

**PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2018
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, May 15, 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 Kathy Merle.

Call to Order/Pledge

Com. Good, Good morning, this is the Board of Commissioners' Meeting on Tuesday May 15th, 2018.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes – April 17th, April 30th and May 8th, 2018.

Approval of Payroll – April 20th and May 4th, 2018.

Approval of Claims – April 19th, April 26th, May 3rd and May 10th, 2018.

Treasurer's Monthly Report – March 31st, 2018.

Comp Time Report.

MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE – SCOT MACDONALD, DIRECTOR

- 1. MTI Production –License Agreement Show 1.**
- 2. Samuel French – License Agreement Show 1.**
- 3. MTI Production – License Agreement Show 2.**
- 4. Samuel French – License Agreement Show 2.**
- 5. Tom Lounges – Venue Rental Agreement.**
- 6. BMI – Venue Interim Extension Agreement.**
- 7. Family Folklore Foundation – Venue Rental Agreement – Non-Profit.**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rhonda Young has been named the new Porter County H.R. Director.

Com. Blaney, I am very pleased to announce that our new H.R. Director will be Rhonda Young. Rhonda has been working in our office for a while now and has proven herself to be very organized and very on top of things and we think it's going to be a very good natural fit promote her from within. We look forward to some stability and consistency in that office. Thank you Rhonda.

Ms. Young, Thank you.

Com. Biggs, I agree Laura and Jeff we would have looked a long time to find someone as good as I think she is going to be.

Com. Good, Thank you Rhonda your continued presence in our office is well appreciated. Thank you. You've been a great addition to this team and good luck.

Ms. Young, Thanks so much.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMISSIONERS

Stu Summers – Appointment to the Porter County Public Library Board

Com. Blaney, Stu is here and this is a reappointment and Stu is the President of the Library Board right now. He is doing some really good things over there by bringing the library system into the 21st Century. Did you hire anyone yet, for the new director?

Mr. Summers, No in fact I've got interviews at lunchtime and dinnertime today and we have a board meeting tomorrow so hopefully we'll have an announcement very soon.

Com. Blaney, So we should have a new director pretty soon and continue our improvements over there. Thank you for everything you've done so far.

Com. Good, I would personally like to thank Stu too. There has been a lot of work going on at the Library Board it doesn't get reported. It doesn't get talked about a lot, but there is a lot of working going on there and Stu is the driving force behind that. Thank you Stu, thank you for your leadership it's well needed at this time so thank you.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the reappointment of Stu Summers to the Porter County Public Library Board, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Kalymnos Holdings Group - Assignment and Assumption Agreement for 157 Franklin in Valparaiso

Atty. McClure, In preparation of the closing on 157 Franklin as part of the Capital Improvement Project there is a telecom lease holder on the building and this is the assignment and assumption agreement that would transfer that lease to the Porter County Commissioners in preparation of our closing. This would transfer the rights to the lease and the payments of the bond closing to the Porter County Commissioners' office.

Com. Good, Any questions?

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Assignment and Assumption Agreement, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

American Structurepoint – Payment Application No. 7 in the amount of \$27,942.77 for the Plaza Renovation. The remaining balance is \$54,630.13

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

Com. Good, I would like to also make an announcement in a follow up for Plaza we will be holding a ribbon cutting in the next 30 days. We're working on dates and times and everything for that and also now that the Plaza is opened we're noticing that accessing the building has changed a little bit from the past and we've seen that our pedestrian traffic is changing a little bit so we're going to be working with the City of Valparaiso along with our street parking we have here out in front of the building to see if we can consolidate some ADA parking and some other things to make the outside area a little bit more conducive as to how people come and go into the building. So we now have that front done and we are going to study a few parking spaces out there and see if we can make things a little bit easier for people with disabilities to be able to get in and out of the building a little bit better. We are going to be charging on that in the next few months to see if we could come up with some solutions that will make this a little more user friendly getting in and out and coming into the building. I don't think there will be a lot of work required in that but some signage and some other things that will make it a little bit more workable than what we have now. I just wanted to add that for some additional business that is going to be coming our way.

An Ordinance Establishing a Non-Reverting Fund for the Receipt of Charitable Donations for the Porter County E-911 Department – 1st Reading

Atty. McClure, This will be the 1st Reading for the creation of a fund for donations to E-911. The funds deposited in this account would be for the exclusive purpose and spend on Porter County E-911 needs subject to the appropriation by the Porter County Council. Right now E-911 doesn't have a donation account that allows for people to make donations and for the money to be deposited somewhere besides to stay in the General Fund. This is the 1st Reading on that and this would allow E-911 to accept donations.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

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

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Com. Blaney, moved to approve on 1st Reading, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, 2nd Reading for this ordinance will take place at our June meeting.

