

**PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14th, 2020
10:00 A.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 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 14th, 2020 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Administration Center.

Those present were: Commissioners Jeff Good, Laura Blaney, Jim Biggs, County Attorney Scott McClure; Administrative Assistant Melanie Massey and Recording Secretary Kathy Merle.

Call to Order/Pledge

Com. Good, This is the Porter County Board of Commissioners' meeting Tuesday, January 14th, 2020.

Reorganization

- **President**

Com. Blaney, moved to approve Jeff Good as President, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

- **Vice President**

Com. Biggs, moved to approve Laura Blaney, Com. Good, second, motion carried.

- **Secretary**

Com. Good, moved to approve Jim Biggs, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

- **County Attorney**

Com. Good, moved to approve Atty. Scott McClure, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Payroll – December 27th, 2019 and January 10th, 2020.

Approval of Minutes – December 3rd and December 17th, 2019.

Approval of Claims – December 19th, 2019 and January 9th, 2020.

Weights and Measures Monthly Report Filed for November 16th to December 15th, 2019.

Treasurer's Monthly Report Filed – December 31st, 2019.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Citizen Board Appointments for the following Boards:

- **Alcohol Beverage Commission – 1 Appointment**

Com. Blaney, moved to appoint Jason Gilliana, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

- **Board of Zoning Appeals – 2 Appointments**

Com. Blaney, moved to appoint Marv Brickner and Debbie Kerr-Cook, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

- **Convention, Recreation & Visitors Commission – 2 Appointments**

Com. Blaney, moved to appoint Richard Riley and Kurt Gillins, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

- **Plan Commission – 1 Appointment**

Com. Blaney, moved to appoint Richard Burns, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

- **Park Board – 1 Appointment – Democrat (TABLED)**

- **PTABOA – 2 Appointments**

Com. Blaney, moved to appoint Tami Bianco and Nancy Kolasa, Com. Kolasa, second, motion carried.

- **Redevelopment Commission – 2 Appointments**

Com. Blaney, moved to appoint Steven Sularski and Jason Gilliana, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

- **Stormwater Advisory Committee – 2 Appointments**

Com. Blaney, moved to appoint Scott Severson and Bob Gilliana, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried

- **West Porter Fire District – 1 Appointment**

Com. Blaney, moved to appoint Karie Lukas, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

- **Wildlife Management – 7 Appointments (TABLED)**

Com. Good, We would like at this point to re-advertise for Park Board appointments. The deadline will be January 27th. That appointment has to be a democrat political affiliation. Then the Wildlife Management appointment there are 7 appointments but the Board of Commissioners are working with the Park Board on trying to resolve some issues on how we will be moving forward with Wildlife Management. We will discuss those appointments at the next meeting as well on the 28th until we have more of an idea of what we are going to do with the Park Board, the Wildlife Board and the Board of Commissioners. It is only a two week delay. I think the Auditor has made her appointment to the Park Board so we will have that appointment as well.

Honoring Doug Crandall for his 34 years of service with Porter County Government.

Com. Good, The Animal Shelter was given a notice from a long time County employee who has offered his tenure to retire as an Animal Control Officer. I would like to have Toni Bianchi come up with Doug Crandall to honor this man who has worked for the County tirelessly for 37 years.

Com. Blaney, And adopted an animal as well.

Ms. Bianchi, Probably several, more than one. Doug has been with the Porter County Government for the last 37 years and he has held a number of different positions with the County. He informed me that he started in Dispatch for the Sheriff's Dept. way back when. Right out of the Navy I believe. He worked as a dispatcher for a while, then he advanced to the Jail Officer and then he moved into rank of Corporal for a Deputy Sheriff. From there he went the courts as a bailiff. After that he came to Animal Control. He has been with me at the Shelter for about 2 ½ to 3 years and he was with the Sheriff's Dept. previous to that under Animal Control. Doug brought a lot of information to Animal Control for us. His law enforcement experience and knowledge of both the law and how it is done and what we should be doing helped us to develop our department into a better department. We appreciate all of that Doug. I know you are going to miss running at larges, the hit by cars, the gone on arrivals and all of the good stuff and the on calling. I knew that was your favorite. We wish you the best of luck at your new position at the Beverly Shores Police Dept. and you will have to come back and see us. You better be getting your animals from us. We have a plaque for you.

Mr. Crandall, I would just like to say that since I worked so close in contact with the Shelter I have a deep respect the amount of quality of work they put into it. It is now a place where animals don't end up in affect have a new beginning. They work them very well to get them out new homes and families. I appreciate everything and the hard work that the Shelter does do for the animals on a daily basis. Even on holidays.

Com. Good, I would also like to say that our Animal Control people are always put in a very precarious situation when they show up. Usually with animals there are a lot of emotions. These people deal with it every day. It's not easy, trust me. We see a lot of this and I just want to thank you for everything that you've done for the County because I know it's not an easy job. It's a frontline job. You're the first one on and it's always different every time.

Com. Blaney, People are upset, the animals are upset.

Com. Good, I don't think people realize what goes into this position. It's a lot. I just want to thank you because you handled it well and we're always hearing positive things. I'm sorry to see you go, but I also know you are going to continue on so thank you.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMISSIONERS

Com. Good, As you see in front of you there is a list of boards which these Board members also participate in. Not only do we have all of the meetings along with all of the other things that we do we also are appointed to these boards as well.

