

MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
25 N BROADWAY
PERU, IN 46970
AUGUST 3, 2020

Commissioner Hunt called regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order. All Commissioners were present.

MINUTES

Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve the 7/20/20 minutes. Commissioner West 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

CLAIMS

Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve payroll. Commissioner West 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

PAYROLL

Commissioner West made a motion to approve payroll. Commissioner Musselman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Dr. Redmon came before the board to request support in increasing the wages of the part-time nurse to \$18.00 per hour. Dr. Redmon recognize that Miami County cannot compete with larger counties on wages, but feels the current rate of \$16.00 per hour is lower than it should be and makes it difficult to find help. Dr. Redmon stated that increase could be covered within the Health budget. Commissioner West made a motion to support Dr. Redmon going before the Council to request an increase in the part-time hourly wage to \$18.00 per hour. Commissioner Musselman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

Dr. Redmon explained she would like to apply for laptops for the Health and Environmental Health Departments under IT services through the CARES grant. Dr. Redmon believes this is separate from the grant Auditor Brown is applying for with the expenses incurred during the shutdown. Auditor Brown will double check to ensure it is not under the same grant.

Dr. Redmon stated that she would like to hire an additional part-time person to serve as the contact tracer. The current Health budget could cover the cost. Commissioner West made a motion to support Dr. Redmon going before the Council to request hiring an additional part-time person for contact tracing. Commissioner Musselman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

Dr. Redmon noted Optum, the current testing service at the Armory currently charges a substantial amount for the testing and Dr. Redmon would like to apply for a grant for a community based testing facility. Dr. Redmon explained the grant would cover wages and cost for testing in the event Optum moves out and closes the testing site. Dukes Hospital would partner with the Miami County to provide a testing facility next to the

hospital and provide evening and weekend hours for testing. The county would receive ½ the grant up front if approved. Commissioner West made a motion to approve Dr. Redmon to apply for the grant for a community based testing facility. Commissioner Musselman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

EAGLES POINTE

Dennis McNally and Andrew Minns came before the board as residents of Eagles Pointe requesting financial help to start a neighborhood crime watch program. Mr. McNally explained over the last several months the amount of vandalism has increased from teenagers. The Homeowner's Association is covering the costs of the damage and working together to help minimize the vandalism. Residents at Eagles Pointe understand the Sheriff's Department is extremely busy and wanting to help take some of the load off by starting the watch program. Currently, about 200 volunteers try to walk the streets, drive around, etc. at all hours to watch for vandals. The group requested the board provide funding of \$1,000.00 to help offset some of the costs of the program. Commissioner West made a motion to approve the request of \$1,000.00 to help with the neighborhood crime watch program. Commissioner Musselman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

Mr. McNally requested the board consider additional lighting at Eagles Pointe. There are currently lights on ends of each block, but not in between. The additional lighting would provide more security. The board will talk to Ken Einselen, Highway Engineer about the lighting.

HIGHWAY

Ken Einselen, Highway Engineer came before the board to present the estimate and application from Butler, Fairman, Seifurt for \$39,120.00 for phase 3 of the Eagles Pointe paving project. Engineer Einselen explained he would not submit the request to proceed until the state opens up the call, but wanted to get the documentation in place. Commissioner West made a motion approve the estimate and application from Butler, Fairman, Seifurt for \$39,120.00 for phase 3 of the Eagles Pointe paving project. Commissioner Musselman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

Engineer Einselen presented the supplemental agreement to purchase right-of-way under the federal grant for Bridge #501 (Wayne Street Bridge) of \$17,000.00. Engineer Einselen noted it would cover the cost of acquisition procedures and the purchase of 2 properties. Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve the supplemental agreement to purchase right-of-way under the federal grant for Bridge #501 (Wayne Street Bridge) of \$17,000.00. Commissioner West 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

Engineer Einselen presented the assurance letter for the federal grant project for Bridge #501. The letter states the county will follow the federal guidelines of the right-of-way purchase procedures. Commissioner West made a motion to approve the assurance letter for the federal grant project for Bridge #501. Commissioner Musselman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

Engineer Einselen presented the bridge inspection agreement for \$366,247.00. This is a 4-year agreement and covers the compensation of preparing the report. Engineer Einselen noted INDOT must review and approve the agreement prior to inspection. Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve the bridge inspection agreement for \$366,247.00. Commissioner West 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

Engineer Einselen stated he renewed the SAM Registration and provided Auditor Brown as the contact. In addition, the generator dialer program will be updated to call Maintenance Jeff Eckelbarger and Health Nurse Marie Nichols.

