

STEBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
July 6, 2015

The Steuben County Commissioners met at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, July 6, 2015, in the Commissioners' Room of the Steuben Community Center. Present this day were Commissioners Ronald L. Smith and Lynne Liechty. Also present were Ruth Beer, Steuben County Council Vice President, Donald Stuckey, County Attorney and Kim Koomler, Steuben County Auditor.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the claims submitted for payment this day totaling \$1,343,314.74. Ronald Smith seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the Commissioners' Meeting minutes from the meeting held June 15, 2015. Ronald Smith seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

The Commissioners signed the minutes from the June 1, 2015 and June 4, 2015, Commissioners' Meetings, which were approved at the previous meeting.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve and sign the Executive Session Statement from the Executive Session held on June 22, 2015. Ronald Smith seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the Special Commissioners' Meeting minutes from the meeting held on June 24, 2015. Ronald Smith seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Northeastern Indiana CASA, Inc. signed the Steuben County Community Center Rental Agreement and submitted it to the Commissioners for approval and signature. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve and sign the Steuben County Community Rental Agreement for Northeastern Indiana Casa, Inc. Ronald Smith seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Tami Sumney, IT Director, submitted an Electronic Communications Retention Policy to the Commissioners for approval and signature. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the Electronic Communications Retention Policy. Ronald Smith seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Elten Powers, Club Secretary for Pleasant Lake Lions Club, submitted a request to the Commissioners to use the Hughes Auditorium for the Annual Minstrel Show on Saturday, October 17. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve that request pending verification from Gary Fair, Building Manager, that the Auditorium is available on that date. Ronald Smith seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Koorsen Fire & Security submitted a proposal for a new Fire Extinguisher at the Steuben County EMS North Building in the amount of \$330.00. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the proposal in the amount of \$330.00. Ronald Smith seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

The proposed 2016 Holiday Schedule was submitted to the Commissioners for approval. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the 2016 Holiday Schedule as submitted. Ronald Smith seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Lynne Liechty discussed the home repairs needed for the home at the County Park before the new County Park Superintendent moves in. Commissioner Liechty stated that she wants the walls painted off-white and the carpets professionally shampooed. She requested quotes for those items to be submitted at the next Commissioners' Meeting. The Commissioners asked Erin Wray, Commissioners' Secretary, to work with Gary Fair, Building Manager, to get quotes submitted. Ronald Smith also requested that Gary Fair do a walkthrough of the home and note any other repairs that he sees.

Vicky Meek, EMS, informed the Commissioners that she has to hire two (2) new people. She stated that she has an applicant that has ten (10) years of experience as a Paramedic and he has been working part-time and would like to be bumped up to full-time; however, due to his experience Ms. Meek said that she would like to start him out at a higher pay schedule. Kim Koomler, Auditor, said that the Commissioners need to approve the request

and it then needs to be taken to County Council and the Personnel Committee because it requires a salary ordinance amendment. Lynne Liechty made a motion to grant the request to make the amendment and sent the request to County Council. Ronald Smith seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Vicky Meek also stated that the second applicant is an EMT but will graduate Paramedic School in November. Ms. Meek stated that he will be making the same pay as the ten (10) year experienced person. Vicky Meek stated that with Cameron Hospital now hiring Paramedics in the Emergency Room at a better wage, it will cause issues hiring Paramedics for the County.

Jody Kinsey, USI, submitted questions to the Commissioners regarding the Bone Density Testing that was voted on at a prior meeting. The Commissioners felt that if there is reason to believe bone density is part of an individual's health, it should be covered. Lynne Liechty made a motion that the change in the policy shall be effective June 15, 2015, which was the date the Commissioners voted upon the issue. It was further decided that the Bone Density Testing shall be limited to one (1) per calendar year and covered under preventative at 100%.

