

**PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>, 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, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Administration Center.

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

**Call to Order/Pledge**

Com. Good, Good Morning this is the Porter County Board of Commissioners' meeting Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Approval of Payroll – August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020.**

**Approval of Claims – August 13<sup>th</sup>, August 20<sup>th</sup> and August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

**Approval of Minutes – August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

**Treasurer's Monthly Report Filed – July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.**

**Weights and Measures Monthly Report Filed – July 16<sup>th</sup> to August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ERIC SERRANO, IT DIRECTOR – INTRODUCTION**

Com. Good, I would like introduce someone new to the County. About a month and a half ago our IT Director Don Wellsand has retired from the County. He decided it was time to hang up the IT robe. When he informed us several months ago we started searching for a new IT Director. We ended up interviewing quite a few people. We had a lot of outstanding resumes. We interviewed and offered the position to Eric Serrano. Why don't you come up and introduce yourself.

Mr. Serrano, As you said my name is Eric Serrano. I've been in IT for over 20 years. I was a director previously. Primarily a lot of my experience has been in the consulting arena with manage services. I have a good feeling for the kind of costs that get outsourced to those types of organizations and I feel like that is a pretty big value that I can add as far as cost savings to the County. I also have some experience within cyber security realm as well. So I hope to bring up the security posture of the County during my tenure here as well.

Com. Good, I know the cyber security part of your resume was one that was very important to this Board. In today's world we're getting hacked almost daily. Having that first line of defense and upping our game on this end. I would like to point out that Don and the IT Dept. that was here before they held that standard for a long time and did an outstanding job. You have some big shoes to fill but we are here to help and good luck. If you need anything from this office I know that is who you report to let us know. Good Luck and welcome aboard.

**ZONA WILDLIFE**

Com. Biggs, The Commissioners' will be dedicating \$10,000.00 annually for the maintenance and management of the Zona property. Several months ago the Commissioners' submitted an MOU to the Parks Dept. for the purpose of them taking over the management of the

property. Back in the late 90's when the Zona family approached County government, they approached the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners at that time accepted the property of course that is 92 beautiful acres and it was submitted to us as a wildlife preserve. Since that time it has kind of developed into more of a wildlife sanctuary/preserve/park. That is not a bad thing it's just because we're allowing the public to come in there and experience the property. We've had to put trails in. There is a bridge that the volunteers constructed on the property to get across the swale that is located on the property. The Parks Dept. has stepped up and they have put a portable bathroom out there. The trash has to be emptied and unfortunately when we have public that is allowed to come on to public lands there is an upkeep to that. The cost of maintaining that property has actually gone up over the years. The property is going to be moved over to the Parks Dept. who is better structured to manage property such as this type. The Commissioners are going to appropriate \$10,000.00 annually for the upkeep.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **COMMISSIONERS**

#### **A request to approve COVID reimbursement claims.**

Atty. McClure, The COVID reimbursement claims that the Auditor has dutifully put on the agenda to be approved is the COVID related expenses to be reimbursed through the CARES Grant. There has been quite a bit of work happening on getting the CARES Grant reimbursements together. The Auditor has been the clearing house for that. The Auditor has also been the one putting together the reimbursement request. I know we sent our set out. This would be our second set of reimbursements or requests. Vicki if you want to talk about the number a little bit but at the end of this this goes down to the State be what we hope to be reimbursement for the COVID related expenses that have been processed to date.

Ms. Urbanik, The first round which we received the check in the mail just yesterday came to just over \$121,000.00 and this next round is just over \$40,000.00. It is my hope that as we keep getting the claims built up just about every Commissioner meeting we will send you the spread sheet that we use to track all of these expenses as well as the claims that need to be signed. Then we take care of submitting it to the Indiana Finance Authority for their review and approval. If I could just give you another quick update. We have also received word that the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute Grant which your office was involved with has been processed and is ready for signatures. I will have that ready to be signed. That is a whole different CARES Act pot of money that involves the law enforcement agencies in the County. Also, SBOA just released some guidance going forward with processing the COVID claims so I'm working on a document to be presented to you for approval when dealing with sub-recipients. Other agencies that might want to get a share of the County's \$5.5 million. Lastly last week the County Council made a decision whereby the appropriations for the COVID expenditures will be coming out of the Foundation budget fund and I think this is going to streamline the process and it is going to expedite the ability to process these claims.

