

**PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, JULY 9<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, July 9<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, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Approval of Payroll – June 14<sup>th</sup> and June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

**Approval of Minutes – June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

**Approval of Claims – June 13<sup>th</sup>, June 20<sup>th</sup>, June 28<sup>th</sup> and July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019.**

**Weights and Measures Monthly Report for May 16<sup>th</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Filed.**

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

**PRODUCTION CONTRACTS**

1. 4 - Productions for the 2020 Season
2. Stagecraft Theatrical Agreement – Mamma Mia

**VENUE RENTAL AGREEMENTS**

1. Brightside Music LLC

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Citizen appointments to the following Boards:**

- **Parks and Recreation**

Com. Good, This is a partial appointment. This person would be filling a position that was vacated some time back. This person will also have to have a political affiliation as a Republican because that was the person that left. We will need to replace the position with a Republican that is statutorily how it works.

Com. Good, moved to approve the appointment of Bryan Waisanen to the Parks and Recreation Board, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

- **Airport Authority**

Com. Good, We have one application that came in for the Airport Board and the application is from Mark Taylor. Mark is currently a board member. He is looking to be reappointed by this board.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve Mark Taylor to be reappointed to the Airport Authority Board for the Porter County Airport, Com. Good, second, motion carried.

**The Expo Center is being awarded the Chamber Community Improvement Award.**

Com. Good, I know over the last several months we've talked about all of the things that are happening at the Porter County Expo Center. It is now opened and has been operating for over a month. There has been a lot of good feedback. To reinforce the feedback that we're getting the Expo Center is being awarded Thursday a Community Improvement Award from the Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce. We're very excited and we will be there on Thursday at the Expo Center, we're hosting it. We will be accepting this award on behalf of the Porter County Government. If everyone remembers last year the County also won an award the work that was done on the front plaza. That is two in a row. Let's see if we can keep winning some awards. It's nice to be recognized especially as a government to be recognized by your Chamber in your community of the things that you're doing above and beyond. So we will be accepting that award with great honor on Thursday. Lori Daly the Expo Director will be there celebrating with us. Thank you.

**A letter of appreciation sent by the Porter County Public Library System to Don Wellsand and the IT staff for assisting them to utilize the County's existing phone system. After the Commissioners approved the plan the Library acquired new handsets and the associated licenses and expects a cost savings of over \$100,000.00 over the next 5 years.**

Com. Good, The last thing we have on the announcements is regarding a letter we received. I wanted to discuss it, this is again more of our onward approach in County Government and working with different departments of County Government. Whether they are quasi boards or separate boards. This is basically a letter of appreciation sent by the Porter County Public Library System to Don Wellsand and the IT staff. Don is the head of our IT Department for the County. This assistance is just coming from people talking to each other and utilizing the expansive network and pricing and all of the things that come with government. In the past a lot of different departments tried to work autonomously and tried to get those things done separately. I know we've had some new board members that we've appointed on the Library Board that are now coming to the County and talking to us and asking if there are ways that we can leverage some of the things that we do to help them to save money so we can apply to people that use the library. This is where the money will go back to. It is going to go back to the end user. If we can keep mining and continue to do things like this and create cost savings on the day to day to day things that gives our Library Board or any other board a little bit more room to do more things that can serve the public. I wanted to share this letter from the Library Board. I think it's sort of a big deal. Its cooperation, it's working together, it's not fighting over silly things. This is about the greater good and trying to put things ahead and working together. I think then our charge from working together over the last 3 years is we just want everyone to work together and respect each other whether you're our department of County Government or you're a quasi-board. We want to help you be the best department you can be. Any comments from the Commissioners?

Com. Blaney, Just that the new Library Director and the Board have really stepped up and been great to work with. These kinds of savings are allowing the Library to go through some changes that are making them more user friendly and viable. The old standard of just going in and checking out a book is not the way people use information anymore or get information. Their online information is improving. Their capabilities for computers are just going through the roof. It's good stuff and hopefully this money savings will help them further that.

Com. Good, I think there was also something in the paper just recently in the last couple of days where they have made the decision to waive the late fees for books. I think that once again is a forward looking movement and it is basically saying we don't want to penalize you for taking books out. Again, with things like this it allows us to make other decisions on the other end that maybe if we were losing money we could go out and make these decisions and hopefully bring more people in under the tent.

Com. Blaney, Its keeping books out of the hands of the kids who needed them the most.

Com. Good, There are a lot of good things going on. We're very fortunate that Porter County has a very vibrant library system.

Com. Blaney, And Kevin Pazour is on that Board.

Com. Good, He is one of the latest members that have been appointed by the Council. Kevin did you want to add anything?

Mr. Pazour, It's a great group and if you haven't had time to go to anyone of the branches, do take the time to do that. It's a new day for the system.

Com. Good, You mean before they go to the POCO Museum.