Award Recommendation for the Valparaiso Courthouse Renovations Bid Package 1

Com. Good, I will turn this over to Atty. McClure and Dion. For the public's notification here the gentleman sitting in front of me is Dion from Skillman Corporation who is acting as the County's construction manager for all of the projects we have going on. The Board of Commissioners works very close with Skillman in putting the bids together and putting the bid packages together, meeting with the architects, meeting with all of the other folks. You will be seeing Dion coming in front of us a lot over the next 4 or 5 months bringing these bid packages and projects forward. With that I will turn it over to you Dion good morning.

Mr. Katsouros, Good morning. Thank you Com. Good. As you are aware on May 8th we opened bids for what is considered the first phase for the Courthouse specifically. Phase I really consisted of 2 major scopes of work, restoration of the perimeter exterior along with window replacement. We wanted to get this moving along because of the long lead times specifically for the window portions. Those windows are very large. Most of them are 4' x 12' high so the lead time by the time we start shop drawing process and approvals those windows will take somewhere between 8 to 10 weeks. Pending approval if you do decide to move forward with this project today one of the first things that you will start to see is mobilization and the restoration portion on the exterior. Window replacement because of the long lead time won't actually start until somewhere in August/September by the time we actually receive the materials. So that is the first phase. Shive-Hattery is here in the audience as well. We're working with them closely on what is considered Bid Package 2 and that is some additional landscaping along with some improvement of parking and also interior renovations. So we will be accepting bids for that portion. It's anticipated we will be accepting that portion towards the end of June and then we will come before you again. And again as you are all aware we've been making sure the estimates are in line with the budget and getting your approvals throughout the process before we move forward with any of the bidding of that work. So I'm sorry to be long winded but if you have any questions I would be more than happy to answer them.

Com. Good, Any questions from the Board members I know we've been in a few meetings on this. So what we have before us today are 2 separate bids, there were 2 separate packages correct?

Mr. Katsouros, Correct, 2 categories.

Com. Good, And the first as stated the first package was for the exterior shell and foundation work and then the other one is for the separate contract for the aluminum windows and installation and all of that. Let's go through all of the bids and you give us your recommendations to as to the qualifications and the price and everything else.

Mr. Katsouros, For Bid Category 1 which is again the restoration of the perimeter we received 3 bids. Gariup Construction was a base bid of \$547,500.00 they had an additional for foundation wall water proofing. What I will say is that waterproofing we're going to do additional investigation to see the extent because after talking with Shive we think the extent may not be as much as what the alternate indicated. The second bid was Slate Tile Roofing and Sheet Metal their base bid was \$635,230.00 with an alternate of \$158,000.00 the third bid was Berglund Construction for \$775,250.00. Bid Category 2 was aluminum doors and windows. The contractor was JW Wurantz their base bid \$778,000.00 and the second contractor was the Lazarro Companies with a bid of \$960,000.00. We did interview the apparent low contractors. We performed a very comprehensive scope review to make sure they understood the documents as the architect intended them to interpret them and they had all of the scope covered so we're very comfortable that everything is included for Gariup Construction being the apparent low for Bid Category 1 for a total amount of \$547,500.00 and JW Wurantz and Son for Bid Category 2 for the aluminum windows at \$778,000.00. So we're coming before you is we're requesting approval for Bid Package 1 for a total contract amount of \$1,325,500.00.

Com. Good, Atty. McClure do we need to do these in two separate motions you think?

Atty. McClure, We can handle them in one and as the part of the motion I think we just need to put in there as notice to proceed in the motion.

Com. Good, Any questions or comments of Dion or Atty. McClure?

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the awarding of the contract to Gariup Construction and JW Wurntz and Sons for a total of \$1,325,500.00 and to issue a notice to proceed, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

SHERIFF DAVE REYNOLDS

Autoclear – Annual maintenance agreement for the North County Courthouse X-ray machine

Atty. McClure, I don't believe he is in town.

Com. Good, This is for the annual maintenance agreement for metal detector is that in Portage?

Com. Biggs, Yes, the North County Courthouse.

Com. Good, I was looking at the wrong courthouse. I think if you recall a couple of months ago we just bought a new x-ray machine for the downtown courthouse so these things get a lot of workout. This is with Autoclear. Any questions of the Board?

Atty. McClure, It's a 1 year contract for \$5400.00.

