

STEBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
May 16, 2016

The Steuben County Commissioners met at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, May 16, 2016, 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, Dan Caruso, Steuben County Councilman and Kim Koomler, Steuben County Auditor.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the claims submitted for payment this day totaling \$254,172.40. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

The Commissioners signed the minutes from the April 18, 2016, Commissioners' Meeting, which were approved at the previous meeting.

Vicky Meek, EMS, submitted April Writeoffs in the amount of \$121,257.19. Ms. Meek also submitted April Closeouts in the amount of \$3,682.43. James Crowl made a motion to approve the EMS Writeoffs and Closeouts for April, 2016. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Bill Harter, Coroner, submitted notification that the costs for funeral home transports will be increasing for 2017. Mr. Harter also stated that he is willing to resubmit his proposal to receive a county vehicle to be used in the transporting if the Commissioners requested that he do so. The Commissioners stated that Mr. Harter could resubmit his request if he wishes.

Donald Stuckey approved and submitted a Contract for Services between Region IIIA and the Commissioners for the OCRA Grant. James Crowl made a motion to approve the contract. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

An Executive Session Statement was submitted for the Executive Session held on May 10, 2016. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve that Executive Session Statement. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Ronald Smith stated that it was time to officially take action on the matter discussed in the Executive Session. Lynne Liechty made a motion to terminate the employment of the County Park Superintendent. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

James Crowl stated that he spoke to Alex Dobson, Veterans' Services Officer regarding the letter that was received from the American Legion. Mr. Dobson is in favor of being moved to full time. Commissioner Crowl stated that Mr. Dobson is going to compile numbers to justify him being a full time employee and it will be considered at budget time.

Tami Mosier, Purdue Extension, submitted a letter informing the Commissioners that there is a 4-H Club that wishes to invest some of their funds into trees for the County Park on the upper level to begin building shaded areas. The 4-H Club would like to purchase Maple Trees due to the large amount of shade they produce. Ms. Mosier said that the 4-H group is willing to give a gift certificate instead, if that is more appropriate at this time. Ronald Smith stated that it is too early to plant; however, tree planting will begin this fall and ownership of the trees will be given once they are planted.

Erin Wray, Commissioners' Secretary, submitted information from the insurance company on the proposed insurance for the Airport Crew Car. Ms. Wray stated that she talked to the insurance company and Sam Adams, Airport Manager, and the insurance company is wanting a five (5) day notice of when the pilots will be arriving so they can run records on them. Mr. Adams said that is not doable as sometimes they don't get a five (5) day notice. The insurance company also wants to increase the deductible from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00. Sam Adams said that if they are not able to use the Crew Car like requested, then there is no use of even receiving the van. Mr. Adams is to do some checking on what other airports do for their crew cars and the Commissioners put the matter on hold.

Jennifer Danic, Community Foundation and Bill Geiger, iMAN, came to the Commissioners regarding extending fiber services to the County Park. Lynne Liechty stated that she spoke to the Community Foundation about continuing the iMAN corridor down 200 W. Commissioner Liechty stated in order to cut expenses on this project, the Commissioners have asked to partner with the Community Foundation. She stated that the Community Foundation can help some, but maybe not a lot.

Jennifer Danic thanked the Commissioners for allowing her to come to the meeting to represent the Community Foundation. Ms. Danic stated that the Community Foundation has been the governing organization over iMAN for fifteen (15) years. She said that the Community Foundation Board of Directors selects the iMAN Board of Directors. Ms. Danic said that in fifteen (15) years there has been approximately \$4.5 Million in private and public investment into building this network into the Community. She said that there is 130 miles of fiber, 128 customers and it continues to grow on a monthly basis.

Jennifer Danic stated that iMAN has grown a lot but still has room to grow. She said that there is always questions about the profit return back to the community and that is still going to happen; however, the iMAN Board has continually put the mission of iMAN above the margin of iMAN, keeping access and the costs low to the Community. She stated that iMAN could have a much higher profit margin if their prices were raised to a market standard. Ms. Danic said that they are cautiously optimistic that is changing and the iMAN Board will be looking at the revenue over expenses over this last year and at that time they will make a recommendation for distribution of profit back to the Community. She said that all of the mechanisms are in place to receive those contributions and to grant those contributions out.

Jennifer Danic stated that iMAN is an independent public charity and they are a 501(c)3; however, they are only able to be incorporated with a parent organization.

Ronald Smith stated that a fiber connection is needed at the new Event Center because of security and key system, along with the needs of the Purdue Extension. Commissioner Smith asked Jennifer Danic how the Community Foundation and Steuben County could partner to get that accomplished in a couple of months. Jennifer Danic stated that the iMAN Board is committed to getting fiber to that access point and it is the next step for iMAN's expansion. She said that they sat down last week with their attorney, CPA and Board Chair and discussed a number of options. Ms. Danic stated that they preliminarily talked through some numbers and timelines and in their opinion the best option would be a cost sharing option between the County and iMAN. That would include sharing the cost of construction to the entrance of the park and then iMAN prepaying fees for the County to have a number of connections for a period of years. Ms. Danic stated that there are other options that could be discussed.

