

MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
25 N BROADWAY
PERU, IN 46970
October 3, 2022

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

CHRISTKINDLMARKET

Brooke Robertson, MCEDA came before the board to request permission to use the employee parking lot and Court Street November 18 – November 20, 2022 to host Christkindlmarket. The employee lot will be used again for the ice-skating rink and additional booths will be set-up along Court Street. Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve the request from MCEDA to use the employee parking lot and Court Street November 18 – November 20, 2022 to host Christkindlmarket. Commissioner Weaver 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

PROPOSED SOLAR PROJECT

John Riffle came before the board presenting the following letter.

When wind turbines were being considered, two Fulton County commissioners, Rick Ranstand and Bryan Lewis, talked to their constituents who were county residents living in the country. They asked two questions:

- 1) Are you favorable to wind turbines?
Overwhelming response was a positive "yes."
- 2) Would you want to live next to one?
Overwhelming response was "no."

Fulton county commissioners decided this was not good for the entire county and voted against all wind turbine projects.

When Josh Francis was Miami County commissioner, and actively working for RES wind turbines, he used his position and power to promote wind turbines in Miami and other surrounding counties. When his plans were opposed, and he was asked about his ethics and transparency, his distain response was, "you people are a waste" as he stomped out of the commissioners' meeting.

Now, Josh Francis is back, only this time he is working with solar companies such as:

Savion at Deardorff's Huckleberry Line project;
D.W. Solar between Deedsville and Macy;
Potomac Solar Farms LLC- Austen Deardorff, Schipper and others; and
Savion at Max Borden's and Stan Ortman's properties.

This could total 4,000 acres or more of our farm ground natural resource.

Those who say "you should be able to do anything with your own property" don't know what they're talking about. There are rules and regulations to protect those of less means and in many other aspects---just ask any businessman or farmer. The unknown is just that "unknown."

A moratorium can prevent a lifetime of regret and possibly stain on your leadership and maybe a positive answer to the future. Each of you as county commissioners is responsible for every policy and procedure and for protecting your constituents for now and for looking into the future. You answer to the citizens of Miami County, not Jim Tidd.

Thanks for allowing me an opportunity to speak today.

John Riffle
Miami County constituent

Mr. Riffle raised concerns regarding internet disruption from the solar panels and encouraged the board to ensure they are doing their due diligence before agreeing to the solar project.

HIGHWAY

Kerry Worl, Highway Superintendent presented a request from Broadway Broadband for permission to bore and bury 300' of UG duct placement at 3052 N Meridian Road. Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve the request from Broadway Broadband for permission to bore and bury 300' of UG duct placement at 3052 N Meridian Road. Commissioner Weaver 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

Highway Superintendent Worl presented a request from Broadway Broadband for permission to bore and bury 255' of UG duct placement at 14253 N 100 E Macy. Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve the request from Broadway Broadband for permission to bore and bury 255' of UG duct placement at 14253 N 100 E Macy. Commissioner Weaver 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

Highway Superintendent Worl presented a request to go before the Council for an additional appropriation from Highway Restricted funds of \$500,000 to cover the cost for road projects. Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve Highway Superintendent Worl to go before the Council to request an additional appropriation of \$500,000 for road projects. Commissioner Weaver 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

Highway Superintendent Worl and Janice Hughes, Office Manager spoke to the board about wanting to establish ordinances to bore, cut or bury overhead utilities and driveway cuts. Highway Superintendent Worl and Office Manager Hughes noted companies are wanting to install overhead utilities and the current ordinance does not cover those. In addition, it would be helpful to the Highway Department to have something in place to require taxpayers to obtain a permit to put in a driveway to ensure they are installing correctly. Commissioner Weaver made a motion to approve the Highway Department to work with County Attorney Downs to draft the ordinances to require permits to bore, cut or bury overhead utilities and driveway cuts. Commissioner Musselman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

Highway Superintendent Worl and Janice Hughes, Office Manager presented the criteria currently used to determine which roads are converted from gravel to chip and seal. Currently, the determination is made based on number of businesses and houses on a road, the amount of traffic and the condition of the road based on the PASER rating. Lower ratings of roads with the PASER should be resurfaced first. The board asked Attorney Downs to work on a policy to cover these criteria for formal adoption.

FIRE ALARM SYSTEM-NEW HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The board were notified and received notification the new Health Department does not have a fire alarm system. The quote they received was from Simplx for \$6,800. The board tabled the matter until their next meeting.

PERMISSION OF USE-OLD SHERIFF REPEATER

The board received a request from the County Fire Association for permission to use the old Sheriff repeater for back-up and tactical channels. Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve the request to allow the County Fire Association to use the old Sheriff repeater for back-up and tactical channels. Commissioner Weaver 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

TOWN OF MACY

The board received a local match letter required for OCRA for the Town of Macy for the fire station project. Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve the local match letter required for OCRA for the Town of Macy for the fire station project and authorize Commissioner Hunt to sign. Commissioner Weaver 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

RURAL TRANSIT

The board received the pass-through agreement for the Rural Transit grant that was inadvertently missed when the other documents were approved. Commissioner Weaver made a motion to approve the pass-through agreement and authorize Commissioner Hunt and Attorney Downs to sign. Commissioner Musselman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

CHAIRS FOR COURTROOM

The board received a quote from GJ's for 8 new chairs for Circuit Court for \$3,192. Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve the request to allow the purchase of 8 new chairs for Circuit Court for \$3,192 from GJ's. Commissioner Weaver 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

MINUTES

Commissioner Weaver made a motion to approve the 9/19/2022 minutes. Commissioner Musselman 2nd the motion and it passed 3-0.

PAYROLL

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

CLAIMS

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

MIAMI COUNTY WORTH REMEMBERING

Commissioner Weaver presented an invitation to the public for the unveiling ceremony of the Elizabeth "Lizzie" C. Bunnell Read marker at Seven Pillars on October 15, 2022 at 3:30 pm. Commissioner Weaver explained Lizzie published the 1st issue of Women's Rights publication, "The Mayflower" in October 1856, which is one of the only Women's Rights newspapers of the era known to have been published in the US.

COURTHOUSE REPAIRS

Courthouse Security, Paul Daugherty noted Crystal Glass had been in and will be issuing a quote for the glass railing along the rotunda.

ANIMAL CONTROL

The board discussed the responsibilities of the Animal Control and lack of reporting received. Attorney Downs requested the board determine the specific areas where Animal Control has defaulted in the contract so the information can be relayed and corrected.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Elaine Anderson asked about who owns the old tire company at the base as it has been empty some time. It was determined the building is privately owned and not that of the county or MCEDA.

Ms. Anderson asked for an update on the status of the new flag pole. Commissioner Musselman explained it had been difficult to find a company to install as the manufacture of the pole does not do it. Commissioner Hunt noted MC Contracting agreed to install and hoped to get it done this week.

Ms. Anderson asked for an update on the Courthouse remodeling project. Commissioner Musselman stated that project has been put on hold until there can be a determination of how the project will be funded. At this time, the county is focusing on demo of the old jail and will then move to the next project.

ADJOURN

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