The Steuben County Prosecutor's Office asked for formal approval of the purchase of a plane ticket for a high profile felony case. Lynne Liechty made a motion to formally approve the purchase of the plane ticket. Ronald Smith seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Koorsen Fire & Security submitted two (2) proposals for fire extinguisher service that is due at the Annex. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve those proposals in the total amount of \$469.00. Ronald Smith seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Steve Mumby, Steuben County Humane Society, came to the Commissioners regarding the allocation for 2015. Mr. Mumby thanked the Commissioners for allowing him, other board members and volunteers to address the Commissioners today. Mr. Mumby said that at the June 4, 2015, Commissioners' Meeting the Commissioners were unable to reach an agreement and put the funding for the Humane Shelter on hold. Mr. Mumby stated that recorded comments from that meeting suggested that the Commissioners are either examining options for animal control and sheltering or the Commissioners are questioning the dollar amount that is involved. Mr. Mumby stated that he supports and appreciates the Commissioners looking at other options; however, he wishes that they would have done it sooner if that is the case. Mr. Mumby said that the Humane Shelter needs to move forward and they are in a position where they are spending money they don't have and changes need to be made. Mr. Mumby told the Commissioners that the Humane Shelter is wanting to move forward with their new building and will do so in a limited fashion, meaning they will only accept animals as they can from the communities that support the Steuben County Humane Shelter. Mr. Mumby said that he is hoping to understand Commissioners' intent when he leaves this meeting today.

Lynne Liechty stated that she has gotten a lot of phone calls from a lot of people and they have now stopped. She stated that the calls she received have all asked, "What are you going to do for us? What are you going to do for the Humane Society?" She said that she has asked those individuals what they have done for the Shelter. Commissioner Liechty stated that she donates to the Humane Shelter privately and personally and she expects people to step up to the plate. Lynne Liechty stated that it is important to note that the Humane Shelter is a 501(c)(3), they pay no taxes, everything is tax deductible, it is the same tax code as a church and it is a charitable organization. She stated that the Humane Shelter is seeking support from County taxpayers and the Commissioners support that and are willing to help; however, the issue and the current hanging point is that as elected officials, the Commissioners have to represent every single person in the county, they cannot pick and choose who they are going to represent. Lynne Liechty stated that no matter how she feels or how she supports the shelter, the Commissioners have to support every person in Steuben County. Lynne Liechty stated that the Humane Shelter can take the \$45,000.00 that is currently on the table and it in no way prevents the Humane Shelter from seeking allocations from any other government entity.

Steve Mumby asked for clarification on the position going forward. Mr. Mumby said that on a phone conversation with Commissioner Smith, Mr. Mumby and Lisa Caudill understood that that the county would fund the entire funding request. Lynne Liechty stated that funding \$150,000.00 for half of the operating costs is not doable and the Commissioners will not be able to do that. Lynne Liechty stated that she's offering the \$45,000.00 to the Humane Shelter; however, the entire County shall be serviced but it does not prevent the Humane Shelter from

seeking funds from any other governmental entity. Steve Mumby asked if that was her solution for the remainder of 2015 and 2016. Lynne Liechty stated that she could not speak for next year, but they are willing to help. Steve Mumby stated that the first time he heard that they wanted to cover the entire county was the conversation they had with Ronald Smith and none of the preceding meetings that they had with the Commissioners was that ever mentioned. Mr. Mumby felt that covering the entire county came out of the blue. He stated that the Commissioners knew that the Humane Shelter was soliciting funds from all the various communities and they have spent a lot of time and effort in doing that. Lynne Liechty stated that even though the Humane Shelter was soliciting funds from other communities, that didn't mean that the Commissioners agreed with it. Steve Mumby stated that the Commissioners should have told the Humane Shelter they didn't agree with it. Lynne Liechty stated that the Commissioners represent the entire County and different communities cannot be divided out. Steve Mumby said that they were trying to work with those communities and they continue to do so to get funds; however, they have limitations. Mr. Mumby stated that those communities will be less inclined to support the Shelter if they believe the County is covering the entire cost.

Steve Mumby also stated that even though the Humane Shelter is considered a 501(c)3, they are a non-profit business, a corporation or a business entity, they are not like a church. Mr. Mumby said that the Humane Shelter provides services. Lynne Liechty stated that she was referring to the tax code definition of a 501(c)3.

Mr. Mumby stated that the Humane Shelter Board needs to talk and see if they are interested in the option offered by the Commissioners. He stated that it is very disappointing that they have gotten to this point after months and months and this issue came out of the rabbit hole overnight and he feels that it was not necessary.

