

**PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, July 14th, 2020
10:00 A.M.**

(The entire meeting is available to watch on the Porter County website.)

The Regular meeting of the Porter County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 14th, 2020 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Administration Center.

Those present were: Commissioners Laura Blaney, Jeff Good, Jim Biggs, County Attorney Scott McClure; and Recording Secretary Kathy Merle.

Call to Order/Pledge

Com. Good, Good Morning this is the Porter County Board of Commissioners' meeting Tuesday, July 14th.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Payroll – June 12th, June 26th and July 10th, 2020.

Approval of Claims – June 10th, June 17th, June 25th, July 2nd and July 9th, 2020.

Approval of Minutes – June 9th, 2020.

Weights and Measures Monthly Report Filed – May 16th to June 15th, 2020.

MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE – SCOT MACDONALD, DIRECTOR

ARTISTIC SERVICES AGREEMENTS

MTI Production Contract – Little Shop of Horrors (Broadway Version) for 2021.

BAM Theatre – A Collaborative Operating Agreement.

Concord Theatricals – Holiday Inn.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Com. Blaney, Scot would you like to come up here and tell us about the grants you received for the Memorial Opera House. Sorry to put you on the spot but it is great news.

Mr. MacDonald, Good Morning. We have received about \$46,000.00 worth of grants in the last month. \$20,000.00 from the John W. Anderson Foundation, which will be going towards the Memorial Opera House Foundation and some projects that they are working. Three from the Indiana Arts Commission, one is a \$3000.00 grant from the Cares Act that is being administered through the NEA Arts Midwest and IAC. We have to spend that by the end of the year. Another is for project support so we can continue things like the Lime Lights going and all of that. And then another one is for operational support that we will also be utilizing to keep all things moving forward as we go.

Com. Blaney, I don't know if everyone realizes but the Memorial Opera House is a self-funded budget. So having to shut the doors has presented some significant challenges this year. To bring in over \$46,000.00 worth of grants in one month is outstanding. It goes a long way to make sure that we get those doors back opened again.

Mr. MacDonald, Yes, thank you very much.

MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE – SCOT MACDONALD, DIRECTOR

A request for an Additional Appropriation Fund #8300 in the amount of \$9,335.04 to Acct. #3950 Contractual Services for funding received for FY 20-21 to be used for Operations. Will be working into a budget for 2021.

A request for an Additional Appropriation Fund #8300 in the amount of \$3,000.00 to Acct. #3991 Other Services for Emergency Funds received from IAC with funding from CARES Act.

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

Com. Good, Thank you for all of your hard work Scot.

Mr. MacDonald, Thank you!

Com. Good, Our Storm Water Dept. has been just been launched. It does connect to the County's new website as well too. The Storm Water Board website is up and is very user friendly. We think it is going to be a good access for information from the County for developers, homeowners, landowners for everyone. We are just trying to make it easier to get through the landscape of Porter County Government and how we are setting up. There is more and more information being downloaded every day. Look for better things to come out of our new website. The other thing that we did at our Storm Water Board meeting this morning at 9:00 was we took a moment to announce a contract that we let this morning to Christopher Burke and Assoc. regarding Shorewood Forest. Mike Novotney our County Engineer can you please come forward and give us an update of what the County is going to be undertaking in the future at Shorewood Forest because this is significant.

Mr. Novotney, Thanks Jeff. Yes as Jeff mentioned this morning the Storm Water Management Board voted to allow us to enter negotiations on (Inaudible) with Christopher Burke Engineering on a Storm Water master plan for Shorewood Forest. You guys are probably aware of all of the work that we have going on in old South Haven right now. The basis for all of that work was a Storm Water master plan. It gave us concepts, identified all of the problems, it gave us concepts and alternatives for solving those problems and that is what we've done to develop to get all of the work done that we're doing up there right now. This master plan that we're going to be putting together with Christopher Burke in Shorewood will be the exact same kind of road map for future capital improvements in Shorewood. We already know that there are a lot of issues out there. Ravine erosion, sedimentation into the lake as well as deteriorating and aging storm water infrastructure, corrugated metal pipes that are rusting away and need to be replaced. We have been addressing urgent issues as they come up. This again will give us the frame work to handle all of the problems out there in a cost efficient and time efficient way. Packaging things together and doing things at one time. A big part of our process will be engaging the public and everything that we're doing. Residents hearing about their problems and their concerns with what we might be doing. Collecting their input on essential solutions to address for example issues within the ravines themselves. We are really looking forward to getting this underway. It will be a great vehicle for us and sort of a next step in handling another large subdivision in Porter County that needs storm water help.

Com. Good, The reason why I wanted Mike to come in here and talk about this today is that not only from a work and engineering standpoint the history of Shorewood is rather interesting. When it was originally built it was supposed to be a private development. At some point in time I don't know when it happened the County decided to go in and take over some storm water and roads. The entire subdivision is developed with easements that really don't give the government access. We get a lot of calls out there to fix things, but we don't have the legal right to go on these people's property to enter in to fix a lot of these problems.

Com. Blaney, And not everyone wants to cooperate to let us on their property.

Com. Good, You could have a lane that effects 4 houses but the house in the middle doesn't want to give consent for us to get on their property than you really can't do the fix. That is why the public outreach in education is going to be important because the history of this development has a lot to do with the situation that we're in today. The engineering piece is solvable right, but getting the legal access to get in and be able to work in this area that is going to be the labor of love that we're going to be having to perform out there to get this done. We just felt that it was time for this, but I also want to let folks know that we do have some headwinds here. I think if we message this properly and let people know what is going I think everyone will get on board but it is up to make sure that we're sending the correct message and why we're doing this and why we need everyone's help. I can also say this I would rather have no one on my side going into a project like this than Mike Novotney and our Storm Water Dept. because they have proven up in South Haven that we can do this and we are going to do it at a high level but this is another big juggernaut that we are taking on. Thank you Mike for staying I know you're busy and giving us an update but that is our announcement on Shorewood. Be looking for positive things happening out there. Thank you.

Mr. Novotney, Thank you!

NEW BUSINESS

COMMISSIONERS

Com. Good, Both of these board positions were advertised and we have received applications. I would also like to while we're on this we made an appointment to the Gary/Chicago Airport Board during Covid on one of our Zoom meetings but I would like to announce that as well that Wes Kotys has been appointed by the Porter County Board of Commissioners to sit on the Gary/Chicago Airport Board. That was done several months ago but we are going to let Wes know that we've announced that in a public meeting.

Appointments to the following boards:

- **Porter County Public Library System**

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the appointment of Kristy Merrit to the Porter County Public Library System, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Porter County Airport Authority – (Thomas Koppko was appointed but was of the incorrect party. Will announce excepting applications at August meeting.)

Scott Cherry and Derek Anderson, Skillman Corporation – Capital Project Update.