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

PLAN COMMISSION – BOB THOMPSON, DIRECTOR

Rezone – P2, Parks and Recreation District to IN, Institutional District. Petitioner Porter County Redevelopment Commission – 1st Reading

Mr. Thompson, The first case is Plan Commission Resolution 18-03. The petition is Porter County Redevelopment Commission. Requesting a zoning map amendment for a parcel of land to rezone it from P2, Parks and Recreational District to IN, Institutional District. This is on 700 North. This was heard before the Porter County Plan Commission at their April 25th public hearing and was forwarded to the Commissioners with a favorable recommendation by a 6 – 0 vote.

Com. Good, This would be a rezone from P2 to Institutional District.

Mr. Thompson, This is the Redevelopment Commission's parcel of land on the south side of 700 North next to the Portage Township Park.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Com. Good, Anyone wishing to come forward and speak against this rezone? Second call anyone wishing to speak against this rezone? Third and final call anyone wishing to speak against this rezone? First call for anyone wishing to speak in favor of this ordinance? Second call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this ordinance? Third and final call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this ordinance?

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Com. Blaney, This is going to be a good thing for the area.

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

Com. Good, This will be heard as 2nd Reading at the next Commissioners' meeting in June.

Rezone – R2, Medium Density Single-family Residential District to CH, High Intensity Commercial District. Petitioner Bennett's Storage Inc. – 1st Reading

Mr. Thompson, This is Plan Commission Resolution 18-02. The petitioner Bennett Storage Inc. is requesting a zoning map amendment from R2, Medium Density Single-family Residential District to CH, High Intensity Commercial District. This is located on the west side of McCool Rd. or 400 West just south of U.S. 6. The Plan Commission heard this at their April 25th meeting and sent it to the Commissioners with a favorable recommendation by a 6 – 0 vote.

Com. Good, Todd did you want to address the Board or anything before we go into the public hearing or do you want to wait?

Atty. Leath, I would be happy to make a brief presentation.

Com. Good, Yes that would be helpful.

Atty. Leath, What I distributed just immediately prior to sitting down here is the black and white I apologize, it could have been color it would have been a little more helpful. Is a print out of the power point slides that we had the public hearing before the Plan Commission. I'm not going to take you through each of the slides but the first slide shows after the cover page at the 2 acre parcel kind of a long and skinny parcel headed back off of the west side of McCool Rd. as Mr. Thompson indicated. The 2 buildings that are immediately south of that are the existing Bennett Storage facility that is there now so this is an extension of the business and therefore it is also an extension of that CH zoning classification that is consistent with the property immediately to the south, but just as the existing business is inconsistent with the current home that we are rezoning today or asking you to do so the next parcel north is also residential. So later you will see some photographs and so forth. Later you will see our landscaping plan that shows a significant number of trees along that north side. The thing that we didn't have when Bennett created and developed the existing site was we didn't have the UDO, we didn't have the landscaping requirements that we do today. So these requirements are actually code based. It's not something that we are volunteering to do or anything like that it's what the ordinance requires when you this very issue when you have a business zoning next to a residential zoning your ordinance heightens the number things that those businesses and Bennett in this case has to do in order to soften that transition over. One of the things that I think is interesting I've represented Bennett Storage in probably 4 or 5 of their projects over the last 5 or more years is on the outside of their perimeter they don't have a fence and the view of looking at the series of overhead garage doors if you will, which I think is not as attractive as it could be. So what Bennett does and is planning on doing here on the north neighboring those properties, those residential properties that continue to exist on the north of this property you will see the wall of their building and you will only see that if you could look through all of the landscaping that is going to be added but you won't see a chain link fence and a series of garage doors. One of the things that we committed to do is at the ends of the building which would be the east and the west of the building facing to the north we committed at the Plan Commission to make those little extensions where we will bring the security fencing around. We committed to make those extensions a privacy fence in other words not chain link so that it will be more attractive looking to the north. Then as we wrap it around we will link it back into existing metal fence for the south portion and make it one cohesive site. That was very important. The landscaping ordinance requires a certain number of trees based upon the lineal feet and so that landscaping plan is consistent with that we're talking about basically three kinds of landscaping. We have lot plantings that are required of any high intensity CH zone property and that is 5 trees per acre 15 shrubs per acre and we're providing that. We're providing twice that because why we have 2 acres so 10 trees, 30 shrubs. Then we also have street tree plantings so we have to have a certain number of trees out in front along the right of way that's your ordinance and that is provided in this landscaping plan and more importantly what you see in that slide all of the trees that are required to create the buffer zone consistent with the lineal footage that we have and that is going to create that screening that you have there. It's not simply lot plantings, which I always like to say lot plantings mean we're going to green it up but buffer yard means we're going to hide it. So there is much denser plantings along there. The other concern at the Plan Commission was drainage. This plan was vetted through the development review committee prior to the its appearance at the Plan Commission and at that point in time we did not have and that is the process in a rezoning we did not have final plans we have a conceptual plan that you're seen today, but when we go forward if we receive your approval we'll have to come up with detailed plans and included in that will be storm water drainage calculations which Mr. Novotney through that DRC process will have to review. We acknowledge that that is the next step if you will after the rezoning. We have a real opportunity here to the west of this property is a larger parcel that Mr. Bennett also owns. That area has a low depression area and we will likely move a lot of the storm water from this property and from the property to the south and create a detention or retention opportunity on property that you don't see as a part of this rezoning, but will be adjacent property and create an easement to do that and take the storm water and hold it there and meter the release. So that is what we're anticipating to happen with the storm water. Those were the chief concerns of the concerned neighbors at the Plan Commission and I think we've addressed those with the fencing and the acknowledgement that there is more work to do with regard to storm water.