Lisa Caudill, Humane Shelter Board Member, stated that when they met with the City of Angola Council recently about funding for 2016, they suggested considering the Shelter a vendor. There was a brief open conversation and they all agreed that was the way to go and the Humane Shelter would bill as such. She said that the County keeps telling them they don't do that and she wants to know why there is such a discrepancy between the City and the County. Ms. Caudill stated that the Humane Shelter finds one entity very easy to deal with and very supportive and the other very challenging and almost hostile in previous meetings. As a citizen she stated she's very confused and very disenchanted on how local government runs. She asked for the Commissioners to please explain and help her understand why the City of Angola can consider the Humane Shelter a vendor but the County cannot.

Bill Schmidt stated that the Council on Aging would love to get another three (3) times their budget, along with other entities. Mr. Schmidt asked why is all of this money given away instead of paying County Employees a fair wage. He stated that the County has lost many employees because they are not given a fair wage. He said that he just doesn't understand why the Humane Shelter can come and ask for all this money, but the County can't pay fair wages to their employees. Mr. Schmidt stated that he feels if the Commissioners pay the large increase to the Shelter, it sends the wrong message to County Employees. Ronald Smith stated that some County Employees are paid at poverty level. Bill Schmidt stated that there are some County Employees that qualify for aid and he believes it is wrong.

Al Stout, Humane Shelter Board Member, stated that he couldn't agree more with Mr. Schmidt; however, money is directed in weird places in Steuben County. Mr. Stout stated that he and Mr. Mumby visited nearly every governmental entity in this community. He said that they went to the Town of Hudson and they indicated they had no money, but their Fire Department would help raise some money. Mr. Stout said that the Hudson Fire Department is having dinners and the proceeds are donated to the shelter; however, the very next week, the Town of Hudson hires a Town Marshall with money they didn't have.

Al Stout then stated that he and Mr. Mumby went to the Town of Orland to ask them for \$2,500.00 based upon the amount of animals that are turned in. He said that Google says that there are 456 full time residents in the Town of Orland and they were told Orland had no money. Upon leaving they noticed that Orland had two (2) police cars for a community of 456 people.

When Mr. Stout and Mr. Mumby went to the Town of Fremont to ask for funds, the Town of Fremont said they could not afford it. Mr. Stout said that the following week, the Town of Fremont hired a brand new police officer. He said that it appears to him, the funds, as limited as they may be, are highly misdirected or duplicated. Mr. Stout stated the last time he knew, the Indiana State Police has officers in the community who would be glad to

help anytime the Town of Orland had a stray dog or somebody's muffler was louder than it should be. In any event, the Humane Shelter Board is not asking for a handout, they are not asking for anything other than to pay the County's fair share of a service that is provided.

Mr. Stout stated that the Town of Clear Lake rarely has a stray, abused, beaten or starved animal, yet the Town of Clear Lake was happy to provide \$2,500.00 to the Shelter.

He stated that the reality is that the Humane Shelter cannot sustain itself selling cookies and muffins and having gambling events. Mr. Stout said that the Humane Shelter is a vendor and he doesn't understand. He said that Brooks Asphalt is a vendor to Steuben County and no one has difficulty figuring out that they need to be paid for the service they provide.

Mr. Mumby stated that it boils down to the fact that there are roughly 21,000 dogs and cats in the County. He stated that 62% of the population have one or more animals. There are roughly 34,000 people in the population. Lynne Liechty asked where Mr. Mumby got the 62%, he said that is the national number for communities. Mr. Mumby stated that communities with lower income tend to have more animals than a community with a higher income. He also stated that 3%-4% surrender or turn in animals to a shelter on an annual basis, which is right where the Steuben County Humane Shelter trends.

Steve Mumby said that he feels the spay and neutering campaign, which has been countywide, is a huge benefit and they will continue that campaign regardless. He stated that the reality of the situation is if a shelter is wanted in Steuben County, it has to be funded at a reasonable level. Mr. Mumby said that the Humane Shelter Board plans on moving forward with the new Shelter, but it may be limited to a reduced size and they will provide a safe haven for those communities who support the Shelter.

Donald Stuckey, stated that the \$45,000.00 is agreed upon, it's the fact that money comes from a fund in which people from Hudson, Orland, Fremont and Ashley all pay into. Steve Mumby stated that during a recent Commissioners' Meeting a motion was made for an additional \$10,000.00. That motion was sent to Council and they did not act upon that. Council approved the \$45,000.00 and removed the requirement that the entire County is served.

