

WARREN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MONDAY MAY 20, 2019

The Warren County Commissioners were sworn in for their second meeting for the month of May 2019. Present for the meeting were Clay Andrews, Brian Jordan, Adam Hanthorne and Jud Barce, County Attorney. Also, in attendance were Zachary Griffin, David Gil, Charity Shettle, Neil Austin, John Kuiper, Randy Haddock, Greg Robison, Phil Astell, Perry Conrad.

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 requested to remove line F, LEDO and WHIN, from the agenda. Adam Hanthorne made a motion to approve the agenda with a second from Clay Andrews, all voted in favor.
 - b. Adam Hanthorne made a motion to approve the May 6, 2019 Meeting Minutes with a second from Clay Andrews, all voted in favor.
 - c. Adam Hanthorne made a motion to approve the May 6, 2019 through May 20, 2019 Accounts Payable Claim Dockets with a second from Clay Andrews, all voted in favor.
 - d. Adam Hanthorne made a motion to approve the May 10, 2019 Payroll Dockets with a second from Clay Andrews, all voted in favor.
 - e. Highway Department – Matt Herndon, Highway Department Superintendent, stated Milestone is preparing to begin the 2019 Community Crossing Grant paving projects after the repair of a culvert. Herndon will have the estimates for street paving in Hedrick for the Community Crossing 2020 Grant in the next week. Jenny Hobough, Highway Department Office Manager, would like to have the application ready by July 1st to get the CCG 2020 in immediately. The commissioners will meet with the highway department for a working meeting in the next week to make the CCG 2020 decisions. Brian Jordan suggested the first week in June. Herndon stated the new trucks should be delivered in October or November and 2 trucks are currently down for repairs. Ditch work on 1100S and 750S has helped with road drainage. The new ditching machine will be delivered in June. Clay Andrews inquired about roads going to Summers Campground. Herndon stated that usually they are worked on each week but the weather has made this very difficult. Jordan stated that Boulevard Road looked good after the road work. Herndon informed the Commissioners of a road damaged by a crane and the company has been billed for the damage. Stone usage has increased this year and the budget is being watched closely. Herndon stated he got approval for a bridge closed sign on Washington Street and it will be posted in the near future. Andrews inquired about the sign in Tab. Herndon will look into having it placed this week. The hog trucks have been using different roads and Herndon has discussed with the hog farm owners to have this stopped. Herndon stated that the trucks turning at 900 and SR 26 are running off the edge of the culvert. Herndon will look into the culvert. Charity Shettle, resident, stated that the culvert at 41 and 550 also needs looked at. Herndon will look into this as well. Hobough stated the State right of way at both culverts will need to be looked into as well. Andrews stated the Hedrick black top to Division Rd had some of the road torn up by a farmer coming out of the field. Herndon will look into this.
 - f. Zach Griffin, Independence resident, stated he is requesting a petition to vacate an alley in Independence. Jordan explained that the other landowners will need to be notified. Barce will place the information in the newspaper and draw up the ordinance to vacate. Kuiper will contact Barce with the right of way of streets and alleys. Jordan requested a map to be sent to Griffin and Barce. Barce suggested having the ordinance on the agenda for the July 1st meeting. Barce will inform Griffin of the publication and recording cost. Griffin explained the parcel cleanup has been in progress and the house will be removed in the next year.
 - g. SRI Tax Sale Addendum – Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor, explained the addendum is for an increase in tax sale fees which are paid by the delinquent tax payer. The next tax sale will be October 11, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. Clay Andrews made a motion to approve the addendum with a second from Adam Hanthorne, all voted in favor.
 - h. Resolution to Accept Donation of Real Estate – The resolution to donate the law office of Nancy J Litzenberger was read by Jordan. Barce explained the donation/resolution. The property taxes were discussed that are payable in 2019. Barce will inquire about the property taxes with the DLGF, Department of Local Government and Finance, and forward the agreement to Litzenberger and John Rader, Attorney. Adam Hanthorne made a motion to approve Resolution #2019-0520 with a second from Clay Andrews, all voted in favor.
 - i. Barce inquired about the hearing date of July 1st for the WEC changes. Due to the meeting for the WEC, vacating of the alley requested by Griffin will on the July 15th agenda.
 - j. Credit Card Policy - Jordan explained the policy for the use of a county credit card and the difficulty with conducting County business without a credit card as there are businesses that do not allow the use of checks. Weston-Hubner explained that using a personal credit card will not allow the sales tax to be exempted. Jordan suggested having 3 cards for Sheriff, Highway Superintendent and Auditor. Jordan suggested a limit of \$1000 per card and \$3000 total aggregate limit. Clay Andrews made a motion to approve the credit card policy with a second from Adam Hanthorne, all voted in favor.
4. Elected Official/Department Head comments:
 - a. John Kuiper, Zoning Director discussed the County Zoning Fees as they are currently based on square feet. The fee is \$0.05 per square foot with a minimum of \$50.00. Kuiper stated issues with detached yard barn permits that are built off premises and hauled in. Kuiper inquired about changing the fee to a set amount rather than by square feet for the building permit. People are generally not aware of a building permit for the yard barn type of building. Car ports are not on the tax rolls but if enclosed and in the ground, a building permit is required and put on tax rolls. The fee for a yard shed was \$50.00. Neal Austin stated that in Tippecanoe County 10 x 10 or smaller and not affixed to concrete is not on tax rolls. Kuiper will look at other County fee schedules. Kuiper will email the fee schedule to the Commissioners for review.
 - b. Phil Astell – Code Red is in process of being setup. The Pine Village generator was discussed. Barce presented a memo for review. The Commissioners discussed the terms. Jordan suggested the Pine Village Fire Department pay insurance, townships pay the maintenance fees and EMA pay anything over \$500.00. Discussion concerning

