

**PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
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, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 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, Good Morning this is the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Approval of Payroll – May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019.**

**Approval of Minutes – May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019.**

**Approval of Claims – May 23<sup>rd</sup>, May 30<sup>th</sup> and June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

**MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE – SCOT MACDONALD, DIRECTOR**

**ARTISTIC SERVICES AGREEMENTS**

1. Zac Flasch
2. Ben Land
3. Angela Heid
4. Chris Stalbaum
5. Andrew Riggle
6. Dan Huston
7. Bill Woods
8. Patrick Jansen
9. Bryce Hendricks
10. Jared Coller
11. Andrew Brent
12. Don Parker
13. Eric Lester
14. Jeff Otto

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Porter County Museum has been awarded the Prestigious 2019 American Association for State and Local History Award of Excellence.**

Com. Good, I would like to ask Kevin Pazour come forward please. Kevin is the manager, director, chief bottle washer for the Porter County Museum. I would just like to acknowledge that the Porter County Museum has been awarded the Prestigious 2019 American Association for State and Local History Award of Excellence. That sounds like it has some pretty big clout. Can you please tell us a little bit about the award.

Mr. Pazour, And you can call us anything that you want as long as you don't call us the Old Jail Museum. I think there is a stigma with that. We are in an old jail but we're more than that. We are totally and utterly delighted to win this award and be recognized for our work with the exhibit. Anyone can come in free of charge Wednesday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Sundays now 11:00 until 4:00 because we realized people maybe can't get out during the week but they can come on the weekend. Do your part the County response to the first World War is a collaboration between many institutions here within the County that details the part the people did here to contribute to the effort during World War I. It was very timely when we opened

this it was the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the war, but the efforts of the people here I feel like this is a situation where history repeats. There are a lot of really great people here in Porter County that do their part and this is just an illustration how that is nothing new. Thanks to the efforts of people north, center and south counties some pretty incredible things happened here. So come take a look and thank you for your support of what we do.

Com. Good, You were awarded this award in Nashville Tennessee?

Mr. Pazour, Yes we have a banquet coming up. Its part of a big annual meeting in August that I'm hopeful I can raise some money and bring my entire team to go and participate in this but there are only 50 of these awards given out in a year so it is a pretty big deal.

Com. Good, Congratulations I think it further exemplifies the work that you and the volunteers are doing out there at the Porter County Museum under your leadership. Thank you Kevin it's a great award and we're all proud of you up here.

Mr. Pazour, Thank you. It's been the effort of people over the last 103 years. If the people here didn't do what they did I would have no job to report on that and tell you all of the great things that they did so thank you.

Com. Blaney, You and the foundation have brought it a long way in a short time.

Mr. Pazour, We've got good neighbors and good venues here and we just want to continue to move that forward for all of the County so thank you for the recognition.

Com. Biggs, Thanks Kevin.

Com. Good, Great award and great recognition for this County.

**The Expo Center will be holding a grand opening for the public Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 6:00 pm.**

Com. Good, We have completed the renovations and we are opened for business. We will be holding a public grand opening Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. The public is invited to come out and tour the facility and take a look at it to see what their tax dollars went towards. We look forward to anyone that can attend.

**Accepting Applications for the following Boards which will be due by June 25<sup>th</sup>:**

- **Parks and Recreation**
- **Airport Authority**

Com. Good, These will need to be in by June 25<sup>th</sup> to be announced at our July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. One other clarification I'd like to make currently the Board of Commissioners' has a public meeting scheduled on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are cancelling that meeting but we will be holding a new meeting on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Please note that the July 2<sup>nd</sup> will be cancelled and there will be a meeting held on July 9<sup>th</sup>. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July is on Thursday this year so we thought a lot of people will be traveling that week so we will have it on the following Tuesday. We will be directing those changes on the website.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **COMMISSIONERS**

**An Animal Shelter Services Contract between Porter County and the City of Portage.**

Com. Good, I believe this came in a week or two ago is that correct Atty. McClure?

Atty. McClure, It did. The City of Portage approved it at their Board of Works meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 as presented.

Com. Good, Is this the only one we have left?

Atty. McClure, Chesterton approved their contract in a meeting but they are currently in the efforts of getting a signed copy to us for us to approve.

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

**A Resolution of the Porter County Commissioners concerning the assignment of Tax Sale Certificates to Governmental/Not-For-Profit Entities.**

Atty. McClure, This was put together by Schwerd and Fryman. This will be tax certificates for the City of Portage, for the Town of Hebron and for Falling Waters Conservancy District. Most of these are dealing with either utilities such as storm water and or some Redevelopment Commission.