Mr. Pazour, You can always stop by the Museum. It's a little hot but I need to talk to Ray about that.

Com. Good, He's right here. I take it the air conditioning isn't working.

Mr. Pazour, We don't have any.

Com. Good, Oh that's right and you haven't had one for 150 years. Thank you Kevin. I have one other announcement I saw Dave Bagnall walk in. Dave would you like to come forward and give us update of what is going on with the Fair.

Mr. Bagnall, It's an exciting time. I had a meeting at the Rotary yesterday. We booked Luke Holmes this year. Last year we had an offer in for Luke Combs and our initial offer was \$40,000.00 and that wasn't enough so we went to \$75,000.00 and they passed on it. We booked him this year but because of contractual obligations we we're not able to tell you how much we paid this year. I will tell you that he is getting all of the dates that he wants next year for \$1 million. We sold that show out in 12 minutes and it's one of the most humbling events that has ever happened in my life. I have been doing this for a long time and I'm excited to bring Luke Holmes to the Porter County Fair.

Com. Good, Timing is everything. He is at the top of everything right now.

Mr. Bagnall, We have Darcy Lynn Farmer coming this year as well. She won America's Got Talent two years ago and she came in second this year on the Best of the Best. The magician beat her out. We have a Christian night and we have an Oldies Country night with Sawyer Brown and Diamond Rio. The reason I really wanted to come here I wanted to you guys how much we appreciate the relationship that the County has developed with the Porter County AG Society. One of your ambassadors Lori Daly has certainly been a big part of the glue to be able to make it happen. I just wanted to go over a few things that we've done in the past couple of years. We replaced the sound guy Neal and we put a new sound system in. We used a guy out of Springfield, Illinois. It is pretty much self-contained now. We really don't need any maintenance. I had him come over this year to go through a thing or two and we found a couple of little problems that we are having fixed. We bore the cost of that and have an upright good system going. We're excited about that, but the thing that is probably one of the most exciting things is that we've rearranged the entire Fairgrounds this year. Lonnie Steel had the idea that we needed to spread people out and send the free on ground stuff out to the South parking lot. It was a good idea if we had 250,000 people coming to the Fair, but we don't we have about 150,000. So we've decided to pull that in and use that valuable parking space for parking cars. Where that big tent was in the middle the Park Place Pavilion we're moving that over to the north straight out from East Expo and that is where our entertainment is. We've booked a lot of tribute bands in there this year. It is going to be more exciting than ever. So in that area between the 4-H Building and the Cattle Barn it's going to all of our free on grounds acts, dog, pig racing and several other things in there. We have a Pirates of the Caribbean Act hire wire act coming in that are really exciting. We think that will really entice people to stay in that area. In regards to that the we have a great relationship with the Health Dept. too and last year was the second year that one of our vendor's got written up because of poor practices. They left some chicken out in the open and we can't tolerate that because if one vendor gets people sick it isn't just that one vendor it's oh I got sick at the Porter County Fair I'm not going there. He was our second largest vendor in revenue and we kicked him out because we can't deal with that. We're a quality organization and we care about the public and we appreciate the public coming to our place. With respect to that we changed the food area and made a new food court where we black topped so it will keep people a little tighter. We had some vendors in front of the horse barn they did not have sewer hookup that is why we moved them to this area. So we will not have food vendors in front of that horse barn where there were no sewer hookups. Last year which this number staggered me and I asked the people at Rotary yesterday to give me a guess, does anyone have an idea of how many dollars in food our food vendors sell for that 10 days?

Com. Good, \$2 million.

Mr. Bagnall, \$1 million, someone at Rotary guessed \$20,000.00. \$1 million so one of the things that was sorely needed out there is AT&T is what most vendors used for their credit card processing. The AT&T signal isn't very good out there. With NITCO we put in fiber optic Wi-Fi and the AG Society spent about \$70,000.00 in doing so. We believe that that is going to have a ripple affect with us. We're hoping that we can increase our revenue from the food vendors 20% this year. We've put in Wi-Fi, we've put in blacktop, we put in 15 camping spaces last year, we just put in new lights in the horse barn and all of these things we're doing because of our mutual relationship with the Porter County Commissioners and the County. We're happy to be there and we appreciate the communication and we appreciate the nearly \$4 million that you spent on the

Expo and Expo East. I've heard no negative comments about it. No one can make a negative comment about it because it is a beautiful beautiful facility. One thing on my agenda is the days of Carl Hefner they thought they were going to race ponies out there. Well the next pony that races out there will be the first one that raced there. We took that little bank on the north end that was sort of high and we had Bud Martin shave it down for us this year. Our thoughts are with the County's permission next year we would like to put full hookup camping in that area. We would obviously fund that as well, but certainly it's not our property and we would like to put that on the table for you guys to think about and whether or not that is something that is in your plan.