Commissioners Appointed to the following Boards:

- **NIRPC**

Com. Good, moved to appoint Jim Biggs, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

- **Plan Commission**

Com. Biggs, moved to appoint Laura Blaney, Com. Good, second, motion carried.

- **Storm Water Advisory Board**

Com. Biggs, moved to appoint Jeff Good, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

- **Community Corrections**
- **Juvenile Justice Advisory Board**
- **EMA**

Com. Good, moved to appoint Jim Biggs for the Community Corrections, Juvenile Justice Advisory and EMA boards, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

- **Child Protection Team**

Com. Good, moved to appoint Laura Blaney, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

- **911 Advisory Board**

Com. Good, moved to appoint Jim Biggs, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

- **Center for Workforce Innovations**

Com. Good, moved to appoint Laura Blaney, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Enterprise Fleet Management – A Lease Quote for a 2020 Chevy Silverado for EMA in the amount of \$713.13 per month.

Com. Good, Lance we have been talking about this for a year and a half. The old truck has 160,000 some miles on it is quickly fading fast.

Mr. Bella, Yes it is.

Com. Good, This will give us a brand new truck. This is for a deputy and it will be outfitted?

Mr. Bella, Yes sir.

Com. Good, We are replacing a vehicle that has over 175,000 miles on it. I think with your emergency responding you shouldn't have a truck with a 175,000 miles on it.

Com. Good, moved to approve Enterprise, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, Thank you for your patience. We had to find the money but we got it.

Mr. Bella, I appreciate it.

Com. Biggs, Lance the other vehicle is that going to the auction?

Mr. Bella, It will eventually go to the auction, yes.

Enterprise Fleet Management – A Lease Quote for a 2019 Ford F-250 for the Weights and Measures Dept. in the amount of \$600.40 per month.

Com. Good, This too I believe Mike Harper came to us a year ago and we just didn't have the money in our budget to do that. Weights and Measures have waited a long time as well and we're finally getting them a good vehicle. Their vehicle I believe is even worse than the vehicle we just discussed. We need to put them into a new vehicle too. It is also large enough to carry our portable weight, portable scales and a lot of the other things that we have in that department too.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve Enterprise, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

A request by Tim Stoner to lease 7 acres of County property located at S.R. 2 for farming at a rate of \$145.00 per acre. Mr. Stoner has given the County a check in the amount of \$1,015.00 for 2019.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

Motorola Solutions – Final Project Acceptance for Public Safety Expansion of IPSC (SAFE-T) System for E911.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve Motorola Solutions, Com Blaney, second, motion carried.

Motorola Solutions – Final Project Acceptance for Logging Recorder Upgrade for E911.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve Motorola Solutions, Com Blaney, second, motion carried.

NORTH COUNTY ANNEX RENO – PAY APPS.

Stan's Painting and Decorating – Pay App. #5 in the amount of \$3,515.00 for painting. With a remaining balance of \$95,071.30.

Pangere Corp. – Pay App. #6 in the amount \$88,783.20 for Bid Category #4. With a remaining balance of \$766,373.96.

Kleckner Interior Systems – Pay App. #6 in the amount of \$29,287.03 for Bid Package #2. With a remaining balance of \$440,296.19.

E.C. Babilla – Pay App. #2 in the amount of \$216,962.48 for roofing. With a remaining balance of \$433,056.76.

Ziolkowski Const. – Pay App. #12 in the amount of \$146,029.25 for Bid Package #1. With a remaining balance of \$385,052.50.

State Line Fire Systems – Pay App. #13 in the amount of \$3,918.75 for fire suppression. With a remaining of \$50,013.75.

Arctic Engineering – Pay App. #5 in the amount of \$29,304.65 for Plumbing. With a remaining balance of \$113,990.75.

Mechanical Concepts – Pay App. #7 in the amount of \$106,898.75 for HVAC. With a remaining balance of \$505,929.50.

Ziolkowski Construction – Pay App. #10 in the amount of \$3,747.75 for masonry. With a remaining balance of \$41,482.65.

Circle “R” Electric – Pay App. #7 in the amount of \$95,824.16 for electrical. With a remaining balance of \$203,858.27.

Ziolkowski Const. – Pay App. #13 in the amount of \$34,717.75 for Bid Package No. 1. With a remaining balance of \$350,334.75.

Pangere Corp. – Pay App. #7 in the amount of \$65,716.25 for labor and material. With a remaining balance of \$700,657.71.

Kleckner Interior Systems – Pay App. #7 in the amount of \$18,622.19 for Bid Package No. 2. With a remaining balance of \$421,674.00.

E.C. Babilla – Pay App. #3 in the amount of \$29,275.29 for roofing. With a remaining balance of \$403,781.47.

Circle “R” Electric – Pay App. #8 in the amount of \$11,097.80 for electrical. With a remaining balance of \$192,760.47.

Mechanical Concepts – Pay App. #8 in the amount of \$144,694.50 for HVAC. With a remaining balance of \$361,235.00.

Midwest Tile & Interiors – Pay App. #4 in the amount of \$33,145.50 for flooring. With a remaining balance of \$133,194.00.

