

**PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, APRIL 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, April 14th, 2020 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Administration Center.

Those present were: Commissioners Laura Blaney, Jeff Good, Jim Biggs, County Attorney Scott McClure; and Recording Secretary Kathy Merle. The meeting was held remotely due to the Coronavirus.

Call to Order/Pledge

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Payroll – March 20th and April 3rd, 2020.

Approval of Claims – March 24th, March 31st and April 9th, 2020.

Approval of Minutes – March 17th and March 27th, 2020.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Accepting Applications to the following Boards:

- **Airport Authority**
- **Storm Water Advisory (Replace Jay Hunter)**

Com. Good, We're not sure when we will appoint the citizen to the Storm Water Advisory Board. We may need to have some interviews after we come out of the Covid-19.

NEW BUSINESS

Com. Good, I would like to give County Auditor Vicki Urbanik some time to go over things that are going on in her office during these unprecedented times.

Ms. Urbanik, Thank you Com. Good. As most taxpayers already know tax bills have been mailed out by the Treasurers' office and taxpayers should be receiving them in their mail this week. As a result of many phone calls are coming into our offices, many emails and we are working diligently with reduced staff in house. So I would just like to ask taxpayers to be patient with us. I think I'm speaking not just for the Auditor's office but for the other County offices that are involved in the tax billing. We will get to your questions and your concerns but we are working as diligently as we can as we work in house with these reduced crews during this Covid-19 pandemic.

Com. Good, Vicki please explain to everyone the dates because it is a little confusing but I like your explanation and maybe this will eliminate their questions if that is what they are calling about.

Ms. Urbanik, Certainly, the tax bills in Indiana are due in two installments and this year the first installment is due on May 11th. However, because of the Covid-19 pandemic Gov. Holcomb has waived the penalties on all delinquent property taxes for 60 days. This means that taxpayers will not see a penalty on their property tax portion of their bill until after July 10th or 11th under the Governor's Executive Order. Yes it is a little confusing tax bills are still due at least the first installment on May 11th but if for some reason you cannot pay on time you will not see that normal penalty applied until after July 11th.

Com. Good, Thank you Vicki I think that was very clear and thank you for the announcement. I just want to out in front of things before they turn into more than what they really need to be. Thank you for that update.

Ms. Urbanik, Thank you.

COMMISSIONERS

Frontier – To relocate the phone pedestal in the Judges parking lot at the North County Annex. This includes saw cutting of asphalt and required restoration in the amount of \$8,906.91.

Com. Good, If you know anything about the North County Annex which probably a lot of people don't. Behind the building Verizon has a small switching building in the back of the courthouse. It is right where we have our drive from the sally port for the prisoner's holding room and all of the things that we've added. There was a telephone pedestal in the back. We had gone back and forth but we finally found a common ground with Frontier and this is the action we need to take to have it relocated. It will be put in a much better place for Frontier and a much better place for us.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Frontier contract, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

GIS – Executive Summary of Property, Casualty, and Cyber Risk Insurance.

- **Award for April 2020 – April 2021.**
- **Travelers Expiring Premium - \$948,358.00**
- **Travelers Renewal Premium -\$1,051,525.00**
- **Liberty Mutual Premium - \$895,088.00**

Options to Increase Coverage for Cyber Risk:

- 1. For an additional sum of \$8,400.00 policy limit goes to \$2,000,000.00.**
- 2. For an additional sum of \$12,449.00 policy limit goes to \$3,000,000.00.**
- 3. For an additional sum of \$21,985.00 policy limit goes to \$5,000,000.00.**

Com. Good, This is the company that Porter County is contracted with to help us deploy our Property and Casualty Insurance plan. We have some really good news that we received last week regarding our Property and Casualty along with our Cyber Risk Insurance. I will let Atty. McClure explain.