Com. Good, As all of you know in this room the County over 2 years ago set out on a Capital Improvement project where we did a lot of work on a lot of the County's facilities over the last 2 years. I think everyone here is aware of what we've been doing and I'm sure there are probably departments in here that have been affected by it as well too. Today we have them coming in front of us to give us an update. All of the final numbers are in. We've asked Skillman to come forward today to give us a final update on where we ended up on this project and let the public know how we ended up.

Mr. Cherry, Thank you Com. Good. As you know it's a pleasure to be here and give you this update and basically a summary of where we are, where we started and where we are now. A quick introduction about the program back in 2017. I got a call to come in and talk to you and you were thinking about a \$30 million program with some facilities throughout Porter County to be improved. We sat down and one of the exhibits that I gave you on October 11, 2017. At that time we were thinking that maybe the program would be \$27,500,000.00 and would include work at this building, including a 911 possibly on this property or someone else, the Expo Center, the current Courthouse and of course the North Annex over in Portage. Ultimately we came up with a budget of \$26,400,000.00 and that was in December. The way we arrived at that was systematically working through a process. Bidding some of the projects early that we knew we could take care of quick such as window replacements and things at the Courthouse. We were able to do some evaluating of the facilities and establish that \$26,400,000.00. I think it is important to recognize the teamwork that made this project a success. Obviously with Laura and Jeff Commissioners working closely. Scott McClure and our team Derik Anderson, Dion and myself. Through the process we hired Shive-Hattery, local architects who used Millie's Engineering and of course American StructurePoint over at the Annex Building. Just looking at how we established this program, the sequence of events after we hired the team and got everyone on board. We looked a strategy on how to control and manage this budget. We had \$26,400,000.00, we had a lot of needs and how do we creep up into that point. I have a program schedule and it kind of outlines on how we bid these projects and the sequences we did purposely to be able to get sort of the answers to the test if you will by bidding projects, seeing where the bid results came in and taking monies saved on one or the other and shifting it over constantly to address needs and even tap into contingencies and possibly do more than we bargained for at these facilities. Still keeping our eye on that \$26,400,000.00 budget that we always established. So with that you could see that we started the work in May of 2018 and we are going to wrap up here in 2020 at the North Annex, in August we should be complete. That is how we arrived at the budget and where are we today? If you take a look I have a program budget that I sent out and it is probably 99% complete with costs. You can see where we were at. Throughout the process there was some additional money that was picked up through different sources so the budget was reestablished at \$26,445,000.00. Today we sit at \$26,454,000.00 and that includes some change orders that are pending over at the North Annex right now that we believe could be covered and there is potential to make up that \$9,000.00 on how those changes come in or other sources. One of the things that we were able to do is maximize all of the savings out of the contingency and do things that were necessary that we had the opportunity to do. For

example at the Porter County Expo Center we ended up increasing the scope of that work and a little more work in the Exhibition Hall and at the same time going ahead and doing some electrical work that just absolutely had to be done. Same at the North Annex we ran into some bad soils. Sometimes that could break a budget but we managed it through contingencies and constantly working together with the StructurePoint team and Skillman and you the Commissioners. I think it's a model of how it should be done. Its teamwork and constant communication. So at the end of the day when you start a project and a dream in 2017 and here we are in 2020 and we're looking at about a \$10,000.00 over I think that is a pretty good way of putting as much into that paper bag without it exploding and we've addressed a lot of needs. I think at the end of the day what I can say is that there has been a lot of economic and community impact from these projects. The Expo Center is obviously is a gem if you will. There are a lot more opportunities to get revenue from there. The Courthouse when you look at the long term issues that you addressed throughout this program it is going to minimize your improvements down the road, some of those costs. We took care of the major things but in an older building you're going to run into some issues. You look at the 157 Franklin where the 911 Facility was put in there along with some additional space. You still have some space there for expansion and because of that building and that property you were able to open up some space over here and even at the Courthouse. It was a good economic way of addressing that. Then you lower your operating costs obviously some of these updates and getting more efficient equipment and things like that. If I can just through in a couple of statistics. For public works we're always commissioned with try to keep it local and local usually means Porter County, Lake County or Northwest Indiana. Indiana is where kind of where our priority is. We try to get as many residents involved in the program as we can. Throughout these projects these 6 bids that we received we had 110 bids. So that means 110 local contractors gave us bids for the work. We had 34 prime contracts. That's contractors that 33 were from Porter or Lake County Indiana. The one that was not was from South Bend. So that is still a pretty good statistic. That means that Porter County contractors who typically and Lake County who typically employ Porter County residents were involved in this project. It was 100% union contractors and workers. I also gave on my sheet a couple of the jobs that were created between 115 and 135 jobs were created throughout this process possibly more. I took the mean if you will of all of the projects combined. A lot of ancillary businesses were affected by this. All of the general condition type works were local contractors for fencing, temporary toilets, facilities and those types of things. So I think overall the impact and the outcome is very good. Hopefully you're happy with the work that was done and I would be happy to answer any questions that you have.

Com. Good, I think as most people know most of these buildings that we tore into were existing facilities. From a budgeting perspective and everything it is always much harder to do remodels than it is new because you always get a few A Ha moments and we definitely had our share. Just to put into perspective of the \$26.4, what was our total of some of our bigger change orders that we got into that were big. I know the Expo one was \$450 right off of the bat and that was the first project we started. So it was like "Oh No". We were able to deliver this pretty much at budget with some big surprises.

Mr. Anderson, At the North County project we spent about \$250 to \$300,000.00 on unsuitable soils which you don't really know until you get into it. Some of the environmental items we had to deal with that you really weren't aware of once you open up the walls and then you see them. So there was probably another \$60 to \$70,000.00 spent on environmental work that we didn't really anticipate. There were some big hits out there.

Com. Good, \$1,047,000.00 was our total in contingency.

Mr. Cherry, And I think one of the compelling things if you look at the 2018 budget where we had \$19,350,000.00 was construction cost budget with including the contingency. Today we're looking at \$19,762,000.00. We were able to absorb all of those hits that you mentioned. That is how you manage the contingency and that is how the process worked. These were changes that weren't "we need your approval to move forward because we had to do it". It was more "we need your approval to manage the process and control the costs and work with and that is what we did.

Com. Good, I think that the poor soils that we ran into in Portage the end product is we have a beautiful pond in the back of that development now that we were even talking eventually you could put some type of walking park or seating back around there for when people are in court. It is a beautiful area in the back. We took something and turned it into something that is very functional and we shouldn't have any more storm water issues up there. We turned it into something that is going to be up there for a long time. This budget also includes half of our cost of the Trustee building that we are sharing with Portage Township. These costs reflect our share of that. Then they have been paying their share of the bills along the way as we have done draws and things. I would say that went pretty well too with Portage Township a lot of cooperation. We think our half of the building is a nice area with the Food Bank and the Portage Township

Assessor, the Health Dept. Keeping all of those folks out of the Courthouse. We're able to lock that down now and make it a high security facility. Then the people that just want to come in and get immunizations and other things they can go in there and they don't have to go through the metal detector.