State Line Fire Systems – Pay App. #4 in the amount of \$9,927.50 for fire suppression. With a remaining balance of \$40,086.25.

Arctic Engineering – Pay App. #6 in the amount of \$24,203.48 for plumbing. With a remaining balance of \$89,787.27.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve all of the above Pay Apps., Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

157 FRANKLIN ST. RENO – ALLOWANCE AUTHORIZATIONS, PAY APPS. & CHANGE ORDERS

Stevens Engineers & Constructors – Allowance Authorization #1 in the amount of \$11,272.00. To provide the relocation of furnace vents and 2 additional split systems.

Pangere Corp. – Allowance Authorization #1 in the amount of \$15,784.00. To provide lintels above existing stair doors along with IVD knee walls.

Stan’s Painting & Decorating – Allowance Authorization #1 in the amount of \$2,542.00. To provide painting revisions.

E.C. Babilla – Allowance Authorization #1 in the amount of \$2,098.00. To provide vapor barrier on penthouse roof.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the above Allowance Authorizations, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, For those in the audience allowance authorizations are a dollar amount in the budget and we are acting to spend that money towards that allowance. This is not over the budget it is in the budget. We are just satisfying that line item. That was what allowance authorizations are.

Pangere Corp. – Pay App. #5 in the amount of \$148,479.39 for labor and materials. With a remaining balance of \$459,529.57.

Stan’s Painting and Decorating – Pay App. #3 in the amount of \$10,830.00 for painting. With a remaining balance of \$80,147.45.

State Line Fire Systems – Pay App. #1 in the amount of \$25,406.80 for fire suppression. With a remaining balance of \$66,802.20.

Circle “R” Mechanical – Pay App #4 in the amount of \$8,368.11 for plumbing work. With a remaining balance of \$50,486.83.

Stevens Engineers & Constructors – Pay App. #5 in the amount of \$205,466.00 for HVAC. With a remaining balance \$441,195.40.

Continental Electric Co. – Pay App. #6 in the amount of \$195,700.76 for electrical work. With a remaining balance of \$641,789.72.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the above Pay Apps., Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Stan’s Painting & Decorating – Change Ord. #1 a credit of \$4,333.00.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Circle “R” Mechanical – Change Ord. #2 in the amount of \$1,002.00 for hose bib, floor drain and relocation of existing storm line.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

PURDUE EXTENSION – ANNETTA JONES, DIRECTOR

An Extension Contractual Services Agreement between Purdue University and Porter County Government.

Ms. Jones, This is an updated contractual services agreement. It updates it with the amount that the Council has approved from our budget.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

Ms. Jones, By the way 4H enrollment is wrapping up this week. If anyone wants to enroll now is the time to do it. I also brought for you information a listing of the different 4H Clubs that we have. We have 2 new regular 4H Clubs plus 4 STEM 4H Clubs.

Com. Good, Wow it’s getting bigger.

Ms. Jones, It is. Thank you.

PORTER COUNTY CONVENTION AND VISITORS CENTER – LORELEI WEIMER, DIRECTOR & ATTY. DAVE HOLLENBECK

A 3 year Lease Extension Agreement for the National Park Service Visitor Center.

Atty. Hollenbeck, The Visitors Commission comes to you this morning requesting your approval of the new 3 year extension of the lease agreement we have with the National Park Service for the Visitors Center. This has turned out to be a very good relationship on both sides. You’ve probably heard some stuff but Lorelei can confirm just becoming a National Park has incredibly increased the traffic through that facility and that is a good thing for everyone. Not to bore you with the details but this becomes problematic for us because the National Park Service does not negotiate their own leases. It goes to the General Services Administration which at this point was even more problematic because they passed it off to the Army Corp of Engineers. Now what they know about leases we found out very little. The document you have before you is a new 3 year extension of the agreement. We like to think of the lease payments that we receive fall into one of the 3 buckets. The first bucket is a square footage charge that they are assessed. That is mitigated by the fact that the Federal Government paid for 80% of that building. They are not going to rent from a building that they paid 80% from. Their rent is only 20% of the typical rent. The second bucket that goes into the rent calculation is for operational expenses. We share those pretty much 50/50. The third bucket is a fund that we secure for putting money aside for capital projects as they develop. If you at Page 2 of what you have that lays out the 3 amounts. It goes from \$85,158.00 in the first year to \$97,186.24 in the third year. We had hoped to get and we thought we might get a little longer term lease but with all of this switching we were just happy that the Corp of Engineers who we were and where we were and were willing to renew.

Com. Good, Typically it’s a 5 or 10 year right?

Atty. Hollenbeck, We tried to get a 10 year commitment out of them. So you understand the National Park Service would love to do that but the intervening bureaucrats until they get more familiar.....it is somewhat unusual to have this synergistic relationship between the County and the Feds especially it's usually the other way around. The Feds own the building and the County is leasing it. The fact that we own it kind of throws them for a loop on occasion so we candidly decided we would take the 3 years and start working already toward the renewal.

Com. Good, That's what I was thinking as soon as this is approved you would need to turn around and start working on it.