Ronald Smith stated that he was criticized within 20 minutes after the meeting where he stepped forward and put the top dollar amount on the table. He said that he was told that he was playing to the public and to the Humane Shelter and was doing that to get re-elected. Commissioners Smith stated that simply was not the case. Ronald Smith also stated that he was approached by someone in Hudson and that person said that they do not have a pet, but their county tax dollars go to support the Humane Shelter and now the Humane Shelter is asking the town for money as well. That same person also went on to say that they would also be charged a service fee to take the animal there and they asked how the Humane Shelter can be allowed to dictate policy. Ronald Smith stated that he raises soy beans and for every bushel of beans he takes in they charge him a fee, called check off. He said for every beef animal that is taken in, they also charge a check off. Commissioner Smith stated that he believes that the people that have the animals should be paying the fees to have animals taken care of, not the people who don't have them. He stated that he is not opposed to the Humane Shelter nor does he want to curtail its activity, but when it came out in the Commissioners Meeting the point was made that the Commissioners are giving dollars that are given from every from County General, CAGIT, LOIT, CEDIT and the personal property taxes. In other words, all of the people in this County are supporting the Humane Shelter when the Commissioners give them County tax dollars. Ronald Smith further stated that the Humane Shelter also charged a man \$300.00 for two animals that did not belong to him, but since those dogs were not his, he wanted to get them off his property because they were bothering his family.

Ronald Smith stated that the money is the Humane Shelter's. They may have it, all they have to do is service all the people who are paying that fee right now. Commissioner Smith told Mr. Mumby not to say that he was changing the game because during their phone conversation, Mr. Mumby tried three (3) times to put words in his mouth. Ronald Smith said that he never said the County would give the Humane Shelter \$150,000.00, he said that if the County gives you money, you should not have the right to go out and ding the other communities for more money. Ronald Smith said the next time he knew, he was being quoted that he wanted the County to give

\$150,000.00 and he never said that. Commissioner Smith said that if that is the amount that the Humane Shelter needs, then Steve Mumby can say it, but do not put words in his mouth.

Ronald Smith stated that it comes down to this, one Commissioner is not here, two Commissioners are sitting here, County Council has approved \$45,000.00, the Commission Board said that the Humane Shelter may have that money, it's been appropriated; however, the Commissioners want all communities included for the rest of 2015. Commissioner Smith stated with six (6) months left to go that's equivalent to \$90,000.00 for 2015. He stated that the Commission Board wishes the Humane Shelter Godspeed, they want the animals taken care of, they want the Shelter Board to have a good and successful organization out there, all the Commission Board asks is to please understand that the Commissioners represent people from every community. Ronald Smith told Mr. Mumby to help the Commission Board today by saying they will accept the money that the County Council and the Commissioners have offered the Humane Shelter and take care of the animal needs of this County for the remainder of 2015.

Steve Mumby asked Ronald Smith what he would say to the City of Angola who has already paid their fees. Ronald Smith stated that he would say, "Thank you." Mr. Mumby said Angola is part of the County. Lynne Liechty stated that the money from the County does not stop the Humane Shelter from getting funds from other government entities. Ronald Smith stated that he and the Mayor of the City of Angola had a nice talk the other day and the Mayor said that they are thinking about giving the Humane Shelter money next year and Commissioner Smith told him to do it.

Steve Mumby stated that when he and Lisa Caudill spoke to Commissioner Smith on the phone he was not putting words into his mouth, nor did he put them in anyone else's mouth and he takes issue with that. Ronald Smith stated that Mr. Mumby may take issue with it because he heard Mr. Mumby say, "Ron you are saying that the County is going to pay the full amount." Mr. Mumby stated that he asked if that meant the County would pay the full \$150,000.00. Ronald Smith stated that he told Mr. Mumby that was not the case and the County would not pay the \$150,000.00.

Lynne Liechty stated that the money is there and requested Mr. Mumby to go back and talk to the Humane Shelter Board. Commissioner Liechty stated that the Humane Shelter can accept today, accept before the next Commissioners' Meeting or they can reject the offer.

Steve Mumby asked what the County plans to do for 2016. Ronald Smith stated that no one knows because the budget cycle is getting ready to begin. Steve Mumby asked if they have to go through the entire process all over again. Ronald Smith stated that every other department goes through the process every year. Steve Mumby stated that they are trying to run a business and Commissioner Smith told Mr. Mumby that everyone else is as well. Ronald Smith stated that budgets are an ongoing thing that is done every year.