Com. Blaney, But when we started this the people who were waiting in their orange suits to go into the courtroom were sitting in the same hallway where children were waiting to get their immunizations. Some of these improvements are just huge.

Com. Good, Overdue.

Com. Blaney, Long overdue.

Com. Good, I just wanted to point that out. From my perspective of being in this industry for a long time it was a pleasure working with you guys. To take on such a big project for some part time folks up here you guys were just great to work with and made it easy for us to make decisions. Thank you and your staff. You did make it very pleasurable to get things done.

Mr. Cherry, Thank you we feel the same way. We'll be finishing up. There will be some punch list items and some move in pains, but we're a phone call away and the three of us aren't going anywhere that I know of.

Com. Good, And just so everyone knows, I know everyone is probably thinking well you had a \$30 million bond why is \$26 whatever. We had 2 bridges in there too.

Atty. McClure, We had a \$30 million bond around \$1.1 or \$1.2 in bond related costs as far as bond counsel and first payment of the bond. We did \$26.4, the bridges had about \$2.5 and the bridge part of the extra \$45,202,000.00. So that is what took our number from \$26.4 to \$26,445,202.00 at this point.

Com. Good, Any other questions from the Board? Basically in the end we came in at about \$9,300.00 over budget on a \$26.4 budget. I don't like to be over on anything I will take this one. I will take this as a win. To me the \$9300.00 being over to me it's worth every penny driving by that Courthouse and looking at it every day in downtown Valpo. I am just tickled to death how that turned out and I really believe that it is a true reflection on what this County is really all about and who we are. It's standing grand now. Myself personally I'm very proud to be able to be a part of that next phase in the history of that building which now has a very long runway. It is all good from that perspective.

Com. Blaney, As we've gone through all of these it was inconvenient for many of our employees because they were still working in the buildings but we had very few complaints and everyone really got on board and helped us do what we needed to do make this happen. So we appreciate that as well.

Com. Good, I think later in this meeting we're going to be addressing some office furniture needs for the 157 building. We also have some 911 items that we are going to be completing in the next 30 days. Over the next 30 to 60 days you will start seeing the County transition into that new building. Are Buildings Facilities Dept. is all on hand. They know about it and we're even talking about moving Ray's department to the basement over there. There has been some discussion of that. We're going to get some furniture, we're a little bit behind on the furniture but that was a Covid thing. We'll get caught up but this is the last step. Thank you again gentlemen. I think we can put this one in the books that it was successful and now we move on to what is next.

Pulse Technology – Accept furniture bid. Approve order.

Atty. McClure, Pulse Technology was the lowest and most responsive bid for the furniture. The architect for the building Shive-Hattery we then did a contract with them to get the specs for the furniture that is going into the offices. The bulk of the office space that we're dealing with is on the 2nd and 3rd floor that is where Adult Probation and Prosecutor's office will go. Both of them are currently in the Valparaiso Courthouse with very very old furniture. The Prosecutor's office right now was hand me down from the IV-D office and we obviously have the other issue of significantly different sized offices and things like that. So the furniture for those floors are pretty significant but also pretty necessary for the move and for the building to work as appointed. We did open the bids right before Covid and Pulse Technology in Chesterton was the lowest and most responsive so I would ask that the Commissioners consider the Pulse Technology bid and then we can talk about the first order.

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

Atty. McClure, We have spent some time going through the bid and pulling out things. Pulse has also been very cooperative in assisting and getting it broken down by floor pursuant to what was designed out. Going through the total original bid was \$242,097.97 and that is just furniture, that is not labor, set up or delivery. The \$175,000.00 would put us in the position to be able to purchase all of the desks for the employees on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floor. It would allow all of the employees chairs for their desks. The two appointment chairs within those. All of the conference room tables, the conference room chairs. This order would not contain file cabinets or waiting room chairs or waiting room end tables or breakroom chairs or breakroom tables. I think we have a lot of furniture that our Facilities Dept. has had the lovely duty of getting together and trying to sort through and figure out what is good bad or indifferent. I do think we have a significant stockpile of several of those things that wouldn't be in this order but this would allow us to get this ordered (Inaudible) some time to allow that order to get here. Then that would allow Facilities to plan the move along with IT and then as we start putting it in and start getting move then we can identify what if anything else is a glaring need as far as cabinets or other chairs or things along that nature after we have a consolidation of all of the furniture we have everywhere in the County at this point in time. My suggestion would be an authorization to use the Pulse Technology bid and not to exceed \$175,000.00. To stay within those guidelines as far as the desks and the chairs, the conference room tables and their chairs and then that would allow that order to be taken place.

Com. Good, Just to keep in the mind the Adult Probation Dept. that is going on the 2nd floor really is not housed anywhere. They are housed all over the County right now. So they really had furniture or things for their own department. Then the Prosecutor and 911 a lot of the office sizes have changed and so the desks just don't fit. The Building Facility is still working through a lot of our office furniture and we're cataloging. A lot of it is very old. I think \$175,000.00 is fine. We can get everyone situated and then waiting room chairs and breakroom furniture I think we can probably piece some of this stuff together with what we have. We're trying to be frugal but yet it seems sort of odd to spend all of this money on a brand new building and then put 50 year old furniture in it.

Com. Blaney, Especially when it doesn't fit.

Com. Good, It is another chunk we have to bite but seeing how long office furniture lasts around here I think it is a good investment.

Com. Good, moved to approve Pulse Technology not to exceed \$175,000.00, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, Tony I see you sitting there. I know we've been telling you all along that you weren't getting new furniture. We found enough money and you're getting new furniture. I didn't want to commit to something that we didn't have the money for. Sorry for taking you through that.

Pulse Technology – An Equipment Maintenance Agreement in the amount of \$976.63 for the mail machine and scale in the Admin. Building.

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

County Health Officer – Dr. Stamp COVID update.

