

MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
25 N BROADWAY  
PERU, IN 46970  
January 7, 2019

Auditor Mary Brown called the meeting to order. All Commissioners are present.

**REORGANIZATION OF BOARD**

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

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

**MINUTES**

Commissioner West made a motion to approve the 12/28/18 minutes. Commissioner Hunt 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 2-0-1 (Commissioner Musselman abstained).

**PAYROLL**

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

**CLAIMS**

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

**WABASH HERITAGE CORRIDOR**

The board received a copy of the minutes from the Wabash Heritage Corridor.

**MAINTENANCE ISSUES**

Auditor Brown updated the board regarding maintenance issues that came up at the Courthouse and Annex last week. Auditor Brown stated she received complaints about the excessive heat and cold in the Courthouse. Auditor Brown suggested the board have another company, commercially rated to take a second look at the system. Auditor Brown noted that MC Contracting is doing all they can to keep the system up and running, but thought having another company come in and look at it could provide a “second set of eyes.” The board requested Auditor Brown contact Climate Makers or Quality Heating and Plumbing to review the system and see if there is anything, they can do to help maintain the system so that it works correctly.

Auditor Brown noted that a complaint filed with the State Fire Marshall came in for the Health Department. That prompted the State Fire Marshall and Peru City Fire Chief to come in and do a thorough walk-through of the Annex, which resulted in several issues. The most critical issue is the fire alarm system that is disconnected. Auditor Brown noted that the Peru City Fire Chief explained that the county must provide fire watch for the entire Annex building until the repairs are completed or shut down operations of the building. Currently, the Courthouse Security agreed to walk the building each hour and log for records for the state. There was a list of smaller items needed addressed, but the county has 30 days to get those resolved. The fire alarm system however needs addressed immediately. Auditor Brown stated that Siemens would be here on Thursday, January 10, 2019 to repair the system. Auditor Brown spoke to Matt Chillcutt with MC Contracting about the smaller items that needed corrected and he was to contact the Fire Chief to arrange to go over those in person. Auditor Brown also ordered an “Out of Order” sign for the elevator decommissioned at the old jail.

**HIGHWAY ENGINEER**

Ken Einselen, Highway Engineer came before the board to present 2 payment vouchers for post-design reimbursement. Voucher #35 for \$344.52 was approved by the board

previously, but Mr. Einselen felt that an updated signature by the new chairman of the board. Commissioner West made a motion to approve Commissioner Hunt to sign voucher #35 for \$344.52. Commissioner Musselman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

Mr. Einselen presented claim #36 for \$486.61 for post-design reimbursement. Commissioner West made a motion to approve claim #36 for \$486.61. Commissioner Musselman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

Mr. Einselen stated that he would be going to Ft. Wayne next week to present a request for federal funding for Bridge 501, Wayne Street Bridge for rehabilitation. Mr. Einselen stated that last time the bridge had updating was 26 years ago.

Mr. Einselen noted that he would advise Wabash Heritage Corridor that Commissioner Musselman as the alternate for his position as representative to update the roster.

Mr. Einselen explained that the Community Crossings Grant submittal starts today and runs until February 1, 2019. This year, they will have 2 grant rounds, one in January and then again in June. Each grant will award a total of \$45 million, with each unit capped at a total award of \$1 million. Mr. Einselen noted that the grant is a 75% / 25% match. Mr. Einselen stated that he could wait until June to make application or do it this month. The county did not receive any grant money last fall. Mr. Einselen noted that all contracts would have to be in place by end of March to submit for this round of grant submittal. Mr. Einselen would have a consultant to do the review of Eagle's Pointe. Mr. Einselen will check to see if the consultant can have the estimates compiled before the end of January to meet the submittal cutoff. The board would like Mr. Einselen to speak to the consultant and report at the next meeting if they are able to meet the deadline for estimates.

