

**PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2018
9:30 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 9:30 a.m. on Monday, April 30, 2018 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Administration Center.

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

Call to Order/Pledge

Com. Good, Good morning, this is the Porter County Board of Commissioners' Special Meeting on Monday April 30th, 2018. What we're going to be working on today and talking about today in the special meeting is Cumulative Bridge Fund. So with that I will turn it over to Scott. He can give us the outline of all the things that we need to do deadlines and everything else.

Atty. McClure, So on the introduction of the resolution we have a Resolution to Re-establish the Cumulative Bridge Fund and working in tandem with the Auditor at length on this. The timing of this had changed from last year as you remember we were doing the re-establishment of the Bridge Fund more in June and July into August and not so crammed at the beginning of the year. The statutes change so that is why we are doing it by the end of April. Basically the resolution would be to take the rate to \$.04 on each 100 of assessed evaluation. It's currently at \$.02, again this doesn't increase the overall tax rate it just secures an additional \$.02 per 100 of assessed evaluation to go to our bridge fund and that is the introduction and then we would need to move on to the public hearing and see if we would have any public input. It has been advertised as required and Vicki in the Auditor's office again will have to do some heavy lifting and get the appropriate copy of the legal advertisement out today. So we do have this pretty tight, but it's basically because of the change of the State statute on the timing, but overall this would take the Bridge Fund rate to \$.04.

Com. Good, And I believe this is our third time in 4 years that we have doubled it. I think currently at the \$.02 we're second from the bottom so we're 91st the County with regards to tax rates. Doubling it is our max we can do. So the most you can do is double it. So where would the \$.04 put us then Vicki do you have any idea? If not that's okay I'm not trying to put you on the spot.

Atty. McClure, Well she did provide us with a list of the Cumulative Bridge Rates, Major Bridge Rates of some other counties that would be more like us. Twelve or thirteen are on this list we're still towards the bottom of that list and still have some of the most amount of bridges that anyone has being with our geographic location. So this is probably something that needed to be started years ago and we're just catching up with it to get that Bridge Fund to be able to maintain, what do we have 127 bridges Countywide?

Com. Good, Yes.

Atty. McClure, If anyone pays any attention to the bills that come in from the bridge work they're significant. A half a million dollars does not get you far on a bridge. So I believe this would take our Bridge Fund probably somewhere closer to \$3.5 million a year to allow for maintenance which if you start taking \$3.5 million over 127 bridges it still doesn't go very far, but it is a continual step in the right direction and allows us to continue to knock some of those bigger things off.

Com. Good, Any other questions from the Board?

Com. Biggs, This doesn't affect the tax rate at all?

Com. Blaney, No. We're just assuring that this amount of money out of the tax rate goes towards infrastructure.

Com. Good, So this would come directly from the State into that fund. It just bypasses the whole County Government process right?

Atty. McClure, Yes when the pie is split up the Bridge Fund gets the \$.04 per 100 of assessed (Inaudible).

Com. Good, Right. So we're just grabbing a little more.

Com. Biggs, This is kind of ridiculous this wasn't doesn't done years ago. According to what you are telling me that money is sitting there for us so we could have requested at any time, our fair share.

Com. Blaney, It would have come out of other budgets though. It's not like a pot for the State it's a pot in our County.

Atty. McClure, Our County tax pot. This just takes slightly more of that slice.

Com. Biggs, Who gets the lesser slice then?

Com. Good, The Council has to work through that now.

Com. Blaney, When they do the budgets this will just get taken off of the top.

Atty. McClure, But it's not just our County Council this is throughout County, because we take care of all of the bridges.

Com. Blaney, Municipalities and everything.

Com. Good, Municipalities and everything else that it would affect too.

Com. Blaney, It's really not very painful.

Atty. McClure, It's hard to even see.

Com. Blaney, But it makes a big difference to us.

Com. Good, I think years ago there was quite a bit of money that was sitting in the Bridge Fund and it was fund that a lot of people used occasionally and I think there was a healthy balance in there so I don't think anybody was really looking at it.

Com. Blaney, When we had the bankruptcy people started borrowing from it.

Com. Good, Yes.

Atty. McClure, That is how much money was in it.

Com. Blaney, Yes.

Atty. McClure, But now that we're actually actively keeping with the bridges and trying to get on the maintenance program and things like that this became painfully clear that this wasn't going to be self-sustaining.

Com. Good, I think these are results of all part of our reorganization of the Highway Department and the things that were happening out there. I think now we have a better handle on where we're at with our bridges then what we had before thus the need I think. Any other questions?

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Com. Good, Does anyone wish to speak against this resolution please come forward. Second call anyone wishing to speak against this resolution please come forward. Third and final time anyone wishing to speak against this resolution please come forward. Anyone wishing to speak in favor of this resolution please come forward. Second call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this resolution. Third and final call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this resolution?

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Resolution Re-establishing the Cumulative Bridge Fund, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Ms. Urbanik, Just a quick comment. Scott is right it is going to bring the levy to around \$3 million. We will know the precise amount at budget hearing time.

Com. Good, Thanks Vicki.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

Jeffrey J. Good

Laura M. Blaney

Jim Biggs

Attest: _____
Vicki Urbanik, Auditor