Atty. McClure, So what we have currently expiring is our Travelers policy and that is our Liability lines, Property lines, Automobile coverage, the Umbrella and our Cyber coverage. The total premium for all of that as is on the agenda \$948,358.00. GIS being our independent agent went back out at the renewal got the additional quote from Liberty Mutual. As you can see the Liberty Mutual premium and also the coverages are all if not exactly the same. There are very little differences between those. They have been combed through very carefully especially the Automobile coverage as that does seem to be the biggest difference in the pricing on the insurance. The Liberty Mutual would be looking to for the next year insure the County for \$895,088.00. The Travelers annual premium moving towards next year would actually be \$1,051,525.00. So the Liberty Mutual premium is actually about a little bit more than \$50,000.00 cheaper than the expiring Travelers premium. It is obviously a significantly less expensive \$150,000.00 less expensive than the Travelers renewal. That is the first bit of good news. The secondly given the time period that we're living in and the Cyber Security issues luckily we already had significant coverage for our Cyber Security. There are some additional options that are outlined also on the agenda. For an additional sum of what is quoted above we can take the Cyber Risk coverage up to \$2 million for an extra \$8,400.00 for an additional \$12,449.00 we can take that limit up to \$3 million. Given the cost savings on the insurance overall and the environment that we're in it would be difficult for me not to recommend the \$3 million coverage for the \$12, 449.00 additional sum. I think that makes sense for a lot of different reasons. That is all I have on the insurance.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the premium bid from Liberty Mutual with the increased policy limit to \$3 million for the Cyber Security protection, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, Any further discussion? The only thing I would like to say is we were looking at anywhere from a 10% to 15% increase and we're going to a 2% decrease. I like that plus we're tripling our Cyber Security insurance which I think in these times where a lot of people are working from remotely and a lot of people have a lot of idle time on their hands this is the property time to be leaning into this and double, tripling down. The good work by this Board getting us into this position where we can make decisions like that. The hard work we put into our insurance programs continue to payoff for the citizens of Porter County. We're pretty proud of that.

NORTH COUNTY ANNEX – PAY APPS.

E. C. Babilla – Pay App. #4 in the amount of \$139,556.03 for roofing. With a remaining balance of \$273, 225.44.

Pangere Corp. – Pay App. #10 in the amount of \$113,922.10 for labor and materials. With a remaining balance of \$415,218.21.

Ziolkowski Const. – Pay App. #16 in the amount of \$13,965.00 for Bid Package #1. With a remaining balance of \$275,831.00.

Circle “R” Electric – Pay App. #11 in the amount of \$30,517.66 for electrical. With a remaining balance of \$112,226.49.

Kleckner Interior Systems – Pay App. #10 in the amount of \$42,872.55 for Bid Package #2. With a remaining balance of \$303,109.11.

Stan’s Painting and Decorating – Pay App. 8 in the amount of \$14,035.30 for painting. With a remaining balance of \$71,372.75.

Mechanical Concepts – Pay Apps. #11 in the amount of \$34,152.50 for HVAC. With a remaining balance of \$206,641.50.

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

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

Continental Electric – Pay App. #10 in the amount of \$72,462.12 for electrical. With a remaining balance of \$229,103.10.

Stan’s Painting and Decorating – Pay App. #7 in the amount of \$19,151.05 for painting. With a remaining balance of \$12,049.50.

State Line Fire Systems – Pay App. #5 in the amount of \$1,567.50 for fire suppression. With a remaining balance of \$13,252.60.

Circle “R” Mechanical – Pay App. #8 in the amount of \$938.03 for plumbing work. With a remaining balance of \$24,565.07.

Stevens Engineering & Constructors – Pay App. #9 in the amount of \$11,875.00 for labor and materials. With a remaining balance of \$125,202.60.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve all of the above 157 Franklin St. Pay Apps., Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER – ALISON COX, DIRECTOR & JUDGE MARY HARPER

An Ordinance Creating a Non-Reverting Fund for the Receipt of Fees Associated with the Porter County Truancy Court – 2nd Reading.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve an Ordinance Creating a Non-Reverting Fund for the Receipt of Fees Associated with the Porter County Truancy Court, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Ms. Urbanik, Roll Call:

Com. Good, Yes.

Com. Blaney, Yes.

Com. Biggs, Yes.

Ms. Urbanik, 3 to 0.

EMA – LANCE BELLA, DIRECTOR

Porter County Shoreline Disaster Emergency Declaration & Travel Restriction.

Com. Good, I would like to take an opportunity to thank Lance and all of the volunteers that have been putting a tremendous amount hours in and this department working with all entities Federal, Local, State and have been very busy. Once again I would like to give another shout out to all of our volunteers. A lot of our Emergency Management Agency is made up of a lot of volunteers who volunteer their time during these times. I know we have thanked them on social media but we want to thank them personally for all of their time and effort that they have put in and volunteered. So what we have here is we are going to shift gears from Covid and go back to the National Lake Shore. Scott can you give us an update as to what this is and to put it into perspective for everyone.

Atty. McClure, This is just the renewal of the original Disaster Emergency Declaration that we did for the entire North County Shoreline with Lake Michigan. We have been renewing this every meeting. The situation is still the same as far as the erosion and the lake level. EMA Director has asked that we renew the Declaration for another 30 days until our next meeting.

Com. Blaney, I would also like to thank Lance. He has handled all of the communications within departments and agencies involved in this Covid-19 response and communication is so important and key in handling things well. He has just really taken that role on and done as well as humanly possible.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Porter County Shoreline Disaster Emergency Declaration and Travel Restriction extension, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Ms. Urbanik, Roll Call:

Com. Good, Yes.

