

MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
25 N BROADWAY
PERU, IN 46970
SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

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

2020 VOTE CENTERS

Sherry Raber, Clerk came before the board for approval of the 2020 vote centers for the general election. Clerk Raber stated the vote centers were the same as the primary election. Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve the 2020 vote centers for the general election as presented. Commissioner West 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

PROBATION COVID-19 GRANT

Mandy Mavrack, Chief Probation Officer came before the board to request a letter of approval that would allow her to apply for the 2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding grant. Chief Probation Officer Mavrack explained the grant would be used to purchase laptops, 3 remote listening devices, cell phones and docuware digital software. Total of the grant request is \$79,286.03. Commissioner West made a motion to approve Commissioner Hunt to sign the letter of approval to apply for the grant. Commissioner Musselman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Dr. Redmon reviewed the resolution Wabash County approved moving from state 4.5 to 5. Dr. Redmon stated the consequences of moving to stage 5 is the case numbers are still changing and increasing, especially for Miami County. 15 new cases were reported on Saturday. Dr. Redmon explained that places like long-term care facilities and the prison could reflect a positivity rate due to the high number of people who cannot leave. Dr. Redmon does not approve of the resolution. Commissioner Musselman explained he asked Attorney Downs to draft the resolution, but the board decided not to pursue it. Dr. Redmon explained the new testing facility would be open at Dukes, which is funded through a grant from IDHS.

Commissioner West thanked Dr. Redmon for the work she has done with the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Redmon stepped into the job not knowing she would be in this situation and the board appreciates the work she had done in working through the pandemic. Commissioner West made a motion to pay a 1-time bonus of \$3,000.00 to Dr. Redmon for the additional work performed during this pandemic. Commissioner Musselman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

BRIDGE #501

Toby Steffen with Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc. came before the board to present the construction-engineering contract for the engineering portion of Bridge #501, Wayne Street Bridge. Letting for the project will begin on March 7, 2021, with construction starting 2-3 months later. Anticipated length of the project is 15 months, but Mr. Steffen

does not think it will take that long. Total of the contract is \$362,000.00, with the county paying 20% of the total cost. Commissioner West made a motion to approve the construction-engineering contract with Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc. for \$362,000.00. Commissioner Musselman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

CASA VACATION CARRY-OVER REQUEST

Kurt Kiefer, CASA Director came before the board to request that John Walker be allowed to carry-over 15 days of vacation until October 31, 2020. Director Kiefer stated that Mr. Walker read the memo wrong provided to employees that stated if anyone reached their anniversary date during the COVID shutdown, they would have until October 31, 2020 to use their time. Mr. Walker had a vacation scheduled in March for 2 weeks, but was not able to travel because of the restrictions put in place. Commissioner Musselman feels that allowing Mr. Walker to carry-over his time would open it up for other employees not to use their time and want to request a carry-over. Commissioner West noted that Mr. Walker may have not been able to go to Florida, but he could have used his time at some point.

HIGHWAY

Superintendent Worl brought a request for permit from BSM Groups, LLC. requested permission to bury cable and install pedestals at the following locations: 5478 S 400 W (Peru), 4225 N Hammond Street (Mexico) and 2254 S Hillcrest Drive (Peru). Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve the permit requests from BSM Group, LLC. as presented. Commissioner West 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

Lee Rush came before the board to discuss a traffic hazard at 400 W/250 S. Mr. Rush stated recently, a truck was backing into a drive and a woman crested the hill and locked up her brakes attempting to stop. Mr. Rush noted that had the driver not stopped, it would have potentially been a fatal accident. Mr. Rush explained he called the Sheriff's Department and Officer Forgey came out, but did not measure the skid marks or seem concerned about the safety issue. Mr. Rush is requesting a "Blind Drive" sign placed for the westbound traffic. Mr. Rush noted that there is also a tremendous amount of ATV & moped traffic driving on the wrong side of the road. Highway Superintendent Worl explained he did not have an issue placing the sign, but after a while, it will go unnoticed.

Randy Overman, who lives on 600 E. asked about having his road chip and sealed. Mr. Overman noticed the highway recently chip and sealed McGrawsville Road and requested the same for his road. Highway Superintendent Worl will contact Larry Brown at the DNR as there was discussion the DNR may be doing roadwork on 600 E.