#### **SHERIFF**

Sheriff Hunter came before the board to discuss a request to change the salaries of the Head Dispatcher and Jail Commander. Sheriff Hunter explained that during budget hearings, he suggested the Council reduce the Sheriff salary to \$90,000.00 and give the difference to Molly Grant, Head Dispatcher. When the Council did the final adoption, they did not approve the increase for Ms. Grant, expressing concerns about not paying Tiffany Hostetler, Jail Commander the same as the Head Dispatcher, but did not reinstate the Sheriff salary back to the original amount of \$94,573.00. Sheriff Hunter stated that he would be willing to stay at the \$90,000.00 salary, but only if the county agreed to split the difference of \$4,573.00 between Ms. Grant and Ms. Hostetler. Commissioner Musselman made a motion to allow Sheriff Hunter to take the request to the council to change the salaries of Ms. Grant, Head Dispatcher and Ms. Hostetler, Jail Commander. Commissioner West 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

Commissioner West asked Sheriff Hunter about the status of the Courthouse Security position. Sheriff Hunter explained that he has a rotation of Sheriff Deputies coming in off duty, paying them overtime to help cover the mandate of the judges to provide security to the Courthouse. Sheriff Hunter stated that he plans to fill the position permanently, but the field for finding a qualified individual is slim and there are not many officers looking to fill the position. Sheriff Hunter stated that he took on extra duties to help the board when it came to maintenance issues of the building without additional pay. Sheriff Hunter noted that he has been around for 40 plus years, was familiar with the buildings and did not mind helping, but he is not sure about putting those additional duties on a new hire without additional compensation because the building maintenance is the responsibility of the board. Sheriff Hunter stated that security of the buildings and employees are priority over addressing maintenance issues of the building.

#### **VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER**

Commissioner West stated that Jay Kendall, Veterans Service Officer requested approval to create a Facebook page for his office. Mr. Kendall made the request to IT, but they stated they did not have authority to give permission to create the page and that it must come from the board. Commissioner West made a motion to approve the Veteran Service Officer to create a Facebook page. Commissioner Musselman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0. Commissioner West made a motion to name Kris Marks, EMA Director as a

back-up Administrator to the Veterans Service Officer Facebook page. Commissioner Musselman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

## **APPOINTMENTS/BOARDS**

### **Commissioner Hunt**

Drainage Board  
Solid Waste  
Chamber of Commerce  
Community Corrections

### **Commissioner West**

Drainage Board  
Solid Waste  
MCEDA  
Dukes Healthcare Foundation  
IT Committee  
Security Committee  
Safety Committee  
Animal Control  
LEPC  
Planning and Zoning

### **Commissioner Musselman**

Drainage  
Solid Waste  
Cemetery Board  
Health Board  
EMA  
Museum  
Wabash River Heritage  
Chamber of Commerce  
Community Corrections

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

## **COUNTY WEBSITE UPDATES**

Jerilyn Lowe noted that there were several updates needed to the website to update the newly Elected Officials.

## **HIGHWAY BIDS**

Kerry Worl, Highway Superintendent and Janice Hughes, Highway Bookkeeper came before the board to present the Superintendent Request for bids for Highway materials. The board received bid notifications for stone, aggregate and sand, bituminous materials and fuel products. All bids are due by 11:00 am February 4, 2019 and will be opened the same day in the board meeting. Bids will be awarded on February 19, 2019 at 9:20 am. Commissioner West made a motion to approve the bid advertisements as presented for stone, aggregate and sand, bituminous materials and fuel products. Commissioner Musselman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

Commissioner West asked Mr. Worl about the schedule of roadwork for summer 2019. Mr. Worl stated that they will do work at 900 S between US 31 & Strawtown Pike and other chip seal projects. Mr. Worl stated that they may possibly address 1500 N between SR 19 and 700 E. and 1350 N between US 31 and Macy, but he will need to get with north-end foreman first before he knows for sure. Mr. Worl explained that he is familiar with the south end of the county, but still working to get familiar with the north end. Mr. Worl also noted that the schedule could change due to weather, equipment issues, etc.

Commissioner West asked Mr. Worl if West Lovers Lane was on the list of road repairs, which would involve tree trimming and chip and seal. Mr. Worl stated that he would have to check it out, but would probably not happen in 2019.

Commissioner Hunt and Commissioner Musselman mentioned an issue on 1500 North at Ron Withers' property where he planted trees in the ditch line of the county right-of-way. Commissioner Hunt stated the trees have been there about 10 years, but are getting to be good sized. Mr. Worl will check on the trees.