Ronald Smith stated that he appreciates what Mr. Mumby does, the Humane Shelter has always provided a good service and they have never heard anything negative until it came down to the business of the board and going out and asking the other communities for funds. Those communities that that gave money, that's fine; however, those that don't have the money, Commissioner Smith does not believe the Humane Shelter has the right to disparage them from service. The money is available for the rest of this year and is negotiable for 2016. Steve Mumby stated that the Humane Shelter Board will take it under consideration.

Ronald Smith asked the audience if there was something that the Commission Board is missing or if there was something new and different that would give the Board some insight. An audience member stated that she's lived in other communities and this is the only place that she's lived that does not require licenses for their animals. She stated that this could be an excellent way of dealing with this issue and getting some revenue for the County Budget. Lynne Liechty stated that when she was on the Shelter Board the Shelter did the licensing and accepted all the fees and for some reason it went to the Township Trustees and was lost. Commissioner Liechty agreed that should be revisited because every dog should be licensed in the area. Steve Mumby stated that was an annual process and the City of Fort Wayne charges a fee of \$5.00 per animal per year and if he goes back to the 21,000 animals in Steuben County, that's over \$100,000.00. Mr. Mumby also stated that you are only allowed to have one unaltered pet and the registration fee for that one unaltered pet is \$100.00. Ronald Smith stated that the Commission Board would appreciate if the Humane Shelter would take care of that. Steve Mumby stated that is something that needs to be done together because law enforcement and veterinarians are involved.

Ronald Smith said that a statement was made that the City of Angola was so gracious and that the Commission Board is, for some reason, viewed as being confrontational. Commissioner Smith stated that the Commission Board is not wanting to be confrontational, they desperately want to see this work, all they are saying is that they have a great deal of constituents to work with and some of them throw some tough questions that the Commissioners cannot answer. The audience member stated that she understands that the Commissioners' hearts are in the right place and they are trying just as hard as the Humane Shelter Board is. She stated that the Humane Shelter just simply does not have the money to stay open any longer without funding.

Ronald Smith stated that for the minutes and for the benefit of those who are in the meeting, at this point in time, if the Humane Shelter Board chooses to service the entire County, the money that has been appropriated by the Council and approved by the Commissioners, is theirs. If that amount of funding will work for the rest of this year and the Humane Shelter says that they are on board with that, realizing that it is going to be negotiated for next year, the Commission Board would greatly appreciate it. Ronald Smith thanked them for their time and for coming to the meeting.

Frank Charlton, Plan Commission, stated that he wants to petition the Commissioners for two (2) new vehicles. Mr. Charlton stated that the Plan Commission currently has four (4) vehicles that have been passed down from the Sheriff's Department. He said that two (2) of them are Ford Explorers, one is a 2002 and the other is a 2003. He stated that they have outlived themselves and they are in need of some major repairs. Mr. Charlton stated that from 2010-2015 they've spent \$8,435.00 keeping the vehicles running. Frank Charlton said that the necessary repairs needed on the 2002 Ford Explorer are shocks, ball joints, hubs, rotors, brakes and tires which will cost approximately \$2,500.00. He said on the 2003 it is pretty much the same thing and the total bill for that vehicle is \$4,600.00. Frank Charlton said that each vehicle has around 180,000-185,000 miles. Smith Enterprises said that the under carriage of the 2002 is completely shot and rusted out. Mr. Charlton stated that they are looking at close to \$8,000.00 for repairs for old vehicles and the average trade-in on the 2003 Ford Explorer is \$1,700.00 with retail being only \$3,100.00.

Frank Charlton stated that he went to all three dealers in town and went to the least expensive four wheel drive vehicles. Mr. Charlton said that he went to Dunham's and for the Jeep Patriot, it would cost close to \$22,000.00 plus any rebates that would apply. A Ford Escape was close to \$27,200.00 and the Chevy Trax was \$24,820.00 plus applicable rebates.