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

**EXPO CENTER – LORI DALY, DIRECTOR**

**A request to Transfer Funds in the amount of \$7,000.00 from Acct. #2230 Food and Groceries to Acct. #3510 Power. The transfer will cover NIPSCO gas through the end of the year.**

**A request to Transfer Funds in the amount of \$500.00 from Acct. #2230 Food and Groceries to Acct. #2110 Office Supplies. The transfer to cover office supplies through the end of the year.**

Com. Good, This transfer is not on the agenda.

Atty. McClure, This is not an official action by the Commissioners this just the Commissioners' office knowing what you're going to be asking for. Eventually the Council can approve but you have two of them.

Com. Blaney, And this will still have to be approved by the Council.

Atty. McClure, Correct.

Ms. Daly, Yes I'm on the agenda for the 25<sup>th</sup>.

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

**A Temporary Occupancy License Agreement between the Porter County Board of Commissioners and NIPSCO.**

Ms. Daly, If you have any questions Tanya Stanley from NiSource is here.

Atty. McClure, This is the emergency agreement that we have with NIPSCO for them if they have some sort of gas emergency or electrical emergency to allow them to have staging. It just outlines everyone's rights as far as what they would be responsible for as far as clean up if they ever had to activate this. (Inaudible) would be there and what we would be responsible for and all of the indemnifications back and forth. I reviewed it and it is in good form. This isn't the first time we've done this agreement correct?

Ms. Stanley, Yes I believe so. This is more of a long term rather than immediate.

Atty. McClure, Correct.

Com. Good, Any questions from the Board?

Com. Blaney, No.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the temporary license agreement, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

**EXPO CENTER RENO – CHANGE ORDERS**

**Pangere Corp. – Change Ord. #3 in the amount of \$15,399.00 to provide new finishes in the bride's room, wall extensions in restrooms, revised keying of existing doors and dispensers in women's restrooms.**

Com. Good, As we were working through the renovation of the project we were about 60% through and we saw an area near the main room that we felt would make a blue room for speakers, musicians or brides. This is what this Change Order is for. It wasn't the original scope and we felt that with the amount of weddings and events that we would be getting this type of room is becoming more and more customary. It is a big selling point as well.

Com. Biggs, I think if you can create a bride's rooms and refinishing women's restrooms for \$15,000.00 that has to be a deal.

Ms. Daly, There was keying as well.

Com. Good, It turned out quite nice and it's in a great location for it too.

Com. Biggs, It was a good idea and I think it was absolutely necessary.

Ms. Daly, It has its own private restroom. We'll have that opened on Thursday night.

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

**Continental Electric – Change Ord. #3 in the amount of \$4,227.00 to provide data jack rough in, new exit signs, wire in main hall and spot lights in main hall.**

Com. Good, Again as we were going through and renovating the building this was some of the low voltage wiring and some other things. If you recall earlier in the meetings a lot of the electrical in the original construction was fed from underground. When we got in and started looking at the underground electrical it had pretty much fallen apart. This is just the back end of the final piece of trying to pick up all of the things that weren't working anymore. We had a couple of exit signs that the Fire Marshall wanted us to have so we're putting those in as well.

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

Com. Blaney, Before you go I just want to say I was at a meeting after The Taste of Valparaiso and everyone had nothing but great things to say.

Ms. Daly, That's a doozy to start with.

Com. Blaney, That's a tough group and they want things right and you did it. Good job!

Ms. Daly, We just found out we received a Community Improvement Award for the Expo remodel. We will be recognized on July 11<sup>th</sup> at a luncheon through the Valparaiso Chamber so we're excited about that.

Com. Good, Congratulations.

Ms. Daly, Congratulations to you.

Com. Good, It turned out nice, it really did.

Ms. Daly, I can't wait to show it off.

Com. Good, I think everyone is going to be pleasantly surprised.

Ms. Daly, Thursday is the business and then the public on Friday.

**COURTHOUSE RENO – PAY APPS. & CHANGE ORDS.**

**Gariup Const. – Change Ord. #3 in the amount \$19,118.00 to provide modifications to the existing vault, a new ADA ramp and removal and patching of ceilings for balcony roof drain replacement.**

Com. Good, We're nearing the end on all of the work that is going on out there. We have some pay apps and change orders. These items needed to be done. The ceilings on the balcony roofs that had been done a few years back but they still needed some attention so we decided while we were finishing everything out on the inside we better protect our roofs because that is what causes leaks and makes the paint look bad inside.

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

**EMCOR Hyre Electric – Change Ord. #3 in the amount of \$19,132.00 which is a credit back for unused contingency allowance.**

Com. Good, What happens is in the contract they had a contingency allowance for lighting and fixtures and other things. We did not use all of that money so now it's being credited back to us in the contract. That comes this way.

