Mr. Charlton also stated that they installed two (2) new urinals in the bathroom by the horse arena. He said that new faucets and sinks are being put into the women's restroom and they are looking at installing possibly two (2) new toilets as well.

Jennifer Sharkey submitted the Highway Department Annual Report for signature and approval.

Ms. Sharkey informed the Commissioners that the letter to Frontier was sent on April 20; however, she has not yet heard anything back from them.

She reported that the \$175,000.00 reimbursement for Maple Street was also received and is on the Council Agenda for May to have those funds appropriated for road work.

Ms. Sharkey said that they are continuing with the right of way phase for the 200 N/SR 827 project. Ms. Sharkey submitted two (2) reimbursement vouchers for approval. 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 would follow up with INDOT on the Federal Aid Program for the 200 N Phase II Project.

Ms. Sharkey reported that the Appraiser is meeting with property owners regarding the Bike Trail Phase II Trail Plan.

Ms. Sharkey stated that Lynne Liechty is coordinating the next meeting for the 200 W Beautification.

Jennifer Sharkey said that she is aware that there was discussion on property located at Lane 101 and 200 W. Ms. Sharkey said that she and Emmett Heller briefly discussed it and believes it would be beneficial for the property to remain a county owned property for maintenance of that channel.

James Crowl said that Metz Road will be closed off soon due to ditch repairs. He wanted to know if the County could put the blockades and the signage up. Emmett Heller said that the County doesn't have enough barricades to make that happen and there is a huge liability placed on that. Mr. Heller said that it would best to allow Three Rivers Barricade to take care of it.

Emmett Heller reported that the crushing and screening of the gravel is going well and they have hauled out about 7,000 tons with about 15,000 stacked.

The Commissioners signed the minutes from the April 3, 2017, Commissioners' Meeting for the Index Book, which were approved at the prior meeting.

Tami Mosier, Purdue Extension, requested permission to allow non-county employees to travel with her in a county vehicle on several dates throughout the summer. James Crowl made a motion to allow Ms. Mosier to use a county vehicle on the dates she requested and to have non-county employees travel with her. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Erin Schiffli, Commissioners' Secretary, asked the Commissioners if they plan on attending the Enterprise Center Open House on Thursday, May 4. Ronald Smith and Lynne Liechty stated that they would be attending.

The Commissioners were notified that the Coordinator for Emergency Animal Disease Control needed to be reappointed. Lynne Liechty made a motion to reappoint Matt Zimmer, DVM as the Coordinator for Emergency Animal Disease Control. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Kim Koomler, Auditor, submitted a proposed Employee Confidentiality Agreement for approval. Ms. Koomler stated that it will be read and signed by the Employee and then kept in their personnel file. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the Employee Confidentiality Agreement. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Randy Brown, Emergency Management Director, submitted information on the EMA Vehicle. Lynne Liechty said that she talked to Mr. Brown at length and he has spent a lot of funds on vehicle repair and he's wanting advice on how to proceed. James Crowl said that Mr. Brown could have the Crown Vic that is currently in the Commissioners' Fleet. Ronald Smith stated that if he was given a different vehicle he would have to get changeovers and that is expensive. Lynne Liechty suggested looking at options during budget time for next year. The Commissioners requested that Mr. Brown come to another meeting with additional quotes to fix the air conditioning.

Erin Schiffli, Commissioners' Secretary, received information on the Indiana Association of County Commissioners Northeast District Meeting, scheduled for June 28, 2017, at Parkview Field and asked if the Commissioners plan on attending. Ronald Smith stated that he would attend.

Kris Treadwell, Council on Aging, submitted the First Quarter Draw of the 5311 Grant for approval and signature. James Crowl made a motion to approve the First Quarter Draw. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Michelle Millholland, Surveyor Clerk Deputy, was requested to come to the meeting for clarification on the project on Metz Road. Ronald Smith stated that the Highway Department doesn't want to take responsibility of the liability that goes along with them placing the signs, etc. Commissioner Smith stated that the Drainage Board will have to hire Three Rivers Barricade for the signage and barricades. Michelle Millholland stated that Larry Gilbert wondered if the bill from Three Rivers Barricade should be billed to Highway or if it should come from the Maintenance Fund. Ronald Smith stated that it should come out of the Maintenance Fund because Highway wouldn't be tearing it up if it wasn't for maintenance. James Crowl stated that Highway has to pay for the work that is being done on that road and that is why the bid was separate from the signage. Donald Stuckey stated that the repair of the road is the responsibility of the Highway Department, but during the construction process before they actually repair the road, that is an expense for the Drainage Board. James Crowl suggested asking the Drainage Board Attorney to advise on this matter.

The Commissioners received the following correspondence: IACC re: Legislative wrap up; IACC re: Holcomb signs budget, road funding bills; Kathleen Schultz re: USS Indiana Commissioning; Kathy Armstrong re: JDAI – Objective for POD Meeting; IACC re: HB1002 Funding; Regional Chamber re: Legislative wrap up; NEIndiana re: IPFW Realignment.

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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