Ms. Weimer, And that is what we're going to do. We're going to be more of the aggressor this time. We will come in September of this year we're going to start the negotiations for a long term lease. They say it's not easy. Our goal is Jeff is that it would be 20 to 25. We're going to see if we can try to pursue that.

Com. Biggs, Regardless of the percentage I think it's been a great partnership and both sides have benefitted by it. I certainly thing that we should.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the 3 year lease, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, Regarding the fund for Capital Expenditures do we have a balance in that fund now?

Ms. Weimer, We do. It's a little bit over \$100,000.00.

Com. Good, And this based on what I'm hearing we will have another \$200 and some thousand coming through there over the next 3 years based on the numbers that are in there. Was that \$80 some thousand a year or did I hear the wrong numbers?

Ms. Weimer, Well its \$85,000.00 but that also covers just day to day operational expenses. So they're putting about \$750.00 a month aside for that.

Com. Biggs, Is the gift shop what they are operating?

Ms. Weimer, They have some office spaces and then the actual public space that you see is 50/50 because they have exhibitory as we do. Really the when you look at the full square footage we're about 50/50 in terms of our offices and the space that they are utilizing.

Com. Biggs, It's a great shop. Every time I go in there there seems to be new things put out.

Ms. Weimer, Exactly, they do a fantastic job. They don't have enough storage now.

Atty. Hollenbeck, I don't want to put you on the spot, but how many visitors did you have last year?

Ms. Weimer, I actually have that with me. Just to give you a perspective our average visitation annually was about 95,000 for the first 13 years and last year we 170,000 visitors. We had the highest amount of.....

Com. Blaney, That is people in the building?

Ms. Weimer, That is people in the building. Then we had 64 countries represented worldwide. According to our states we had 49 out of the 50 states. I think we actually had all 50 and we just didn't get registrations from. I don't know which state it is I haven't figured that out but it is truly amazing the amount of traffic that is coming through the Visitors Center.

Com. Good, When I was on the Convention and Visitors Bureau many moons ago we pushed and tried to get the National Park Service to partner with us somehow to sort of enhance the Center and make it a little more interactive, vibrant, whatever.

Com. Biggs, User friendly.

Com. Good, It wasn't just that.....

Com. Blaney, Kind of a destination.

Com. Good, Yes I think its more destination and when you come in there there are things that are a little bit more impactful. I think now that we have been designated a National Park Service I think those discussions should start again.

Ms. Weimer, You know what Jeff it is amazing that you said because of your contribution to that we were able to create some concept plans and because we weren't able to get the funding to implement them this Wednesday we're bringing back that same outside team to revise the plan. The National Park has put some money aside so we're revising the plan. The biggest issue is that the price tag is about \$1.6 million. We are trying to look a little bit more seriously as to how we can come up with those funds. Step 1 is to revise the plans and I think you will be very pleased with what comes out of that. It is exactly what you are talking about. Much more hands on much more of an attraction versus getting some brochures.

Com. Good, I don't think it is a secret here to anyone at our last meeting we selected our consultant for the Calumet Trail and we're going to be working over the next several months in trying to develop a plan, a target budget. We're going to be meeting with the National Park Service and a lot of the people to come up with the concept. First of all we need to prove it up to see what it is going to cost and then we need to have a discussion with our Council. At that point as I'm in these meetings with the National Park Service we're going to be bringing up this as well too. I think the time is right finally to start putting some thoughts and ideas together and start pushing. I think if we do the trail and somewhere down the road we can complete this trail the way I think our vision is of how we want the trail to be it should go hand and hand with upgrading that Center.

Ms. Weimer, Absolutely.

Com. Good, We now have the State investing \$600 million into the rail. I just think that we have a lot of momentum behind us right now. I think we need to be strategic and we need to go about this in the right way in making sure that all entities are on board and we are all rowing in the same direction. Just filling some of the gaps but we are slowly moving towards proving up this trail. It is nothing to talk about yet because we have to prove it up, we have to get some numbers and we need to have a serious discussion with our Council members. I don't think this has anything to do with people for or against we're just trying to be diligent to see what it is going to cost and what the price tag is and then we can have the discussion from there.

Ms. Weimer, It is going to fit nicely because the Visitors Center becomes the trail head. The other thing is we just got our preliminary engineering plans. Our site is going to become a Native American Trail and then of course the property surrounding us which was given to the National Park Service by NiSource, the plan is for that to be a really cool Native American Trail. So there is so much stuff that is working together and to be able kind of be the head of all of that in terms of where people can come. We have been amazed with the usage just the local people coming to the Visitors Center for the trail. It has been surprising the people that have been parking there to use the trail at night, which is what really surprised me. At different hours of the day there is always traffic there which has been really exciting to see.

Com. Biggs, And as Jeff said we're not prepared to get into any kind of detail but I think our three opinions would like to see that trail to reflect the interest that people have in it and what is going on at the Visitors Center. It is going to be ambitious, but there is a lot of homework that has to be done first.

Atty. Hollenbeck, Com. Good you mentioned the rail project and the State funding. We tend to think of that as a commuter oriented process to get to jobs in Chicago, but the inverse is true as well. People coming from Chicago out to our area and those trains can bring those visitors to us and they now have the capability of bringing the bikes on the train. It's not just going into Chicago for a job it's coming out to recreate in Porter County and we need to be ready for them.

