

MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
25 N BROADWAY  
PERU, IN 46970  
APRIL 6, 2020

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

**RESOLUTION FOR TELECOMMUNICATION**

Commissioner West made a motion to approve Resolution 04/06/2020 authorizing the county to conduct meetings via teleconference for the near future. Commissioner Musselman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

**IT**

Jim Deniston, Intrasect presented a quote for \$6,249.00 for the EMA firewall update. Mr. Deniston noted the current firewall software will expire 4/21/20 and includes 3 years of security suite. Commissioner West made a motion to approve the quote for \$6,249.00 for the EMA firewall update. Commissioner Musselman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

**VPN ACCESS**

Commissioner West made a motion to approve VPN access for the Probation Department. Commissioner Musselman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

**HEALTH DEPT/COVID-19**

Dr. Redmon gave an update on the current COVID-19 within the county and state. Dr. Redmon explained Miami County has 7 confirmed cases. More testing is becoming available and with that, more cases will be reported. Dr Redmon went on to explain the Governor's order has helped bring more awareness at the county level, but not 100% of the people are adhering to the order. The State has a Strike Team that will help with testing if called upon. Ms. Redmon stated there was an issue over the weekend where a large crowd gathered outside of a local business. The Environmental Health Officer spoke to the business about ensuring people are not gathering in the area. It has also been reiterated to other restaurants the importance of social distancing. Dr. Redmon noted that this next week will be difficult and could not stress enough at how important it is to protect their families. The virus is highly contagious, which means we will all live and work differently once the threat subsides. Dr. Redmon explained that due to the extension of the Governor's Executive Order, she would recommend the county continue with the closure of the Courthouse and Annex buildings for another 2 weeks. If something changes, the board could always call the employees back, although she did not feel that would be the case. Dr. Redmon suggested the board continue to monitor the situation and review every 2 weeks. When the employees do return to work, it will be important for the county to maintain strict rules about access to the building. Auditor Brown recommended continuing the 2-week stay-at-home order as it is currently in place. Council President Duckwall stated that he spoke to the Council and the consensus is to support whatever the board decides in respect to the continuance of pay for the employees. Commissioner West made a motion to extend the closure of the Courthouse and Annex buildings from April 7, 2020 – April 20, 2020 for all non-essential personnel, with employees returning to work on April 21, 2020 and continuing to pay personnel based on the current shutdown policy. Commissioner Musselman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0. The board will review the situation at their next meeting on April 20, 2020.

Dr. Redmon and Health Nurse, Marie Nichols stated they felt that was a smart decision and would also recommend employees or court attendees use masks while in the building. Judge Spahr stated that he was not opposed to court attendees wearing the masks, as long as they can be heard. Judge Spahr also noted that there is currently a screening process in place at the door, which helps in reducing exposure. The Health Department will provide the masks and those who would prefer to use them in the building are free to do so.

Peter Diedrichs, Deputy Prosecutor asked the board about allowing IV-D Clerks to work on a limited basis. The stimulus checks the government pays can be intercepted for back child support and it will be necessary to ensure those files are current. Deputy Diedrichs

stated that only 1 Clerk would be working at a time and they would rotate staff to reduce exposure. Commissioner West explained the board allowed for an exception for Department Heads to allow non-essential employees to work on critical matters.

### **SHERIFF**

Sheriff Hunter came before the board to request permission to purchase an air conditioner unit from Climate Makers for 9-1-1 for approximately \$8,000 - \$9,000.00. Sheriff Hunter stated the number of computers in the room makes it exceptionally warm and provides poor air quality. Initially, 9-1-1 was not at the Jail, but since moving to the building, it is impossible to adjust the temperature in the 9-1-1 Center and not disrupt the rest of the Jail. Auditor Brown stated that the 9-1-1 fund has a surplus of funds that need to be spent down and could pay for the purchase. Commissioner West suggested Sheriff Hunter obtain another quote. Commissioner Musselman felt the 2<sup>nd</sup> quote is understandable, but Climate Makers maintains the operations at the Jail and they are heading into warmer weather. If the Sheriff does not proceed now and waits on another bid, it could delay the installation. Commissioner West made a motion to obtain a 2<sup>nd</sup> quote on the stand-alone unit. Commissioner Musselman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0. Commissioner West suggested Sheriff Hunter notify the board when he obtains the 2<sup>nd</sup> quote and they can review and proceed with installation.

Sheriff Hunter explained the Jail needs to replace their unit and it will cost approximately \$100,000.00. Sheriff Hunter would prefer to use Climate Makers as they have worked on the building since moving in and have always taken care of the county. Sheriff Hunter will obtain another quote.

### **TRASH PICK-UP**

Christy (Skipper) Neuzerling came before the board to discuss the issue of illegal dumping in the county, specifically at 400 W. Ms. Neuzerling started a campaign to clean up the illegal dumping about 2-3 years ago, but the problem is becoming increasingly worse. There are mattresses, tires and televisions dumped around Pipe Creek. Some of the residents have cleaned the trash up on their own. At the direction of Commissioner West, the residents took the tires and televisions to the Highway Department. Highway Engineer, Ken Einselen took issue with the taxpayers bringing the mattresses, tires and televisions to the Highway Department, citing they do not have a way of disposing of the items. Engineer Einselen stated the taxpayers should take the items to Solid Waste. Highway Superintendent Kerry Worl stated that when those items are brought to the Highway Department, they are handled twice and recommended the board come with an alternative plan. Ms. Neuzerling noted the board has a mission statement that they will maintain the county infrastructure, which includes the roads. Ms. Neuzerling went on to state the matter has been going on for a long time now and just last week 7 televisions and 14 tires were cleaned from the Pipe Creek area. Ms. Neuzerling feels the Sheriff's Department should patrol the area and catch those who are illegally dumping. The board will review the matter and work on a plan to help with the trash dumping.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Brenda Weaver asked what kind of solution the board could provide. Commissioner West explained there are state fines and statutes that apply to illegal dumping, but you have to catch the person to enforce. Elaine Anderson thanked those who have cleaned the trash and applauded Ms. Neuzerling for organizing the group to help. Commissioner West stated the county should be handling the illegal dumping because the areas are owned by the county. Commissioner West thanked Ms. Neuzerling for her efforts to clean the areas, but agreed the county should be maintaining and cleaning the areas since they are owned by Miami County. Commissioner Hunt would like to find out from other counties what they are doing to handle illegal dumping.

### **ADJOURN**

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**