Com. Blaney, I think it's important to know that at the Plan Commission meeting and this parcel in question floods all of the time right now due to the other parcel that was put in when we didn't have (Inaudible) that had all of these drainage requirements and I really think that this is going to be good for the area. It's going to end up when it goes through the process alleviating that drainage issue.

Com. Biggs, What is located on either side of this property?

Atty. Leath, North is I believe 3 more homes before....actually 600 more feet north on McCool Rd. is another Bennett Storage facility, but in between that is a church and 3 homes and on the south I believe is an institutional zoning and perhaps another church.

Mr. Thompsen, Church.

Atty. Leath, Storage facilities are typically low impact uses, there is not a lot of traffic. So I think this is kind of a good fit in that particular area as well.

Com. Good, Thank you Todd.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Com. Good, Anyone wishing to come forward and speak against this rezone? Sir come right up. Give your name and address and tell us your reasoning why. Thank you.

Mr. Stedham, My name is Butch Stedham my property is just north of where he was speaking 772 N. McCool. Landscaping sounds reasonable very reasonable that's okay, but your drainage no. We all know the Commissioners and what not know our issues in South Haven with drainage issues. Jim Biggs I know (Inaudible).

Com. Biggs, I'm not reasonable for the drains though.

Mr. Stedham, I understand I'm not saying that. Bennett built that present storage building where it sits now next to the new parcel of land of 2 acres which is 768 McCool 400 West. At the time he built it I guess that was fine with all of you, but it isn't fine because it floods. It floods that north property or the new property he just bought which is a friend of mine Patsy Moore for many many moons. My property is north of hers. By that happening it is also flooding the east side of McCool I'm not saying just his parcel but it has a big impact on the east side of McCool which drains south. Everything drains south from 772 going south to midway and just beyond midway which is where South Haven Elementary is which is my other place. That whole street floods it's been doing it since the 60's. It has gotten better since what you have done with the retentions which is a good thing but now with the church just south of his present property that is already built, the white church, Baptist they did some work with their steeple and they've done a pretty good job it looks like, but the problem is when it rains, but I've seen it worse it has a hard time handling it. My concern is the drainage for the community not only for my property but this community that I live in. It's very important we get this drainage corrected this time around, because the last time around it was terrible. I'm talking about the one just south of 768 which is going to be the adjoining new property that he has and he wants to rezone it. So I sent an email out I'm guessing you got it to Monica Gee. She has forwarded this email of mine to Robert Thompson and Kristy Marasco, I'm not sure who that is.

Com. Blaney, This is Bob right here.

Mr. Stedham, I explained what should be done also in addition to what Bennett is claiming which solves this drainage because I don't believe what he is saying is going to solve the total problem of the drainage issue. And as to putting a ditch east to west the whole length of that property going east to west 660' approximately joining the McCool ditches which would be in this case on west side but there is one on the east which is the deeper ones, much deeper and they flood. I've seen them go down Reratin Drive the water. On Reratin and Midway and just a block behind Midway and its coming out of that area. That ditch should be in place. On April 25th we had a public hearing I think Todd said something about a drain going to the back swamp which presently now is that additional land he has he just said. That is a swamp is what it is. It needs to be dug out and I believe you addressed that last time, dug out to a proper retention not just a swamp of land. So I believe the ditch might help on this drainage issue. We're talking a span of 600 + feet of building which is going to be the side facing my property and what do you have a 10 or 15' easement of whatever it is I'm thinking. We have 600 + feet of a building roof with rain hitting it where is it going to go in a gutter. Is it going to be maintained? Maintaining this property of the drainage is very crucial because right now the other existing property I don't see it being maintained at all because that little pea pod retention that he has on the front side of that property which faces right next to McCool is full of cat lilies and everything else that needs to be cleaned out. How is that draining properly if it's just full of rubbish, landscape probably it's not garbage from humans. That is not maintained, it should be it should be dredged out. My concern is my property and most importantly is the community, because we got a problem out there, a big problem. I've been there since 1970 I know I've seen it. I've come to South Haven School on a boat at one point in time, a few times off of Timberline going down Midway into South Haven Elementary. It's not so bad now you keep adding problems 600 + feet of buildings, gutters are you kidding me my gutters plug all of the time. I'm always up there getting somebody to do it whatever. Are they going to maintain that I