Dr. Stamp, Thank you Commissioners Good, Blaney and Biggs. Thank you for allowing me to be here today to discuss the current state of Covid-19 Pandemic in Porter County. Your ongoing support is appreciated and critical to our mission. In giving an update I would like to go back and look at where we've been. Our last address to the Board of Commissioners was March 17th. At that time we were anticipating a bleak future where hospital beds would be in short supply. Critical patients would need to share ventilators. Alternative care sites were sought and critical frontline workers would go without protective equipment. It was a horrifying prospect for a health department and the community it serves. Then came Indiana's stay at home order where we hunkered down, we navigated e-learning, we worked home, we entertained ourselves, we lost jobs, we became anxious, isolated and depressed. But the collective sacrifice may great strides towards flattening the curve of Covid-19 and controlling the virus. This in combination with increased testing allowed the stay at home order to be lifted incrementally. In May and June our infection rates at their lowest in 3 months. We were able to preserve hospital capacity and obtain personal protective equipment. Porter County had its lowest test positivity rate at the beginning of June. Since then there has been an increased rate of positive tests across our region. A much larger portion of those new positive cases are the younger age groups under 30. Young people must understand that even though they may have few systems and no complications from Covid that they can spread the infection to their parents, their grandparents and those they work with. Increase cases in youth may jeopardize the ability for schools to open for in class instruction. And

yet still our hospitalization and death rates remain low. So some are wondering if the virus has changed. Perhaps become more contagious but less deadly. Covid-19 has not become less deadly. Currently in many states Covid-19 is overwhelming ICU's and death rates are climbing. Indiana's hospitalization rate has increased some in the past 3 weeks. Porter County's hospitalization rate will also increase if we are not vigilant. The mission of the Porter County Health Dept. is to promote and protect the health and wellbeing of the community. And as such the role of the Health Dept. during the Covid-19 pandemic is to process surveillance or data collection and provide guidance to the community and advance the mission of the Health Dept. and ensure the spread of Covid-19 is as limited as possible. The point is our behavior today affects hospitalizations and death rates 3 weeks to 2 months from now. The ripple affect can be extensive. It is known that face coverings can decrease the spread of the virus from A-symptomatic and mildly symptomatic Covid positive patients. We know the risk of transmission when people are outdoors is much lower than when indoors however, crowds and mass gatherings whether indoors or outdoors greatly increase the risk of disease spread. The science is clear. Keep distance at least 6' when possible even when outdoors. Wear a mask in public especially when social distancing is not possible. Wash hands frequently. Do not leave your home if you're not feeling well. Get tested if you're feeling unwell, have been exposed or are concerned that you might be infected. Testing is available in Porter County and we're working to improve availability of testing. We recognize that availability is still an issue. Testing locations can be found on the Indiana State Dept. of Health website at [Coronavirus.IN.Gov](https://www.in.gov/health/coronavirus). In Porter County we wish to continue the success that we've had in beating this pandemic. We want to enjoy the things that make life fun. We want to go out to eat, visit with friends and family, shop, do sports, make a living and we need to do the right things which keep the virus from spreading and protect each other. In Porter County the expectation will be that those gathered in public wear face coverings, so examples follow but are not limited to: offices and factories where employees sit and work together in close proximity, retail establishments for employees and shoppers, restaurants where it's already the law for employees to wear face coverings at all times while at work, diners should mask up when entering and walk to their table and schools, parents, administrators and teachers all will create the culture and expectation that face coverings be worn and can be tolerated in the learning environment. I currently believe that the people of Porter County will cooperate for our collective wellbeing and safety. I have confidence that the people of Porter County can do the right thing. The Porter County Health Dept. will remain vigilant and advise the County leadership as the trends in our local data rise or fall. Today's take away is that we have a responsibility to work together to protect each other. Keep your distance, wear your face covering, wash your hands, support one another and persevere. I am happy to elaborate on anything or answer any questions that you may have.

Com. Biggs, Dr. Stamp is there more testing going on now than there was maybe 30 days ago?

Dr. Stamp, Testing is available so for instance we have swabs and the ability to do testing. We've had in the past couple of weeks when it has been so hot difficulty getting testing done at the Armory which is the optim site that is contracted with the State Dept. of Health because OSHA requirements keep them from working in the heat and the Armory is not air conditioned. They have had to cancel many appointments in the past couple of weeks. They really try hard to reschedule them. They even work with some walk-ins for people that are registered and weren't able to get to their appointments. We've seen testing availability decrease a little bit in the past couple of weeks. We're working on that issue trying to find them a new location. Hopefully we can get that sorted out in the next couple of days is our plan.

Com. Biggs, So the State selected a location for the testing that didn't have air conditioning?

Dr. Stamp, Correct.

Com. Biggs, Because of OSHA violations they had to close at a certain time and people who had wanted that test couldn't get that test.

Dr. Stamp, Right.

Com. Biggs, That is remarkable.

Dr. Stamp, Yes. The State worked really hard to get testing up and running quickly. Back in March and April the Armories were available and could quickly be converted to accommodate the testing so that was the initial decision that was made. It worked pretty well here in Valparaiso for a couple of months until the temperature gets over 85. They are all dressed in the gowns, masks and face shields as their taking the information and doing the testing.

Com. Biggs, I think you're being too kind.

Com. Blaney, Aren't there also some delays getting results now that we're having problems nationwide?

Dr. Stamp, Right, so for instance Florida had over 15,000 new cases reported just the day before yesterday. Across the country we're seeing this uptick and it's difficult for the labs to keep up with the amount of tests that are being collected. The samples that are being collected are having a hard time getting run and getting results back. We're looking around here at between 3 and 5 days depending on the lab that is being used.

Com. Blaney, So even though are rates in Porter County are still pretty low we had a record week last week so that is probably not from increased testing.

Dr. Stamp, If you look at the graph that is on the County website and the daily new numbers some of it has to do with the fact that we had no testing over the 4th of July weekend. Really only if you went to the emergency dept. and had received a test there would you have gotten tested. If you look at those dates like the 5th and the 6th and maybe even the 7th our numbers were fairly low and then we had numbers on par with our highest numbers back in March and April. Some of that balances out but if you look at our 7 day rolling average it is definitely on an upswing here.

Com. Blaney, So what do you expect in the next few weeks, do you have any predictions?

Dr. Stamp, I think a lot of what happens in the next few weeks hinges on how the people of Porter County respond and really are we going to take this seriously, wear our masks, avoid crowded gatherings. You know those places are out there still and some of it is spontaneous. Parties at or after going to the beach. I don't want to throw the beach under the.....I love the beach myself but really we need to encourage our youth to kind of keep distance. We're seeing people coming back from visiting with family or family reunions and in other states and coming back positive with a number of their family members. Once it's in a household it's really hard to keep it from everybody in the household. So we see a lot of husband, wives, youth, adult, family units.

Com. Biggs, I agree Dr. Stamp that individually we all need to do our part, but that also includes government. When government is out there okaying or approving protests in their public roads that isn't helping and somebody needs to point that out. We can't on one hand lecture to the public about what they should be doing and on the other hand we're saying or approving those types of activities in our own public right of ways? It's wrong, but I do agree with you.

Dr. Stamp, We're living in difficult times. They keep saying unprecedented.

Com. Biggs, Yes we are.

Com. Blaney, So while we are speaking about masks I have seen more people wearing masks in the last few days and that is a big positive, but I've also seen a lot of people wearing them in ways that probably aren't as protective as they're supposed to be. Does the Health Dept. have any.....maybe we could get some signs for the building.