Com. Good, Jim and I have both said on NICTD Board and we're seeing those numbers. They are growing every year at a pretty good clip. It gives you a pretty good idea if this trail goes it has to be 2 to 3 fold more than what we are getting now. That is more revenue for our train line.

Com. Biggs, Coupled with the double track.

Com. Good, Just everything. To have a billion dollars invested in the North part of your County for transportation its sustainable is the right direction.

Com. Biggs, I think that the majority of our residents see the North part of the County especially along the lakefront as recreational. That is what they want to see it used for. For parks and bike paths and walking paths.

Com. Blaney, And you did a study 10 or 12 years ago we were branding and talking about bikes and bringing bikes on the train. We didn't get anywhere.

Ms. Weimer, Having the platforms have been great and just so you know our office was part of the marketing campaign to get the bikes on the trains.

Com. Blaney, That has been a long time coming.

Ms. Weimer, Sometimes things don't go as fast as you want but eventually it gets there right.

Com. Good, What I've learned being in the development game is that to do a good project it is all timing. It all has to line up. Right now we have the wind to our back. We have the State looking at us. We have the National Park Service looking at us. I think now is the right time. Timing is everything and I think we just need to ride this wave but be diligent and be smart and do it the right way, which I know we can but we have to pay for it. We have partners that we're talking to. I think we have our focus on the right thing, but more to come.

Ms. Weimer, Absolutely and we are excited to be a part of it.

Atty. Hollenbeck, One of the last administrative things is back to the Corp of Engineers. Even though the Visitors Commission doesn't own this building they wanted the Visitors Commission signature on the lease. So we did that which only leaves a witness line for the Commissioners to sign, but I hope you're not offended by that.

Com. Biggs, You are going to try harder than that to offend us. I'm asking that after your approval that you sign it on the witness line.

Com. Good, That is fine. It is long overdue. I think it is also going to give an injection to that area up there to be able to do some other cool things up there.

Ms. Weimer, When I've been in some discussion with some developers I've said you have no idea that there is a lot of developable land right outside the National Park. Now that it is a National Park now all of a sudden people want to be a part of that.

Com. Good, And for some of you that don't know I believe Michigan City right now is in the process of bringing their trail right out to the County Line right now as well. When we put this trail in we're going to be able to connect to....you'll be able to ride a bike all of the way to Michigan City downtown. With a lot of the things that they have going on over there in Michigan City it is an exciting time for that lakefront community as well too.

Com. Biggs, Well all of those communities, I think the Town of Chesterton is going to benefit.

Ms. Weimer, They should be able to the void to Michigan.

Com. Biggs, All of the communities along the rail line will benefit.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the 3 year agreement National Park Service Visitors Center, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, And I will be a witness.

PARKS DEPT. – WALTER LENKOS, DIRECTOR & ATTY. DAVE HOLLENBECK

Atty. Hollenbeck, This is good news as well through Walter and the Park Board's efforts in the final stages of being able to acquire approximately 35 acres adjacent to Brinka Cross which will expand the usability and hopefully the visitors will be accommodated at the Brinka Cross facility in Pine Township. That is being accomplished in its entirety with Federal Grant money. We've got 2 grants one in the amount of \$150,000.00 from the Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program and \$179,000.00 from the Conservation Fund, which is a distribution of monies received from a consent decree resulting from the legal settlement of the Enbridge Pipeline litigation. The Auditor appropriately and the State Board of Accounts requests that each time we get one of these grants you establish a fund into which the grants go and then they audit there from. You should have in front of you 2 ordinances that accomplish each of those purposes. They are very similar to ones you've done in the past and we're asking your approval. Walter we're looking to close here expeditiously?

Mr. Lenkos, Correct, hopefully March.

Atty. Hollenbeck, And if we get the funds established we got the final executed grant agreements here within the last week and the monies can flow in and come out.

Mr. Lenkos, Correct.

An Ordinance Establishing a Fund for Deposit of Proceeds from an Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Grant to Porter County Park Department – 1st Reading.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

Com Good, Does anyone wish to speak against creating this fund? Second call anyone wishing to speak against creating this fund? Third and final time anyone wishing to speak against this fund? Anyone wishing to speak in favor of this fund. Second call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this fund? Third and final time anyone wishing to speak in favor of this fund?

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Com. Blaney, moved to approve an Ordinance Establishing a Fund for Deposit of Proceeds from an Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Grant to Porter County Park Department on 1st Reading, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

An Ordinance Establishing a Fund for Deposit of Proceeds from a Conservation Fund Grant to the Porter County Park Department – 1st Reading.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

Com Good, Does anyone wish to speak against creating this fund? Second call anyone wishing to speak against creating this fund? Third and final time anyone wishing to speak against this fund? Anyone wishing to speak in favor of this fund. Second call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this fund? Third and final time anyone wishing to speak in favor of this fund?

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Com. Blaney, moved to approve an Ordinance Establishing a Fund for Deposit of Proceeds from a Conservation Fund Grant to the Porter County Park Department on 1st Reading.

Com. Good, The second reading for these will be on the 28th.

