

MINUTES OF THE CLINTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

October 5, 2021

9:00 A.M.

The Clinton County Commissioners met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Clinton County Courthouse, 125 Courthouse Square, Frankfort, IN 46041.

Commissioner Josh Uits called the meeting to order with the following members shown to be present or absent:

PRESENT

Josh Uitts

Jordan Brewer

Mark Timmons

ABSENT

Others in attendance were Commissioner Assistant Jerri Sexton, Rick Campbell, Renee Crick, Beth Keeney, Rich Kelly, Brett Barton, Rodney Wann, Liz Stitzel, Ken Hartman, 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 Uitts led the pledge of allegiance.

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Huffer asked for the status of the Fickle property case. Liz Stitzel stated that he was due in court again Wednesday this week because he did not appear for his last court date.

IN THE MATTER OF SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION ON ANTIOCH ROAD

Eric Lanum stated they would like to propose a speed reduction on a portion of Antioch Road. The current speed limit is 55mph. Commissioner Uitts stated they would first need to have a speed study done. They should have the speed study back by the first meeting in November and could take action at that time.

IN THE MATTER OF SUGGESTED USE OF ARP FUNDS

Renee Crick stated that they would like the Commissioners support in using a portion of the American Rescue Plan Funds to give a bonus to all the first responders during the pandemic.

Laura Wellman put together information regarding similar counties with the same ARP award and presented it to the Commissioners. She has already shared the information with the Council for consideration.

Keonna Stidham also asked for the Commissioners support for the bonus.

Commissioner Uitts stated that there is a provision in the ARP that allows local governments to offer premium pay up to \$25,000 per employee from April 2020 to April 2021. The Council is considering this and has put a group together to look at how to do this appropriately.. The Council is also working with the Commissioners on who should qualify for the bonus. He will probably suggest a tiered system, ranging from front line workers to people who were allowed to work from home. He would also like to address longevity pay. A person working 14 years shouldn't make the same amount as someone who works 14 days. He would like to propose for every 5 years of service you would get an extra \$500 a year of pay. Commissioner Uitts stated that because of the rules applied to the ARP Funds, before they spend any money they will have to go back and amend their exhibit A, which is part of their original plan. He fully supports this but there is work to do on their end to figure out how best to do it.

Commissioner Brewer stated that he is in favor of creating a plan that is long term to reward those that have remained with the county. They are trying to invest not only in our employees but in our facilities as well.

Commissioner Timmons agreed with the other Commissioners and they are looking at it and trying to figure out the best for everybody.

Renee Crick stated that as of last year according to state law, dispatch is now considered first responders.

IN THE MATTER OF HOMELESS SHELTER

Tristan Comegys reported that the Home for the Night Homeless shelter will be opening on November 1st. They have hired a full time director, and named a fiscal agent, which is Center Township Trustees office and have named several partners as well. They are in the process of budgeting for 2022 and have secured funding

from IU Health, Center Twp., United Way, Healthy Communities, and Bauer Family Resources. They would like to ask the Commissioners for help in funding their two PT Shelter Staff. They see their budget for 2022 at \$200,100 and have a deficit of about \$44,000, and would like to have the support of the Commissioners for this amount. Funding requests would be yearly and not just a one time thing.

Commissioner Uitts stated that he supports this and will take it to council.

Commissioner Timmons asked if any funding is coming from the City. Tristan stated that they have not formally asked the City for funding, but will be approaching the City for funding in the future.

IN THE MATTER OF RENAMING A BRIDGE TO HONOR LEROY GOOD

Nancy Hart proposed naming a bridge in honor of a highly decorated WWII Veteran LeRoy Good. The bridge is on Gasline Road. Tom Little will look into how to proceed.

IN THE MATTER OF LEARNING NETWORK ANNUAL REPORT

Melinda Grismer presented to the commissioners a copy of the Learning Network's annual report. She reported this year they have had 285 kids. They have 15 new medical interpreters. They've received a CDC foundation grant and have been working with minorities to help with the vaccine hesitancy. They have vaccinated 150 people that would not have been vaccinated otherwise. They hope to hit their goal of 500 by the end of the year. They also have a new program called Citizenship that helps people pass their driving test.

IN THE MATTER OF ELECTRONIC RECORDING SERVICE PROVIDER REQUEST

Beth Keeney requested the commissioners to sign the Electronic Recording Service Provider Form. The Commissioners signed the document.

IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY UPDATE

Rick Campbell reported that he had an LPA Consultants Contract for Bridge #55 on 250 W that needed to be signed by all three commissioners. For Bridge #36 they needed to buy additional ROW and needed Commissioner Uitts signature. Commissioners signed documents. They have completed their salt barn. They are still cutting brush and hauling stone.

IN THE MATTER OF AREA PLAN

Liz Stitzel reported that Corbin Orr, one of the Commissioners Appointments on Area Plan Commission will be resigning from the board in May 2022.

