

**PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2016  
1:00 P.M.**

**(The entire meeting is available to watch on the Porter County website.)**

The regular meeting of the Porter County Board of Commissioners convened at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Administration Center.

Those present were: Commissioners John Evans, Laura Blaney, Jeff Good, County Attorney Scott McClure; Administrative Assistant Rhonda Young and Recording Secretary Kathy Merle.

**Call to Order/Pledge**

**Approval of Minutes – August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016**

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the minutes from August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016, Com. Good, seconded, motion carried.

**Approval of Payroll – October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016**

Com. Blaney, moved to approve payroll from October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016, Com. Good, seconded, motion carried.

**Approval of Claims – October 20<sup>th</sup> and October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the claims from October 20<sup>th</sup> and October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Com. Good, seconded, motion carried.

**Office Holders/Dept. Heads**

**Sheriff Reynolds and Edie Hahn  
Release of RFP for Jail Medical**

Sheriff Reynolds, We talked to you before about the contract that we have was up. We got an extension on the existing contract and what we thought right way to do it would be to put out a request for proposal and that is what this is basically. So we are asking you to approve that so we can get it out and see what is out there.

Atty. McClure, The last time this was done to get us to where we were Betty Knight had done an extensive amount of work with the committee on getting the jail medical to where it is now. The County had done at that point basically two RFP's. An original RFP and then a follow up with some additional information to tighten it up. This meshes both of those into one. It also has the contract attached that we would like to utilize for whoever would get this contract. So I think it's in good form and we would be looking to opening the proposals at the December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Com. Evans, Have you had a lot of interest in the contract so far, how many bidders do you expect?

Sheriff Reynolds, I don't think we'll get more than two or three. Including what we have now.

Com. Evans, I know Lake County is in the same process right now. I think they had four or six something like that. Of course they had one day to send it in with the requirements right off of the bat.

Sheriff Reynolds, They've been communicating with us on what we're doing and they're looking at a couple other counties. There's one in Marshall County that is a little

smaller but those are the types of companies that we'll probably look at and send it out to.

Com. Evans, Is the current winner of the bid that is servicing you now are they interested in bidding as well?

Sheriff Reynolds, Yes.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the release of the RFP for the Jail Medical, Com. Good, seconded, motion carried.

Sheriff Reynold, I know I've communicated with you through emails regarding which was originally on the agenda which was taken off which I understand regarding body cameras and car cameras. Obviously the concern is the funding, where that money is going to come from. I know probably either this meeting or soon you are going to look at Motorola regarding the 800 Frequency by necessity. We met with Motorola today and looked at their system. They gave us a tentative proposal. I was going to give you a copy to look at. All I would like to have right now you know in the standpoint of public safety and for our officers being transparent for primarily officer's safety I think body cameras and car cameras are something that we really should consider. The funding mechanism obviously is always the concern. I would appreciate what your commitment or what your opinion might be in that respect.

Com. Evans, I'll go first. It's now only a matter of interest and safety for the officers it's a matter of interest and safety for the general public with the current environment about every time something goes wrong it's a policeman's problem or policemen cause it. That type of situation is easily resolved when you have those cameras. The other thing is you touched on it for a minute is the 800 megahertz. I've been working with the Advisory Committee for 911 and what have you for a long time and they are kind of like "where are we at with it". That is the big question I mean it's a \$9 million proposition if we do something this year. If we wait until next year its \$10 million proposition. They're willing to give us a \$1 million discount if we agree to do something. The problem comes in that radio communication is a two edge sword because we have to provide the 911 service but the people in the field have to be able to receive it and those people have to have radios and equipment in their vehicles and portable to be able to accommodate that. We consolidated 911 to help the cities and municipalities be able to have a central dispatch point. We can't I don't believe take on all of the expense of all the equipment. We have to do that for our County employees for our departments, but I think the municipalities even the townships, the townships have fire districts I think they need to step up. Would we be willing to help, I certainly hope so. I think that they have to come forward with some of the money and I would like to propose that we accept Motorola's plan contingent on the County Council finding the funding necessary to support the infrastructure part of it and hopefully negotiating with municipalities and the Motorola people to find out how the equipment is going to be paid for. I have had conversation with Council President Whitten, Councilman Poparad, Councilman Jessen and Councilwoman Conover. All of them agreed that this has to be done and the sooner the better if we're going to save any money at all. All of them expressed an interest and a willingness to help resolve the problem financially. I think we should give them our vote of support and let them go to work for us to see if we can't get this deal closed before we lose a million dollars. That is my 2 cents. Laura, Jeff.

Com. Good, I wasn't prepared to discuss this today. So it's not on the agenda so that is where I'm at.

Com. Blaney, I'm in a similar position. I think it's obviously something that needs to be done. As you've said we've had these discussions and we agree but.

Sheriff Reynolds, It was on the agenda and taken off because I think.....

Com. Good, It was never on the agenda Sheriff, never.

Sheriff Reynolds, Oh I thought it was on the agenda.

Com. Good, It was never on the agenda.

Com. Evans, The presentation done by the fire services and 911 was presented to us 2 months ago. How long does it take to absorb....