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

**Gariup Const. – Pay App. 6 in the amount of \$15,076.50 for Bid Package #2 general trades. With a remaining balance of \$204,900.35.**

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

**EMCOR Hyre Electric – Pay App. #9 in the amount of \$4,102.10. With a remaining balance of \$9,443.00.**

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

**Gariup Const. – Pay App. #8 in the amount of \$20,669.15 for general trades. With a remaining balance of \$72,448.85.**

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

**J.W. Werntz – Pay App. #2 in the amount of \$250,016.25 for BP1. With a remaining balance of \$289,033.75.**

Com. Good, They're out of South Bend and they are the company that is putting in the historic windows in the building. I would say they are about 60% done. We finally got some dry weather so they are picking up the pace a little bit. That is the last thing that needs to be done on that project and then we will be completed there. Ray Cloyd has some miscellaneous landscaping and other things that we're going to be doing over there such as benches and flower pots which will final out that project.

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

**NORTH COUNTY ANEX RENO – ALLOWANCE AUTHORIZATION**

**Circle "R" Electric – Allowance Authorization in the amount of \$13,188.00 to provide light fixture and power revisions.**

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

**FACILITIES – RAY CLOYD, DIRECTOR**

**3 Quotes for a washing machine at the Jail:**

- **Equipment International      \$19,395.00**
- **Loomis Bros.                      \$20,501.01**
- **O'Dell Equipment                \$23,253.00**

Mr. Cloyd, We have 3 washers there one is not functioning, one is limping along. We are replacing the one that is not functioning right now.

Com. Good, How old are the other 2?

Mr. Cloyd, 17 years old since the Jail has been opened.

Com. Good, Is this a 75 lb. machine or 50 lb.?

Mr. Cloyd, 75.

Com. Good, What is the brand?

Mr. Cloyd, Milner.

Atty. McClure, It's an 80 lb. Milner.

Com. Good, Some of the equipment is pretty cheap. Were all 3 the same?

Mr. Cloyd, Yes.

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

**DEVELOPMENT & STORM WATER MNGMNT. – BOB THOMPSON, DIRECTOR**

**County Engineer update on May historic rain fall.**

Mr. Novotney, As you all know it has been wet and the rainfall data certainly documents that stretching back to April 27<sup>th</sup> which is the last weekend in April we had some snow and heavy rain. Going through the first weekend in June based on CCRHAS which is the Community Collaborative Rain Hail and Snow network we received between 11 and 13 inches of rainfall across Porter County for that a little more than a month period. Really that is an incredible amount. Typically we would expect to see 3 ½ inches of rain during the month of May. So we are at 3 to 4 times our normal rainfall amount. Just to put it in the big picture context we expect to see about 40 inches of rain a year which means that we received about 30% of our average annual rainfall just in a month period alone. The other significant thing is that we only had 7 days during that period where we did not see any measurable rainfall. Anytime you had a warm dry day and things started to dry out a little bit then the next day we got measurable rain which didn't help at all. That impacts on a bunch of things. The number of drainage complaints that our department saw spiked dramatically. Over the past month we got about 125 drainage complaints in. This has kept the staff very busy. It takes about 3 to 4 hours per complaint to properly log, investigate, respond to those complaints and then delegate them to work order for correction or engineering for further project development. It has had impact on farmers for sure. Just looking at the latest USDA Crop Progress report and I think this is pretty reflective of what we see here in Porter County, Indiana as a whole only has about 31% of its corn planted at this time. Typically we have 94% in the ground and the same with soy beans. Only about 17% of soy beans of been planted, the typical is 80%. Farmers are playing catch up making last ditch efforts across the County to get crop in and then anyone that is involved in any construction projects, the Capital Improvement Projects, our stuff as a department, private projects the wet weather has had significant impacts delaying work, reducing progress for activity, making things like fine grading and restoration type work pretty much impossible. It has been a wet wet month of May and hopefully we see a little dry period, but not go too much in the other direction and get really dry in the coming months because that won't help anyone either.

Com. Biggs, Have you read any projections of what they are predicting over the next 30 days?

Mr. Novotney, The next 2 week forecast is we still have some wet weather in that forecast. If you talk to some of the folks that look at the Farmer's Almanac it looks like it might be a drier period over the next couple of months. We'll see how the forecast continues to change and develop.

Com. Blaney, Is the Farmer's Almanac pretty good at predicting the weather.

Mr. Novotney, It did.

Com. Biggs, Yes it did.

Com. Blaney, Did it really?

Com. Good, I get one every year, I'm a believer.

Mr. Novotney, It did predict a wet spring.

Com. Good, Thank you for the update I know our department has been extremely stressed over the last 3 or 4 weeks with calls and complaints. That is 2 years in a row. Last year when we had the flooding down the Kankakee our departments taxed pretty heavily back then too. Hopefully this is not a tradition every year. We'd like to let everyone settle in and get stuff done, because when we get these complaints it really throws a wrench into what we're doing and sort of slows things down because we're trying to take care of the complaints and trying to help the citizens out there so thanks for the report Mike.