ITS DEPT. – DON WELLSAND, DIRECTOR

Com. Good, Don before we get into your stuff when we had one of IT meetings several months ago we had discussed you giving a presentation on security and Malware at one of our upcoming meetings. I think we have a good story to tell. We are going to put you on the agenda, but since you are here I would like you to do that.

Mr. Wellsand, I spoke with my cyber security consultant and he is on board with coming back on the 28th of this month. He will give a short presentation of what we have put together in the last couple of months as far as cyber-attacks.

Com. Good, Everyone always asks me how LaPorte and Lake County got hit and we didn't. The next meeting we are going to explain to everyone why we didn't.

Mr. Wellsand, But not in too big of detail though.

Com. Good, We can't let the people that are out there looking know, but we have some safe narrative that I just want to be able to give comfort to the people in Porter County of what we're doing and how we're going about it. This is a real issue in today's world.

Com. Blaney, We're not just lucky.

Com. Good, We want to tell the folks the story but not the whole story.

Mr. Wellsand, Correct.

Com. Good, We just don't want folks to mine us so to speak.

NITCO – A quote to provide additional backup storage off site in Hebron for disaster recovery in the amount \$199.95 per month.

Mr. Wellsand, We actually had another contract earlier that we rented for use space in their data center. We got our storage in, got the storage hooked up and we ended putting in an extension to the storage. So we needed another 4U off of his rack. We're actually leasing 8U on a 3 year period. That is going to go up later this year when I get my VMware servers installed down there just to let you know ahead of time. We have been actually replicating all of our data down to the DR sites since a little over a week ago. Now I have 3 sites, I have this site, the Courthouse and I've got my DR site. Now I sleep at night.

Com. Good, So the backup has a backup.

Mr. Wellsand, It does.

Com. Good, Good that is what we wanted to hear.

Mr. Wellsand, And that is what this is all about.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve NITCO, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Network Solutions – A maintenance agreement to provide help with trouble calls for our phone system in the amount of \$30,800.00.

Mr. Wellsand, This is the annual fee that we pay Network Solutions to be on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year in case my engineers can't handle something that breaks there is a 4 hour response time for them. We basically did this because of the Juvenile Center, the Sheriff's Dept. and 911.

Com. Blaney, Important phones.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve Network Solutions, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

FACILITIES DEPT. – RAY CLOYD, DIRECTOR

Com. Good, Ray Cloyd head of Buildings Facilities and the Christmas Guy in Porter County. I just want to thank you and your department. I know me personally I have received a ton of compliments from citizens and other staff and people within County Government. It was a big step forward for County Government in celebrating the holidays so thank you Ray.

Mr. Cloyd, You're welcome I will tell the team.

D.A. Dodd – An agreement to provide the Server Room an HVAC unit and rescind the accepted proposal from Mechanical Concepts which they were unable to provide.

Mr. Cloyd, First we have an agreement with the IT server room HVAC. We came to you before and we had awarded it to Mechanical Concepts. The deal with it is the unit that we are getting is for an IT server room and they didn't feel comfortable with the manufacture specs on it so they pulled out. We are asking you to accept the proposal from D.A. Dodd.

Com. Good, What was the amount for D.A. Dodd?

Mr. Cloyd, \$54,899.00.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve D.A. Dodd in the amount of \$54,899.00 and rescind Mechanical Concepts, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Z-Man Fence Co. – A quote in the amount of \$6,037.38 to provide labor and materials for a chain link fence for 10 kennels at the Animal Shelter. Two other quotes were requested from Fence Masters and Porter County Fence with no response.

Mr. Cloyd, At the Animal Shelter we have 10 outside kennels. The dogs are chewing up the rubber around the chain link fence and they are pulling it up so they can escape, a little dangerous to the staff. We reached out to several fence companies and we did get a second quote from Northwest Indiana Fence that is not up there. I would recommend using them instead of Z-Man Fence.

Atty. McClure, You asked for 3 quotes and you only got 2. Then out of the 2 we have Z-Man is lower however.....

Mr. Cloyd, However the quote that I got from them is just materials and labor it doesn't give a scope. I reached out to them several times to give me a better of what the scope work is and they didn't respond. So I would rather go with Northwest Fence since we can't get a hold of them.

Com. Good, And for what amount?

Mr. Cloyd, For the kennels it is \$6,750.00 and for an optional we can do the backline of the fence as well for an additional \$2,750.00 I would propose that to you so we can keep the fence all one brand.

Atty. McClure, So if we're going to assume that the Z-Man was an apples to apples which we aren't able to assume but if we were that was a \$6,037.38 quote.

Com. Blaney, Without the option.

Atty. McClure, On the vendor you're recommending Northwest Indiana Fence the apple to apple number would be \$6,750.00. Then the additional \$2,750.00 would be the optional additional for the backline.

Mr. Cloyd, Correct.

Com. Biggs, And the other contractor just wasn't responsive.

Mr. Cloyd, He hasn't returned my phone calls.

Com. Good, He is also going to have additional money to go on top of his bid because he has labor and other thing that he doesn't have in there. If he's not giving you that number I don't know how we could.....

Atty. McClure, That is what we were trying to confirm.

Com. Biggs, The law is clear it is the most responsible and responsive, not the lowest.

Com. Good, Who is paying for this?

Mr. Cloyd, We are the Facilities Dept.

