

Minutes of  
Jackson County Commissioners  
September 15, 2020  
9:00 AM

Present: Commissioner Matt Reedy, Commissioner Drew Markel & Commissioner Bob Gillaspy.

Commissioner Matt Reedy called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and silent Prayer observed.

Commissioner Gillaspy made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2020 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Markel seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

After review, Commissioner Gillaspy made a motion to approve the Payroll of September 11, 2020 in the amount of \$432,096.33 along with Monthly Claims in the amount of \$731,092.22. Commissioner Markel seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

**Reports from other Committees:** None

Shannon McLeod and Bridgett Weber with Priority Resources presented the Close Out Documents for the Fort Vallonia, Joe Jackson Hotel Project. Bridgett presented and update on the project to Commissioners and stated that it has been transformed into a Community Center that should prove very useful to the community. Commissioners reviewed documents and Commissioner Markel made a motion to approve the Guarantee Performance Report. Commissioner Gillaspy seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried. McLeod also stated that she must upload with the documents a statement from the county confirming that in the last five (5) years, Jackson County has had no fair housing or Equal Opportunity filings against the county. Attorney Bevers and Human Resource Director, Jeff Hubbard agreed that the county has had none, therefore, Auditor Kathy Hohenstreiter signed the statement.

Karen Browning, Waymaker Ministries Executive Director, appeared before Commissioners to provide an update on their outreach programs. Browning discussed Double Down Outreach, Broken & Beautiful, Traveling Damasus Road and Waymaker Ministries. Browning also discussed the Eviction Moratorium and that they are working on a grant in order to purchase a transportation shuttle.

Visitor Center Director, Arann Banks asked Commissioners to allow an After Hours Meet and Greet to take place at the Visitor Center on October 22 from 5:00pm – 6:30pm. This event will be a wine tasting and sponsored by the Seymour Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Markel made a motion to approve. Commissioner Gillaspy seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

Arann Banks also stated that the Visitor Center obtained 12 stand alone, foot operated, hand sanitizer stations and is available for use if needed.

Clerk Melissa Hayes presented the list of polling sites for the 2020 General Election. The only change is the Legion site will be moved to Redeemer Church. Commissioner Gillaspy made a motion to approve. Commissioner Markel seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

Hayes along with Aaron Bingham from N-I-Tech, discussed the Fire Eye Security that is being proposed for Indiana Counties and free until Dec 31, 2022. It was stated that not much is known on this yet, in particular the cost beginning in 2023. The Contract for Fire Eye Security has been given to the Commissioners and Attorney Bevers will review.

Warren Martin then came before Commissioners to discuss the Work Release Center Project. Martin stated his concern that this is not like other building projects he has been involved with for the county in the past. The

county is not the entity building the center, so Martin feels that he being there to represent the county is a waste of taxpayer dollars, as he does not have all the information for the project. Martin then stated that he has a couple things to wrap up with the County Auditor but that he will be stepping down from this project.

Chad Leinart then presented the Final Plat for Cloverleaf Subdivision for approval. Commissioners reviewed, followed by a motion to approve by Commissioner Gillaspy. Commissioner Markel seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

Sheriff Meyer presented Commissioners with the August 2020 Jail Report, Monthly Stats, Dog Detention and Cash Book reports.

Commissioner Reedy then informed Commissioners that Dan Davis with the Community Foundation met with him yesterday and Davis stated that the 'large benefactors' of the Dog Shelter are concerned over the completion of the project and how the building will be used. Discussion then progressed into whether the county should just accept the building as is, since progress by the Dog Shelter Committee seems to have ceased with lack of funding, largely caused this year by events being cancelled due to Covid 19. Commissioner Markel expressed his concern over accepting the building with points such as:

- the original plan was to accept a completed building.
- What type of burden will it cause to have to pay for surgeries, transport and other vet expenses.
- He feels residents will see this as another Red Sky, and the shelter will be inundated with dogs.
- Finishing the project should not fall on taxpayer shoulders since the committee agreed to finish the project and turn over a completed building.

Sheriff Meyer stated that his department will be running the shelter and he feels the number of dogs will be lower than Red Sky's population and that the transportation and 'other' vet bill's will be manageable, but the surgery expense could be a concern.

Commissioner Reedy remarked that the longer the County waits to do something, the more expense that could be compiled due to building deterioration and cost increase.

Commissioner Gillaspy made a motion to accept the building as is and for the County to complete the project. Commissioner Reedy seconded. Two (2) yes votes, motion carried. Commissioner Markel voted no to accepting the building and completing the project.

Highway Superintendent, Jerry Ault informed Commissioners that all 2020 paving is complete. Ault also stated that unloading/loading equipment on county roads has caused damage on two roads. A letter has been sent to the 1<sup>st</sup> company and the 2<sup>nd</sup> incident happened yesterday, so a letter will be sent to that company as well. Attorney Bevers will review the County Ordinance that pertains to this issue.

Human Resource Director Jeff Hubbard asked if there was an update on hiring an EMS Director. Commissioner Gillaspy stated that there is a meeting today at Noon to review resumes, and invited HR Director Jeff Hubbard to attend.

Commissioner Gillaspy then performed the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Ordinance #25, Commissioner Bill #18, An Ordinance Restricting Traffic on 1150 E in Vernon Township. Commissioner Gillaspy made a motion to approve upon 1<sup>st</sup> reading. Commissioner Markel seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried. Commissioner Gillaspy then performed the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Ordinance #25, Commissioner Bill #18. Commissioner Gillaspy made a motion to approve upon 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and waive a 3<sup>rd</sup> reading. Commissioner Markel seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

Auditor Kathy Hohenstrieter then asked for Commissioner approval to pay the Tiger Correctional Services invoices in the Friday Utilities to avoid finance charges/fees. Commissioner Markel made a motion to approve. Commissioner Gillaspy seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

Commissioners then recessed until October 6, 2020.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 6:00 PM.

Signed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020.

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Matt Reedy

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Drew Markel

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Bob Gillaspay

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Kathy Hohenstreiter - attest