Mr. Novotney, You're welcome.

Com. Blaney, (Inaudible).

Mr. Novotney, And I would just point out on that note. Sometimes a response is different from actually solving the problem. I think the expectation is that we might get lights flashing and come out there and start digging right of way. That might not solve the problem. We do respond, we do get back to everyone and let them know what our assessment is but the fix may be a long term project. It may be 2 years off because we might have to get permits, resolve utility conflicts,

and get easements. So there are a whole lot of things that we have to take care of sometimes to get a fix in the ground instead of just a band aid.

**Vacation of right-of-way in Sievers Park Subdivision – Petitioner is Ronald & Janet Holsclaw – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading.**

Com. Good, Are there any comments or questions from the Board since that 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve on 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

**Eagle View Subdivision zoning amendment – Amending written commitments – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading.**

Com. Blaney, moved to approve on 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

**A rezone from A1 General Agriculture to I3 Heavy Industrial – Petitioner Co-Alliance zoning amendment request – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading.**

Com. Blaney, moved to approve on 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

**The Planning Workshop, Inc. – A contract to provide professional services for training the Porter County Plan Commission and/or Board of Zoning Appeals in the amount of \$2,000.00.**

Mr. Thompson, We have a number of new members on the Plan Commission and the Planning Workshop I want to say around 2010 K.K. Gerhart-Fritz is the principal for the Planning Workshop. K.K. came up and gave a training session to the Plan Commission and the BZA at that time because we had a lot of new members. We want to bring it back again it was very valuable with that. We also have some training books that I will probably distribute at the June meeting that discusses the role of the Plan Commission. That is essentially what K.K. is going to be coming up and doing and to discuss what the role of Plan Commission member is. What they can take into consideration during a public hearing, a public comment session for petition and what they cannot for making a decision, going about the proper path for making a decision at the Plan Commission so this is what this is about.

Com. Good, I think as we broadcast and try to bring more citizens into county government and county government does have a lot of citizen boards we feel that it's our responsibility to make sure that these citizens are trained properly on what the laws are within Plan Commission rights and some other things. Since we do have some new members we felt that it was a good time with a lot that is going on right now in the County. We just felt it was good time to do some retraining. I think it's definitely worth the \$2000.00 that we're going to get out of it. I think that the board members will benefit greatly from it as well.

Com. Blaney, And they are looking forward to it.

Com. Good, Are they?

Com. Blaney, Yes they are on board. They want to learn more.

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

**A supplemental agreement with INDOT for the reconstruction project of County Road 100 South, 2000 ft. west of County Road 725 W. to 1000 ft. east of County Road 500 W.**

Com. Good, The State is doing a round-about at S.R. 2 and 100 S. that is the road that goes to the Lake of the Four Seasons, that is 100 S. The State will be doing the round-about and then the County will be doing a lot of work to 100 S. from 2 all of the way to the County line. There will be a lot of intersection improvements. We'll be shaving some hills down for better visibility. There is quite a bit of work that is taking place in this project, the construction will probably be sometime in 2020. Is that where we were at Bob

Mr. Thompson, I believe we're into 2021 now, the spring.

Com. Good, And what does this supplemental agreement do for us?

Mr. Thompson, Essentially INDOT is the manager of the Federal Highway Administrations funding that is coming towards this project and they are designated by FHWA to manage this project and the money that goes to us. A lot of this money is flowing through them because it is considered what they call Group 4 out of the urbanized area that NIRPC handles. Their contract

is expiring here shortly so this is requesting us to give a supplemental agreement and extend the current contract that we have with INDOT to manage this project and funding from FHWA.

Com. Good, I think I saw on some of the update reports....are we in land acquisition mode yet?

Mr. Thompson, Currently we're in land acquisition process on this. Matt Gavelek our Highway Engineer has been going out with the DOZ engineer to some of the property owners and discussing this. We've had staking going up with the right-of-way on this so people are aware of it. Letters have gone out to all of the citizens in the situation. We are in the current process of land acquisition.

Com. Good, How are the discussions going Matt?

Mr. Gavelek, I met with 4 property owners out there. The discussions have gone well. They basically asked a lot of questions about the right-of-way process. People have been confused as to what happens next. It appears that the letters of communication is working. People do understand it now. There have been several property owners that when they saw the stakes they thought that the road was going out to there but we explained that the road is actually not widening we're keeping it as a 2 lane road they understood that. We're improving the drainage for the area. A lot of those factors help kind of help ease tension, when people see that a right-of-way is happening they get scared but yes it's helped a lot. The consultant has been great, they've been very flexible meeting people after hours so it's gone very smoothly.