Commissioner West asked if Mr. Worl knows about the issue with Glen Cove Road in Hidden Hills. Commissioner West stated that it is a county road that it is not finished. Recently, Richie Eldridge built a home on Glen Cove Road and rearranged the land, which is causing water to back-up in the field. Mr. Worl asked the board what they wanted done with the road because he had heard talk about it, but not anything specific as to what needed to happen. Commissioner West stated that Ken Einselen is aware of the issue. Commissioner West stated that road would need to be chip and sealed. Mr. Worl stated he would look in to the issue.

Elaine Anderson asked about plans for CR Road 600 E. by Mark Childers farm. It is a short stretch of road, but difficult to drive on. Mr. Worl stated that he was not sure what they would do, but they are trying to keep it graded because it is rough. Ms. Anderson stated there is a substantial amount of traffic traveling from Howard Co. and the road is horrible. Mr. Worl noted that he would check on it, but could not guarantee he could get to it.

Jerilyn Lowe stated that there is a new chicken farm going in on 100 E South of 1500 N. The contractors building the chicken farm are leaving large chunks of mud on the road at the end of each day. Mr. Worl stated that he could get a truck to blade the chunks of mud off the road. Mr. Lowe questioned whose responsibility it is to clean the road. Mr. Worl explained it is the responsibility of person leaving the mud, but the county needs to keep the roads safe too. Ms. Lowe is concerned about the safety of the entrance at the bottom of a hill. Mr. Worl stated that he would have to look at the area and it could require the board to approve installation of a "Blind Drive" sign.

The board requested Mr. Worl keep them updated on project and road concerns. The board also asked Mr. Worl to communicate with them and the public on any issues. Mr. Worl stated that once he gets his Foreman in place he would start providing updates.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Steve Downs and Mark Frantz came before the board and members of the Council and Health Board regarding services he would provide as County Attorney and appreciated the opportunity to come before the board. Commissioner Hunt reviewed the boards that Mr. Downs could potentially represent under the proposed agreement (Commissioners, Council, and Board of Health and Plan Commission). Mr. Downs stated that he is well versed in governmental matters and currently represents Wabash County, Wabash City Schools, Peru Community Schools and a number of sewer districts. Mr. Downs presented an offer of a \$25,000.00 retainer and \$175 per hour for special projects. The proposal would cover all departments within the county, except the Sheriff's Department. The agreement would cover nearly all meetings of these boards and any routine legal services such as correspondence, drafting of ordinances and resolutions, review of contracts, bids and tort claims. Mr. Downs would offer a 1-year contract, but would allow the county to get out of the agreement at any time. Mr. Downs stated that he would be willing to review at the end of 6 months the level of service he is providing to the county. Mr. Downs noted that he has done work for Mary Brown, Auditor and feels that he provides good and attentive service and that would continue if appointed county attorney.

Charles Smith asked Mr. Downs about the litigation regarding the Hidden Hills Dam litigation, noting that the county has spent a substantial amount of money with Barnes and Thornburg. Mr. Smith inquired as to whether that was something Mr. Downs could handle. Mr. Downs stated that he did not know the details of the current litigation and could not speak to it, but has worked with the DNR and other State agencies. Mr. Downs noted that if it was an issue that he did not feel comfortable with, he would find someone else to help.

Commissioner West made a motion to hire Steve Downs/Mark Frantz as the county attorney for 2019. Commissioner West added to the motion that the board would have to renegotiate the price if the other boards did not approve Mr. Downs for representation. Commissioner Musselman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

**IT**

Jim Deniston, Intrasect came before the board to present a quote of \$53,920.00 for a new Harding Intercom System at the jail. Mr. Deniston explained that the current system is failing and needs replaced. The purchase provides a 2-year warranty, with replacement parts readily available in the event there was an issue that came up. Auditor Brown suggested using money from the LIT Special Purpose Fund, where the county can use the funds for repairs, maintenance and upkeep of the jail. This would keep the financial burden off Cum Courthouse Commissioner West made a motion to approve the purchase of the Harding Intercom System for \$53,920.00 and pay the expense from LIT Special Purpose. Commissioner Musselman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

Mr. Deniston stated that they are almost out of key cards. The cards come in packs of 100 are \$8.00 per card. Commissioner West made a motion to approve the purchase of 100 key cards. Commissioner Musselman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

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

**Adjourned**

**MIAMI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

\_\_\_\_\_, **Vice Chairman**  
**Larry West**

\_\_\_\_\_, **Member**  
**Keith Musselman**

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