don't know. I'm not going to do it. So I plead to the Commissioners here work on the drainage of this because we're just going to add more problems to South Haven and I'm serious about that. I've seen what it's done to Patsy Moore's property. If you go out there right now and look at it the back part of that property is all flooded and that 2" line I'm not sure if Todd said this last time or somebody it's a 4" line well you know what I would like to see where that line is because I looked for it right after that 25th meeting I don't see a line out there. The only reason I know is from what I hear here and the neighbor there Patsy and her kids, there is a line out there but they told me it's a 2" line. I have yet to see that line. And if there is a line why is there water standing right now in the back of her property or his property now? No good, it drains into that little pea pod retention they claim they got there that solves the problem. It isn't solving any problem. It's flooding that property that is why you gave her a break on taxes every year. I know this because I know her personally okay. To the Commission please make sure they do their job as the drainage flows correctly. Landscaping reasonable it sounds good, but the drainage has to be worked on good and really focus on that. That is all I have to say.

Com. Biggs, Thank you.

Com. Blaney, Thank you.

Com. Good, Thank you. Second call anyone wishing to speak against this rezone? Third and final call anyone wishing to speak against this rezone? First call for anyone wishing to speak in favor of this ordinance? Second call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this ordinance? Third and final call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this ordinance?

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Com. Biggs, I'm very familiar with that area and I know that you keep pretty close attention to what this office does as it applies to that community. As you know last October we committed ourselves over \$15 million out there in storm water work. You just so happen to have a Board of Commissioners President that is the guy in the middle, his thing is flooding. He doesn't like flooding.

Com. Blaney, None of us do actually.

Com. Biggs, Understand that it will not be the petitioner who decides what kind of drainage or how that is addressed it will be the County and we've got some pretty talented people up in the Plan Commission to make sure that the T's are crossed and the I's are dotted. In regard to the Bennett property I am very familiar with the Bennett properties. You have one on 1100 North correct?

Mr. Stedham, 1050.

Com. Biggs, 1050 beautifully kept and I have to admit I have yet to see a car go in it or out of it and it's a beautifully kept piece of property very well-manicured. The buildings are attractive I believe they are brick at least the fronts, but as you know that portion right there it's kind of tired, it looks old and it needs some dressing up. I think that putting a new structure on it with new nursery stock that is well kept that will only help. My concern is like your concern is that we have to make sure it's not going to contribute to was is already a problem out there with flooding and I don't be believe it will. We have a team upstairs that flooding is right at the top of the list is what we pay attention to and we're not about to spend \$15 million in South Haven this year which we are going to do and allow something to come in and contribute to a problem. Rest assured we're watching.

Com. Blaney, I would like to piggy-back on that a little not only do I think this will not contribute to the problem I think it's an opportunity for us to help start fixing that problem. As you said that water is out there today and when Mike Novotney our County Engineer gets a hold of this and helps these guys work a drainage plan the hope is going to be to drain the whole area....

Com. Biggs, Not just that parcel.

Com. Good, And I will also say that the County release rates which is our I would call bible in Storm Water that is the amount of water that we will allow to release out of that detention pond. We have one of the lowest release rates in the State of Indiana with storm water and the reason that it is so low is we want to collect that water and we want to filter that water and we want to clean that water and we want to slowly release it out into our system over time. So it's not all just about the quantity of water it's how we slow that water down, how we control that water and those are the things that we're looking at the last couple of years that have never been looked at before and that is one of the reasons we created the whole Storm Water Management Program for. We now have people that are on deck and on call to look at

these things. We're making a lot of these determinations ourselves. We're not relying on consultants, we're not relying on other people to tell us what we need to do. We now have the staff in place to be able to look at these things from perception and that is very important because when things don't go right we hear about it. We want to make sure that our people that are looking at these things are in sync with what we need here at our level. So I understand your concerns I really do but looking at this area and knowing that they are willing to spend whatever ground they need to do to give up for retention that is good enough for me because as long as we can retain that water and we have the volume of area to do that that is a win win for everybody out there in my opinion and I do a lot of this stuff so I just wanted to piggy back on what the other two Commissioners said. Any other questions or comments for the Board?