Com. Good, Well thank you....we now have a Highway Engineer, we have some people in the Highway Dept. that can handle these things. So now that we have our staff we're being more proactive to the taxpayers and the people that this is impacting. We feel that is the right way to go about this to be transparent and let people know what is actually happening. We're actually being proactive and going to their doorstep, which I think from where we've been in the past up here I think that is a big improvement and we want to continue to keep that out there in front of us so people can come to us and have discussions with us about these things.

Mr. Gavelek, Thank you, one thing I would like to add also is as all of you know we've gone through a lot of iterations on this project where we have reduced the size of it to reduce the impact of property owners. It's nice to have the consultant there with these property owners and explain to them. Actually we decided to show them the process and I explain to them that the Commissioners want us to go out and meet with the homeowners once they see the care and that we've taken to account for their needs they really become more at ease with the project.

Com. Good, Yes, a little communication always helps.

Mr. Novotney, As with everything that we do communication is the key to success with any project storm water, highway, bridge. We'll continue to do that.

Com. Good, Thanks for following through Matt because I know when we met a couple of months ago that was the directive and I'm just glad to hear that that is going on the way it is so thank you.

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

Mr. Thompson, This has to be signed in blue ink.

**Bridge 131 – 200 West over Damon Run – United Consulting recommended design engineer.**

Mr. Thompson, This is a bridge that we recently received a funding award through INDOT again as I referred to earlier as Group 4, Federal Highway Administration Funding. This is going to be under construction in fiscal year 2024, which starts July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2023. This is for the design contract with this for Bridge 131 and it is listed in our bridge inventory as one that we need to get to. It has a sufficiency rating of less than 50% which then qualifies it for Federal Highway Funding. Our recommendation for this bridge is United Consulting out of Indianapolis.

Com. Good, United Consulting is also the company that does our bridge inspections as well too.

Mr. Thompson, Correct.

Com. Good, Any questions from the Board? This is a 2024 project right?

Mr. Thompson, Depending on how we go about getting the design through the INDOT process we could move it up to shortly after July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2023. I don't know if they have funding available possibly in fiscal year 2023 maybe. It all depends on how fast we get through the engineering process.

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

**Bridge 149 – Waverly Road (Town of Porter) over Little Calumet River – United Consulting recommended design engineer.**

Mr. Thompson, We had a scoring team of 4 people on this. It was Mike, I, Matt and also Rich Sexton going through and scoring all of the RFP's. I should have mentioned on 131 I think we had 5 RFP's. On this particular one we had 8 or 9 on 149.

Com. Good, Can you digress a minute from the public's perception it looks like we're just picking people and that is not what's happening. Can you expound a little bit of how we're arriving on choosing these consultants? It's a lot more detailed than what it sounds like.

Mr. Thompson, We are considered a local public agency through INDOT that we can go through and do a lot of this ourselves. We got certified I had sent that in to INDOT.

Com. Good, We're certified by the State to do this.

Mr. Thompson, We are still going through all of the full steps so we can show them that we're still following all of the Federal Highway procedures and all of that. We're going to go through the environmental process and all of this. INDOT has on their website a specific scoring that we use for the consultants and all past performances, what we think of the capacity and the team. They are referred to as letters of interest and not RFQ's.

Mr. Novotney, Prior to getting to that point where we start the scoring and the qualification selection we issue a request for qualifications. That goes out to all qualified consultants saying hey we're interested in bringing design services aboard for these projects please submit your level of interest so the consultants will prepare those letters of interest, those proposals and send them back to us. That is the 5 submittals that Bob mentioned on 131 and then we received 9 on 149 and at that process we start evaluating the scoring.

Mr. Thompson, That advertisement is on INDOTS website. Matt prepared with all of the qualifications that we needed from a consultant, sent it off and it was posted. From there after we collect all of the letters of interest we distribute it to the scoring team of 4 and we scored them individually based off of INDOT's scoring criteria that we have. From that we tally up all of the scores and whoever has the high score essentially is the winner of this. 131 we were pretty unanimous on the decision. 149 the scoring came out with one ahead but not all of us had scored that particular one, but since they had the highest score we are putting them forward and again it is United Consulting out of Indianapolis.

Mr. Gavelek, One thing I want to mention is that the scoring gets posted on the Highway Engineering website so anyone from the public can see what scores were received and the consultants can see as well so they can get feedback on their letters of interest.

Com. Good, its part of the transparency that we're trying to provide again and let people how we're doing this and why we're doing it. We think it's important to let people know.

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

Com. Biggs, Bob when are they going to start work on this thing?

Mr. Thompson, Our first process is we have to send all of the scoring criteria over to INDOT. We have to also send down a request and show the information that United provided so that way Indianapolis, what they call DBE Disadvantage Business Enterprise reviews what has been submitted to make sure that they have met the DBE goals set for Porter County which was 5%. 5% of their contract is going to a DBE. Once we received notification back on that we sent it to INDOT along with our scoring criteria. If they say its good then they will tell us to proceed with negotiation on that. Again we're going to use the INDOT boiler plate contract as far as setting this up as far as a contract. We will be back again once we've gone through (Inaudible) negotiation with United on this to present a contract for this. I would say we won't be getting started on the engineering on this until September or October.

