

MINUTES OF THE CLINTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 21, 2022

9:00 A.M.

The Clinton County Commissioners met for a regular meeting on March 21, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Clinton County Courthouse, 125 Courthouse Square, Frankfort, IN 46041.

Commissioner Jordan Brewer called the meeting to order with the following members shown to be present or absent:

PRESENT

Jordan Brewer
Josh Uitts
Bert Weaver

ABSENT

Others in attendance were Commissioner Assistant Jerri Sexton, Rick Campbell, Rich Kelly, Ashley Kelly, Roush Mathews, Grace Gouveia, Mike Waldron, Liz Stitzel, Britt Ostler, and others shown to be present in the minutes. Commissioner's Assistant Jerri Sexton recorded the minutes.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Brewer led the pledge of allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

IN THE MATTER OF DEPUTY PROSECUTOR POSITION

Tony Sommer stated he still had a vacancy for the full time deputy prosecutor position that was approved by the council last year and was funded at \$66,000. He has not been able to attract candidates at that salary level. The salary in surrounding areas is \$70-80,000/year. He has changed the posting to \$69,000/year. He will also have another deputy prosecutor leaving at the end of March. Tony is asking approval from the commissioners during the hiring freeze to fill the vacancies in his office, and to fill the position of \$66,000/year at an hourly rate. He should be able to fill both the positions by the first of April. The commissioners were in agreement with Tony filling the vacancies.

IN THE MATTER OF THE NEW EMS DIRECTOR

Commissioner Brewer stated that about a month ago Greg Miller informed the commissioners of his decision to retire as EMS Director. The commissioners interviewed three internal candidates and were able to narrow down to two and after a second round of interviews came to a decision that one candidate would best be able to take the EMS in the new direction they wanted to go and continue to build on what has been built over the last 5 years. Commissioner Brewer stated the hiring committee recommends Steven Deckard as the new EMS Director, he would start May 2nd. Commissioner Uitts motioned to hire Steven Deckard as the new EMS Director. Commissioner Weaver seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Steven Deckard thanked the commissioners and stated he has been serving Clinton County EMS since 2018 and looks forward to serving this community.

Commissioner Brewer stated he had many conversations with Steven's colleagues, and they have said Steven is one of if not the top paramedic in the state. He's heard this from conversations in the community, the hospital, people he has interacted with, and his patients. Stevens' experience from the front lines, handling the training, and the vision for Clinton County EMS is what drove the commissioners to select him.

IN THE MATTER OF MEDICAL COST SAVINGS

Ashley Kelly presented the medical savings of the rebilling of inmate medical bills over the last 3 years. Ashley explained when they get a medical bill for an inmate they rebill it down to the federal reimbursement rate plus 4%. In 2019 it saved the county from paying out \$207,465.06, in 2020 it saved \$168,539.93, and in 2021 it saved \$388,789.51. In general the bills come to them to be paid in full, but they do not have to pay medical bills in full for inmates, so they send them back federal medicare reimbursement plus 4%. They do not pay federal inmates, they go to the marshalls. They reorganized so that when they hit their off site cap quarterly, anything beyond that they try to restructure the bills so that the bills coming back to the county are DOC or level 6 inmates so that when they pay those bills they can submit to the state DOC reimbursement.

Commissioner Brewer asked if the expense in the line item 0006 was much higher with the former company. Ashley stated it was, and the issue they were having was they were spending beyond the off site cap and sending billing without any explanation.

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY UPDATE

Rick Campbell reported they started spreading gravel, patching, and putting in pipes. Rick stated he had a waiver of partial mortgage release for Travis Sheets property right of way for the commissioners to sign.

Commissioner Uitts stated that he was receiving a lot of calls about a bad spot on 1000 E between 300 and 400. Rick stated that there is a broken tile there and they are working on fixing the area now.

IN THE MATTER OF AREA PLAN

Liz Stitzel reported that they have not had any other interest for the county mowing. Commissioner Uitts stated he talked to Mr. Keller and he said he couldn't do it for any less than last year, and if someone wanted to do they were welcome to. Commissioner Brewer stated that staying at the current rate was a good deal. Commissioner Weaver motioned to stay with Chris Keller for the county mower. Commissioner Uitts seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

IN THE MATTER OF OLD BUSINESS

Nothing to report under old business.

IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Brewer presented a waiver of conflict of interest for Taft Law. Both Envoy and the county use Taft Law for different engagements and believe there would not be a conflict of interest for Envoy or the county. Commissioner Uitts motioned to waive the conflict of interest with Taft Law. Commissioner Weaver seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Brewer reported that the chiller needs repairs and they received two quotes for the repair. QPH quote is \$13,989.43 and the other is Shambaugh for \$15,900.00. With any repair the amount could go up once they confirm what the issues are. Roush Mathews stated they have been working with QPH and they have been doing a great job. Commissioner Uitts motioned to accept QPH's quote to do the chiller repair with the understanding that the quote could go up depending on what they find the issue to be. Commissioner Weaver seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Shan Sheridan spoke in regards to the Hotel Feasibility study and stated they are in need of better lodging in this county, and have engaged several companies. One of the things they always ask is if we've had a feasibility study done. The cost of the study will be \$12,500 for both the county and the city. This would come out of the hotel tax commission fund.

Commissioner Uitts asked if the county isn't spending any money on this why do the commissioners have to sign it. Shan stated that it could have an impact in the municipalities of both the city and county, and they are asked to be a part of the contract. They felt it would be best for both the county and city to have this report. Commissioner Uitts stated that he feels they have done plenty as a county already in regards to development with little to no result outside of NHK. He stated they already contribute healthily out of landfill tipping fees for Chamber of Commerce, and Partners in Progress. He does not understand why they continually are being asked for more. Shan stated that they were not asking for more, that it was coming out of a completely different line item. Commissioner Uitts stated if it is in a line item in Clinton County Budget then it is Clinton County funds.

Commissioner Weaver motioned to go forward with the feasibility study, Commissioner Uitts voted no. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-1.

Ed Cripe gave an update on the new morgue facility. They came in under budget with \$6,000 left. Ed asked the council to reappropriate those funds to complete the bathroom. The council was in agreement with that, and construction will start by the end of the week. Ed stated that the security system has been put in place.

Marty Grant from Republic Landfill reported that their new facility will be completed in June. The free day will be on Saturday, April 12th. They have been talking to their customers about untarped loads, and they've had crews out picking up trash alongside the roads.

IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Sheriff Kelly reported that with the turnover for corrections officers they have 6 openings that were budgeted and needed to be filled. Commissioners agreed. Sheriff Kelly reported that he's talked with Harley Davidson in Lafayette to work out a deal with them on new motorcycles. The reason for the new motorcycles is for safety and reliability. The older motorcycles will be used for training. The motorcycles will be paid for through

commissary funds. The second round of Tahoes should be here in June. They had a vehicle struck by a deer and should receive a check for around \$13,000. They use social media, hitting websites and open interviews to recruit new correction officers. Commissioner Brewer asked why they have such a high turnover rate. Sheriff Kelly responded that some of it is the environment, and some of it is that it looks good on their resume for career changes.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Weaver reported that he's had a few complaints about the parking lot and the walkway between buildings. He has spoken with the new owners of Nickel Plate, and they were in agreement, and they would talk to tenants about cleaning up after their dogs, and they would also clean the walkway.

Commissioner Brewer stated we are working to upgrade to the First Net Network and have sent out an email to all the department heads about what devices we are currently utilizing or not in use. When we hear back from everyone we can get that scheduled and move forward.

Commissioner Brewer stated he and Commissioner Uitts had been working on the Swif Grant with the State for the aquifer study. They had applied for the grant, but didn't receive the grant, but now it will move forward to do the study with some expansion including some well drilling. The commitment from the county is \$250,000 and the city is \$250,000. The project will be well into the \$5,000,000 range. That commitment has not changed from the first round of grant applications.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS

Commissioner Uitts motioned to approve the following claims as submitted, Commissioner Weaver seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

- Friday claims dated March 11, 2022 in the amount of \$11,850.00
- Friday claims dated March 18, 2022 in the amount of \$10,084.06
- Bi-weekly claims dated March 21, 2022 in the amount of \$703,906.97
- Court claims dated March 21, 2022 in the amount of \$41,392.75

IN THE MATTER OF PAYROLL

Commissioner Uitts motioned to approve the payroll as submitted, Commissioner Weaver seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

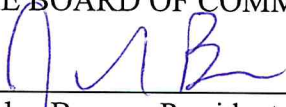
Payroll dated February 25, 2022 in the amount of \$443,223.36

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER MINUTES

Commissioner Uitts motioned to approve regular meeting minutes dated March 7, 2022, seconded by Commissioner Brewer. Commissioner Weaver abstained. Motion carried 2-0.

Without any further business to come before the Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Uitts motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Weaver at 9:52 a.m. Motion carried 3-0.

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CLINTON COUNTY



Jordan Brewer, President



Josh Uitts



Bert Weaver

ATTEST:

Britt Ostler, Auditor