Com. Blaney, moved to approve with the conditions that were discussed at the Plan Commission meeting with a privacy fence, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Mr. Thompson, Do we want that as a written commitment reported with the actual ordinance?

Com. Good, Yes. We have 2nd Reading at the next meeting. Let me real clear this is for rezone only. This has nothing to do with drainage with site layouts or anything else. This is rezone only. This is the first step in many to come. The high hurdle race has been crossed but they have a lot more to get through, just want to be clear about that. That is for rezone only. Thank you Todd and thank you for your public comments. We'll keep an eye on it too. We will your concerns are very valid and we're going to watch them.

A request to vacate the unimproved Right-of-Way Alley from Lucretia St., Boone Grove and the Alley from 500 S. Boone Grove. Petitioner William Dame.

Mr. Dame, This is a simple request this property was developed back around 1880 / 1883 I believe. This alley way was required to be put in. It's never been in service, it's never been used but we maintain (Inaudible not near a mic.) It's never going to be used. They're small lots.

Com. Good, It sounds like we have a good steward.

Mr. Dame, its only lot of block #3 and it only pertains to 4 or 5 people. (Inaudible)

Com. Good, Thank you. Bob any comments?

Mr. Thompson, Yes I call this the Boone Grove alley vacation. To name the petitioners on this that sent this in that would be receiving part of the ally vacation would be William C. Dame, David Finnerty, Jackson L. and Patricia A. DeVries, Vernon D. and Patty L. Hennings and Jesse E. Ray. Those were the petitioners that came forward to us. They are all parcel owners that adjoin these alleys. The staff did go out there and we requested utility locates within these alleys. We did not see where there were any utilities that were running these alleys. They were flagged and marked as clear. So with that I guess staff recommendation would be to approve.

Com. Biggs, Bob has the alley been improved or you're just using that as a term or are they mowing it now. There are no improvements out there.

Com. Biggs, Just grass.

Mr. Thompson, Grass, there is a driveway in one of them that is coming off of 550 South.

Com. Biggs, So it's not being used to go from one road to another.

Mr. Thompson, No.

Com. Good, Even though it's not printed on the agenda this too will be a public hearing. This would be a request to vacate.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Com. Good, Anyone wishing to speak against this request to vacate a right of way? Second call anyone wishing to speak against this request? Third and final call anyone wishing to speak against this request to vacate the unimproved right of way? Anyone wishing to speak in favor of this request to vacate the unimproved right of way? Second call anyone wishing to speak in favor? Third and final call anyone wishing to come forward and speak in favor of this right of way alley?

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Com. Blaney, I have a question about the driveway. It looks like the driveway enters on what's going to be one person's new property but the garage is on the other side.

Mr. Thompson, I noticed that it appeared that way on the GIS aerial. Ultimately I hate going by GIS to determine property lines and boundaries it really needs to be surveyed out and that is probably one of the recommendations I would definitely make to these people here the parcel owners is they really need to have a survey done of where this alley is, where their parcel is and where their improvements are for their properties. Just so they can have it clear and clear titles later.

Com. Good, Does that answer your question Laura?

Com. Blaney, So that wouldn't be a condition that would be something (Inaudible).

Atty. McClure, It's an existing condition because right now the driveway couldn't be in the alley to begin with. We're not creating a problem, we might be slightly modifying a problem but we're not creating a problem.

Com. Good, Mr. Dame did you have something to say?

Mr. Dame, Can I ask you a question?

Com. Good, Sure.

Mr. Dame, You have the one alley but there is a two part alley that crisscrosses here is this the (Inaudible not near the mic.)?

Com. Good, Yes.

Mr. Dame, I thought it was I just wanted to clarify. Thank you.

Com. Good, Any other questions or clarifications?

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

Com. Good, We will be back for 2nd Reading June 12th and that will make it final. Yes sir.

Mr. Dame, Slight correction it's not 500 its 550 South.

Com. Good, 550 South let the record state that change thank you sir.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD – BOB GREGG

A request to approve a contract with Maja Design, Inc. to revise a map and fabricate 3 interpretive panels for the Zona Wildlife Sanctuary in Westville in the amount of \$1,987.50

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

KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION – JODY MELTON

A request to approve of a Resolution of the Porter County Board of Commissioners supporting the Establishment and Awarding of Economic Development District Status by the Economic Development Administration

Com. Good, Good morning Jody.