Jennifer Danic stated that the estimated cost is approximately \$90,000.00 to build from US 20 up to the entrance of the park at 175 N. Lynne Liechty stated that she is willing to commit because the Community Foundation has made a large effort to get this far and it is really appreciated. James Crowl made the motion to commit monies from the County Park funds to get the iMAN project going. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Ronald Smith further requested that the fiber be ran to the building sometime in July. Bill Geiger said he would do his best. Donald Stuckey stated that since they are extending an existing utility, no bidding process is needed.

Bill Geiger stated that there are four (4) different costs involved. The first cost is to get from US 20 to the entrance of the park at 175 N for \$90,000.00, then to get fiber to the new facility, then to the park and then to the Highway Department. Mr. Geiger said as the Commissioners choose to move forward they can.

Kim Koomler, Auditor, asked what the cost from the entrance of the park to the building was going to be. Bill Geiger stated that from 175 N to the building would be approximately \$9,000.00. James Crowl made an amendment to his prior motion to include the additional \$9,000.00. Lynne Liechty seconded the amendment and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Ronald Smith stated that individuals have expressed some interest in having some involvement in amenities, facilities, etc., at the County Park and the County is not a 501(c)3. Commissioner Smith asked Jennifer

Danic if the Community Foundation would be willing to be a pass through for donations for the County Park. Jennifer Danic stated that the Community Foundation can establish a temporary pass through fund for the County Park for the benefit of County Government. Ms. Danic said that since the project has a charitable cause it would be favorable, but it would still require Board approval. She said that some sort of contingency would have to be put in the agreement. In case all of the money isn't raised or if the project doesn't go through, they need to know where the money is to go.

Ronald Smith stated that iMAN was a good investment on the part of the County and it continues to be. He said that Economic Development is a key factor in Steuben County and Steuben County Government is being a part of Economic Development by getting the fiber up that corridor and hopes that it is beneficial.

Bill Geiger, iMAN, updated the Commissioners on where iMAN started and where they are at today. Mr. Geiger said that since inception in 2003, iMAN has invested, through Steuben County Government \$2 Million, local businesses have given \$1.1 Million, cities and towns have invested \$328,000.00, Community Funds are \$147,000.00 and loans to iMAN are \$610,000.00 for a total of a \$4.2 Million Dollar investment. He further reported that there is well over 2,000 man hours invested in developing iMAN.

In 2011, Mr. Geiger stated that iMAN had 27 connections and today iMAN has 128 connections and continues to grow. He further reported that there are 12 government entities, 97 businesses, 7 health care offices and 12 educational entities connected to iMAN. Mr. Geiger said that there are 36 one (1) gigabyte point-to-point connections (businesses within businesses connecting their facilities) in Steuben County. He said that there 10 schools and libraries, 53 businesses, 3 healthcare, 5 government and 19 cell towers on the iMAN network. Mr. Geiger said that there are 83 Angola connections, 5 Ashley/Hudson/Hamilton connections, 21 Fremont connections and 12 Orland connections. There are a total of 888 connections available on the iMAN network, currently there are 153 connections being used (17%) so there is plenty of room to grow. He said that money being given back into the Community is over \$140,000.00.

Mr. Geiger said that from a service provider standpoint on the iMAN network, there are a total of 8 providers with 3 being major providers out of county and 5 are local providers located in the county. Those service providers have invested over \$5.5 Million Dollars into the infrastructure to run their businesses over the iMAN network.

He reported that iMAN has saved local businesses a total of \$40 Million Dollars.

Gary Fair, Community Center Building Maintenance, submitted Delta T Service Contracts for the Community Center, in the amount of \$7,848.75 and for the Courthouse, in the amount of \$4,830.00. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the Service Contracts with Delta T for the Community Center and Courthouse. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes. The Commissioners requested that Delta T submit a contract for 2017 by the end of November, 2016.

James Crowl asked if the no parking signs on Martha Street were going to be taken down. Gary Fair said that he had a conversation with Greg Anderson last week and Mr. Anderson stated that the Angola Board of Safety will not remove the no parking signs to the east side of Martha Street and that they will remain on the west side. Gary Fair said that due to those signs, six (6) to seven (7) parking spots were lost. Mr. Fair said that they were invited to discuss the matter with the Board of Safety.

Gary Fair discussed the new parking lot to be located at Martha and Wall Street. Ronald Smith stated that since the Council tabled the MSD Tower Memorandum, financial approval for the parking lot was not received so it cannot move forward at this time.