Com. Good, I don't know you're chairing that committee this is the first time I've heard anything about it so and that has been two meetings. Have you given us an update on that meeting or what is going on there.

Com. Evans, Well I'm just telling you what was presented by the fire departments.

Com. Good, Oh, okay.

Com. Evans, And the 911.....

Com. Good, And they don't want to pay right? Don't know?

Com. Evans, The question isn't are they going to pay.

Com. Good, I thought it was a funding issue.

Com. Evans, No one can pay for the 911 infrastructure except this body and the Council. That's it.

Com. Good, Oh, okay.

Com. Evans, The equipment I've just given you an option for.

Com. Good, I've had the option.

Com. Evans, (Inaudible) turned it back to the municipalities to take care of it.

Com. Good, Okay, so we don't have a funding option yet?

Com. Evans, The Council is willing to take that initiative. I don't know that we're willing are you willing to say let's spend another million dollars if we wait until January?

Com. Good, There is always a hook isn't there.

Com. Evans, They wrote the proposal to read that way. I didn't create the proposal.

Sheriff Reynolds, Alright, thanks.

Com. Evans, Thank you David.

Com. Good, Nice try.

**Scot MacDonald – Opera House Director and Curt Ellis  
CivicsPlus – Subsite Agreement**

Com. Evans, Do you want to talk about CivicsPlus first or do you want us to do a motion on all of the agreements?

Mr. MacDonald, Let's talk about CivicsPlus Curt is here with information on that.

Mr. Ellis, We're basically looking to do the same thing we did with the Expo Center. The Opera House has a current website now that is not on CivicsPlus, but it is left over from when tourism provided the website capabilities to the different venues. It is an archaic piece of technology that is from what I understand so difficult to understand and use. It just doesn't look good. When you go to buy a ticket you have to

click six or seven times in order to find where you want to go to buy a ticket. I think we can make it a whole lot easier on the CivicsPlus website, make it more appealing and just make it a much better product for them to use. We're working with the ticketing software program Show Ware but everything that we've seen so far we can make the two work together pretty well and maybe even cut down some work on the Show Ware side.

Com. Evans, And CivicsPlus is the platform we use for the Expo?

Mr. Ellis, And the County uses for the porterco.org website too, but this is a different platform, a newer platform and the nice thing is we don't have to go through a learning curve this time because we went through it with the Expo Center part so it is something we could probably move through a little bit faster.

Com. Evans, Questions?

Com. Blaney, Is this something that you're funding out of your budget?

Mr. MacDonald, Yes.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the CivicsPlus subsite agreement for the Opera House, Com. Good, seconded, motion carried.

**Respite House – Venue Agreement**  
**Robert Vanderstelt & Alexandra Santos – Venue Agreement**  
**Bethany Borgo – Artistic Services Agreement**  
**Brandon Dinkins – Artistic Services Agreement**  
**Christopher Haddad – Artistic Services Agreement**  
**Brian Moore – Artistic Services Agreement**  
**Sharon Shepard – Artistic Services Agreement**  
**Donald Parker – Artistic Services Agreement**  
**Laura Smelter – Artistic Services Agreement**

Com. Good, moved to approve all of the Artistic Services Agreements, Com. Blaney, seconded, motion carried.

**Sundae Schoon – Voters Registration**  
**One time rental of equipment between Election Systems & Software and Porter County**

Ms. Schoon, The rental agreement is for a ballot printer to rent for this election because the turnout has been so heavy downstairs and try to move the line along a little bit so the voters don't have to wait so long in the line. They're waiting an access of an hour and a half to two hours without the second printer. Now it is a lot shorter.

Com. Blaney, It's helping?

Ms. Schoon, It's helping a lot yes.

Com. Evans, Now that will be housed here on election day and then you'll print the ballots that are needed and get them to the different precincts is that how it's going to work?

Ms. Schoon, Yes we'll keep that here also in case we need more ballots on election day then we'll be able to use it for that too.

Com. Evans, And that can print the ballot for any different precinct in the County so that there is enough. Nobody on a ballot that doesn't belong on a ballot or vice versa.

Ms. Schoon, Right and nobody runs out.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Election Systems & Software contract, Com. Good, seconded, motion carried.

Matt Stechly – Facilities Director  
Facility's Snow Agreement for North County

Mr. Stechly, Kind of a brief background for the Commissioners on the way it snows and (Inaudible). We have equipment and we have people in house and last year I started to do it and this is kind of the final piece of the puzzle to take it in house. The only issue is North County. They're kind of off the grid in terms of location. In a heavy snow it's hard to get out there so I propose and ask for your support that this one year only we sub it out to a vendor. That is the walkways, the parking lot, that's salt control. I went out to bid with it and you have your (Inaudible) prices before you.

Com. Blaney, You got quotes right?