the towns and townships funding of fire departments through property taxes. Barce will work up a new memorandum to present.

- c. Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor, informed the Commissioners that settlement will be finalized this week. The Treasurer is working on delinquent taxes. Total taxes collected are \$5,741,742.89 of this property tax relief is \$299,072.13 and excise is \$387,280.07. Total of 6,184,874.24 to disburse to the taxing units. The Auditor has begun work on 2020 Budgets.
- d. Clay Andrews stated that a resident inquired about vacating a street in Marshfield. The taxpayer is in the process of purchasing the parcel and will proceed with the street vacating in the future.

5. Old Business:

6. Public Comment:

- a. Charity Shettle, County Resident, inquired about the policy compared to ordinance for County credit cards. Jordan explained the policy is for the employee manual. Barce further explained that an ordinance or resolution affects all of Warren County and the policy is an internal document for departments. Shettle further inquired about the notices for ordinances that are being placed in the newspaper by Barce not the Auditor. Barce further explained the Secretary to the Commissioners is responsible, but others can post in the newspaper for the Secretary.
- b. NextEra, David Gil Executive Director, presented an update on the Wind Farm. Gil stated that nearly 200 property owners are signed up in Warren and Benton. NIPCO signed a purchase agreement signed earlier this year for the electric. Permits have been obtained and construction is planned to potentially begin in November of this year. Gil explained Westwood Engineering is in the process of surveying to confirm property lines and boundaries. In a couple weeks, they will begin micro sighting to determine the final locations. After this the engineering and designing work, determining the haul routes, purchasing the turbines, Geotech analysis, etc. will begin. The project is expected to take 9 months to construct. Gil stated that people of Warren County can contact Gil or Armstrong with any questions or concerns. Gil presented contact information for both. Jordan inquired about the timeline on the micro sighting so that the Commissioners can finalize the road use agreement. Gil explained that micro sighting will begin in the next few weeks to set locations and final array by the end of June. Gil stated that they will have a proposed haul route in the near future. Micro sighting has been pushed back a few weeks from original plan. Perry Conrad inquired about the final locations. Gil explained they will have a map soon.
- c. Barce discussed the date for the Jordan Creek Wind Farm meeting to discuss the Economic Development Agreement. Barce inquired about advertisement for the WECs hearing for July 1st meeting at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners discussed the Commissioners Meeting that is currently scheduled for July 1st at 8:30 a.m. The APC meeting will be June 3rd at 5:00 p.m. Perry Conrad voiced concerns with having a quorum for the June 3rd APC meeting. Adam Hanthorne made a motion to move the Commissioner Meeting to July 1st to 6:00 p.m. in the Warren County Courtroom with a second by Clay Andrews, all voted in favor.
- d. Barce inquired about a street in Foster that had been discussed in a previous meeting. Jordan stated that the individual was arrested.
- e. Trash Ordinance – Barce presented ordinances from other towns and counties. Barce explained the State Code concerning burning to the Commissioners. Benton County and Fountain County trash ordinances were discussed. Fountain county can charge a fee of \$50.00 not more than \$500.00 for each offense. Hanthorne inquired about the fire departments charging a fee per run. The Commissioners will look at the ordinances for a future meeting.
- f. Barce explained that the Rasmussen Road case remains open with no activity. Barce can file a motion to dismiss. Barce will prepare the motion for review by the Commissioners.

Next Commissioner will be held June 3, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.

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

ATTEST: 
Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor


W. Brian Jordan, President


Adam Hanthorne, Vice President


Clay Andrews