Dr. Stamp, Absolutely, there are some really great info graphics about the appropriate way to wear masks. It's difficult especially when you're not used to wearing one and positioning on your face. You start talking and it's slipping down. So avoid touching your mask after you've placed it on. Taking your mask down and not putting it under your chin. Washing your hands after you touch your mask. Those kind of things are really all very important.

Com. Blaney, Maybe we can help the Health Dept. get some of that stuff out on Facebook.

Com. Biggs, I want the mask that allows me to wear glasses and not fog up.

Dr. Stamp, I'm in that same situation.

Com. Blaney, I also wanted to ask about the schools. There is a lot going on with the schools right now and what is the Health Dept.'s rule exactly and how is that all working?

Dr. Stamp, The Health Dept. there has been a lot of guidance that has been released by the State Dept. of Health in conjunction with the Dept. of Education. The CDC has guidance. There are recommendations on how to decrease risk from private organizations, Harvard School of Public Health, American Academy of Pediatrics. All have great documents that are helpful for this. We have designated three of our nurses to understand the guidelines and recommendations well because there are 100's pages to understand. We have designated three that have been in

liaison with the Superintendents and the school nurses. They have been reviewing the reopening plans of I believe almost every school district in the County and then some of the private schools also. We work kind of as a consulting role. We are pointing out things that might be an error with what we do for contact tracing. We kind of encourage and give them suggestions to help them adjust their plans as per guidelines and recommendations. Every school district even within Porter County. It really varies from school district to school district. The facilities they have, maybe the risk of the teachers and the employees in their district. No two plans look exactly the same. There are a lot of really creative people in the schools that think outside of the box too. There have been some really great ideas that have been put forward to help decrease risk of disease spread in the schools. It is going to be a moving target for a while but there will be starts and stops I suspect. Some schools have already decided they are not going to start immediately with in class instruction but others have pretty much committed to it and have allowed for families to make their decisions however they feel most comfortable with their family risk. They really worked hard to kind of be creative along those lines and come up with good risk mitigation strategies.

Com. Good, Any other questions from the Board of Dr. Stamp? I would just like to say in the County we did our testing. We did it out at the Expo in that air conditioned 4H Building. If you're talking with the State let them know that that facility is available. We have a lot of parking out there and there is not a lot going on out there right now. I think it would be a good spot. It's sort of the center of the County.

Dr. Stamp, We will be in touch.

Com. Good, That building is air conditioned and it has garage doors on both ends. I think if you went out for our testing you saw how Franciscan.....

Dr. Stamp, It was smooth.

Com. Good, It was smooth. I'm just offering that up.

Com. Blaney, And the testing may be moving to a County program right, supported by the State?

Dr. Stamp, Right, that is potentially in the works. The State is tossing around the idea of dissolving the contract that they have with Optum Serve and placing it in the hands of the counties if they can do that or the FQHC's the Community Clinics if the County can't absorb that. There is support from the State and money available. It wouldn't start until September and then it would be a commitment through June of next year. Our size County would qualify for two testing sites. We're looking into options for that also. Certainly if you have sites that might fit that kind of bill for the next few months that would really helpful to look into.

Com. Good, We are going to be opening up a North County garage on 700 North which is right across from South Haven, which is sort of the epicenter of the Portage breakout. I think it is going to be finished in the next couple of months. You may want to take a look at that because....

Atty. McClure, It will be done before September.

Com. Good, I don't know if that has air conditioning the main building I know the small office area does. Its' a great location.

Dr. Stamp, Yes very central.

Com. Blaney, Well we're not taking over until September the heat might not be as much as an issue.

Com. Good, It's more of a garage opened with big ceilings. Just keep that mind and if someone wants to run up there let us know. I think it is still a construction site. Just let us know and we can accommodate accordingly. I can't think of anywhere else.

Com. Biggs, Dr. Stamp is the State going to reimburse for the costs involved? Basically we're....going to manage the collections of the tests.

Dr. Stamp, The State set aside....apparently there is some money available per testing site. Depending on the size of your county you get a different amount of money. I believe the amount that they mentioned was \$50,000.00 per site for that 9 months. A decent bite of that gets taken if we need to hire people. I don't think we could do this. They really want us to be opened on weekends and after hours. It would be difficult to do that with our current staff and man two clinics also. We would have to do some hiring. That does not include what the State picks which

is training, personal protective equipment, the testing supplies, the courier to the lab, the cost of running the test and the computer interface for registration for portal receiving results. At the initial look at it looks pretty generous but the numbers are.....the devil is in the detail and we don't have the final details yet.

Com. Biggs, You think \$50,000.00 is generous for 9 months of collection?

Dr. Stamp, I'm not saying the number is generous. I'm saying the support they're offering is generous in terms of not having to worry about paying for the tests up front and those kinds of things. Not having to pay for the computer system.

Com. Biggs, I think they're looking at us because they fumbled the ball. And they're looking for us to pick it up and run it into the end zone.

Dr. Stamp, Yes, they would ultimately save money having 92 counties do this as opposed to having optim sites. It all kind of depends what our overhead would end up costing whether we could swing it or not.

Com. Biggs, I'm sure you guys will show them how it should have been done.

Dr. Stamp, That will be our plan. Thank you Commissioners.

Com. Good, Anything you need from us just let us know. I know you talk to Laura a lot. Thank you for coming in front of us today and giving us some facts and things to thinking about. We all have to continue to hunker down and practice and be good stewards. This is on us and we need to manage it the best way we can. Thank you for your guidance, help and support. I know this is not a traditional thing that our Health Dept. normally does. This department got shaken up quite a bit too.

Com. Blaney, Are you starting to see compliance with face masks at restaurants. I know there was some complaints and you are addressing it more.

Dr. Stamp, In the past week or two we have seen much better compliance in the food establishments with the employees wearing their masks.

Com. Blaney, That is a State mandate, but anything else would come from you.

Dr. Stamp, Absolutely.

Com. Good, I just know the few times that I've been out I always get singled out by the owner asking me why we're making them do what we do.

Com. Blaney, Because we don't want Covid all over the County.

Dr. Stamp, We need to protect each other. The last thing we want is back in our nursing homes. Thank you.

Health Insurance Audit.

Mr. Gibson, The Health Insurance audit that we're discussing today is actually an eligibility audit. It is essentially making sure that the folks that are on your plan are legally supposed to be on your plan. In the conversations we had in our strategic planning meeting.

Atty. McClure, It's been several years.

Mr. Gibson, It's been several years, we recommend doing this every three to five years. That is the proposal that you have in front of you today. Ideally this is something that we would prefer to do sooner rather than later obviously going into next year.