Com. Biggs, Is this a major redo?

Mr. Thompson, Both of them are total reconstructions.

Com. Biggs, The road will be closed.

Mr. Thompson, The road will be closed. 149 is on Waverly Rd. Little Calumet River we have to deal with the pedestrian bridge so this one could be closed for a while because of the complexity of this particular project.

Atty. McClure, What year are we looking at construction (Inaudible).

Mr. Thompson, Again right now I would have to say that the earliest we can start based off of our award is July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2023.

Com. Good, So this in the same group.

Mr. Thompson, Correct.

Com. Good, With these 2 now recommended for design of the 132 bridges that we oversee we have now have how many under design? 7, 8, 9 where are we at?

Mr. Thompson, We're at 12. We're going to be sending you spreadsheet (Inaudible). We've got 3 roads that are going to be closed through the next month.

Atty. McClure, It's a sign of progress.

Com. Biggs, It is, it has to happen. I think everyone will be happy when they're all finished.

#### **Tower Meadows – Request to pull Letter of Credit to complete road construction.**

Atty. McClure, Bob have you heard anything from Budz Plus or Mr. Ferngren?

Mr. Thompson, I noticed when I went back up after the Storm Water meeting and I didn't have time because I grabbed my things and came back down here that there was a phone call in from Mr. Ferngren.

Atty. McClure, To bring everybody up to speed we have an agreement with Budz Plus, LLC that owns the remaining lots in Tower Meadows. They have a letter of credit that is good for several more months into the next year. They basically entered into an agreement with us in which they were to have all of the (Inaudible) repaired and the topcoat put within the subdivision by May 31<sup>st</sup> of this year.

Com. Good, When does the bond go through till?

Atty. McClure, January of 2020.

Mr. Thompson, Correct.

Com. Good, The bond is with us but it's also for maintenance too correct?

Mr. Thompson, It's just for completion of infrastructure out there.

Atty. McClure, And basically that is the road.

Mr. Thompson, Correct. There are some issues with the storm water system that Mike has on that but the most obvious one.....

Com Good, That's not part of the bond though is it the drainage work?

Atty. McClure, It could be but at the end of the day the paving is going to eat up the letter of credit.

Mr. Thompson, It is.

Com. Good, We've talked about rain.

Com. Blaney, Yes, have they made any progress?

Mr. Thompson, None.

Atty. McClure, I think at this point the Commissioners' hands are somewhat tied. I guess my recommendation would be a motion to call the letter of credit and we'll go from there.

Mr. Thompson, Just so everyone knows I did reach out and remind Atty. Ferngren who represents Budz Plus, LLC that this written commitment was coming up and our intent was to be on the agenda for the June 11<sup>th</sup> Commissioners' meeting to discuss this. I sent it before the written commitment came into place. I never heard anything.

Atty. McClure, That email is at least 3 weeks old.

Mr. Thompson, Yes it is. If he would have at least come back and said I have a contract with a paving company to come in I would have said let me see it and I will get it to the Commissioners for a decision. I have received nothing.

Atty. McClure, Again my recommendation would be for the Commissioners to authorize myself and Mr. Thompson to begin the process of calling the letter of credit to allow us to finish the work that is contained within the letter of commitment, the memorandum that we entered into before winter started.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the pulling of the letter of credit to complete the road construction for Tower Meadows, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Blaney, It's disappointing.

Com. Good, The last time they were up here there was a discussion that they were going to be selling a lot lots to Olthauff.

Mr. Thompson, They did.

Com. Good, So did that take place?

Mr. Thompson, It didn't Olthauff is building a lot of homes out there right now.

Atty. McClure, I think we're down to 1 lot.

Mr. Thompson, Yes.

Atty. McClure, Budz Plus owns 1 lot that (Inaudible) it's going to be in purgatory for the foreseeable future. So they are down to 1.

Mr. Thompson, As a matter of fact I think I just reviewed and looked at last week when some people were out and I was going through building permits I think I looked through 5 permits that Olthauff was pulling in the area. I think 3 or 4 of them were for Tower Meadows. They are doing well out there.

Atty. McClure, And that will almost finish those lots.

Mr. Thompson, Correct.

Atty. McClure, Com. Good I understand what you're getting at as far as the construction and where we're at with other homes being built. Mr. Thompson and I will take that into consideration as we go through the process of calling this letter of credit and when we schedule things to happen.

Com. Good, It's a dance.

Atty. McClure, It is.