Com. Good, What I would recommend David is getting a meeting together with Bob Thompson and Mike Novotney the County Engineer. Just sit down with them and work through the process like we all have to do. I would rather have our technical people look at it first to make sure we're not doing anything that would harm us in the future, but I think we're open to it.

Mr. Bagnall, Absolutely. That is pretty much what I had to discuss and do you have any questions of me?

Com. Good, I just want to thank you for working together with us. I said when all of the rain was going on and we were trying to mow out there and we started getting behind very quickly it was just amazing how the agricultural community and the Fair people just stepped up and offered their help. It's a lot different than 4 years ago that is all I will say and I think a lot of that is attributed to you as well.

Mr. Bagnall, Well thank you. With one of my jobs there is a variety of attractions and I get to go around and see a lot of fairs throughout the country. We've gotten a fair amount of push back from these vendors because they think that this space is their space forever. We're not moving those people to make them mad. We're moving them to make the whole picture better and we have to change. A lot of these guys at these fairs in Illinois or wherever they we put that old wagon over there because we've done it for the last 20 years. We're not going to do that at the Porter County Fair. And you know I'm very fortunate as the manager to have a board behind me. One day Lonnie Steel told me I want you to take this to the Board because they won't tell you no and that isn't the truth. When I take something to the Board I have all of my plan together and reasons why we should do it and if I don't think it's a good thing for the Fair or the County I don't take it to them. We try to make the decisions and they've really invested in me and let me run with the game and I appreciate it, I love it. There are times like this past week and I think to myself why to do I love the Porter County Fair because just this morning I received 100 emails.

Com. Blaney, It is a great Fair and it sounds like it's going to be even better this year.

Com. Good, We're very blessed in Porter County to have the Fair that we do and to have the volunteer community that is involved in it at the level that they are. It's really amazing that you see the amount of time and effort that is given for this 10 day affair. Thank you David.

Mr. Bagnall, Thank you for letting me come and if you guys need anything don't hesitate to give us a call. It's easier to make love than war. We're much appreciative of everything.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **COMMISSIONERS**

#### **A quote from Municode service for the recodification/restatement of County Code.**

Atty. McClure, I think it's been about since the late 90's since we've gone through and looked at all of our local code and made sure we didn't have any issues with state law changes and things of that nature, federal law changes. This would take about a year's process to go through what we currently have and then also the things that have been added over the couple of years. Then ultimately we would restate our code giving us an opportunity to remove and tweak things that need to be at this point and then also would allow it to kind of mesh with what Mr. Ellis is working on with the website so at the end of this Municode would have a link to be able to get to our County Code in a more efficient manner and take it off of our website as it is holding it now. It would still be on our website as a link but it wouldn't be something that we would be managing in house and then also allow for the process that as we continue to pass ordinances that they are updated either monthly or quarterly and then available online. It also gets us away from necessarily having to print books. As long as the code is accurate online then we lose a lot of the administrative behind the scenes of people attempting to find parts of our County Code. This is about a 12 month process that we would start now and hope to finish next year. It's pretty involved but like I said I think the last time this was done was 97.

Com. Good, And I think the company that did it for us in 97 is no longer in business anymore.

Atty. McClure, No this is the same, you're thinking of the Plan Code.

Com. Biggs, What was the cost of their quote?

Atty. McClure, \$14,300.00.

Com. Good, At the meeting we approved a contract for training for our Plan Commission members as well because we have not done any retraining in a long time. We had a lot of new members onboard this year. We wanted to give them a good start with some training. We are now moving in on the Plan Commission and a lot of the things that had not been paid attention to for quite some time. We are now circling back and looking at that and cleaning a lot of things up and getting a lot more current with today's code.

Atty. McClure, And to give an idea our code I think everyone forgets how big it is. Our local code is 565 pages currently double column with an 11 font. There was quite a bit to go through to get to....and that is why it is going to take this long and that is obviously reflected in the price. It needs to be gone through to get to where we need to be.

Com. Good, Yes I agree.

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

### **EXPO CENTER RENO – PAY APPS. & CHANGE ORDERS**

**E.C. Babilla – Pay App. #2 in the amount of \$98,593.85. With a remaining balance of \$20,664.60.**

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

**Keough Mechanical – Pay App. #5 in the amount of \$12,820.25. With a remaining balance of \$5,047.60.**

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

**Continental Electric - Pay App. #9 in the amount of \$16,293.83. With a remaining balance of \$41,341.80.**

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

**Midwest Tile & Interiors – Change Ord. #2 in the amount of \$1,005.00. To provide flooring in the brides room.**

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

**Pangere Corp. – Change Ord. #3 in the amount of \$5,720.00. To provide miscellaneous T & M work.**

Com. Good, A lot of this was the framing and a lot of the work that went into the bride's room again that we did at the tail end of the project. Pangere did most of that work there so that is what that change order is for.