Mr. Charlton stated that he is wanting the vehicles in 2015, if possible. He said he believes it would be a wiser move to get them now because \$8,000.00 is going to be spent on repairs if new vehicles are not bought. Ronald Smith stated that the Commissioners can go to County Council and submit that request to see what their reaction is. Lynne Liechty made a motion to send the request to Council. Ronald Smith seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Elten Powers, Pleasant Lake Lions Club, wanted to publicly thank the Commissioners and Frank Charlton for helping with the Pleasant Lake Clean-up Day that was held in May. Mr. Powers said that with Frank's help they were able to get three (3) dumpsters instead of one (1) and Frank personally helped supervise over the weekend.

Tami Mosier, Purdue Extension, spoke to the Commissioners about Geocaching. Ms. Mosier explained that Geocaching uses a smart phone and GPS coordinates to find the Cache. The person then records that they had been there with a username. Ms. Mosier stated that if it is a large enough Cache, they have a take one leave one, which are little treasures or trinkets. She said that there is a curriculum in 4-H that goes with Geocaching as well. Ms. Mosier stated that there are several in town around the mound and along the roads. She stated that her request today is to place Geocaches on County property at the County Park. Ms. Mosier said that typically a Geocache is any kind of water tight object. If it is a small Geocache, it may be a pill bottle and inside the pill bottle or whatever it may be, there would be a Geocaching log to record the date you were there and your name. Ronald Smith made a motion to allow Tami Mosier to place and upkeep a Geocache at the County Park. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Gary Fair, Community Center Building Manager, informed the Commissioners that he has not been successful getting numbers around for the Commissioners for the 2016 parking lot budget. Mr. Fair stated that as soon as he gets them he will forward them on.

Mr. Fair also submitted a Delta T invoice for the MSD Tower HVAC in the amount of \$539.00. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve that invoice. Ronald Smith seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Gary Fair stated that the new chiller was put on the MSD Tower roof last Thursday and should be up and running by the afternoon. Mr. Fair further stated that the temporary air conditioners will be removed Tuesday.

Mr. Fair asked if Dr. Wilson, MSD, had been approached or a letter written to him regarding the sale of the MSD Tower. Donald Stuckey stated that he has not prepared a letter because the County Commissioners have to adopt a resolution. The school board has to adopt the same resolution as well approving the terms of the transaction. Mr. Stuckey stated that he would be happy to work with the school board attorney on that resolution.

Mr. Fair also asked if a letter was sent to the owner of the Washington Street property. Donald Stuckey stated that no letter was sent because County Council must pass a resolution indicating their desire to purchase the property. The County Commissioners are then required to hire two (2) appraisers to appraise the property. The appraisals have to be returned within 30 days and the County cannot pay more than the average of the two (2) appraisals. Eric Henion, MS4, said that if the County was able to get the Washington Street property to expand the parking even more, the proposed new parking lot would be compatible.

Gary Fair, Eric Henion and Kayleen Hart spoke about the proposed parking lot and the application of the grant for that parking lot. Mr. Henion stated that they would just need permission from Council and the Commissioners to move on with the project. He stated that after this meeting he would get the estimate and bring it back. Ronald Smith told Mr. Henion that he needs to speak with Al Knisely about this project as well.

Gary Fair reported that Luther Mock cut the mortar out from below the stone belt running across the building and the water ran out of the wall, which was not expected. He is now moving to the third floor, east side and will continue with the south side. Mr. Fair stated that he plans on them being here a second day as well.

Donald Stuckey, County Attorney, asked if there was a legal description for the MSD Tower. Ronald Smith stated that it is basically the second and third stories of the new addition on the east side. Commissioner Smith stated that he would guess there is a description, but he wasn't sure. Gary Fair stated that they do have their own address and mail delivery.

Jennifer Sharkey, County Engineer, submitted Frontier utility permits #2734, #2735 and #2736 for approval. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve Frontier utility permits #2734, #2735 and #2736. Ronald Smith seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Ms. Sharkey reported that the Contractor for the 200 N/200 W project has done all he can until the utilities are moved. She stated that there is a utility meeting scheduled tomorrow for the 200 N/SR827 project and some of those utilities will be at that meeting so she's hoping to get an update from them at that time. Ms. Sharkey stated that it will be approximately 4-6 weeks before major construction starts on that project.