Mr. Melton, That is quite a mouthful isn't it?

Com. Good, Yes it is, how are you doing?

Mr. Melton, I'm good.

Com. Good, I'm hearing some rumors that you are going to be retiring.

Mr. Melton, This is my last year. I will be done as of the end 2018. I fought water long enough. Time to quit for a while and this last time was a big time. I'm here not with my Kankakee hat but with my Regional Planner hat on. I have been helping with the Northwest

Indiana Economic Development District. Actually the planning started in 2010. The forum and NIRPC got together and created an independent board because that is what the EDA said we needed to. We're trying to get Economic Development District Status for the 3 counties. The planning started in 2010. In 2014 after the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy was created we had an independent board created from members of the forum and members of NIRPC. We started out with 24, we cut it down to 12 members from the 3 counties and we submitted the application to EDA in Chicago and one of the things that we had to have was a resolution from the Board of Commissioners from each of the 3 counties endorsing the Economic Development District to receive that status. You did it I don't remember who was sitting on the Board at that time in 2014, the Porter County Commissioners endorsed that. Last year I showed up hear and said EDA got a hold of us and said those are old resolutions. That is because they sat on that application for 3 years but they wanted you to redo it and you did. Okay so now we're federal bureaucracy they're back and they said to us we don't think you need an independent board we've looked over the roster of the NIRPC membership and NIRPC can be the Economic Development District. So now they're telling us to resubmit the application not in the name of that independent board of the 12 members but in the name of NIRPC and that they will make NIRPC the Northwest Indiana Economic Development District. So I'm here today to ask you to change the wording on the resolution you passed twice to change it again to endorse NIRPC to be the Economic Development District. I told Ty Warner this is getting pretty embarrassing. I'm here today, I'm in LaPorte tomorrow night and in Crown Point tomorrow. So my request is that you endorse NIRPC to be the Economic Development District. One of the interesting things I just found out is EDA has some money floating around to deal with some of this flooding damage and there is a webinar which I have to sit in on well we probably don't qualify because we're not a development district yet, but once we get that in we would qualify for that okay.

Com. Good, That is interesting, thank you Jody. Thanks for the clarification too.

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

Com. Good, We will miss you Jody.

SHOREWOOD FOREST POA – JULIE YOUNG, COMMUNITY MGR.

A request to place a stop sign at the intersection of Wexford Road and Ashford in the Shorewood Forest Subdivision

Com. Good, Shorewood Forest came to us several months ago wanting a stop sign at this location to try and slow down some traffic. We basically said since Shorewood is sort of an entity that is unique to County government we said as long as you have a documented vote and approval from your POA we would be more than happy to accommodate and we did get that. Just so everyone knows this has been fully vetted by the membership of Shorewood POA and now it's up to take action either way. So that is the short narrative on that.

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

NORTHWEST INDIANA GREEN PARTY - MICHAEL GARCHER

A request to hold a Peace Rally "Voices for Non-Violence" to be held on the north side of the Courthouse on Saturday, June 2nd, 2018 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. The estimated number of attendees will be 50 to 100. They will also be using speakers to address the gathering

Mr. Garcher, We the front men for this rally. It's a peace rally Voices for Non-Violence. It is basically opened to one and all. All people of good will who are interested in peace. It's a meeting generated in that one of our great interests is of non-violence and peace. It's not a widely known organization. We do have cost memberships (Inaudible) Sierra Club and they are a little bit better known. They have many of the same goals. In other words it would serve the entire community for people who are interested in world events that are going on now North Korea, Iraq, and the 56 hot wars going on around the world right now. So it is a general interest and it is a good thing arguably a good thing.

Com. Good, So what you're requesting they want to hold a rally on the north side of the Courthouse on Saturday June 2nd, 2018 from noon until 2:00 pm. The estimated number of attendees will be 50 – 100 and they will also be using speakers to address the gathering.

Mr. Garcher, A very small speaker. (Inaudible).

Com. Good, He knew we were going to ask that question, I could tell. Any other comments or questions from the Board?

Com. Blaney, Will they have any interaction with our construction?

Com. Good, Saturday, June 2nd I don't think....that is like in a month. I think we will be fine.

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

Com. Good, Hope you have a good rally.

Mr. Garcher, I hope you can attend.