The board discussed the advertisement for Engineer Einselen's position, as he will retire at the end of August. Janice Hughes, Highway Bookkeeper will work on the advertisement.

PROSECUTOR

Jeff Sinkovics, Prosecutor came before the board to request an additional appropriation of \$25,000.00 to cover the cost of 2 upcoming trials. Prosecutor Sinkovics found the expert witness moved out of state and payment must be tendered before he travels. The rate is \$300.00 per hour and will potentially have 48 hours in expense for both trials. Prosecutor Sinkovics stated a plea agreement would not happen, so the expense of a trial is inevitable. Commissioner West made a motion to approve going before the Council for the additional appropriation off \$25,000.00 to cover trial expenses. Commissioner Musselman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

ESSENTIAL WORKER COMPENSTATION DURING COVID-19

Clerk Sherry Raber, Mary Kaye Jones, Election Deputy and Chad Sailors, Mechanic came before the board to ask about compensation for the essential workers who worked during the COVID-19 shutdown. Clerk Raber stated that she would like to offer her employees something for working. Mary Kaye Jones stated that she had to work regardless because of the voting ballots. Ms. Jones takes pride in her job and feels the employees who worked should be offered some kind of compensation for coming in. Chad Sailors, Mechanic stated an email that said they would be compensated and why the employees are asking about it. Auditor Brown asked about the email because if it did state that, it was an error. The board has always maintained they would consider additional compensation, but never a definite form of compensation. Ms. Jones provided an email that was distributed during the shutdown that Auditor Brown acknowledged contained an error. Auditor Brown stated that during that time, there was a lot of information to forward to employees and often little time to do so that all employees knew what was happening and apologized that there was indeed an error. Auditor Brown questioned giving addition compensation because there were not employees who worked a full 70 hours in any pay period during the shutdown other than Voter Registration. Clerk Raber stated she felt the county should show employees that worked that they are appreciated. Auditor Brown apologized for the error, but feels that that Courthouse and Annex employees who worked should not receive additional compensation. Those employees all received 100% of their pay, did not lose any benefits, maintained all their accrued time and seniority and did not have to file for unemployment. Auditor Brown

went on to state that she spoke to the majority of the Department Heads as well as several employees who shared that they did not feel anything more should be offered from the county. Those Department Heads and employees felt it was unnecessary to have additional compensation if called into work because they received 100% of their pay and to come in and work was part of the job. Commissioner Musselman stated the board does appreciate the employees, but knows all the discussions in meetings during that time were the board would consider compensation, not guarantee it. Commissioner West also appreciated and thanked those who worked or have in and appeared those who do not appreciate what the county did provide are the employees complaining. Auditor Brown stated she has always went to bat for the employees, often times in things they are completely unaware of and yet there are some who complain about everything and she is the one who bears the brunt of it all. Auditor Brown stated that she is human and admitted to the error in the email, but that does not mean those who did work partial hours during the shutdown should receive anything extra. Auditor Brown also stated the constant complaining and employees thinking the county is out to get them or take something away is exhausting. Auditor Brown went on to note that people are quick to point out something they feel has wronged them or being taken away, but something that could potentially benefit them if nothing is said is left alone and she has now reached the breaking point. If employees think enough has not been done for them, again sometimes behind the scenes, then she feels her efforts are not appreciated because the board did not want to close during this time. If the employees want to fight for something in the future regardless of what it is, maybe it should be left to them to do. Auditor Brown stated the county is not out to get anyone, take things away or make employees feel unappreciated. An error was made, which was not intentional, everyone kept his or her job, benefits, and time. Employees should be grateful, as many county residents were not as lucky. Commissioner Musselman stated that an error was made and whether employees thought they were to be compensated or not, he would make a motion to approve 2 days of comp time for any employee who worked during the shutdown, which must be used within 1 year of August 3, 2020 and will not be paid out if an employee terminates. Commissioner West 2nd the motion and it passed 2-1 (West opposed).