IN THE MATTER OF OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Timmons motioned to take Resolution 2021-13 off the table, Commissioner Brewer seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Tracy Baber stated that 3 ½ years ago she approached the Board of Commissioners to buy the land the skating rink sits on. She has found an investor to buy the skating rink and make improvements and they will have Great Skates of Lafayette run the operations.

Scott Lehr, manager of Great Skates would be the operating partner. They would like to update the rink and make it into a family fun center, possibly creating an outdoor mini golf course. The intent is to invest into the facility, update it and make it a fun place for families in this county.

Commissioner Brewer stated his main concern is with their most recent experience with outside investors. Overall he is for this because we need the investment in our community.

Commissioner Brewer motioned to approve Resolution 2021-13 waiving the right of first refusal. Commissioner Timmons seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Brewer motioned to Approve Atlas Excavating Pay App #13, Commissioner Timmons seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Brewer motioned to bring contract for Bridge #21 off the table, Commissioner Timmons seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Brewer stated he believes they had intentions to go a different direction, but doesn't want to lose the Community Crossing Grant and would like to move forward. He motioned to approve Bridge #21, Commissioner Timmons seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Timmons motioned to Approve Interlocal Agreement with Boone County for Bridge #4, Commissioner Brewer seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Uitts stated that they have a proposed Interlocal Agreement, proposed Commissary Service Contract, and proposed Compensation Agreement for the Sheriff to look over in the next couple of days. Commissioner Uitts asked if the Sheriff has continued to pay the Commissary Contractor after the Commissioners passed Ordinance 2021-09 prohibiting money paid to salaried employees from sales of Commissary without a contract. Sheriff Kelly stated that he would have to check but they would need to find a way to pay the contractor.

Sheriff Kelly reported that the vehicles are arriving in Fort Wayne, and he is hoping by the end of the week they will have six here. They have a couple of needs for transport vehicles that can be taken out of the misdemeanor fund.

Commissioner Uitts stated that last year the Commissioners and Council agreed to hold their political appointees to a certain standard of conduct and they have signed code of conduct. He asked that the Sheriff consider having the Merit Board sign a code of conduct agreement because they have made some public comments on social media that were unprofessional and uncalled for. The Sheriff will look into the situation.

IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Brett Barton reported that they picked up their K9 and officer Hillman is in training. Because the officer lives in city limits, he is required to have a 6 foot fence around his property. Community Corrections is going to pay for the fence, and has received bids. He would like to enter into an agreement with officer Hillman that if he can't fulfill his duties within a five year period, he will have to reimburse the cost of the fence.

Renee Crick reported they are still waiting on At&t for connectivity with their location and the state.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Brewer reported that they had a RDC meeting in September and they funded a comprehensive drainage study at SR 28/I65 to look at all the corridors.

American Structurepoint has started on the Fairgrounds Grandstand project in terms of putting together the bid package. They will work in two phases, work through November, then come back in the Spring.

Commissioner Timmons reported that RQAW wants to do a 15 year feasibility study on the Courthouse and Jail.

Commissioner Uitts reported that earlier in the year the City of Frankfort and Clinton County partnered with Wessler to study an underground water supply and applied for a grant. They did not receive the grant, but will reapply next year.

Ben Pfeffer resigned from the Alcoholic Beverage Board.

Commissioners stated they will extend the COVID policy until the end of the year.

Commissioner Uitts reported they've received the Certificate of Substantial Completion for I-65/SR 28 project.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS

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

Friday claims dated September 17, 2021 in the amount of \$103,743.38
Friday claims dated September 24, 2021 in the amount of \$35,544.04
Bi-weekly claims dated October 5, 2021 in the amount of \$ 479,137.63
Bi-weekly claims dated October 5, 2021 in the amount of \$1,151,244.57
Court claims dated October 5, 2021 in the amount of \$31,419.62

IN THE MATTER OF PAYROLL

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

Payroll dated August 27, 2021 in the amount of \$412,137.78
Payroll dated August 27, 2021 in the amount of \$511.10
Payroll dated August 27, 2021 in the amount of \$1,024.56

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER MINUTES

Commissioner Timmons motioned to approve regular meeting minutes dated September 8, 2021, seconded by Commissioner Brewer Motion carried 3-0.

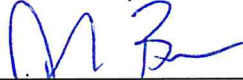
Commissioner Timmons motioned to approve Joint Executive Session minutes dated August 10,2021 and September 24,2021, seconded by Commissioner Brewer. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Timmons motioned to approve Special meeting minutes dated September 15, 2021, seconded by Commissioner Brewer. Motion carried 2-0.

Without any further business to come before the Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Brewer motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Timmons at 10:19 A.M. Motion carried 3-0.

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CLINTON COUNTY

Josh Uitts, President

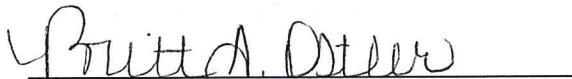


Jordan Brewer



Mark Timmons

ATTEST:



Britt Ostler, Auditor