Ms. Sharkey submitted two (2) change orders for items that were overlooked on the 200 N/200 W project. One is for a laptop computer for the Construction Inspector in the amount of \$184.84 per month. Ms. Sharkey stated that she checked with Tami Sumney, IT Director, to see if there were any computers available and Ms. Sumney told her that no laptops were available at this time. The second changeover is a pavement removal item of \$2,781.90 and that was for the removal of the concrete approach for the Marathon Station that will be removed and will no longer be an access point. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve those changeovers. Ronald Smith seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Jennifer Sharkey stated that they are having weekly meetings on the Bike Trail and that is helping keep things on track and keeping everyone updated. Ms. Sharkey stated that the retaining walls are being worked on.

She said that the tentative completion date for this phase is October, 2015, depending on how fast the wall work is done. Jennifer Sharkey submitted the reimbursement paperwork for the federal portion of the project for the construction engineering invoice in the amount of \$15,841.90, which 80% will be reimbursable. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve that reimbursement paperwork. Ronald Smith seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Ms. Sharkey submitted a change order on the Bike Trail for a pedestrian crossing at the Menards entrance. She stated that during the pre-construction meeting INDOT brought up that they are requiring pedestrian crossing signals at the Menards entrance. Even though it is not a public road approach, it is still a signalized intersection so a signalized pedestrian crossing must be installed. Jennifer Sharkey stated that the change order is in the amount of \$6,746.80. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve that change order. Ronald Smith seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Jennifer Sharkey reported that the Maple Street Project has been on hold since the meeting at the LureCraft property. Lynne Liechty stated that she talked to David Koenig, but at this time, she does not have an update. Ms. Sharkey stated that in the future, designer will need to figure out where place the entrance. She stated that an amendment to the contract was submitted for an additional \$2,500.00 because of the additional services related to the INDOT driveway permit application and private driveway design for that property. Jennifer Sharkey stated that the supplemental agreement was in the amount of \$8,600.00 and at that time that supplemental was approved; however, the additional request made for the project was \$10,500.00 so there is enough money appropriated for this increase. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the request for the \$2,500.00. Ronald Smith seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Ms. Sharkey stated that she did get correspondence from INDOT regarding the Old 27 lights by the Toll Road/I-69 Interchange. INDOT stated that the lights will be turned off and INDOT will salvage the poles as necessary. They have documented that the County has been unresponsive so they have taken that as the County is not taking ownership of the lights. Ms. Sharkey stated that once those lights are shut off, she will look at the area to see if there is anything that needs to be done such as reflectors, etc.

Bill Schmidt reported that money is still being collected for the Four Corners bridge lighting. Mr. Schmidt stated that they are hoping to have it finished before the snow flies and they have half of the funds that they need.

Jennifer Sharkey reported that they are about 41% complete with bridge maintenance and rehab work and 80% complete in milling and resurfacing of bridge approaches. Ms. Sharkey stated that the list for road striping has been sent to the vendor and as roadwork is completed she will be contacting them so they can get things scheduled.

Ronald Smith informed Ms. Sharkey and Mr. Heller that Kevin Stoy called him last week and Mr. Stoy wanted to compliment the Highway Department on the work on the roads this year. Ronald Smith advised Ms. Sharkey that she may want to send a letter to Mr. Stoy and let him know that they are in receipt of his compliments.

Emmett Heller, Highway Superintendent, updated the Commissioners on projects being accomplished by the Highway Department.

Jennifer Sharkey spoke to Gene German, Town of Orland, and stated that a decision needs to be made whether or not the location of the drive for LureCraft will be determined and have the consultant design that drive. Ms. Sharkey stated that whatever is beyond the County's right of way is the property owner's responsibility. Ms. Sharkey stated that she understands the property owner is not going to be happy about it. Lynne Liechty stated that when she spoke to David Koenig, EDC, he said that almost all of their money is being put into the Enterprise Center. Commissioner Liechty stated that a possible help through Farmer's State Bank, in terms of a low interest loan, may be needed.

Gene German stated that the entrance to LureCraft won't be needed for a year or so and he doesn't want that to hold up the project. If the money has been obtained to put in the road, he believes they should proceed and worry about the driveway later. Lynne Liechty stated that INDOT is going to take the whole front of that property and a fence is going to be installed.

Ronald Smith asked George Pifer why the County was not notified they were putting in new sewers before Cranston's Reef Addition was paved. Mr. Pifer stated that he assumes it will be correctional drilling. Commissioner Smith requested that George Pifer pass the concern on to the Cranston's Reef Board.