Com. Good, Usually you want to get it rule of thumb at 75%/80% complete. Once you put that surface course on you're still going to have big semis and bull dozers coming in and you have the probability of ripping it up and that is our road after 2020. I appreciate that Scott, you keep that all in mind and let's find out where we are with percentage of completion and some of those other things.

Mr. Thompson, We'll go through and figure that out and develop a percent.

Com. Biggs, It's certainly something we don't like doing up here. Actually it's only done on a very rare occasion. You almost have to be begging for it.

Atty. McClure, And that is kind of how I feel that we're here. I don't remember the last time we called one.

Mr. Thompson, I really can't remember to be honest.

Com. Biggs, I agree with Laura it's unfortunate.

**VALPARAISO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - KURT GILLINS**

**A request by the Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission to display 3 art pieces downtown on Porter County property. The first would be located at the Northeast corner on the Courthouse lawn. The second located at the corner Southwest corner on the Courthouse lawn and the third at the Northeast corner on the Museum lawn. The pieces would be installed the last week of June and remain until June 2020. They will also be placing temporary concrete pads at the locations not to exceed 4' x 4'.**

Mr. Gillins, In 2012 the Redevelopment Commission started the public art walk on Cumberland Crossing by the YMCA and we have been looking for opportunities to increase the public art within Valparaiso. This year we have selected 8 pieces by two artists from Decatur, Indiana that we will be bringing to the downtown area. Three of the pieces we are requesting to be put onto County property two of them on the Courthouse lawn and one on the lawn in front of the POCO Muse. Those pieces will be installed starting on June 26<sup>th</sup> and will remain through June of 2020. The cost would be through the Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission and the City will hold liability insurance and replacement insurance on those pieces during the time they are in our city.

Com. Blaney, They're really neat pieces.

Com. Good, I live on that side of town on Cumberland North so I always go the back way and I always get to see all of that out there. It's really great.

Mr. Gillins, The top piece the blue guitar that will be at the northeast corner by the pine trees that are there. It is a 14' tall piece so it will be pretty impressive there. The dancer will be the one that is in front of the POCO Muse. The third piece is a tree and that will go on the southwest corner of the Courthouse in line with the trees that are there already. It's kind of a neat addition. They will all be on temporary concrete pads that will be moved into place not to exceed 4' x 4'. The 14' tall piece has to have a 4' x 4' concrete pad for stability.

Com. Biggs, And a sign that says do not climb.

Mr. Gillins, That will be on there.

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

**MORGAN TWP. VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. – JON WITTMER**

**We would like to request the assistance from the Porter County Sheriff's Department with traffic control and State Road 49 road closure for the duration of the parade on Monday, September 2nd from 12-1:30. The parade route will start from Morgan Township School parking lot (emergency vehicles) and CR 325 S. At Jakes feed to CR 150 east. Parade will turn on from 300 S and 325 S onto RT 49 continue south to CR 400 S then west to CR 150 E then turn north and continue up to CR 325 S and finish at Jake's feed at RT 49.**

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

**KANKAKEE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLIER LODGE – TINA RONGERS**

**The Kankakee Valley Historical Society is requesting the consent of the Porter County Commissioners to proceed with preparing an OCRA Brownfield Grant application proposal to seek funds for the deconstruction and salvage of Collier Lodge.**

Ms. Rongers, Good Morning Commissioners I'm Tina Rongers and I'm President of Karnerblue. I'm a consultant that has been working with the Kankakee Valley Historical Society for several years now to help now to help with the preservation of Collier Lodge but also to grow KVHS as an organization to serve as a destination in South County. With me is John Hodson, Founder and President of KVHS. Would you like to open with a comment?