Com. Good, We don't have any Animal Shelter funds over there Toni?

Mr. Cloyd, I wasn't aware that the Animal Shelter could do this, but.

Com. Good, What is the total with the option?

Com. Blaney, \$9500.00.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve Northwest Indiana Fence including the option in the amount of \$9500.00, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, Ray is there anything we can do if we put this new fence that we can do to make sure it doesn't happen again?

Mr. Cloyd, My team has been out there and we tried to do it ourselves to try to make this work. I really don't have any solutions beside change so the dogs don't grab the rubber.

Com. Blaney, Is there rubber on this too?

Mr. Cloyd, No not on this one this will be galvanized.

Com. Blaney, So this should solve the problem too.

Mr. Cloyd, I'm hoping.

Atty. McClure, And then we will meet about how we are paying for this later.

DEVELOPMENT & STORM WATER MNGMNT. – BOB THOMPSON, DIRECTOR

Mr. Thompson, We want to introduce to everyone Adam McAlpine who started today as our Assistant County Engineer.

Com. Good, Hi Adam welcome.

Mr. McAlpine, Thank you.

Mr. Novotney, Adam brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to our staff. We're super excited to have him. He joins us after serving the City of Valparaiso for 9 years as Assistant City Engineer and their Storm Water Engineer and then for the last 18 months as their City Engineer. He is going to bring a lot of capability to help us with our Storm Water Program. Help us particularly with our Develop Review Program and just further the mission of the development of our programs upstairs.

Com. Good, Thank you Adam good luck, welcome.

Wood's Edge – A PUD Ordinance regarding a development located in the Southwest corner of Hayes Leonard Rd. and Joliet Rd. – 2nd Reading.

Mr. Thompson, This is 2nd Reading for Woods Edge. It was approved by the Commissioners at their last meeting by a 3 – 0 vote.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve Woods Edge on 2nd Reading, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Reith Riley – Contractor recommendation for Bridge 1001, West St. over Salt Creek in the amount of \$182,007.18.

Mr. Thompson, This is Bridge 1001. This is on West St. over Salt Creek it is just right out here by the curves of Horse Prairie going west by the car dealerships. The staff is recommending Reith Riley for this project. They had a bid of \$182, 007.18.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve Reith Riley, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

INDOT - LPA Contract for Bridge 68, Smoke Rd. over Jones Ditch.

Mr. Thompson, The LPA INDOT contract is for the Federal Funding that we have for the construction dollars on that. We need to go through this now because there is a particular number the EDS number that our consultant needs because we're starting in the process of right-of-way acquisition for this bridge. Right now we feel that we are ahead of schedule which is good news. This is for the INDOT LPA agreement and for our Federal Construction dollars.

Com. Good, This was a bridge that got ripped away during the flooding.

Mr. Novotney, No not this one. This is (Inaudible) this carries Smoke Rd. over Jones Ditch. The one that got damaged during the 2018 flood is in the same area. That carries 50 West over Cobb Ditch. Same spot but different ditch.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve Bridge 68, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

WSP Engineers – Consultant Contract for Bridge 73, 50 West over Cobb Ditch.

Mr. Thompson, This is the bridge you were talking about. This is the bridge that failed during the February flooding event. Mike has procured the FEMA funding for this. Now we are recommending WSP Engineers for our consultant to start the design process for this bridge.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve WSP Engineers, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Change Orders for Bridge 152, Wagner Rd. over the Little Calumet River and Bridge 208, Shorewood Dr. over Lake Louise.

Mr. Thompson, These 2 bridges were combined into one contract that is why we have them listed on this. This is a change order mainly because on Bridge 208 when we removed the old bridge deck or the old laminate that was on there. There was significant rebar loss on that section of loss. We had to put in a lot of new rebar for this particular project on the deck. This change order is for the rebar. I believe there was a little additional concrete that we had to do on the overlays.

Mr. Novotney, Yes in essence the contract adds pay item to address that additional rebar that had to go into reinforce the deck and remove the old. It also settles final measure quantities that were complete for the work. It is an increase of \$10,552.32 for a total contract price of \$763,862.62.

Com. Good, I would just like to make a point that by having our own Highway and our own Engineers now this bridge was being rehabilitated it is a long concrete bridge that goes through Shorewood Forest, it is a good size bridge. When we got into it we found that we had some rusting rebar and some spalling of some concrete and things internally. We made the decision at that time while we had it wide opened to fix correctly. This is just me talking but I come to having our own people in our own place with a different set of eyes and a different responsibility to the taxpayers. This is where decisions are made that have the right thing in mind. If we would have just gone over that thing we would have been dealing with this 5 to 7 years from now. I know I'm on my little podium here, but once again I'm just trying to let people know what we're doing and when we see these things we now have the ability to react in house which I think is very important when you do this kind of work. I think \$10,000.00 for what we were looking at is sort of a kick in the bucket for what we ended up getting done.

Com. Good, moved to approve the Change Order on Bridges 152 and 208, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

GRAHAM WOODS SUBDIVISION

Com. Biggs, For the benefit of Com. Good and Com Blaney could you just real quickly I see that Mr. Actorhoff showed up today can you give us a short overview of when we met last night with the residents.