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

**Pangere Corp. – Change Ord. #4 in the amount of \$112.00. To provide door seals and additional signage and kick plates.**

Com. Good, This was for some of the older doors that were in the building that we made look new again. That was something that was not included in the scope. Once we started getting a lot of nice new things next to these old doors they didn't real good. So we switched it out for \$112.00.

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

**NORTH COUNTY ANNEX RENO – PAY APPS.**

**Mechanical Concepts – Pay App. #1 in the amount of \$40,071.00. With a remaining balance of \$1,252,829.00.**

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

**Circle “R” Electric – Pay App. #1 in the amount of \$97,791.57. With a remaining balance of \$842,333.43.**

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

**Ziolkowski Const. – Pay App. #5 in the amount of \$77,292.00. With a remaining balance of \$105,656.10.**

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

**Ziolkowski Const. – Pay App. #6 in the amount of \$138,080.60. With a remaining balance of \$1,477,174.00.**

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

**Pangere Corp. – Change Ord. #1 in the amount of \$8,941.00. To provide door hardware modifications, replace doors/frame and electric strikes on doors.**

Com. Good, As you recall this building is a renovation of an existing courtroom and so as we tore into the building obviously we found some surprises. One of the surprises had to do with a lot of the control access points for doors and things. We decided to modify rather than replace and that is what this change order is for.

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

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

**An Introduction of the summer Interns.**

Mr. MacDonald, I have a couple introductions first of all. I want to make sure to introduce 2 of our summer interns that we have. We have Andrea Vance who is back there. She is an incoming sophomore from Manchester University and she is actually with us on a scholarship from Manchester for the summer. She helped construct our new bar upstairs. She is running sound for Mamma Mia. She is costuming our children’s theater production of Peter Pan. She is kind of an every woman for everything all things theater tech related and we are thrilled to have her onboard. We also have rising junior Graham Boffo from DePauw. He interned for us last summer. He is back again this year for us and he is working backstage with Mamma Mia and also helping Stretch out with several projects around the Opera House.

Com. Good, Thank you, welcome.

**A request for an Additional Appropriation Fund #4915 in the amount of \$20,000.00 to Account #3760 Royalties. Memorial Opera House Foundation is giving the Memorial Opera House the funds in direct support to help pay for 2020 Production rights. The monies will be spent this year to pay for next season.**

Mr. MacDonald, I actually sent this appropriation for a request for an additional to the appropriation for this month’s Council meeting. It got put on last month’s Council meeting so it has already been handled. The Memorial Opera House Foundation has committed to giving direct support for royalties, production costs, marketing costs all of that for the Opera House. We are thrilled to get those things kicked in gear. This is so we can pay for the royalties for next year so we can use the ticket sales to continue to bring qualified staff onboard for the shows to heighten our production quality and continue to offer what we are offering.

Com. Blaney, We’re very appreciative of the Foundation.

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

Com. Good, Is Mamma Mia this weekend?

Mr. MacDonald, Yes we have our soft opening on Thursday and I think we have a pretty full house for that and we are sold out all of our 9 performances. We added 2 performances and I think we have 80 tickets left for the 2 Thursday performances that we added. 75 now since I walked up here. We're really excited it is going to be a great show.

Com Good, Thanks Scot keep plugging away down there and welcome interns.

**EMA – MARK CARLO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

**Motorola Solution – A quote for software to program radios.**

Mr. Bella, This is some software that we need for programming existing Motorola radios that we already had. This would allow us to bring them up to the newest version of software and then be able to program those radios, just an initial programming. Also when we get on scenes at times we may have to reprogram radios on the fly. Several of our volunteers are radio programmers. Rather than send those radios out and paying a company to do it we're able to do it ourselves. This is a 3 year subscription so that is spread out over 3 years we wouldn't need an upgrade on it.

Com. Good, What is the dollar amount on that again?

Mr. Bella, \$591.00.

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

**AUDITOR VICKI URBANIK**

**An Ordinance Re-Establishing the Fee for Real Property Conveyance Documents  
Endorsed by the Auditor of Porter County – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.**

Atty. McClure, The ordinance basically is a result of a state law change that is requiring her to collect a \$10.00 fee for endorsing the real estate conveyance documents. I think it was \$5.00.

Ms. Urbanik, Yes.

Atty. McClure, The statute changed so we are kind of handcuffed into making this change to match the state law.

Ms. Urbanik, We really have no choice. We must increase the fee to \$10.00 and you must pass an ordinance.

**PUBLIC HEARING OPENED**

Com. Good, First call is there anyone wishing to speak against this ordinance? Second call anyone wishing to speak against this ordinance? Third and final call anyone wishing to speak against this ordinance? First call is there 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**

Atty. McClure, And for everyone's knowledge this fee has to go the County Plat Map Fund for use in developing and maintaining the plat books. Not only is it how much we have to charge but where it has to go and what it has to be spent on.