Mr. Hodson, I didn't have anything in mind. We're at the final stage. There certain steps that we had to take to get to this point and the initial one was to do an environmental survey so a company was hired and they took the core samples. It was determined that there are some environmental issues that would justify the Brownfield Grant. It also fits in with our overall plan with Schmidt Assoc. Architectural Firm out of Indianapolis. The best effective way of performing the work is to disassemble the building because structurally it's in a condition that men can't really work inside to do it. I see the silver lining in this. One it gives us a little time to build up our war chest. It also gives us a great opportunity to do an archeological dig at the foot print of Collier Lodge. This is one that I've been really been excited about because we know nothing has happened to that since 1898 or 1890. So it should be a prime spot. We can accomplish a few different things at the same time. It also gives us a great opportunity to do a thorough examination of the building of exactly how it was put together so that when we restore it we can do it. That is our plan is to restore it as it originally was not as it looks right now. There were a few superficial changes that were made to the building the sort of rounded front. So we can take it back to the original building as is. This Brownfield Grant and the work is the really key to a plan of successfully restoring the Lodge so it can be the corner stone or key point of the Collier Lodge. We have plans but much bigger more comprehensive site down there where more than just a preservation organization so we're working to develop a historical, environmental ecological cultural center. I have 160 acres there it can be willed out to Porter County Parks and KVHS. We kind of look at the 200 year plan and I've seen how other historical societies that have buildings really can't survive on their own. They do need to work with a government agency of some sort, usually it is parks. For years my wife and I have spent a lot of time meeting with different organizations that we felt would be a good pairing up with. It was really decided Porter County Parks considering their mission of education was so close to what we were looking for and also Porter County Parks is looking for an opportunity to extend south. We're kind of the red haired step child of the County. The north end gets all of the glory with the Dunes and all of the pretty things. We think we're kind of pretty too down here. So if we can establish an area with that. I have sort of grandeur, I see a bigger vision here. It's also cooperation with other agencies that hold land along the Kankakee. You've got the KRBC who has a 160 acres next to us. You have other agencies NIPSCO owns a lot of land. I can envision somewhere in the future that a real recreational area will cover the whole range of the Kankakee really centered in Porter County. I'm a little partial to that being in Porter County. I think it will be a great destination, I think it would all tie together. Then you can have miles and miles of trails and wildlife areas. Historically Baums Bridge was always the center of activity and that is not just my ego speaking but historically speaking Baums Bridge was a center point if you actually look at the map (Inaudible) Ditch. It all sort of fits in, but that is where in the last 12 years my mind has been working on this thing and this is what I sort of see. That first step is to get the building to deconstruct it in a manner. We have a site to store the material at and build up our funds, do our archeological dig and restore these buildings. I'm really rambling aren't I?

Ms. Rongers, No you're doing a good job at laying out what a larger vision is and the practical next step is the last time the KVHS was before the Commissioners we were partnering for a historical plan that was a \$15,000.00 grant that we received through our partnership in working with the Commissioners as the fiscal agent of OCRA Fund. We provide a local match. We administered the grant. Everything went smoothly between our organization and the County. The State was very pleased with our partnership effort. So the next step of that planning process is moving toward this Brownfield Grant. So we're here before you today to once again seek partnership to work together in our desire to pursue the Brownfield Grant. OCRA did change this program so the steps are little different this time. The first part of the application process is preparing a proposal and we would like to begin that with your consent to partner today. In that proposal process we also have to prepare competitive bids for grant administration and architectural and engineering services. Again that is part of why we're starting here today to formally come in to that consent to be able to proceed with preparing the proposal. Again we would work to do all of the project management work, all of the leg work and coordinate with your office for signatures and so forth in pursuing that. Once the proposal is submitted it takes about one month for OCRA to review it. They would come out to a site visit. After the site visit we would then be advised if we can proceed to the full proposal application.

Com. Blaney, It has been really neat to watch the progress over this time. It has come a long way.

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

Com. Biggs, I think what you're doing down there is really admirable. It really is becoming a jewel for the County to have especially if it ends up with our County Parks Dept. to manage. Thank you.

Mr. Hodson, It's interesting when I started researching the area I come to realize that we are the fourth group that has tried to establish this at the site. I don't believe any of the other groups knew before-hand. This is to me is kind of creepy in a way. In 1876 there was a town there and the health conditions were such that the town just didn't get started. Then in 1929 there was a grand plan. It was laid out as a town at Baums Bridge. They had parceled out the sections for homes. They had government support, they had contractors, they had (Inaudible) cars that came down it was a big event. That was 2 weeks before the great depression and it died. Then in 1959 the Porter County Conservation Club bought the building and was going to establish the Wallace (Inaudible) the town for Lew Wallace and that was parceled out. They wanted to make it a state park. The main problem with that is at that time a state park had to have a minimum of 10 acres and they only had 2 acres and I believe that is what killed us. We now are the fourth one. We are talking over 120 years there has been some desire in people to do something at this site. Independent of all of the others and that is why it's easier now with researching digitally on line to discover this. When I finally put it together it just keeps happening. People want this to happen and they fail. I think that we've laid it out now that hopefully we won't fail.

Ms. Rongers, I think the difference in our approach is that one it's the leadership, the leadership of the KVH Board that we continue to evolve but also the leadership here at the Commissioners. With our partnership for the historical plan even though that was a small grant that allowed us last year to receive funding through Porter County Foundation which supported the environmental studies that John spoke of. We also received an Indiana Dunes Tourism grant to help with us strategic planning that was \$5000.00. Then we also received an Indiana Humanity Council grant to do a short video on Collier Lodge that we are now out promoting in the community. That initial historic plan allowed us leverage about \$18,000.00 last year alone in just grants coming into the organization in addition to private donors that we have that are supporting the local match. Just a final comment that we want to make regarding the Brownfield Grant is that KVHS would be responsible for local match the 10% portion of that. We would not be seeking County funds for that portion. We thank you for your time and look forward to working in partnership and continuing the (Inaudible) that John describes.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

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

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Laura M. Blaney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Biggs

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