Mr. Novotney, I would be happy to do that Com. Biggs. So if you recall the December 17th Board of Commissioners' meeting Mr. Actorhoff and several others from the Graham Woods Subdivision north of Indian Boundary Town of Chesterton area.

Com. Biggs, They had 24 residents in their home.

Mr. Novotney, Showed up and so we set up a meeting with them and the community. Ron was gracious enough to host the community. 24 residents showed up which was great to have an open and candid conversation about concerns associated with the pond in Graham Woods. We have a public road that is a one way in, one way out. We have concerns there is beaver activity up there. Dams that are impacting that existing drainage infrastructure. We have concerns first and foremost protecting that roadway and taking action so that roadway those culverts don't get washed out and that roadway doesn't get undermine and we have an emergency situation up there. I thought it was a great conversation. The County laid out what our plan of action was going to be and the residents all had a chance to ask questions, share concerns, share viewpoints and opinions and Com. Biggs attended. I just thought it was a great candid conversation. The way that we should be conducting business, openly and with transparency and communicating with the residents that we are serving. So we laid out what we are going to do in the coming months. Some temporary improvements to make sure those culverts are opened flowing with a long term goal of basically replacing those existing culverts so we have a structure that requires a lot less maintenance and provides us with a level of comfort about how it is going to manage water levels to and through that system.

Com. Biggs, Jeff touched on it a couple of minutes ago regarding the changes within the Plan Commission and hiring our own engineers. That meeting to me it really marked a change in how we're approaching a situation such as that. It wasn't a short time ago where that really wouldn't have been possible. Somebody like myself could have been out there but I don't have as you know the technical background to answer the questions that they were looking for. It was a wonderful meeting. You guys did an absolute great job and I think the residents really appreciated that.

Mr. Novotney, And with all of our work not everyone is going to get everything that they think they should or they want but we're going to explain to them what we can do, why we're going to do it and incorporate those asks and those concerns to the extent practical in all of our design work. I agree I thought it was a great community meeting. Something we've been doing really since we opened our office and will continue to do.

Com. Biggs, Ron or Terri what did you think of the meeting?

Mr. Actorhoff, I thought it was very well handled. Mike and yourself everyone that had attended the meeting got a little knowledge of what you're doing and I think it was very successful

I really did. With 24 people there I was amazed the community coming together and getting their questions answered because they were all because they were all coming to me and saying what are we going to do. It was well planned I thank you for coming over and handling it the way that you did. I mean it was very nice. It went very well.

Mr. Novotney, Thank you for hosting. It is a case study of the challenge with Storm Water Management in that it's not just one landowner or one entity it takes everybody working together because water is moving through out of the watershed and touching everybody's property. Everybody has their own ideas and thoughts.

Com. Biggs, I learned things last night about that immediate area that I had never known. It was very informative.

Com. Good, Good I like ending meetings on that kind of note. That is a good way to start off 2020.

PORTER COUNTY DISASTER EMERGENCY DECLARATION

Atty. McClure, Today when we originally did the Porter County Disaster Emergency Declaration in response to the shoreline erosion issue when we originally did it expires today and we did it on purpose at our last meeting to get us to this meeting. Unfortunately I think pursuant to your recommendation that emergency still exists. There are efforts underway to try to help but some of those efforts have come and gone already. I think at this point your recommendation is to refresh the Disaster Emergency Declaration for another 30 days starting today along with the accompanying resolution that would take us back out for 30 days and I think we should probably put it back on.

Com. Good, It hasn't froze yet.

Atty. McClure, I think we should push it to February 18th. From January 14th to February 18th and then we can readdress it then to get a better idea of what is happening in the next 30 days.

Mr. Bella, I would agree.

Com. Good, Just so everyone knows there is a limitation on the emergency we can state. It is either 10 days or 30 days. This isn't something that we are trying to micro-manage we're just trying to work within the laws and the guidelines that are established.

Com. Blaney, This is more than 30 days can we do it?

Atty. McClure, We can go out this far. The point of the statute is to not put a blanket on for 6 months or a year and not review it. I think at this point it would be okay considering we've already 30 and have extensive drone footage of the issues and some of the before and after even on some of the current fixes that are being attempted. We can go out to the 18th to a date certain at this point I think we're at 33 days. The statute is not a "shall only be 30" but it wants to be refreshed so I think we will be okay at this point.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Emergency Declaration from today through February 18th, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Biggs, Lance thank you for the work your department is doing. One benefit of this of your department being involved and the Board of Commissioner being involved we're not likely to be surprised by anything. I think that is a benefit of course to us but is also a benefit to the residents out there that are paying attention to what we're reporting so thank you for that.

Com. Good, I truly say that the EMA Dept. within Porter County Government has arrived. We're now doing things that we've never done before and we're taking the role of the leadership role of what we can do there. Like Com. Biggs said Lance has been up there every day and looking at things and watching over things and that is what a true EMA Dept. does within a county. We're excited about that and it's another department within county government that is moving forward in a very good pace. Thank you Lance. We look forward to working with you another year.

Mr. Bella, Thank you. I think this is the only time in history I've every prayed for freezing weather.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

Jeffrey J. Good

Laura M. Blaney

Jim Biggs

Attest: _____
Vicki Urbanik, Auditor