Mr. Stechly, Quotes, sorry. The Northwood who is the lowest is actually the same vendor who plows the hospital next door. So that was really comforting. Managing snow in my line of work is extremely difficult, but this was comforting that they've proven themselves already and they're next door anyway. So that is kind of where this was and the lowest bid was \$12,000.00. In 2013, 2014 and 2015 total we spent \$322,000.00 which comes out to \$107,000.00 a year. Now it will be around \$12,000.00 a year. This is tangible, we'll see if it pans out. This is real hard numbers, real dollars and cents. It's extremely exciting, it's a big deal.

Com. Evans, Questions?

Com. Good, moved to approve Northwoods Ltd. to remove the snow at the North County Complex, Com. Blaney, seconded, motion carried.

Com. Evans, Before I vote I think you need into consideration the cost of the vehicles and what you're paying the people rather than just say what you paid in a contract is equal to what you're going to pay in a contract this year.

Mr. Stechly, Thank you and I also want to single out Highway and Expo. Lori and Andy us three have met and definitely with their support we have the vehicles we can just share resources so the communication between departments is also really exciting so thank you.

Com. Good, Thank you Matt.

## **Report from Commissioners**

### **SOUTH DISTRICT**

1. LPA Claim Form #9 for Porter County Replacement Bridge 62, CR625W over Kankakee River, in the amount of \$6,910.26. Recommend Approval.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve, Com. Good, seconded, motion carried.

2. LPA Claim Form #3 for 100S (2000' W of CR 725W to 1000' E of CR 500W) for intersection and sight distance improvement in the amount of \$20,059.55. Recommend Approval.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve, Com. Good, seconded, motion carried.

## **NORTH DISTRICT**

1. Porter County Bridge 1008; Clem Road over Willow Creek; Beam, Longest and Neff Fee Justification for Survey and Design in the amount of \$65,700. Bridge 1008 is one of the projects that was awarded funding with the Community Crossing Matching Grant. Recommend Approval.

Com. Evans, moved to approve, Com. Good, seconded, motion carried.

## **ALL DISTRICTS**

1. LPA Claim Form #20 for the inspection of 126 bridge structures in Porter County in the amount of \$14,945.00. Recommend approval.

Com. Good, moved to approve, Com. Blaney, seconded, motion carried.

## **Correspondence**

### **Request by Dawn Pelc of the Porter County substance Abuse Council for approval of Grant Funding Allocations**

Com. Evans, Is there anybody here for that?

Com. Good, moved to approve, Com. Blaney, seconded, motion carried.

### **Request by Tina St. Aubin of Valpo Events to use the Courthouse grounds on Friday, December 2, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. for "Holly Days" and 2:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. for holiday activities including a live nativity and caroling.**

Com. Blaney, moved to approve, Com. Good, seconded, motion carried.

### **LOW Software Purchase for \$7000.00 to Include the Annual Software Program Time and Customer Database, Conversion and Setup**

Ms. Urbanik, This is related to our main financial and County software that you already signed the contract for, the conversion is going forward. This is an effort to jump start one component of the program so we will not be using our current vendor. This is dealing with the Affordable Care Act reporting requirements. This year the IRS granted an extension. We believe strongly based on everything that I have been able to read and in my correspondence with Congressman Visclosky there will not be another extension for next year. So we need to get the information compiled and reported to the IRS in order to avoid penalties. As we're converting to LOW it makes sense to utilize LOW for this part of the program.

Com. Evans, Who's budget is going to pay for it?

Ms. Urbanik, Mine the Auditor's office.

Com. Evans, As long as you're paying for it.

Ms. Urbanik, And there is a very good chance that we won't actually pay for this and what I mean by that is that we have hours designated in a contract for maintenance and so if we don't use it we won't be billed for it. This year as an example on our tax system we budgeted for an amount and we're not even paying for \$16,000.00 of it because we didn't need all of those service hours.

Com. Evans, Very good.

Com. Good, moved to approve, Com. Blaney, seconded, motion carried.

Com. Evans, And I can tell there is a what if, no?

New Animal Shelter Update

Com. Blaney, I talked to Gerry Yagelski today. He sent some pictures but I didn't look at the pictures yet myself. I'm not exactly sure what they are all going to be but I will go through what we did talk about. The curbs and the sidewalks are in. Starting very soon within the next couple of days they are also going to pour the dumpster pad and get the parking lot binder down. They are about 85% done with the masonry and the waterline is in. Sewage they're expecting to come soon. The tresses should come next week and he said it couldn't be going better right now, knock on wood. Very happy with the process. (Slideshow was presented.)

Com. Evans, That's great the weather sure has been cooperating.

Com. Blaney, its good news.

Com. Good, Looking good.

Com. Evans, As Scott said to me earlier it looks like they're getting paid for that as fast as they're working.

Com. Good, That usually helps.

Com. Blaney, And Gerry has been great to work with so far too. He's been on it. Out there looking out for us so that is really helpful.

Com. Evans, Is there anyone wishing to address this body?

**Plan Commission**

**Rezone – A1, General Agriculture District to R1, Low Density Single-family Residential District – Petitioner: Gerald and Shirley Gunter – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the rezone from A1 to R1 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, Com. Good, seconded, motion carried.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

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John A. Evans

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Laura M. Blaney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey J. Good

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vicki Urbanik, Auditor