Atty. McClure, That is why we had the strategic meeting and this is one of several issues to tackle over the next year or somewhere between now and 24 months. This was one that we thought that we could do right now quickly and get it taken off of the list as part of that plan. This gets us going in that direction and that is why we moved so quickly to get it on this agenda so we can take that off of the list and move on with it.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Health Insurance Audit, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

157 FRANKLIN ST. – PAY APPS.

Pangere Corp. – Pay App. #9 in the amount of \$63,353.93 for material and labor. With a remaining balance of \$68,297.74.

Stan’s Painting & Decorating – Pay App. #8 \$3,818.05 for painting. With a remaining balance of \$5,773.45.

Stan’s Painting & Decorating – Pay App. #9 \$5,773.45 for painting. This is the final payment.

State Line Fire Systems – Pay App. #6 in the amount of \$2,942.15 for fire suppression. With a remaining balance of \$10,310.45.

Circle “R” Mechanical – Pay App. #10 in the amount of \$4,606.17 for plumbing work. With a remaining balance of \$10,424.18.

Stevens Engineers & Constructors – Pay App. #10 in the amount of \$16,302.00 HVAC. With a remaining balance of \$108,900.60.

Continental Electric Co. – Pay App. #12 in the amount of \$29,205.85 for electrical work. With a remaining balance of \$122,009.59.

Continental Electric Co. – Pay App. #13 in the amount of \$11,177.05 for electrical work. With a remaining balance of \$110,832.54.

State Line Fire Systems – Pay App. #7 in the amount of \$950.00 for fire suppression. With a remaining balance of \$5,710.45.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve all of the above pay apps., Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

NORTH COUNTY ANNEX – PAY APPS.

Stan’s Painting and Decorating - Pay App. #9 in the amount of \$8,431.25 for painting. With a remaining balance of 54,581.50.

Ziolkowski Construction – Pay App. #19 in the amount of \$2,026.35 for Bid Package #1. With a remaining balance of 189,967.15.

Midwest Tile & Interiors – Pay App. #9 in the amount of \$32,718.38 for flooring. With a remaining balance of \$37,704.75.

Mechanical Concepts – Pay App. #13 in the amount of \$14,283.25 for HVAC. With a remaining balance of \$124,338.25.

Circle “R” Electric – Pay App. #13 in the amount of \$12,279.70 for electrical. With a remaining balance of \$85,907.93.

Stan’s Painting and Decorating – Pay App. #11 in the amount of \$9,500.00 for painting. With a remaining balance of \$45,081.50.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the above pay apps., Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

SHERIFF DAVE REYNOLDS

SouthPoint Partners – A Commercial Lease Agreement between the Porter County Board of Commissioners and SouthPoint Partners in the amount of \$2,000.00 per month.

Com. Good, What is the term of the lease?

Atty. McClure, 1 year.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the SouthPoint Partners Lease Agreement, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

CYNDI DYKES CORONER

An Ordinance Establishing a Reimbursement Grant for the Indiana State Department of Health Fatality Review and Prevention Division, SUID/SDY Case Registry Grant #61910 Funded by the Center for Disease Control – 2nd Reading.

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

EMA – LANCE BELLA, DIRECTOR

Porter County Shoreline Disaster Emergency Declaration & Travel Restriction - Update.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Shoreline Disaster Emergency Declaration & Travel Restriction update.

VICKI URBANIK, AUDITOR

Dossett Consulting – An agreement to provide a Federal Reimbursement Professional Consulting Service for 3 years in the amount of \$33,000.00.

Ms. Urbanik, I'm before you today for the annual agreement with our consultant who prepares the cost allocation plan. This is a report that is required by the Federal Government in order to get Federal Reimbursement for the indirect costs associated with our County's Child Support Program. Last year when I was before you we had a one year contract. Today I am asking for you to do something a little unusual and to approve the three contract. This will fix the cost for the next three years and this will get us through the end of my term.

Com. Good, We pledged early on up here we're not going to enter into agreements that are passed our term. I respect you for that, thank you.

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

Ms. Urbanik, If I could just make one comment about the cost recovery that we received this year it was \$185,446.00. That was from the 2018 data for use in 2020. So the next three years will cover 21, 22 and 23. That money goes straight into the General Fund.

Com. Good, The Council should like that.

Ms. Urbanik, Especially since maybe other miscellaneous revenues are going to be going down in the General Fund we do need to recover our indirect costs. Thank you very much.

ITS - DON WELLSAND, DIRECTOR

Adams Remco – A copy machine purchase agreement for the Museum in the amount of \$10,497.74.

Adams Remco – A 3 year copier maintenance agreement for the Museum.

Com. Good, This is an item that the County does fund for the POCO Museum. I know a lot of people think that they are self-reliant and they are for the most part but the County does assist them in a lot of other areas.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Adams Remco copier purchase agreement along with the 3 year maintenance agreement.

Adams Remco – A copy machine purchase agreement for the Portage Township Assessor's office in the amount of \$8,687.00.

Adams Remco – A 1 year copier maintenance agreement for the Portage Township Assessor's office.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Adams Remco copier purchase agreement along with the 1 year maintenance agreement.

NITCO – An internet contract for the Animal Shelter in the amount of \$109.95.

Com. Good, This is monthly right Don?

Mr. Wellsand, This is just their 3 year contract we sign with NITCO.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the NITCO contract for the Animal Shelter, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

NITCO – A contract to locate Porter County Government’s underground telecommunications transmission circuits in the amount of \$9,000.00.

Mr. Wellsand, We own several private fiber throughout the County between our buildings and we have to have a locator that will locate our fiber lines in case someone wants to digging or that type of work around there. We pay NITCO \$3000.00 a year to be our locator. This is a 3 year contract for them.

Atty. McClure, It is \$3000.00 a year for 3 years.

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

NITCO – A contract for telephone circuits at the Valpo Courthouse in the amount of \$1,116.00.

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

Com. Good, We would like to announce that Don Wellsand will be retiring from Porter County Government. I can tell you that I’m pretty sad about it. He has been the IT person up here as long as I’ve been up here. We’ve made a lot of headway up here over the last 5 ½ years Don. I just want to thank you. This afternoon we have a lot of interviews and we will be spending some time together to pick your replacement, but it sort of bitter sweet. I know you have a lot of fun things to go off and do and I don’t blame you. I think Covid gives everyone a different perspective on things, but we are going to miss you buddy. I know I am, good job!

Mr. Wellsand, It has been a good 15 ½ years. I turn 71 this month so it’s time to quit.

Com. Good, I know we’ve talked. Still going to miss you though.

Mr. Wellsand, Thank you.

Com. Good, If you see these NITCO contracts that we just approved when we started 4 years ago the County has spent quite a bit of money over the last 5 years in building out our fiber infrastructure within the City of Valparaiso. We are now to a point where I think all of our County IT is redundant. We can go forwards, backwards if something goes down we can go around. That took time, effort and money, but I think all of this technology that we’re spending money on now we have a really good foundation to be able to work this new equipment off. I just want to thank you. I know every time we spent money to go put more infrastructure in we always bragged about it but it never really got picked up anywhere. These are the kind of things as we move into the new future that will be the back bone of how county government operates and how we communicate.