Com. Biggs, The \$121,000.00 that we just received what type of claims are those that we appropriated toward?

Ms. Urbanik, These were expenses that were already paid and they fell primarily 2 different categories. One was the COVID testing in your budget for the employees, but most of it was PPE, Plexiglas shields, face masks, sanitizers.

Com. Good, The testing for our employees was covered and reimbursed by the Federal Government.

Ms. Urbanik, Yes it was. We will essentially reimburse your budget for that and all other department budgets that have an item in that as well.

Com. Good, Just for the record. It always sounds like the Federal or State government is giving you money. In order to get this money you have to outlay the money first before you get the money back. During COVID right now it's been very difficult because the money coming in versus going out has been very slow. In order for the County to be able to get these claims we have to put that money up front. That is what the Council worked out last week. We were able to use our Foundation money to utilize it be able to spend the money to get the things we need and get reimbursed back. That was a big help to us to help streamline a process. By streamlining the process I think it gives us more time to also look for other things and be minding for these types of things rather than having to do with all of the procedures and all of the other work that you are doing now one by one. I think that was a lot of work between the Commissioners', Council and Auditor's office and I think that is going to work out very well. Thank you.

Com. Biggs, And also Commissioners as you know that much of those monies that were spent for the PPE's were not necessarily going here. They were going to area agencies and departments, police and fire because it was needed and we were able to step up and do that. We are very lucky.

**A citizen appointment to the Porter County Airport Authority.**

Com. Good, I know we marketed for that at the last meeting.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve Bob Poparad to the Porter County Airport Authority Board, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

**Incarcerated Offenders Provider Agreement – Adult and Juvenile offenders may be eligible for Medicaid coverage as offered through the FSSA's programs while receiving inpatient services delivered at a Medicaid approved facility during incarceration, and upon release or discharge.**

Atty. McClure, This is just to make sure if we do have adult or juvenile offenders that are eligible for this Medicaid coverage that this will allow us to take advantage of that. That is the purpose behind this offenders provider agreement to make sure that anything that the Indiana Family Social Services Administration which is the FSSA has in their program that may be eligible through the Medicaid coverage for these particular individuals that we would be able to (Inaudible).

Com. Biggs, This is primarily for medical treatment while they're incarcerated.

Atty. McClure, Correct.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Incarcerated Offenders Provider Agreement, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

**A Resolution of the Board of Commissioner of Porter County Authorizing the Submittal of the OCRA Round 2 Stormwater Improvement Program Grant Application to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs.**

Com. Good, We have been approached by Lake Erie Conservancy District to have the Commissioners assist in filing for an OCRA Grant for storm water work that is going to be done at the Lake Erie Conservancy District. Obviously certain districts like that, we have a similar one going down at the Collier Lodge at the Kankakee River. In order to file for these types of grants the Commissioners' office has to be involved to oversee and sign off. So what we will be doing today is to take some action to get this moving.

Atty. McClure, We have had this looked at by the County Stormwater Engineer and have looked into the background of what we can and can't do with the OCRA Grants. I believe it's all in good form and would recommend approval.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the submittal of the OCRA Grant, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

**A proposed Ordinance to Establish a Fund for the Office of Energy Environmental Development Grant – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.**

Atty. McClure, This is the grant money that the Sheriff's Dept. received for the hybrid vehicles. This is just the backfill to have the actual fund established so the money can be deposited.

**PUBLIC HEARING OPENED**

Com. Good, First call is there anyone wishing to speak against the ordinance? Second call anyone wishing to speak against this ordinance? Third and final call anyone wishing to speak against this ordinance? Anyone wishing to speak in favor of this ordinance? Second call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this ordinance? Third and final call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this ordinance?

**PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED**

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

### **Contingent approval of Memorandum of Understanding for 911 CAD Project.**

Atty. McClure, Tony and I have been working with the very much needed CAD upgrade at 911. CAD is the computer aided dispatch management system that 911, Sheriff's Dept., the Jail, the City of Portage, the City of Valparaiso, the Town of Porter, the Town of Chesterton everyone is utilizing parts of the entire system that would be within 911. This proposed Memorandum of Understanding that I am asking the Commissioners to approve is contingent upon the other municipalities' approval to outline that the County would be responsible for the master purchase agreement which is an installment agreement with Motorola Solutions. That total contract which includes the cost of the CAD software itself and 10 years of maintenance is approximately \$4.6 million over the life of the contract. Given that number the installment payment towards the software plus the yearly maintenance is approximately about \$505,000.00 a year total. Of that total amount Porter County through its different departments will be paying approximately \$365,000.00 a year of that \$505,000.00. The remaining portions are then divided out between the City of Valparaiso, the City of Portage, the Town of Chesterton and the Town of Porter. To backup for a second the Motorola Solutions product that was selected was unanimously selected by all of the municipalities that were involved through a lengthy process through vetting out the available systems, their availability and how they worked with our system, the total cost. All of the parties that are proposed signatures to this proposed Memorandum of Understanding have been involved in the process from the beginning and have been able to view and have input as to the decision on which system to eventually choose. That has occurred so this lot of communication between 911 and the County and all of the different departments so none of this should be of a surprise to any of the parties involved. This is our attempt to get it into a Memorandum of Understanding so we can have it clear for everyone as to how we got to where we're and what everyone's responsibilities are yearly. But, ultimately the Memorandum of Understanding would have the County Commissioners eventually approving the master contract. There would be payments due once a year, normally in January or February. The other signatures would need to make payments once a year which would get together with the County's portion and then we would pay this contract through its duration. This Memorandum of Understanding breaks out all of the different portions that need be paid. As I said earlier there is about a \$505,000.00 yearly total payment. The portion between 911, the Sheriff's Dept. and the Jail is approximately \$365,000.00 the remaining portion is divided out between the other cities and towns. The total cost of the City of Valparaiso is approximately \$51,000.00 a year. The cost for the City of Portage is approximately \$59,000.00 a year. The Town of Chesterton at this point is opting to make their installment payment up front instead of having a 10 year installment so they would make that initial payment and then they would only be responsible for their maintenance moving forward. Their number is going to sound a lot lower but they're going to be putting almost \$165,000.00 down in this proposal. Then they would be responsible for about \$12,800.00 a year in maintenance. The Town of Porter's total for the year is approximately \$12,600.00. That does include both the installment and the maintenance. The maintenance goes up approximately 1.6% a year of course it could be a (Inaudible), but it's basically 1.6% a year. What I would ask is that the Commissioners approve this contingent upon the City of Portage, the City of Valparaiso, the Town of Chesterton, the Town of Porter's individual boards approving it then that way we can bring it back and officially approve it and approve the contract and move the CAD project forward. I would say for the moment the master installment agreement is signed we're probably 16 to 18 months away from that entire system being built out and installed. Does that sound fair?

Mr. Stua, On the long end yes. We going to try to do it as soon as possible but we want to make sure to try and cover all of our bases, dot our "I's" and cross our "T's".

Com. Biggs, And this shouldn't be news to those municipalities. You've been having meetings. I know you and I met with the Town of Chesterton and the Town of Porter so they are expecting this.

Com. Blaney, I appreciate your work. I know it is extensive and frustrating.

Atty. McClure, It's complicated.

Com. Good, And I'm glad we have an MOU to back it all up, because over time people tend to forget. People come and go but the MOU will always be there. That is a lot of what we've been trying to do up here over the last 5 years to try and leave an historical record so people coming in can figure things out. I also believe there is a CAD upgrade deadline, is it State or Federal?

Mr. Stua, Right now with the recording systems for the State (Inaudible) was reporting a national incident where all of the activities that happen for law enforcement they want to have a report at the end of the year. I'm actually in communication with the State trying to see if we can get an extension for that for all of the law enforcement agencies within Porter County because the current system does not provide a report they can use otherwise each entity will have to hand written reports at the end of the year and that could be a long and arduous task for them.

Com. Biggs, For the benefit of the general public please tell us what is the benefit of this upgrade.

Mr. Stua, This upgrade will put us into a next generation 911 System that has more capabilities to integrate with our radio, our phone system. We will have better location information on the responders and officers incase anything happens. We'll have a map point through automatic vehicle locater AVL. Also, it will give us the chance to revamp the current system to be more industry standard, following best practices and hopefully be a benchmark for other agencies to be followed.