Com. Blaney, Yes.

Com. Biggs, Yes.

Ms. Urbanik, 3 to 0.

CLERK JESSICA BAILEY

The approval of polling locations.

Com. Good, I know I had some questions when this came up on the agenda. I have spoken to Atty. McClure prior to the meeting. Atty. McClure why don't you give us an update on why we are doing this based off of the new election laws that were passed a year ago. It was sort of confusing to me, maybe others maybe not.

Atty. McClure, In the past the previous version of our Election Board the Commissioners had the obligation and the duty of the statute to approve the polling locations for every election. When the election statute changed for Porter County and the new Election Board was created underneath that new statute that authority lies with that board. However, as the Secretary of State with the State of Indiana has been always very involved with the election process. Getting approval from this Board was still on that checklist from the State. So that is why they started down this road and why I would ask for you to approve it today. Obviously it would not do any harm. The Clerk has spoken to the Secretary of State I believe that their individual calendars and checklists have updated to reflect correctly for Porter County, Lake County (Inaudible) those were changed. I would ask for you to approve these polling locations and I don't that will be necessary for us moving forward.

Com. Good, Thank you Atty. McClure. I have a better understanding of what this is for. Any other questions from the Board.

Com Blaney, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Clerk Bailey. I received my mail in ballot in the mail. The whole process took less than a week. So if anyone is worried about coming to the polls it is great way to do it.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Polling Locations, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Ms. Urbanik, Roll Call:

Com. Good, Yes.

Com. Blaney, Yes.

Com. Biggs, Yes.

Ms. Urbanik, 3 to 0.

IT DEPT. – DON WELLSAND, DIRECTOR

Videotec – Additional card readers for 157 Franklin in the amount of \$28,606.26.

Com. Good, This is coming later as we're starting to figure out who is moving in. We've now made a determination as to where we are going to have card readers and access. We will know who entered the building. It is for security purposes. It is card readers for access.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve Videotec for card readers, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Ms. Urbanik, Roll Call:

Com. Good, Yes.

Com. Blaney, Yes.

Com. Biggs, Yes.

Ms. Urbanik, 3 to 0.

NCI - Cabling to dispatch consoles when they are installed at 157 Franklin in the amount of \$16,323.00.

Com. Good, It is now confirmed what type of call desks will be used. This is the dollar amount for all of the cabling that will go into these 8 stations. There is a lot of technology going into this place and that is what this is for.

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

Ms. Urbanik, Roll Call:

Com. Good, Yes.

Com. Blaney, Yes.

Com. Biggs, Yes.

Ms. Urbanik, 3 to 0.

DEVELOPMENT & STORM WATER MNGMNT. – BOB THOMPSON, DIRECTOR

A Unified Development Ordinance with regards to Solar Energy Systems – 2nd Reading.

Com. Good, This was discussed at our last meeting. We had an open public hearing at our 1st Reading. The ordinance moved out of the 1st Reading with a 3 to 0 vote. Once again we're back here to take action with a 2nd Reading which does not require a public hearing. (Inaudible).

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Ordinance on 2nd Reading, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, I would just like to say that once again Porter County is leading in looking into solar possibilities. I know in talking with Director Thompson we had some solar ordinances on the books before (Inaudible). This is also addressing (Inaudible) residential applications but it also solar farms (Inaudible) on farm ground and agricultural areas are becoming more and more of a positive thing that we're starting to see in the utility world with regards to electric. I think this is a big step forward for (Inaudible) and I think this is another tool that will help farmers and the people in the rural areas that try to manage their large fields and their open grounds. There are a lot of benefits to this program for environment. I know me personally (Inaudible) this is all a part of this movement towards green (Inaudible).

Ms. Urbanik, Roll Call:

Com. Good, Yes.

Com. Blaney, Yes.

Com. Biggs, Yes.

Ms. Urbanik, 3 to 0.

Com. Good, Does anyone have anything they would like to add?

Com. Biggs, The painting is coming along inside of the building and it looks wonderful. It will be nice when we open back up and the public will see a nice fresh interior. They are doing a great job with that as well.

Com. Good, And I think we're self-performing that right Mr. Biggs?

Com. Biggs, Yes sir Mr. Good.

Com. Good, That is even better too. We're using our people that we have to do this. More savings for the County and a nicer looking building on the inside. That concludes our meeting for today. I would also encourage everyone to go on social media. Curt is putting out a lot of very important information along with the Health Dept. I'm sure there will be future announcements and I would ask that everyone in Porter County stay safe.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

Jeffrey J. Good

Laura M. Blaney

Jim Biggs

Attest: _____
Vicki Urbanik, Auditor