Com. Biggs, But the state dictated what that amount would be?

Ms. Urbanik, Yes.

Com. Biggs, Did they give a reason why they felt it necessary to double it.

Ms. Urbanik, Not that I heard of no.

Com. Good, There is already a fund in place for this?

Ms. Urbanik, Yes.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the ordinance on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading will be on the next agenda. Thank you Vicki.

**EXPO CENTER – LORI DALY, DIRECTOR**

**Communication Company – An agreement to provide alarm service testing for the Fire Alarm System, Fire Sprinkler System and Portable Fire Extinguishers in the amount of \$1,167.00 annually.**

Ms. Daly, This is an agreement which is a yearly contract to inspect the fire sprinkler systems. This is going forward. It was inspected under the project last month this is above and beyond that.

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

Ms. Daly, I would like to mention a few other things if that is okay. I think you all know Debbie Garner has retired. Her last day is this Friday. I was able to hire an assistant director. I brought her with me to introduce her to everyone. Her name is Tammy Mangold and she started yesterday. She is still with me that is a good thing. The other thing Curt brought to my attention and we should have brought this up when David was up here. Huge appreciation to the AG Society they donated a 10 day booth to the Election Board. They are going to bring out their new machines and show the public how they work. So it is a win win for everybody. I think they are set up in the second building so anyone that hasn't been able to mess with them yet that will be a great opportunity.

Com. Good, That's an awesome idea. Thanks Lori.

**FACILITIES – RAY CLOYD, DIRECTOR**

**Dude Solutions – An operations management software agreement in the amount of \$1,512.00 for 6 months.**

Mr. Cloyd, This is software for our work order system. I think it will be more effective for our technicians to accept work orders and complete them and us to handle more accountability to them. It will also give us data for our assets in our buildings for instance HVAC system. We can actually see how much money we are putting into the system. We can make educated guesses that are more sound than just guessing.

Com. Good, This is something we were moving towards in the beginning. The department is 3 years old and this is the next step. This is a good move and we will have data. Like you said we have a piece of equipment that keeps breaking over and over we now have data that we can go back and pull up. It helps you make better informed decisions with your equipment and everything else. It is just good data so I am all for this.

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

**Porter County Boot Policy.**

Mr. Cloyd, Yes we would like to increase that. We worked with Rich Sexton of the Highway Dept. and we would like to increase it to \$200.00 for the boots and \$80.00 for the custodians.

Com. Good, And where are they now?

Mr. Cloyd, I don't think there was anything written for the custodians.

Com. Good, Okay so we are going to formalize this finally.

Atty. McClure, Well for the custodians but for the Highway and the Facilities I think we were at \$150/\$175. \$200.00 for Highway and Facilities every 18 months and custodians it's \$80.00 every 18 months. They have to be water efficient, electric and non-slip and they must be worn while they are at work.

Com. Good, I know a lot of people are thinking "boot policy" but this really came out of the Safety meetings and the discussions that we've been having with our carriers who are here today and who have been involved in these meetings on a day to day. We're really trying to manage our Workman's Comp. for the County as well because now we are self-funded. We're already starting

to see a lot of savings there as well too but we need to get our guys in the right gear. That is what this is all about. We've had a lot of discussions the last year about boots but I'm glad to see we're formalizing it and now we have a direction to go. We have a lot of guys out there that are working in stuff.

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

**HIGHWAY DEPT. – RICH SEXTON, SUPERINTENDENT**

**A Memorandum of Understanding between the Porter County Highway Dept. and the City of Valparaiso for assistance in performing minor roadway construction.**

**A Memorandum of Understanding between the Porter County Highway Dept. and the Town of Chesterton for assistance in performing minor roadway construction.**

Mr. Sexton, These are the memorandum of understandings between us and the City of Valpo and the Town of Chesterton. As we all know we bought the chip and seal equipment last year. We had a sit down meeting earlier this spring and we talked to a lot of the local superintendents of the street departments and they were interested in chip and seal. When we had our meeting we talked about working with them to chip and seal some of their lower volume roads these are just covering. We are going to do about 4 roads totaling 2 miles worth of work for them. This is just covering us on the deal.

Atty. McClure, Are these the roads that we were already chip and sealing? Our portion and these are the portions going in to Chesterton and Valpo.

Mr. Sexton, Yes.

