

WARREN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

MONDAY APRIL 1, 2019

The Warren County Commissioners were sworn in by Michelle Hetrick, Clerk, for their first meeting during the month of April 1, 2019. Present for the meeting were Clay Andrews, Brian Jordan and Jud Barce, County Attorney. Also, in attendance were Jenny Hobough, Matt Herndon, Perry Conrad, Lyn Martin, Walt Wilson, Carolyn Orr, Robbins, Gary Wolf, Neal Austin, Randy Haddock, Lori Heidenreich, Rusty Hart, John Kuiper, Charity Shettle, Danny Little, Matt Straw.

1. The meeting was called to order by Brian Jordan, President of the Commissioners.
2. Brian Jordan led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. New Business:
  - a. Approval of Meeting Agenda – Brian Jordan made a motion to approve the agenda with a second from Clay Andrews, all voted in favor.
  - b. Brian Jordan explained that the minutes and claim dockets would be signed after the meeting to save time. Brian Jordan made a motion to approve the March 18, 2019 Executive Session and March 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes with a second from Clay Andrews, all voted in favor.
  - c. Brian Jordan made a motion to approve the March 4, 2019 through March 18, 2019 Accounts Payable Claim Dockets with a second from Clay Andrews, all voted in favor.
  - d. Brian Jordan made a motion to approve the March 29, 2019 Payroll Dockets with a second from Clay Andrews, all voted in favor and the payroll dockets were signed.
  - e. Highway Department – Matt Herndon, Highway Department Superintendent, presented quotes from Peterbilt for the trucks that are to be retired. The trade in value for the 2008 International tandem is \$5,000, outright sale \$7,000-\$8,500 and the trade in value for the 2000 Sterling tandem is \$4,000, outright sale \$6,500-\$8,000. Herndon explained that the Sterling is being used currently and the International needs repairs. The additional item in surplus is a 2007 ambulance. Barce explained that the property will need to be declared surplus property and the bid will be determined by 2 employee's opinions and the higher of the 2 values will be taken. We can negotiate with another government entities. Barce further explained that selling to an individual would be by sealed bid. Barce stated he can have in the paper next week if the Commissioners approve. Jordan stated that he will contact Mellott Fire Department as they had called a year ago inquiring about the ambulance. Phil Astell, EMA Director, stated that he has a 10K generator that he would like to sell as well. Having a public auction was discussed. Jordan will look into the amount of surplus. Rusty Hart, Sheriff, also has items that can be sold. Barce questioned live auction or bids. Barce will get information on concerning an advertisement to the Commissioners. Weston-Hubner will get the information to other office holders requesting lists of items to have in an auction. Barce stated that there are options such as offering by sealed bid twice and if does not sell then can be auctioned, but then there would be multiple advertisements which is costly. Herndon stated that the Highway Department is grading as weather permits and there have been many calls concerning the road conditions as well as trees down. Herndon explained that 900W to the Benton Dairy was temporarily closed due to truck damage and should be open this week. Herndon has asked the dairy to use the north route from now on. Herndon stated that one new employee starts today as well as one employee has quit and the position will be advertised this week. Barce inquired about the frost law information that he had sent from other counties. Herndon stated that he would prefer every road with a set weight but that policing would be difficult. As this is a home rule, there are no State Codes concerning the frost law. Benton County and Fountain County frost law ordinances were discussed concerning farmer exemption to the ordinances. Jordan will setup a working meeting with Commissioners and Herndon to get a good idea for the new ordinance. Andrews inquired about Benton County ordinance to compare. Barce will have it for the next meeting.
  - f. Carolyn Orr, Steuben Township Trustee and Matt Straw, Straw Ridge Wireless, explained the WHIN fund share program compared to the Indiana Governor and OKRA Broadband initiative grant. Orr explained that the initiative for broadband is in 2 phases which are for unserved then under served areas. One of the issues is that the initiative study shows only a few areas of unserved in the County and the FCC report shows more unserved. The County participated in a broadband study in 2017. The major issues in County are trees and topography which creates issues with receiving internet signal. The purpose of the \$100 million initiative grant is to deploy infrastructure and service. The applicants must be an established broadband entity and a community. The grant deadline has been moved to May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Orr inquired about the County partnering for the grant match. The grant is an 80/20 match and a broadband provider must be the led. WHIN is looking the problem in the County, which has already been done prior. Orr explained that this is a grant to put up towers. The goal for this grant is to get the broadband deployed to the last house. Straw explained that the County is the 8<sup>th</sup> worst in the State concerning internet provided to residents with 69% having no internet providers. Orr suggests a concept of large towers in suitable areas with possible cost share where a tower would provide internet to multiple homes. The County would pay for the hardware and the resident would pay for installation. Straw further stated that a tower on Gobblers Knob was approximately \$2,200 for equipment and installation was \$1,800 or \$1,900 with the resident receiving free internet. The concept is to bring internet to the community. The community needs internet to bring people back to the County. The grant requires a broadband provider to apply. There are only approximately 5 internet providers in the county. The County's involvement would be to provide a few towers. Orr will inquire with other providers to possibly make a cooperative which will be stronger. Jordan explained that in the past we met with Economic Development and discussed a tower at Seeger accessing the fiber from the Hospital. Possibly starting with the tower and fiber then possibly a partnership eventually. Straw explained using a wireless point to point link to bring internet to town areas and then use fiber to all homes and businesses in the town would be economical. The price has decreased on this which is approx. \$10,000 a mile in town. Fiber comes in to an optical switch then to each house. This would be good for West Lebanon, Pine Village, etc. Straw will write up a cost analysis with a possible test area. Orr is asking for ideas and a letter from the Commissioners in 3 weeks to help with the grant. Greg Robinson inquired about the fiber in State Line. Straw stated that the fiber is provided by AT&T. Access to the fiber originally was \$50,000 one time fee and \$5,000/month through AT&T. Charity Shettle, stated that the internet is terrible in her area and would support this. Orr will put a concept of the grant together and get it to the Commissioners.