James Crowl requested to buy new grates for the incinerator, in the amount of \$450.00. Lynne Liechty made a motion to purchase the new grates for the incinerator, in the amount of \$450.00, to be paid from Cum. Cap. 1138-000-4000.15. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Gary LeTourneau, Communications Director, came to the Commissioners regarding the price proposals received on the design build portion of the radio project. Mr. LeTourneau stated that the Technical Review

Committee met and scored the proposal that was received, which is in the packet for the Commissioners. Mr. LeTourneau said that in the packet, there was a sheet with a range of scores with how they were to be scored and judged.

Donald Stuckey, County Attorney, opened the only price proposal received for the Design Build Portion of the Radio Project. The proposal was received from Motorola in the amount of \$230,185.00. Lynne Liechty made a motion to accept the proposal submitted by Motorola. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Gary LeTourneau also submitted a request to purchase a new ECE, in the amount of \$3,706.56 plus freight costs. Lynne Liechty made a motion to purchase a new ECE. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Jennifer Sharkey, County Engineer submitted two (2) NIPSCO utility permits #2763RC and #2733RC and one (1) Frontier utility permit #2764 for approval. James Crowl made a motion to approve the utility permits. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Ms. Sharkey stated that the final seeding of the Bike Trail has been stalled until a pre-final site visit is scheduled.

Ms. Sharkey reported that API is continuing to build Phase I of Maple Street and a proof roll test has to be done with INDOT present. A soft spot was filled and they have to make sure it is all set before they continue on. She stated that API has begun activities for Phase II which is the work around CR 1025 W. and they are to close that road. Ms. Sharkey said that road closure has always been in the plan; however, a formal motion is needed. James Crowl made a motion to close CR 1025 W. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Jennifer Sharkey said that a quarterly meeting is scheduled for the 200 N/SR 827 Project. Ms. Sharkey asked when they go through the land acquisition process, should the Highway Department send the certified checks to landowners or have the Consultant do it. Ms. Sharkey said she thought that the Highway Department had done it in the past. Kim Koomler said that they can talk about that at a later time.

Ms. Sharkey updated the Commissioners on the Old 27 lights by the Outlet Mall. She said that INDOT's contractor is still working to get it scheduled. She also reported that the Outlet Mall has been updated as well.

Jennifer Sharkey said that the internal grant application was approved by County Council for the 200 N Phase II and today she submitted the federal fund application to INDOT.

Ms. Sharkey stated that they will have an initial stakeholder and utility meeting on May 20 for the Bike Trail Phase II Project. She said that meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn at 10:00 a.m.

Ms. Sharkey reported that the County Park Event Center Well Permit has been secured from IDEM and from the Health Department and those documents have been given to the contractor. She said that May 23 is when the contractor will start and it should take approximately two (2) weeks to get that completed. There will then be a follow up by IDEM for official approval of the construction.

Jennifer Sharkey stated that a feasibility study proposal meeting regarding the toll road interchange at SR 327, north of Orland. She said that right now there are a few consultants working on putting a proposal together about what a feasibility study would cost and what would be required for a TIGER Grant Application. Ronald Smith requested that Ms. Sharkey remind the Commissioners of this during budget time. James Crowl stated that he is totally against the project and against putting any money into it at the present time. Commissioner Crowl said that he doesn't see any future for it, Michigan is not going to kick in, Town of Orland isn't going to kick in and it is going to fall directly on the back of Steuben County and it is dead in the water as far as he is concerned. Lynne Liechty said that she is concerned because she compares it to the interchange on 49. She said that whole area died after that interchange was put in.

Jennifer Sharkey said that the next Committee Meeting on the 200 W Beautification Project will be on the 24th of May. Ms. Sharkey said that the Highway Department has been improving the pavement and should be finishing up today.

Emmett Heller, Highway Superintendent, reported to the Commissioners that they started mowing in the northeast section last week.

Mr. Heller said that the chassis for truck #46 is in New Haven ready to be picked up and all of the components have been delivered. He also stated that truck #45 will be on the road this week.

Emmett Heller said that there was a stretch on 750 S where they put in a culvert and raised the road to get it out of the water.

Hugo Diru, Bison Financial, came to the Commissioners to inform them of a retirement planning program that Bison Financial offers. Mr. Diru was seeking permission to come in and meet with County Employees that are interested in retirement planning. The Commissioners asked to review the information and stated they would get back to Mr. Diru on this matter.

Brett Hays, Community Corrections, came to the Commissioners with an IDOC Revised Budget for approval. Mr. Hays said that NICC received 5.5 total persons which is a total of \$307,500.00. Approximately \$20,000.00 for rental and utilities for a satellite office in LaGrange. In addition, \$12,000.00 for desks, computers, printers, etc. for a total of a \$339,300.00 increase for Community Corrections.