Com. Blaney, And when it’s going well you don’t notice it.

Com. Good, The future is bright for Porter County with regards to IT infrastructure. We’ve invested not only in infrastructure, but we’ve also invested a lot over the last 3 years just in servers, access points, making our speeds better, doing all types of things. I think you’re leaving it in a really good spot. We just hope and pray that we pick the right person to move forward. IT is the new thing. You really need to be on it. It’s not going away and we have to be on guard up here. I want to thank you for being on guard over the past. Thank you Don.

Mr. Wellsand, I would just like to take a second and thank my staff because I have a great bunch of people down there and it probably couldn’t have been done without them so I would like to thank them too.

Com. Blaney, Governments are typically behind the eight ball on IT stuff and you allowed us to be a lot better than that. We really appreciate it.

Atty. McClure, Thank you Don.

FACILITIES – RAY CLOYD, DIRECTOR

Light & Breuning – A quote regarding the parking garage payment system in the Admin. Building for \$8,239.00 with a \$55.00 monthly fee.

Mr. Cloyd, We are going to look at upgrading the parking garage payment system from coin to coin and credit card/debit card.

Com. Good, We've talked about this for a few years.

Com. Blaney, No more people backed up because they can't find 50 cents on the floor.

Com. Good, We've had the line pretty log for 50 cents before so hopefully we can work through this.

Com. Blaney, I've had to pass out a lot of quarters just to get the line moving.

Com. Good, I've got a quarter bag in my truck now just in case I have to jump out and pay it forward. Does this have built in PCI compliance for the credit cards?

Mr. Cloyd, Yes. It comes with a \$55.00 maintenance fee (Inaudible) to with it for them to do it.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve Light & Breuning contract, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Blaney, When is that supposed to happen?

Mr. Cloyd, We'll sign it and send it to them so hopefully within the next 2 to 3 weeks it will be done.

Com. Blaney, Fantastic.

Mr. Cloyd, I know it needs repairs but we didn't want to do repairs and spend the money on it. We would just rather do the upgrade.

Com. Good, Ray one of the things we want to talk about it's been on our docket for a long time. Next year I would like to look into possibly putting in some more cameras up in the garage as well. I think we need to do that especially with our access point of entries on the outside to this building. That is something we would like to knock out over time. I think that is next on the garage list and then we should be pretty much done there hopefully. Thank you.

HIGHWAY DEPT. – RICH SEXTON, SUPERINTENDENT

A request for a Transfer of Funds – Fund #1176 from Acct. #3120 Consultants to Acct. #3430 Workmen's Comp. in the amount of \$8,000.00. To cover increase in workers comp insurance.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Transfer of Funds, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

DEVELOPMENT & STORM WATER MNGMNT. – BOB THOMPSON, DIRECTOR

An Agreement with Kankakee Valley REMC to relocate their utility poles for the 100 South Project.

Mr. Thompson, This is for the 100 South Federal aid project that we have going. Essentially Kankakee Valley REMC has a lot of poles that are outside of our County right-of-way and there are a number poles inside of our right-of-way. Those that are inside of that right-of-way REMC will move at their expense but those that are outside of our apparent right-of-way that we have we have to pay for the relocation of these poles so this is what this agreement is.

Com. Good, What is the dollar amount?

Atty. McClure, \$45,183.03.

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

Com. Good, That is a pretty good project for the people in the County that don't know. There is a round about going at the 5 way over to the Lake of Four Season. 100 South is the road to the Lakes of Four Seasons and the County will be flattening the road out. They will be improving the intersections to all of the roads that tie into 100 South.

Com. Blaney, It's a 5 way, it has been dangerous for a long time. On a curve.

Com. Good, Shaving some hills down, site lines, just making it much safer. This has been a project that has bounced back and forth for 20 years and we're finally going to finish it next year. This is part of that to set that work up. We also had to buy a lot of right-of-way. I think right-of-way acquisition is pretty much been done too.

Mr. Thompson, Correct we're down about 2 parcels.

INDOT – Project Coordination Contract for Replacement of County Bridge 168 County Road 250 East Brummit Rd. over the Little Calumet River east of the Town of Chesterton.

Mr. Thompson, Bridge 168 is Brummit Rd. over the Little Calumet River. It's just right next to Brummit Elementary School. We are getting really close to the right-of-way coordination for this particular project. We're passed Stage II in the engineering plans on this for the design on that. The reason we need this agreement in place is it is with INDOT and Porter County for the purposes of getting the Federal aid money which they will manage. What is important with the agreement there is an EDS number on that along with the DES number where the consultant will need that to go forward with the right-of-way acquisition.

Com. Biggs, Will there be a pedestrian area to walk across that bridge?

Mr. Thompson, We did not construct a sidewalk per say on that. We did widen it and then we requested it to be built structurally to handle sidewalks on both sides. If for some reason Chesterton goes out there and annexes and they want sidewalks on it then we would do it. What we would did do over on the east side of the bridge is have a widen shoulder, considerably widen shoulder. Then we also asked for the guardrail to go up even higher than normal that you would see. Most jersey barriers you see are for vehicles. We had increased height and it was for the pedestrian people and those people that like to bicycle up that road to make sure that they stay on the road. It is designated as a pathway in our tourism as far as that goes, but we also have the kayak launch. We've been working with Shirley Hines Land Trust on that. As far as keeping that kayak launch viable we've changed up the guardrail so that way we can work with them as far as having that launch.

Com. Biggs, Being so close to the elementary school you feel that that wider design could accommodate bicycles?

Mr. Thompson, Correct, it's better than an 8 ft. wide shoulder than we're putting over on that bridge and I believe they are 12 ft. lanes.

Com. Good, There is another bridge that we're also working on up there that will have the trail on it correct?

Atty. McClure, (Inaudible) pedestrian trail.

Com. Good, That's the one by Porter, I don't know what bridge number it is. There are so many bridges.

Mr. Thompson, 149.

Com. Good, Porter had a trail and in order to get this bridge replaced we're going to be taking over and moving the trail to the bridge, because the bridge is not safe anymore so we're going to make that happen on that bridge. I get them mixed up because when you started talking about this one I thought it was that one. I got confused.

Mr. Novotney, With 168's design it will rural cross sectioned now. We've programmed it in so we can go urban cross section with sidewalks in the future it will be built so it can handle this.