AMBOY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mark Horner, Amboy Volunteer Fire Department came before the board to request help in purchasing equipment for their ambulance units to comply with COVID-19 regulations. Mr. Horner talked to the Township Trustee and Town Clerk and neither have the funds to cover the cost. After speaking with Auditor Brown, it was determined the county could cover the cost and then seek reimbursement through the CARES funding. Mr. Horner is requesting financial assistance for 3 pieces of equipment. Currently, the 1st

out unit has the proper equipment, but the 2nd out unit is not properly equipped. The state has issued many changes and more are coming. The technology that has come about is great, but it is hard to keep up with, especially if the unit cannot afford the equipment. Mr. Horner explained the total cost of the equipment is \$71,755.50. Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve the request from Amboy Volunteer Fire Department to purchase the equipment needed for their units after Auditor Brown verifies the CARES grant funding will cover the cost. Commissioner West 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

Mr. Horner noted the current Coroner vehicle needed to be replaced in the next few years. The current van has been a good temporary fix, but no longer suits the needs of the Coroner's Office. Mr. Horner would like to request the board consider using the CARES funding to purchase the replacement vehicle. Mr. Horner explained they would like something discrete when picking up bodies to protect the privacy of the families and individuals. A new vehicle could also have the necessary equipment to perform their jobs and have a place to store items. They cannot clean and sanitize carpeting in the current van and there is not a place to store used HAZMAT suits because the cab does not have any partitions. In addition, a new van would allow them to pick up 2 bodies instead of 1 if needed. Mr. Horner would like to obtain a quote and bring it back to the next board meeting for consideration.

PAYROLL

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

CLAIMS

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

MINUTES

Commissioner West made a motion to approve the 8/3/20 minutes. Commissioner Musselman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

IDEM

The board received a letter from IDEM for a permit filing for Heraeus Electro-Nite.

PAYROLL TAX DEFERMENT

Auditor Brown explained the board needed to decide if they wanted to opt in or opt out of the payroll tax deferment. Auditor Brown stated that employers could offer a payroll tax deferment to employees through December 31, 2020. Employees would then have to pay the deferment back starting January 1, 2021 and it must be paid in full by April 30, 2021. Auditor Brown is not in favor of offering the deferment because it would not benefit the employees, as it is not "free money." Commissioner West made a motion to opt out of offering the payroll tax deferment. Commissioner Musselman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

CIRCUIT COURT CHANDELIERS

The board received a quote from MC Contracting to rewire and install 5 fixtures the county owned original to the courtroom and purchase glass globes to replace the old. Total cost is \$1,864.86. Commissioner West made a motion to approve the quote to rewire and replace the old chandeliers in Circuit Court. Commissioner Musselman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

COUNTY CONTRACTS

Attorney Steve Downs asked for clarification on how contracts with the county should be executed. Commissioner Hunt stated that all contracts must go through the Board of Commissioner for review.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Elaine Anderson inquired about the county using Bowman's Towing for services when the owner has a substantial amount in back taxes due. Ms. Anderson also questioned that Mr. Bowman had a CDL license to operate and the liability that would place on the county. Auditor Brown explained that all claims before processed are sent to the Treasurer for review. If anyone has back taxes owed, the Treasurer withholds the payment and the funds are applied to any past due amounts. Commissioner Hunt will speak with Sheriff Hunter on the towing, as he is not sure whom they use.

Ms. Anderson explained she drove by the Highway Garage on Sunday and was upset to see the new tractors and mowers sitting outside in the 90-degree weather. Ms. Anderson noted that when the garage project was presented, it was said that all the equipment would be inside the building. Ms. Anderson is also upset here is not any signage or landscaping to the building the county spent over \$6 million dollars on. Commissioner Musselman stated some of the dirt has been used for the work around the building this summer. Commissioner Hunt explained the tractor sitting outside is broken down and the dirt was his sons who did work during the project. Commissioner Hunt apologized for not pushing his son to move the dirt before now. Commissioner Hunt agreed that when the project was presented it was said all equipment would be housed inside the building. Auditor Brown explained the Highway Dept. did get quotes for signage, but she was not sure if anything had been ordered or not,

ADJOURN

Commissioner Musselman made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner West 2nd 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