The County was notified that the Federal Surplus units that were received have not yet been put to use and they need to be returned. Ronald Smith suggested that Commissioner Crawl load up the units and take them back to the Federal Surplus Office. Kim Koomler, Auditor, stated that Donald Stuckey was asked in 2014 to coordinate with the Federal Surplus Office to arrange the return of the three (3) units. Donald Stuckey said he did that; however, he doesn't remember what happened and he will have to review his notes.

Diggin' & Dozin' submitted an invoice for Airport runway repair in the amount of \$360.00. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the invoice from Diggin' & Dozin'. Ronald Smith seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Vicky Meek, EMS Director, submitted Commissioner Write Offs for June, 2015 in the amount of \$207,620.78 and Commissioner Closeouts for June, 2015 in the amount of \$3,660.00 for approval. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the Write Offs and the Closeouts for June 2015. Ronald Smith seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Ronald Smith discussed the process for the Radio Project decision. Commissioner Smith stated that there are three (3) bids and Gary LeTourneau, Communications Director, needs to come in and submit the issues, repairs and needs. Kim Koomler, Auditor, stated that as far as she is aware, it has not been put out for bid and that's an issue. Lynne Liechty stated that it has and they went through three (3) companies and meetings have been conducted with all three (3) companies. Donald Stuckey asked if specs were prepared and an RFP sent out. Lynne Liechty stated that has all been done. Erin Wray, Commissioners Secretary and Kim Koomler, Auditor, stated that they had nothing to do with it and normally it comes through the Auditor's Office. Lynne Liechty stated that she's following the exact same agenda that was followed in Hamilton County. Donald Stuckey stated that RFP's can be done on personal property but there has to be specs so each company is providing you the same equipment. Lynne Liechty verified that all RFP's have been evaluated. Kim Koomler asked Ronald Smith why it hasn't been documented in a public Commissioners' Meeting. Ronald Smith informed Lynne Liechty that she is going to have to get Gary LeTourneau into a Commissioners' Meeting to get it documented. Donald Stuckey stated that he understands specs were prepared and sent to the only three (3) vendors there are, the RFP's came back with their proposals, the two (2) Commissioners have reviewed the proposals and selected a vendor and the only thing left to do is to accept the one bid. Donald Stuckey stated that if it is personal property the process of advertising for bids can be bypassed; however, the Auditor's Office needs the specs and the grid for their permanent records.

The Commissioners received the following correspondence: State of Indiana re: Indiana Welcomes National Lt. Governors Association Meeting; DHS re: Safe Fireworks Use Prevents Injuries, Property Damage; DHS re: Hoosiers Encouraged to Report Suspicious Activity at Summer Events; IEDC re: IEDC Marketplace News Update; DHS re: Local, State, Federal Partnership Addresses Capacity Concerns at Northeast Indiana Dam; DHS re: State Emergency Operations Center Returns to Normal Operations; DHS re: Flooding Concerns Continue Across the State; NACo re: NACo Washington Watch June 19; Indiana Department of Transportation re: Emergency Relief Reimbursements from FHWA; State of Indiana re: 20 Indiana Small Businesses Receive Economic Entrepreneurship Awards; Mediacom Business re: Mediacom Business June Blog Alert; DHS re: Flooding; Sensera Systems Sales re: Carrie Hunter/Sensera Systems; State of Indiana re: Lt. Governor Ellspermann to attend Indiana EDC and Growth Through Entrepreneurship (EDGE) Awards; API re: New EPA Study Confirms Fracking is Safe; NACo County News re: County News Alerts June 15, 2015; EMC Insurance Companies re: Loss Control News; State of Indiana re: Lt. Governor Ellspermann and Office of Community & Rural Affairs Designate Wolcott as Indiana Shovel Ready Gold Certificate Site; Indiana Department of Transportation re: Federal Funding Policy Update for Crawfordsville District; Apex Benefits re: The Focus by Apex Benefits – June 2015; State of Indiana re: Lt. Governor Ellspermann to Lead Ag Trade Mission to China; IACC re: Outstanding County Commissioner; NACo re: NACo Washington Watch June 12.

STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Ronald L. Smith, President, South District

James A. Crowl, Vice President, Middle District

Lynne A. Liechty, North District

Attest: _____
Kim Koomler, Steuben County Auditor
elw