Com. Good, I think on the other bridge that we were talking about with the trail on the bridge we're actually going to work with the Town of Porter to help them get a little more right-of-

way because they have some sewer work that they want to continue on through. We are going to go in when we're doing our right-of-way acquisition we're going to pick up that extra ground to work with them to help them improve and expand their boundaries of their town. It's just working with a different town and when we go do something.....2 years from now you'll look and say well why they did all of this work and why didn't they do that. We're just trying to get out ahead. Everything we're looking at is 30 years out. It takes a little more time, but I think in the end you set yourself for the next 30 years that is what we're doing up here. Who is the engineer on this one?

Mr. Thompson, It is USI Consultants.

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

INDOT – Project Coordination Contract for Replacement of County Bridge 150 carrying Mineral Spring Rd. over the Little Calumet River ½ mile south of US 20 in Porter County.

Mr. Thompson, Both of these agreements are with INDOT. It is for the purposes of receiving the Federal money. This is in the Town of Porter.

Com. Good, Who is the engineer?

Mr. Thompson, SEH.

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

DeMotte State Bank – An Irrevocable Letter of Credit for the Stonebridge Subdivision.

Com Blaney, moved to approve the letter of credit, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

A Resolution Supporting Designation of United States Bicycle Route 37.

Mr. Thompson, I was approached probably just a week or so before the shutdown with the Covid asking for the Porter County Commissioners to support a United States Bicycle Route 37. It is proposed to run through Porter County. It basically starts at 900 South at the Lake County Line Rd., it takes 900 South all of the way across to 250 and down 250 West across the bridge at the Kankakee River and heads on. Essentially this is connecting in short Chicago to Indianapolis by bike routes. This recommendation would go to the Indiana Dept. of Transportation's Pedestrian Planner and also eventually over to AASHTO the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials that oversees a lot of the bike routes. Also, there is another organization that is behind this and it is Adventure Cycling Association out of Montana that has mapped bike routes across the United States and even into Canada and Mexico and a few places. It's an organization that I belong to but the whole idea is trying to find safe travel ways for touring cyclists. Now this isn't your family cyclist this is a touring cyclist that wants to cross the United States or go someplace or do something. Like I would like to hop on my bike someday with back packs on and go around Lake Michigan. They have a lot of these routes booked out. That is what this is about. They do take their time to find routes that have shoulders on it or roads that are in very low volume in the rural areas for directing cyclists through. To give you an idea my biking group has stopped and talked to people from France that are making their way up from these areas up and through Chicago. You get people from all over the world that come over here cycling. It's just a resolution supporting Adventure Cycling Association and INDOT for designated this as a route.

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

Com. Biggs, Are they going to put up signage where people can.....

Mr. Thompson, They have to go around and get resolutions from all of the counties and cities and towns that the route goes through or that is their goal eventually when they get all of that done. There are some other examples with Lafayette and another county that have done that but once they start collecting those they will go about doing that. I should point out too that there is another U.S. bicycle route and it's up in the very north part that basically connects Chicago on into Southwest Michigan.

Com. Good, I would also like to point out having being on the Board of NICTD the bikes for trains program that they've had at the South Shore for years you're seeing double digit growth in bicycling coming out of the city to this area. These are numbers that have been growing over the last 5 years since they started that program on the South Shore. I know we're trying to move forward on the Calumet Trail. We're working through all of those things. I think cycling has a

really good future in Porter County. As we've talked about before and as we're looking at some of our roads and we start creating bike paths through our County those are areas that we hope to be able to sort of handle a little bit differently from a paving or pavement standpoint. That is in the future, we have 816 miles of road so getting to the bike paths is going to take a little bit. Having an avid cyclist of the head of the department he doesn't let you forget either.

Bridge 80 – 300 West over Cornell Ditch and Bridge 110 – 600 East over Crooked Creek. Recommendation of consultant design services.

Mr. Thompson, The department agreed that we were going to combine these 2 bridges into one RFP so this will be one contract for agreement for design services Bridge 80 – 300 West over Cornell is just north of State Rd. 8. Bridge 110 – 600 East over Crooked Creek that is in between State Rd. 2 and U.S. 30. We're combining both of these bridges into one agreement with two separate designs and they'll be two separate construction contracts when they come out because they do have two separate project numbers within INDOT. Our recommendation for the consultant services is United Consulting.

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

JODI JACKSON – YMCA RINGING IN SPRING 2020

A request to hold the 25th Annual Ringing in Spring 5k Road Race on August 15th, 2020 at 7:00 a.m. from the Valparaiso YMCA. A map of the route is included.

Ms. Jackson, We postponed our April 4th race due to Covid and we were kind of waiting for things to open up so rescheduled it hopefully to be held August 15th. We are doing a rolling start from 7 to 9 so we're not going to have one official start. People will show up in increments and we're going to let them go to keep spacing. Therefore we're going to need to have the roads closed for about 3 hours. And I say closed because we still let traffic through. We are working with the Valparaiso Police Dept. to have officers at the 4 big intersections which are on either side of Burlington and either side of Bullseye for our route but cross into the County along with the City. We did already receive City approval.

Com. Good, Have you talked to the Sheriff's Dept. as well for the County?

Ms. Jackson, Yes they are always on our agenda to talk to.

Com. Biggs, It's a great event.

Ms. Jackson, Thank you we're hoping it goes.

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

SALT CREEK COMMONS

Ms. House, My name is Mary House and I'm from Valparaiso. I currently reside in Salt Creek Commons. I've been there for 32 years and I live on a cull de sac that has never been paved since day 1. They keep coming out and putting band aids on there. In the winter time the plow guy comes and he takes all back up. I've made numerous calls, gotten on line, they have been there twice this week to fix the problem but they keep putting a band aid on it. This is not only unsightly but it's bringing the value of my home down and the 7 homes around us. It is also very unsafe and I am really wanting something done with it. I don't know who else to go to. I was told that Mr. Biggs takes care of this and this was the only chance of me getting a hold of him. If you would like you can see these pictures. The little sections there actually raise up when you walk on them.

Com. Biggs, It's unsightly.

Ms. House, It's unsafe. The kids play basketball out there and when the ball goes down gravel comes up. They jump gravel comes up.

Com. Good, What is your address?

Ms. House, My address is 381 Riviera Ct. We are all home owners out there. This is not fixing the problem it's just putting a band aid on it.

Com. Biggs, I don't want to speak for the other two, we'll take care of this.

Unknown Neighbor, And I fell in the street and I have scars all over me.

Ms. House, This is one of the neighbor ladies a homeowner.

Com. Biggs, Were you playing basketball when you fell?

Unknown Neighbor, I was riding my bike.

Com. Biggs, Well I could see where all of that gravel would not be conducive to bike riding.

Unknown Neighbor, All of sudden I just went down and I just got a new bike too.

Com. Biggs, We'll take care of that I promise you.

Ms. House, I appreciate it and I thank you for your time.

Com. Biggs, You're welcome.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

Jeffrey J. Good

Laura M. Blaney

Jim Biggs

Attest: _____
Vicki Urbanik, Auditor