Atty. McClure, So to be clear so frankly the article is getting written correctly. Valpo and Chesterton aren't adding chip and seal where they weren't before. What we have done is that in the places where the County is moving into where chip and seal has eroded that terminates either at the Valpo limit or the Chesterton limit instead of stopping we are going to continue to finish the road and then these are the agreements that will have us reimbursed from either Chesterton or Valpo. The underlying financials of it is that it's very cost prohibited for say the City of Chesterton to try to get less than 5000 ft. of chip and seal done. Considering when we were trying to do miles of it it was difficult for us to get that done considering some of our southern counties are doing 100's of miles of chip and seal. This is a good financial for them and it's good for us and it's good for everyone involved that are traveling the roads. These individual agreements that will be approved here and then approved at both cities basically takes into account the time, material and labor and a little bit of wear and tear. Everyone is getting the use of all the bid out limestone and things like that that we utilize. It is really a win win for everyone involved.

Com. Biggs, They wouldn't even be able to find someone to go out and do 500 ft.

Mr. Sexton, No they would just have to pave it and that is it. What we could do 500 ft. for us way under what they can have it paved for all day long because it need full reconstruction.

Com. Good, We can grind the whole road down to nothing and then we can add stone back to build that base because that is what we're trying to do here by using chip and seal. We're trying to increase the base of our roads because right now a lot of our bases in our roads are half of what they should be so it would be foolish to pave over roads that only have 6 inches of stone underneath them. This is part of the process. In doing these we will be able to take these roads down to the sub-base and rebuild them back up with chip and seal. Once we get that sub-base if the city or the town wants to come in a year or two from now and pave it they have more base now that they can do it on the next aeration of the maintenance of the roads. It is also really good to be working with cities and towns.

Mr. Sexton, We've created really good working relationships with them.

Com. Blaney, We're all Porter County residents.

Atty. McClure, Some dollar amounts Chesterton is \$38,000.00 and Valpo is \$48,000.00. Valpo looks like.....

Mr. Sexton, They are right at about a mile and the Town of Chesterton is about 1 mile too.

Com. Biggs, Have other municipalities reached out for this same type of agreement?

Mr. Sexton, When we had our meeting every town in the County responded back to it except for the City of Portage. If they couldn't make it they couldn't make it but they at least responded back. We're more than happy to work with them if they want to talk too. We plan on October 11<sup>th</sup> actually having another of the same style meeting before winter and sharing winter operations as well so we can make sure everything is good.

Com. Good, Starts and stops on snow plowing. I'm just glad to see we're all talking.

Mr. Sexton, Yes, we talk pretty much weekly so it's good.

Com. Biggs, It's a great program.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Memorandums of Understanding between the City of Valpo and the Town of Chesterton with the Highway Dept., Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Mr. Sexton, I just wanted to let you know we had Levy Laboratories right here by the old ANCO building come out and do some light weight deflectometer where they drop and weight and it tells how compacted our base is. We are well above even any kind of standard. Our roads are going to be so much better and I will compare them if they ever want to argue. We'll go out and compare them and show them the results.

Com. Good, While you were on vacation I went out and on the road that had a lot of Biggs' on it. What was that road 500?

Mr. Polarek, 250.

Com. Good, I met some of your family out there, it was a pretty beat up road but they were in there chip and sealing it. It turned out really nice. You can see where the aggregate is. I was very pleased and we're controlling the quality.

Mr. Sexton, They are very smooth. Thank you.

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

Mr. Thompson, May I make a request?

Com. Good, Yes.

Mr. Thompson, I would like to introduce a new team member. This is Chris D'Antonio who has recently started with our team upstairs. Chris is our new project manager for the Highway Engineering side. Chris brings a wealth of knowledge to the group upstairs for construction practices and materials. He is off and running on all of our bridge projects. I just wanted to introduce Chris.

Com. Good, It looks like they're doing well on those bridges up there right off of 700. I went by there last night and they are getting after it.

#### **Kankakee River Basin Commission – Appointment of Porter County Representative.**

Com. Good, We have to make an appointment to the Kankakee River Basin and this appointment is made by the County Commissioners. The Kankakee River Basin Commission if you've followed the legislation in the state last year has sort of re-formulized and reorganized and they've done a large board reduction. They've reconstituted the commission with some state funds and we're going to be in study committee over the next couple of years talking about how we're going to tame the mighty Kankakee River so we can start pushing back on a lot of the flooding and the issues that are down there. The County will also at some point be responsible for contributing. If you are a municipality town or county any political unit of government you're going to have to pay into this commission based off of a watershed agreement. It is a certain calculation that they have to make. Right now the County is in the middle of trying to figure out what that dollar amount is going to be for Porter County and that is most of your water half way in the County south. Anything that sheds to the Kankakee River will have to pay a certain assessment. Along with the payment of all of it there is a lot of coming together that needs to happen down there as to how this is going, what the fix is going to be, what the costs are. This is the very beginning of that and the first thing that we have to do is appointment a person to that board to represent Porter County and the water shed of Porter County for the Kankakee River Basin Commission. Scott did I miss anything?

Atty. McClure, No.