MELISSA DEKERF

A request to use the north side of the Courthouse on Saturday, May 19th, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. to march against Monsanto. There will be posters no larger than 24 x 36 inches and they will also be handing out fliers. This is a peaceful march to bring awareness of the dangers of genetically modified foods. They are expecting between 30 - 200 people to attend.

Ms. Dekerf, I didn't put in there I'm not sure they may be a megaphone depending on how many people come. This was a last minute.

Com. Good, It's on a Saturday we just don't want the big blaring speakers because of all of the restaurants and other things that are downtown.

Com. Blaney, And the courts during the week. So Saturday should be okay.

Com. Biggs, And we ask that anything that you hand out if it's dropped on the ground please pick it up and keep it or toss it in the trash, but just don't leave it laying there. We would appreciate that.

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

Com. Blaney, One thing you might want to consider or maybe you already have if you're marching on the sidewalks that is Valpo so you need to talk to the City of Valparaiso too.

Ms. Dekerf, Okay, thank you.

Com. Good, Thank you. Is there anyone that would like to address this body?

Com. Biggs, I want to report to the other two Commissioners that in working with the Plan Commission you may have known that several months ago we had received a complaint on a property that had been abandoned on Red Bud off of Indian Boundary Road in unincorporated Porter County. The property had been abandoned for the better part of 10 years. The roof had collapsed on it. It fell through the main floor into the basement. Animals had gotten in. There were 2 or 3 inches of feces all through the house. I contacted the Health Department, the Health Department did deem it as a health hazard through the aggressive efforts of the Board of Commissioners with the tax sale we got it back it on the rolls. It did sell and it sold to an investor out of Florida. That investor hired Marshalls excavating and they went in last week and took the structure off of the property including the basement filled it all in, rolled it all out and it looks great. I think it's just reflective of the enhanced effort that the Board did on advertising the Commissioners' Tax Sales. This investor found it on line, invested and problem solved. I just wanted to make the Commissioners aware of that.

Com. Blaney, Thanks sounds like a good thing and thanks to Vicki for your role in getting the word out.

Com. Biggs, Vicki's office and a lot of heavy lifting was done by the Plan Commission specifically Joey Larr.

Com. Good, I would also like to say this has been something that as Com. Biggs has said this is something that has sort of been lagging with the County out there for some time and I think it was last year about 14 months ago when the County went in and raised some of our fees on fences, patios and other things for the Plan Commission that had not been raised in over 13 years. When we raised those fees for those types of structures and things like that we are taking a portion of those fees and we're putting it into a fund which we established, everyone now knows how you establish a fund, we established a fund and what is happening is now that we're gaining money in that fund now so we actually have monies now to go out and do these kinds of things. The Highway Department in the past hadn't been as cooperative in helping us to these types of things and now they are so we are able to go out and do these

things with our own equipment and with our own manpower to try to save the taxpayers money, but also try and to get these back on the roll. So through a combination of about 3 different things we think we have a program in place now. It has been a year so we can start getting some money so will be seeing a little bit more of this coming forward as we move forward to the future to try and get rid of some of these derelict homes out there that are hurting other people's values isn't really what we're all about here in Porter County. It's one more cog in the wheel we're going to go after and get aggressive with and try to clean some things up out there. I know Com. Biggs has taken that charge is out there working real hard at it. You will see more of this going forward. So thank you Com. Biggs. Any other things?

Com. Blaney, Yes one of the other things that we are working on as far as that goes is the Plan Commission office is putting together a rating system to let us determine which properties need to be taken care of first because we still do have limited sources to deal with them.

Com. Biggs, The fund that Com. Good had mentioned currently has over \$50,000.00 sitting in it. So we do have some resources now to approach some properties that we will eventually identify and then rate and then put on a list of properties to be dealt with first. Everything seems to be working great.

Com. Blaney, And not all of these properties are delinquent on taxes.

Com. Good, That's the other problem they are not delinquent.

Com. Blaney, That adds a different twist to it.

Com. Good, A much different twist to it. I think in the end just so you understand and to be clear since we're talking about it once we knock that building down and the County takes that responsibility and that cost we can then lien that property so whoever comes back and buys that lot we can re-coop the Counties money back. So we're also looking at it as a cost neutral so we might have a couple out there we're doing but as soon as they step up and payback we can get that money back. We're always looking to replenish this fund. We're not letting anybody get away with anything. We're just trying to be good stewards in using all of the systems that are in place to make sure that they payback the work that we've done to clean it up. I thought that was important to say too. Anybody else wishing to address this Board?

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

Jeffrey J. Good

Laura M. Blaney

Jim Biggs

Attest: _____
Vicki Urbanik, Auditor