Mr. Hays stated that Probation received one (1) additional full time person in the amount of \$61,500.00; however, they did not receive any additional money for desks and/or computers. Steuben Probation received another half (1/2) of a person to be shared with Community Corrections.

Brett Hays said that all of the money received needs to be spent because if it isn't spent, the State thinks that it wasn't needed. Mr. Hays said that the total additional awarded for this funding cycle was \$462,000.00. James Crowl made a motion to approve the IDOC Revised Budget. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Kylee Harris, Steuben County Park Assistant Superintendent, submitted a request to the Commissioners to refund a payment made for rental of a building at the County Park for a wedding. Due to the current circumstances, the buildings were not ready to be rented and the father of the bride had to spend two (2) days cleaning up the premises. Lynne Liechty made a motion to refund the \$321.00 paid for the rental. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Lynne Liechty reported that she had a meeting at the Fremont Library with Bridgett Harris and a group from Clear Lake including a couple attorneys regarding the Clear Lake Beach. Lynne Liechty said they are looking at having that area donated to the Conservancy. They simply are asking this due to the maintenance not being done and there have been issues with regular maintenance. Ronald Smith and James Crowl both agreed that they want to keep that property and continue to maintain it. Lynne Liechty said that police visibility was a concern. Ronald Smith stated that they have an officer in their town, it is in their jurisdiction and he can go down there as often as he wants. Commissioner Smith said that Sheriff Deputies are all over the place and you never know where they will appear and when. James Crowl stated that if Clear Lake would like to come to a public meeting, they may do so.

The Commissioners stated that they want to take the MSD Tower sale back to the County Council for consideration.

The Commissioners discussed having a Courthouse Feasibility/Needs Study be paid from the Rainy Day Fund. James Crowl stated that the Study Committee wants to hire an engineering firm to look at everything, all possibilities, and make a recommendation. Ronald Smith stated that it will be up to the Commissioners to choose what firm does the Feasibility/Needs Study. Kim Koomler asked Donald Stuckey if the Feasibility/Needs Study would have to be bid or quoted out. Donald Stuckey said that RFP's would have to be sent out. Ronald Smith stated that the Commissioners are recommending drafting an RFP and the funding for the Feasibility/Needs Study

be funded from the Rainy Day Fund. Lynne Liechty made a motion to ask for the Feasibility/Needs Study to be done and make a request to Council to fund the Study from the Rainy Day Fund. Lynne Liechty stated that she doesn't want the Study to exceed \$20,000.00. Craig Benson stated that \$20,000.00 would not cover a qualified study and closer to \$100,000.00 should be anticipated. Lynne Liechty said that she would like to cap it at a certain amount. Ronald Smith recommended capping it at \$80,000.00. Kim Koomler stated that a dollar figure needs to be inserted for the request to go to Council and then it can be capped when the RFP's are done. Ronald Smith stated that he would draft the RFP. James Crowl said that he would try to find the source that Ken Shelton spoke to about the Masonic Lodge.

The Commissioners discussed the rental rate and contract for the new County Park Event Center. The Commissioners scheduled a meeting on Tuesday, May 24, at 8:00 a.m. to meet with Kylee Harris, County Park Assistant Superintendent, so they can discuss the rental rate and contract. Kim Koomler also stated that the new job description has not yet been finalized, posted, nor funded by Council in the 2016 budget.

Ronald Smith stated that the income made from the operation of the new County Park Event Center should go to fund the building, instead of being put in County General. Donald Stuckey stated that unless the Commissioners have a specific statute that permits them to capture the funds, everything goes to County General.

The Commissioners reported that they had hired a new GIS Coordinator, Zachary Mahan, and he will be starting on Wednesday, May 18, 2016.

A Seasonal Contract for the Steuben County Campgrounds was submitted for approval. There were changes noted on the Contract. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the new contract, with the noted changes. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

The Commissioners scheduled interviews for the Annex Maintenance Supervisor Position for Monday, May 23, 2016.

Kim Koomler and Kelli Johnson, Auditor's Office, discussed the Wildwood Property Deed for Mr. Kevin Bockelman. Ms. Koomler and Ms. Johnson had concerns regarding the Deed that Mr. Stuckey drafted and liens that were assessed to the property from LaGrange County. Ms. Johnson submitted CE's that authorize her to remove all of the taxes on the property that has been given to Mr. Bockelman and she requested that they be signed by the Commissioners.

The Commissioners received the following correspondence: NEIndiana re: Reminder – RTOM Info Session; Indiana State Department of Agriculture re: Meeting Notice; Indiana State Department of Agriculture re: Lt. Governor and ISDA Director congratulates new National FFA CEO; NEIndiana re: Northeast Indiana In the National Media; IDEM re: 2016 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence; Janel Myer re: Steuben SWCD May 11th meeting agenda

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

elw