Com. Good, I believe this is also the last technology of what we need to bring our new 911 Center to life correct?

Mr. Stua, That is correct. The only thing we would add to this is possibly fire station alerting. We couldn't have even moved forward until we got this done.

Com. Good, And I'm sure the fire station alerting will be another lengthy conversation and there will be a lot to figure out there next year as well. I know some people are really for it and other stations don't want it. We'll work through that as we have the rest of the stuff.

Com. Blaney, This seemed impossible when we started too. We'll get there.

Com. Biggs, And a lot of credit goes to you negotiating it out. It is a big step for all of us. I think we're all going to benefit by the end of the day. Not everybody likes change.

Atty. McClure, There is no part of 911 that is simple and straight forward or common knowledge. Especially of the technology continues to increase and change it will become exceeding more complicated. It reaches so many different directions and is becoming more integrated so it does become quite a hill to climb.

Com. Good, At one point when I got here the IT Dept. wasn't even over 911, which I just thought was sort of interesting from the fact of how difficult and complex the technology was. And now we have that under the IT Dept. We're now buying the equipment but we put the human element and all of the other things that run the equipment we now have that in place to receive the equipment. We're also trying to do things in the right order as well. This is a big move and it is the last piece and I look forward to getting on with it.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the 911 CAD Project contingent upon receiving the funding from the other communities, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

#### **157 FRANKLIN ST. – PAY APPS. AND CHANGE ORDER**

**State Line Fire Systems – Pay App. #8 in the amount of \$5,710.45 for fire suppression. This is the final payment.**

**Midwest Tile & Interiors – Pay App. #9 in the amount of \$330.60 for flooring. With a remaining balance of \$9,068.90.**

**Continental Electric – Pay App. #14 in the amount of \$5,870.57. With a remaining balance of \$104,961.97.**

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

**Circle "R" Mechanical – Change Order #4 in the amount of \$2,188.00 to provide water lines to CRAC Unit in basement electrical room.**

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

#### **NORTH COUNTY ANNEX – CHANGE ORDERS**

**Mechanical Concepts – Change Order #1 with a credit of \$18,185.00.**

**Stan’s Painting & Decorating – Change Order #2 in the amount of \$729.00 for painting of added bench in holding area.**

**Portage Township Trustee - Kleckner Interior Systems – Change Order #1 in the amount of \$30,271.00 to install freezer/cooler walls and ceilings in Food Pantry, knee walls in 3 courtrooms, ceiling revisions in corridor and insulation for spandrel windows.**

Com. Good, We will pay this and then get reimbursed from the Portage Township Trustee.

**Circle “R” Electric – Change Order #4 in the amount of \$9,342.00 for UG conduit for courtroom microphones, garbage disposals in break rooms, removal of existing technology wiring, power to strobe for FDC connection and re-wire existing water heater.**

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the above change orders, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

**SHERIFF’S DEPT. - MAJOR GARY GEAR**

**Engstrom Auctions – A Personal Property Auction Contract for surplus vehicles & misc. items.**

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Engstrom Auction Personal Property Auction Contract, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, Do we have a date on that?

Chief Manteuffel, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Com. Good, Do we have a time and a place?

Atty. McClure, Its Oct.2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

Com. Good, That is for any equipment. We do that once a year.

Com. Biggs, Chief how many vehicles are you expecting?

Chief Manteuffel, 14 (Inaudible).

Com. Biggs, We have our due diligence with our insurance company to make sure those are taken off.

**EMA – LANCE BELLA, DIRECTOR**

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

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

Com. Blaney, They have done a significant amount of work up there in the last couple of weeks.

**EXPO CENTER – LORI DALY, DIRECTOR**

**A Request for a Transfer of Funds - Fund #4005 in the amount of \$13,000.00 from Acct. #1120 Hourly to Acct. #3980 Event Expenses. The Event Expense account depleted due to refunds on event cancellations due to COVID-19.**

Com. Good, These are the people we had to give their money back to.

Ms. Daly, Correct. Usually the contracts are iron clad but with COVID it’s a no one’s responsibility. There were no questions asked. There was probably about \$20,000.00 that we were able to transfer so that was good.

Com. Blaney, To next year.