Com. Good, At the time when this was all going down during the legislative session I don't think we were real happy as to how it came out. We obviously voiced our opinions and it sort of happened too quickly for our liking but we're also one of the fewer counties that are ahead on the Storm Water Program. A lot of the other counties are out there in the State and they are all trying to catch up right now. I think we had a little more knowledge than other people. We were taken back by it but it is what it is now and we have to put our person on this commission to lobby and represent the citizens of Porter County through our Board. Any questions of the Board or does anyone want to add anything?

Mr. Novotney, I would just like to make a quick point of clarification. As of July 1<sup>st</sup> the Kankakee River Basin Commission became the Kankakee River Basin and Yellow River Basin Development Commission. This is appointment is to that. The renamed, the reorganized entity.

Com. Good, moved to appoint Michael Novotney the County Engineer to sit on the board, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, A lot of this work is going to be technical going forward, very technical. I don't think there is anyone better in county government to represent Porter County on that board than our County Engineer Mike Novotney. You have our support Michael.

### **A Memorandum of Understanding between the RDC, Stormwater Board and Commissioners.**

Com. Good, This is for the Redevelopment Commission as I mentioned in the Storm Water meeting this morning at 9 the Porter County Redevelopment Commission is going to be starting construction. Our target is this fall to build a garage on 700 North in South Haven. We are going to be building a utility shed there so we can stage snow plow trucks and Storm Water work. We are going to be building this building through the Redevelopment Commission. We already have the monies in our budgets to do this through the RDC. What this MOU does it allows us the Redevelopment Commission to use all of the County pricing and everything that we have with other trades so we can utilize those cost savings when we put the groundwork in and do all of that. This allows the RDC to use all of the bids and documents through the Highway Dept. and through the Storm Water Dept. It just allows us to use all of those unit costs that are contracted.

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

### **USI Consultants, Inc. - A Right-of-Way supplemental agreement for Bridge 84 in the amount of \$39,000.00.**

Mr. Thompson, This is for Bridge 84 which is on the west side of Hebron on 800 S. The supplemental agreement is due to the fact that we recently relocated a storm line that was going on the south side and then releasing the water on the north side. We have now worked with the church to keep this storm sewer totally on the south side to release it. This was per the request of residence on the north side. So with this we're having to change our right-of-way documents slightly. This is the second supplemental agreement. The original contract was around \$20,000.00 now this agreement is bringing up the total contract cost for the right-of-way purchases up to \$39,000.00 for us.

Com. Good, So does this give us a little more land so we can also do some tapering and some other things as well?

Mr. Thompson, We've been working on that so we can illuminate the amount of guardrail that is going to be necessary up there. I believe we have tapered that pretty well on the north side and on the south side also.

Com. Blaney, I know that wasn't an easy one to get everyone on the same page so thank you for your persistence and patience.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the USI Consultants agreement, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, For some of you in the audience as we go back and start redoing these bridges the last time these bridges were touched were 40 or 50 years ago. The amount of utilities that go through there now, the right-of-ways, there are new dimensions for slopes so if you have certain slope you can alleviate guardrail. So every opportunity that we have now to redo a bridge it is costing us a few more dollars to go out and buy some additional land and other things but this

pretty much sets that bridge up for the future. We're not just fixing bridges we're out there trying to make the bridges better for future growth and long term. I just wanted to make a note of that. We don't like to spend money blindly but we think it's an investment in the future and it gives us a much better bridge. It also allows us to access the bridge so now we can maintain it. Our maintenance program on our bridges is much more robust than it has been in the last 3 years. Now we can actually get under the bridges, get to them and mow them. A lot of things we need do to take care of them.

Com. Blaney, I think the requirements have changed to right? We can't just replace what is there.

Mr. Novotney, Correct.

Com. Biggs, All traffic counts have changed too.

Mr. Thompson, Significantly in areas.

### **Stone Bridge Subdivision – An approval of subdivision performance guarantee.**

Mr. Thompson, Stone Bridge Subdivision is wanting to do a secondary plat or final plat and record it for a phase of that. Per DUDO they have to submit an engineering estimate of the infrastructure necessary to complete the subdivision. You heard Mike talk earlier about that so I am going to ask Mike to talk about the amount and everything.

Mr. Novotney, The first phase of the subdivision and for the audience and for you upfront this is Stone Bridge Subdivision on 500 E. just north of U.S. 6 about 850 N. would be the north address. In order to get the final plat approved they have to provide the County with a letter of credit or performance bond for the remaining infrastructure yet to be installed in Phase I. The majority of the infrastructure is in otherwise we wouldn't be at this point. These are basically miscellaneous and sort of final finish items that still need to be completed in order for Phase I to be fully built out in terms of its infrastructure. Remaining works includes some grading, really regrading in of detention basins that were excavated last fall. The installation of some under drain pipe in a ditch connecting one pond to another. Sidewalk installation and some miscellaneous ditch work and landscaping still to be completed on some individual lots. Again, the majority of the work has been done. There is miscellaneous work items still to be completed. The staff has made a significant effort throughout construction to provide almost full time observation of the work. Frank Kalisik of our office has been through road construction and through storm sewer installation so we are pretty pleased with how the infrastructure construction process has gone.

