

**MIAMI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
25 NORTH BROADWAY  
PERU, INDIANA 46970  
September 17, 2007**

Commissioner Hawley called the meeting to order.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COALITION**

Jeff Price asked the Board's permission to hold the yearly vigil at the Court House on October 2, 2007. The Coalition holds a candle light service at 6:00 pm each year in the Court House rotunda. Mr. Price also asked about placing the crosses on the Court House lawn in remembrance of those who lost their lives to domestic violence. A motion was made by Commissioner Deeds to allow the use of the Court House and the Court House lawn. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Boyer and passed 3-0.

**SCHOOL FUNDS ISSUES**

Deb Jones, Superintendent of Maconaquah School System, spoke to the Board concerning the lack of funding due to the late tax collections. The Board was informed that Maconaquah had to cash in a million dollar CD to cover expenses. They may need to borrow money prior to receiving their distribution from tax collections this year. Ms. Jones wanted the Board to appreciate the effect a late collection has to schools which are a not for profit organization. She also wants to hold accountable those who are holding up the collections. Ms. Jones also said the State has reduced their funding over the past couple of years which has caused a shortfall. Commissioner Hawley explained some of the hold up and the Auditor also explained how the State controls all that the Counties do.

Peru High School Superintendent, Andrew Melin, also spoke to the Board and said they are in the same shape as the other school systems. The Auditor explained all that has been done in an effort to expedite the approval of tax rates for the County. She also thanked North Miami for their part in the push at the State level. The schools will be notified as soon as the Auditor can estimate their advances of tax revenues.

**EMS/LAP TOPS**

Jay Brainard and Pat Unger told the Board that they are interested in more lap tops if the Homeland Security Grant sends the expected 17 to the County. They are EMS and have completed the 1<sup>st</sup> responders NIMS requirements. They would like to supply laptops to 4 ambulances at Dukes and 5 trucks. One ambulance in Converse and one at Amboy would also be given a laptop for their use. The information they would like to see on the laptops is GIS mapping and the Hazmat response data. The question is who is responsible for the repair and maintenance of the laptops once they are distributed. No one has that answer at this time. Commissioner Deeds made a motion to take the request under advisement. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Boyer and passed 3-0.

**PROBATION REQUEST**

Susan Rice and IT Director, John Powell, presented to the Board a request for a "time clock" for the Probation Department. This is to comply with a judge's request of the department. The options were discussed and the thumb identification type was what all agreed would be the best. The cost is \$5,000 for 20 users. In order for the County to use it the cost would be \$8,000. At this time the Board would like Ms. Rice to go ahead with it and if the County decides to implement it after a trial run by the Probation Department the initial cost to Ms. Rice would be reimbursed. John Powell said a 30 day trial could be done to try it out. The Board gave them the go ahead to implement it for Probation.

**9-1-1 REQUEST**

Jim Comerford told the Board he needs a new recorder for 9-1-1. At this time he has no back up and it is critical to order quickly. If he orders's before January he can encumber the money from this year's budget and receive the recorder prior to the end of the year. Commissioners Hawley and Deeds agree to allow him to order the recorder. Commissioner Boyer was absent for this vote.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Commissioner Deeds to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Hawley and passed 2-0. Commissioner Boyer was absent for this vote.

**CCI CLAIM**

A motion was made by Commissioner Deeds to pay the claim for CCI. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Boyer. The motion passed 3-0. It is noted that this is paid out of the new COIT fund established for the jail project.

**PAYROLL**

A motion was made by Commissioner Boyer to approve the payroll. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Deeds and passed 3-0.

**AMCO ELEVATOR**

The Board received a proposal to replace sensors in the elevator at the Court House. No action taken.

**PAY TRUST SOLUTIONS CONTRACT**

The Board received an updated contract for the Clerk of the Courts to allow the payment of fines through credit cards. This is a renewal of a current contract. The Board will ask the County Attorney to review this before they sign it.

**COURT HOUSE ROOF**

Commissioner Hawley told the Board that he had an opportunity to look at the northwest corner of the Court House roof with Wabash Valley Restoration. They will give an estimate for the worst of the worst and do the rest later. There are issues with the mortar along all sides of the roofline. Commissioner Hawley will also call NuTeck to look at another area of the roof that has an issue.

**DOG ORDINANCE**

The Board discussed the newly adopted Dog Ordinance and the lack of action being taken to implement the Ordinance. They will review the Ordinance to see what action they can take to move this forward.

**JAIL PETITIONS**

Commissioner Hawley gave 3 petitions to the Auditor to review and approve for the jail project. There are more petitions to review before they are presented to the Ice Miller Law Firm.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY ISSUES AND QUESTIONS**

David Grund told the Board that he has not gotten the issue of the tax collections resolved. The Board asked if they could mandate the tax bills be sent out at the 2006 tax rate. Mr. Grund said it is so late in this year and it appears as though the situation has resolved itself with the receiving of tax rates from the State last week. Commissioner Deeds said he was told Marshall County tried to have their bills collected on a provisional bill at the 2006 tax rate and the DLGF (Department of Local Government Finance) would not allow it. No further action was taken on this issue at this time.

**CEMETERY ISSUE**

David Grund said that he researched cemeteries according to State Statute. Any cemetery in a city or town is the responsibility of that city or town. Any cemetery in a township is the responsibility of the township trustee. He can find nothing that makes any cemetery the responsibility of the County Board of Commissioners.

**DOG ORDINANCE**

Mr. Grund said there is nothing the Board of Commissioners has to do at this point with this Ordinance.

**PAY TRUST SOLUTIONS**

Mr. Grund was given the contract to review.

**MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING/NICKEL PLATE TRAIL**

Ken Einselen brought a document to the Board for signing.

Commissioner Hawley said he received a call from Mike Keupper concerning stone along the trail. The County has put one truck load of stone in the area requested, but Mr. Keupper said they need two more loads. A motion to approve the Memo of Understanding was made by Commissioner Boyer and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Deeds. The motion was passed 3-0. The issue of the additional stone will be discussed with the Highway Supervisor.

**UPDATE ON 675 AND 550 EAST**

Mr. Einselen gave an update to the Board and said seeding is completed but the mail box approaches are not complete.

Mr. Einselen told the Board he has been invited to a meeting of the Rails to Trails at a cost of \$35. The Board said it is important that our concerns be voiced at that meeting and approved his going.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boyer to send Ken Einselen to the meeting. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Deeds and passed 3-0.

**HIGHWAY ISSUES**

The Board and Sam Waltz discussed the additional stone issue for Rails to Trails. Commissioner Boyer suggests that Mr. Waltz look at it and Commissioner Deeds added that if the base is not adequate we are obligated to the two loads.

**IVY TECH PARKING LOT**

Mr. Waltz told the Board that they have enough spaces for 20 plus cars to park. It is noted that the basement area was pushed in and when it settles there could be issues.

Mr. Waltz also informed the Board that the new bookkeeper at the Highway Department did some research and got back over \$7,400 for 2004, 2005, and 2006 gas tax from the State. He added that she has been an asset to the Department.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Deeds. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Boyer and passed 3-0.

Adjourned

**THE MIAMI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

\_\_\_\_\_, CHAIRMAN

GARY D. HAWLEY

\_\_\_\_\_, VICE CHAIRMAN

GREGORY DEEDS

\_\_\_\_\_, MEMBER

C. CRAIG BOYER

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_, Auditor

Brenda Weaver