REMOTE WORKING

Auditor Brown stated that complaints were made regarding employees who state they have underlying health issues are continuing to work remotely. The complaints state the same employees have been seen in the community or traveling and are not practicing social distancing or wearing a mask. Commissioner West made a motion that all employees must physically report to work and if they suffer from a serious health issue, they must contact the board for approval to work remotely. Commissioner Musselman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

AUGUST 17 MEETING

Auditor Brown stated the courts have jury selection on August 17th and will need to utilize the GAR and Assembly Rooms. Commissioner West suggested one of the courtrooms. Auditor Brown will contact Judge Grund and Judge Banina and check on availability.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The board reviewed the proposed request for qualifications for consultants, architects engineers and/or contractors interested in providing design and/or construction services for remodeling of the Miami County Courthouse. This would include moving court related offices to the Courthouse, relocating other county departments outside the Courthouse and demolishing the old jail/annex. Commissioner Musselman made a motion to advertise the RFQ. Commissioner West 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

2ND SECURITY OFFICER

Commissioner Hunt stated Auditor Brown, Sheriff Hunter and himself came up with a possible means to finance the proposed 2nd Security Officer. Auditor Brown stated the county has contributed from County General, \$60,000.00 per year to help fund 9-1-1. The City of Peru over the last few years has started paying ½ the expenses the county incurs, which would cover the 9-1-1 budget. Auditor Brown went on to explain the \$60,000.00 could allow for the extra position and not require additional funding. Commissioner West questioned the length of the agreement. Auditor Brown does not see the agreement changing as it would cost the City of Peru a substantial amount of money to start their own 9-1-1 center. Sheriff Hunter also noted he did not see the agreement ending and agreed the cost would be too great and would not make sense for the City of Peru to pursue. Commissioner Musselman made a motion to support Sheriff Hunter taking the recommendation of adding the 2nd Security Officer using the \$60,000.00 to fund the position to the Council. Commission West 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

COURTHOUSE EXTERIOR PAINTING

Auditor Brown stated that Courthouse Security Paul Daugherty and she started to look for contractors last year to paint some areas around the doors outside the Courthouse. They met with a couple of local painters, but the contractors did not feel comfortable with the height and declined. Auditor Brown would like to work on finding new contractors if the board agrees. Commissioner Hunt stated he knew contractors were sought last year without luck. Commissioner Hunt asked Auditor Brown and Officer Daugherty to work on obtaining quotes.

FLAG POLE

Commissioner Hunt discussed the issue regarding the flagpole leaning in front of the Courthouse. Commissioner Hunt feels it could possible straighten with a come-along, but has not contacted anyone. Kerry Worl Highway Superintendent suggested the board contact Ogelsby because they have a bucket truck that reaches higher than the one at the Highway Department. Auditor Brown noted Peru Utilities were willing to help set a new pole. The board will continue to find someone to look at what can be done to straighten it.

2021 HOLIDAY CALENDAR

Auditor Brown stated that December 23, 2021 was not included on the 2021 Holiday Calendar and requested an amendment to the version approved at their last meeting. Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve the amended 2021 Holiday

Calendar to reflect approval of December 23, 2021. Commissioner West 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Randy Hileman requested permission from the board to exempt all emergency vehicles from the weight restrictions on county bridges. The board declined to act on exempting emergency vehicles from the weight restriction on county bridges.

ADJOURN

Commissioner West made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Musselman 2nd the motion and it passed 2-0.

Adjourned

MIAMI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

_____, **Chairman**

Alan Hunt

_____, **Vice Chairman**

Larry West

_____, **Member**

Keith Musselman

Attest: _____, **Auditor**

Mary Brown