Atty. McClure, When we talk about that most of the infrastructure is in and the estimate on the infrastructure is \$615,000.00 and right now we're almost at a \$500,000.00 completed.

Mr. Novotney, About \$500,000.00 (Inaudible).

Com. Good, Is that what the guarantee is?

Mr. Novotney, The guarantee is for \$117,195.00.

Com. Good, Is that individual or is that against the LLC per the individuals or these personal?

Atty. McClure, This is actually a letter of credit from DeMotte State Bank guaranteeing it.

Com. Good, Are you guys okay with \$120,000.00 or whatever it is?

Mr. Novotney, Yes in fact they originally proposed \$80,000.00. We reviewed this carefully against what work still needed to be completed. This amount is satisfactory.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the performance guarantee for Stone Bridge Subdivision, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

### **The individual bids for the CCMG 2019-1 projects: N. Calumet, Meridian Rd., 400 North and 150 East (Sturdy Road) have been rejected.**

Atty. McClure, It looks like the state would prefer that we bid N. Calumet and Meridian Rd. as one project. We had bid it out as 2 separate projects. Frankly what we need to do here is reject the individual bids for N. Calumet and Meridian and approve rebidding of it as one project to keep in line with the what the state wants for the CCMG Grant.

Mr. Novotney, It is what the state requires.

Mr. Thompson, When we put in the application the application was for N. Calumet Rd. and Meridian Rd. together and then 400 N. and 150 E. together. The state views each one of those awards as one project and they assign what they call a specific DES No. which is their tracking and project number on that. So N. Calumet and Meridian Rd. received one DES No. and they were expecting those bids to come in together as one project.

Com. Good, Is the state, are they holding the dollar that we were approved?

Mr. Thompson, Correct they are. The award goes for what they were considered their fiscal year 2020 so the actual money became available on July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. So when we originally sent in the bids on it they weren't able to give us a PO for that money on that. Once we get the new contracts under that and we send it into them they are going to give us the PO to release that money for us.

Com. Blaney, Is 400 N. and 150 E. the same deal?

Mr. Thompson, It is those will be combined later and we have until April to be able to get these in. 150 E. is the one we're working with Valparaiso City Utilities right now on that. Mike and I didn't really want to see that road paved until Valpo Water Works is done and out.

Com. Good, With all of their well heads and everything?

Mr. Thompson, The new water main.

Com. Good, Out on Sturdy.

Mr. Thompson, Yes on Sturdy Rd.

Atty. McClure, We have to vote to reject the bids that we had opened and accepted for the North Calumet and Meridian projects and the 400 and 150.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve to reject the bids that we had opened and accepted for the North Calumet and Meridian projects and the 400 and 150, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

**An advertisement will be posted for bids for N. Calumet and Meridian Rd. as one (1) project.**

Atty. McClure, The advertisement or the notice to the public that we will be rebidding it as one project both of those North Calumet and Meridian Rd. and eventually 150 and Sturdy.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the advertisement for bids as one project, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, When is the next round of Community Crossing Grants deadline for us to apply by?

Mr. Thompson, The portal just opened up I believe last week for applications and I want to say it is sometime in August.

Mr. Gavelek, It is in early August.

Mr. Thompson, I know Matt and Rich were sitting down talking about potential projects to put in for that application. We have a total that we can go for of \$1 million.

Com. Good, We still have \$300 in change left right?

Mr. Thompson, Correct we have a total that we can go for of the \$1 million from grants and I think our award was \$600 and some odd in change. We still have some money that we can for with this application.

**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD – BOB GREGG**

**IncredibleBats, Inc. – An agreement to provide an educational presentation for the Celebrate Wildlife Festival on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> in the amount of \$525.00.**

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

**VALPARAISO COMMUNITY FESTIVAL AND EVENTS**

A request for approval to use the Courthouse grounds beginning Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> for the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Popcorn Festival. Along with a request to the use the parking lot behind the 157 Franklin Street building for vendor and possibly handicapped parking. In addition they are requesting access to the building's roof to place an antenna for their 2-way radios which they use on festival day. They are also requesting the gate for the judges' parking lot be left open on Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup> after the Courthouse is closed so they can locate the EMT tent there for the day of Festival Day and would like to confirm that the Admin. Garage will be open the day of the festival with a parking fee of \$10.00 per vehicle.

Com. Blaney, Will the parking lot be available behind 157?

Com. Good, I think it's the area that is not fenced in it's just that lane in the back.

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

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura M. Blaney

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

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