

MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
25 N BROADWAY  
PERU, IN 46970  
JANUARY 4, 2021

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

**REORGANIZATION OF BOARD**

Chairman Hunt turned the meeting over to Auditor Brown for reorganization of the board.

Commissioner Musselman made a motion to appoint Alan Hunt as Chairman. Commissioner Weaver 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0. Commissioner Musselman moved to close nominations and appoint Commissioner Hunt as Chairman by acclamation. Commissioner Weaver 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

Auditor Brown turned the meeting back over to Chairman Hunt.

Commissioner Weaver made a motion to appoint Commissioner Musselman as Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Hunt 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Commissioner Hunt moved to close nominations and appoint Commissioner Musselman Vice-Chairman by acclamation. Commissioner Weaver 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Dr. Guthrie came before the board to discuss the COVID pandemic and his concerns the county is not releasing funding to perform the duties of the department. Dr. Guthrie spoke about the impact the virus is having locally and globally. Dr. Guthrie feels it has now become a political issue and does not understand why the county has been reluctant to assist the department in meeting the needs of the pandemic. Auditor Brown stated no one has been reluctant to help, however there are still policies and procedures that must be followed. Auditor Brown stated she has repeatedly explained the process in emails and it continues to be ignored. Auditor Brown is willing to help, but that does not allow her to disregard the procedures she is required to follow.

Dr. Redmon stated there was a longer history in dealing with the county and the lack of support over the last year. She did not feel supported or given help needed to navigate the pandemic. Dr. Redmon explained the new vaccination clinic is set to open next week and she cannot hire people to staff because the Auditor states the salary ordinance must be updated. Dr. Redmon would like to hire an RN at \$22.00 per hour, an Injector/Vaccinator at \$18.00 per hour and a Registration Clerk at \$16.00 per hour. Dr. Redmon stated she was not made aware of the process of how hiring must occur in the county. She also felt she should be able to contact a Commissioner or Council member to get approval to keep the department running. Auditor Brown stated that she has offered on numerous occasions to explain the process of county government, but Dr. Redmon refused to accept the help. Instead, she wanted to continue to arbitrarily create positions and wages that

was not approved or even recommended to put in the salary ordinance. Auditor Brown went on the state that employees can only be paid based on the salary ordinance and while adjustments could be made to accommodate the hiring of people immediately, there are still processes and procedures that must be followed. Auditor Brown advised Dr. Redmon and the entire Health Board via email that she needed to know all positions that were going to be created along with a salary range to have the Council adjust the salary ordinance, yet no one attempted to understand the process or ask questions. Auditor Brown noted that she goes above and beyond to assist departments, but she has personal liability to ensure policy and procedures are followed. Commissioner Musselman noted that he was included on all the emails and confirmed Auditor Brown made numerous attempts to explain the process to Dr. Redmon and the board on what needed to happen to hire temporary employees and they all failed to communicate. Dr. Redmon felt that she should be able to make a single phone call and things “happen.” Dr. Redmon feels the vaccination clinic cannot move forward because they are not able to hire staff and the Council does not meet until the 19<sup>th</sup>. Auditor Brown stated if the department would provide her the list of all positions they could potentially fill and the salaries, the department could hire and she would take the amendments to the salary ordinance to the Council, which meets on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Auditor Brown requested a list of the positions and salaries for the vaccination clinic.

Elaine Anderson stated that she attends many meetings in the county, not just the Commissioners and has never once heard of a non-recommendation of support for the Health Department. She feels it is time for the county to group together and move forward. Commissioner Hunt noted that he felt the Health Department had an excellent plan in place on how they were handling the pandemic and although not vocal about it, supported the endeavor. Commissioner Hunt also stated that Auditor Brown knows the process and procedure and did have an adjustment made in December and has been more than willing to assist however needed.

Dr. Redmon requested the board allow a waiver of background checks for the new hires so the department can get the vaccination clinic staffed. Commissioner Musselman stated he did not feel comfortable waiving the requirement, as the county needs to make sure people are qualified to vaccinate. Auditor Brown stated her office requests a 2-week lead time for background checks, but if the potential employee does not have a criminal record, it normally comes back in a few days. The only way the policy can change is if the board amends the policy. Sheriff Hunter offered to perform the background checks within a few days of receipt to help speed up the process.

## **HIGHWAY**

Kerry Worl, Highway Superintendent informed the board that he had the 2021 road schedule of project in place. Superintendent Worl also noted there are 3 railroad crossings that need painted and after speaking to the railroad, he will verify there are not more. The railroad will reimburse the county for the work.

Janice Hughes, Highway Bookkeeper noted the letting date for Bridge #501 is March 10, 2021. This will be considered an accelerated project, which is different from the initial project plans.

Bookkeeper Hughes has closed the Community Crossing grant projects, which includes Bridge #159.

### **REAPPOINTMENTS**

Commissioner Musselman made a motion to appoint the following:

- Kerry Worl as the Highway Superintendent.
- Jay Kendall as the Veteran's Service Officer.
- Kris Marks as the EMA Director.
- Ken Einselen as the Highway Engineer.
- Mike Greene as the Weights & Measures Inspector.

Commissioner Weaver 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

### **MINUTES**

Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve the 12/21/20 minutes.

Commissioner Hunt 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 2-0-1 (Weaver abstained).

### **CLAIMS**

Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve claims. Commissioner Hunt 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 2-0-1 (Weaver abstained).

### **DUKES HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION APPOINTMENT**

The board received a recommendation for reappointment for Polly Dobbs to the Dukes Healthcare Foundation for another 4-year term starting January 1, 2021. Commissioner Weaver made a motion to appoint Polly Dobbs to the Dukes Healthcare Foundation for another 4-year term starting January 1, 2021. Commissioner Musselman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

### **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

#### **Commissioner Hunt**

Drainage Board

Solid Waste

MCEDA

Animal Control

Community Corrections

9-1-1 Advisory Board

#### **Commissioner Weaver**

Drainage Board  
Solid Waste  
Health Board  
Museum Board  
Chamber of Commerce  
IT Committee  
Safety Committee  
LEPC  
Peru Library Liason

**Commissioner Musselman**

Drainage  
Solid Waste  
Cemetery Board  
Planning and Zoning  
Security Committee  
Dukes Healthcare Foundation  
EMA  
Wabash River Heritage  
Community Corrections

Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve the appointments as presented. Commissioner Weaver 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

The board reviewed the advertisement for bids for the remodel of the old BMV as prepared by Attorney Steve Downs. Commissioner Musselman made a motion to advertise the request for bids, receiving bids until February 13, 2021 and opening the bids on February 16, 2021. Commissioner Weaver 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

Auditor Brown recognized the passing of Miami County employee, Julie Sisson. Ms. Sisson served the county for over 20 years as a Commissioner Assistant. Auditor Brown wanted to acknowledge her service to the community and noted that she would be deeply missed by many.

**ADJOURN**

Commissioner Musselman made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Weaver 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

**Adjourned**

**MIAMI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

\_\_\_\_\_, Chairman  
**Alan Hunt**

\_\_\_\_\_, **Vice Chairman**  
**Keith Musselman**

\_\_\_\_\_, **Member**  
**Brenda Weaver**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_, **Auditor**  
**Mary Brown**