4. Elected Official/Department Head comments:

- a. Randy Haddock, Surveyor, inquired about a Drainage Board meeting to replace Tom Hetrick, Drainage Board President, who retired. After discussion, it was decided to have a Drainage Board meeting following the Commissioner Meeting April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Rusty Hart, Sheriff, discussed the ordinance for courthouse security that had been presented at previous meetings. Hart stated that the enforcement of confiscating firearms in the Courthouse needs to be defined. Jordan explained the ordinance to the public as to what the security restrictions can be within the courthouse such as firearm carry permits or only law enforcement is allowed to carry firearms. The ordinance was tabled until the next meeting.
- c. Phil Astell, EMA Director, explained that the backup generator for the tower located close to the St. Vincent North Clinic has been installed and is operational. The Courthouse AED has been received is going to be installed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Astell explained that the reverse 911, that had been previously discussed, has been narrowed down to a company called Code Red. There will be a meeting with Fountain County, Warren County and a representative from Code Red on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 in the Fountain County EMA office. Astell requested dispatch, sheriff's department and commissioners to attend. Jordan explained the reverse 911 program to the public. This will help with communication to residents as there have been issues such as road closures, snow emergency, etc. that the public has needed information for their safety and this would be something that we can use to facilitate that communication. Astell explained that Benton County Indiana and Vermilion Co Illinois use Code Red currently.

5. Old Business:

6. Public Comment:

- a. Danny Little, Tab resident, inquired about the Senesac hog farm 5-6 foot tree shelter belt that had been discussed in the previous meeting. Little stated that the shelter belt was discussed in the board meeting as well as the use of 700W. Little inquired about tree burning on the roadsides if there is an ordinance for this. Additionally, Little inquired about the mobile Recycling station schedule that had been previously discussed at an earlier meeting. Little offered his assistance with the scheduling. Barce explained the conditional use permit was approved in the spring of 2017 which required a 3 row shelter belt on the north and east sides of the Senesac facilities. As the Senesacs could not plant until the dirt work was completed, they planted the trees in November 2018. As per Barce, Rick Senesac stated that he is replanting the trees that died and is planting an austree tree that will grow several feet a year until it reaches 6 feet and additionally is planting pine trees to supplement. Senesacs initially planted trees that will grow quickly. John Kuiper, Zoning Director, will discuss this with Senesac. Little stated that at the zoning meetings Barce represented Senesac and Little feels that Barce is not the best to negotiate this. Also, this should be a belt of 5-6 feet trees that can be seen immediately not years later as discussed in the meeting. Little stated that he has a recording of the meeting. Barce stated that the BZA Board and the BZA attorney would need to address this not the commissioners.

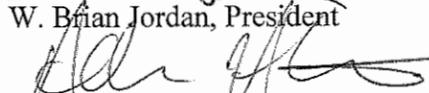
Next Commissioner will be held April 15, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.

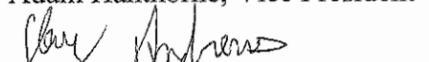
There being no further business Clay Andrews made a motion to adjourn with a second from Brian Jordan, all voted in favor.

ATTEST:

  
Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor

  
W. Brian Jordan, President

  
Adam Hanthorne, Vice President

  
Clay Andrews