Ms. Daly, Yes to next year.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the transfer of funds, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

**A Request for a Transfer of Funds - Fund #4005 in the amount of \$1,500.00 from Acct. #1120 Hourly to Acct. #3420 Building/Liability/Comp. Coverage. To transfer funds to cover increase in insurance premiums.**

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the transfer of funds, Com. Biggs, second.

Com. Good, Lori thank you for everything you're doing out there. I know it's been a rocky road. This is a self-funded venue so we have been trying to hold her together. It's been tough and I know you have been working with the Health Dept. closely. It's a lot of work. More than normal.

**FACILITIES – RAY CLOYD, DIRECTOR**

**Schindler Elevator Corp. – A Maintenance Agreement for 157 Franklin St. in the amount of \$9,720.00 per year. This is a 3 year contract.**

Mr. Cloyd, This a 3 year contract just for the maintenance of the elevator.

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

**Schindler Elevator Corp. – An Upgrade Order Agreement for Floor Designation Changes on 2 elevators at 157 Franklin St. in the amount of \$8,668.00.**

Com. Good, We had to change the numbers for the floors. We are trying to make it easy for people coming in the building. There were also hand rails, it is all ADA compliant.

Mr. Cloyd, We will be within code.

Com. Good, These elevators were about 80% done when we bought the building. Until we got everyone situated and figured out where everyone was going to be then we came back and finished the elevators.

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

**Arrow Pest Control - An agreement for the following County buildings:**

- **Porter County Museum in the amount of \$60.00 per month.**
- **EMA in the amount of \$50.00 per month.**

Mr. Cloyd, We've experienced some critters at the Museum and EMA. We tried to take care of it in house but we don't have the chemicals that they have. It's a fairly responsible price just to have them do it yearly on a monthly basis.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve Arrow Pest Control, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

**Homewood Disposal – An Agreement to increase the service at the North County Annex to twice a week in the amount of \$190.00 per month.**

Com. Good, Now that all of the construction containers are out of there and we have everyone moved into the building we are creating a little more garbage than we were during construction.

Mr. Cloyd, This is for the Portage Trustee and the Food Pantry.

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

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

**Rezone – P2, Parks to RR, Rural Residential. Petitioner Tara Ketchum – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading.**

Com. Good, This is a rezone. At our last meeting we had a public hearing with opportunity for people to speak against or in favor. We had not participants in that. We are now at second reading.

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

Ms. DeLeon, I was not able to attend your meeting because of miss information given to me by Melanie Massey and also upstairs. I came here but I called first. I was told that there would be a meeting on August 4<sup>th</sup>. I came but I got no response (Inaudible standing in the back of the room). They told me to come on August 11<sup>th</sup>. I came here at 9:30 in the morning and this young lady told me that the meeting was on the 13<sup>th</sup> so I came on the 13<sup>th</sup>. On the 13<sup>th</sup> I was told that the meeting was on the 11<sup>th</sup> and we were going to a 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading. There are no signs on this property on either C.R. 1000 or 625. There was one sign on July 1<sup>st</sup> on C.R. 1000 but nothing on 625 and that sign was hidden by all of the weeds. The only reason I knew it was there was because I go down that way and I saw something and wondered what it was. I got out of the car and I'm a senior citizen and I went down into the ditch and pulled the weeds back. That was the day of the initial hearing. There was no sign and no one knows (Inaudible). We do not have paper delivery, we do not have internet and I do not have (Inaudible). I'm a retired registered nurse of 39 years. Please put your mask up. I am also a licensed patient advocate (Inaudible). This has not been handled correctly. This is recreational property and when people travel on 625 and 1000 and a detour because 231 is closed people don't know what is going on out there. There should have been signs up until this final hearing and there aren't any. I object strenuously to rezoning this until you get some signs up. So people know what is going on. (Inaudible) on the 13<sup>th</sup>, she said she works in your office. So I find it very hard to believe that you cannot give us the proper information and notification (Inaudible). It's just annoying that you will not give us the proper information. I have my original letter, but this does not tell us all of the information. You should do that (Inaudible). People out there don't want this, but they won't come out. You can't go door to door because of the pandemic. You'd have some work to do to give us proper information. I object to this strenuously. Thank you.

Com. Biggs, Thank you.

**USI Consultants - Right-of-way Agreement for Bridge 168 – Brummit Rd. over Little Calumet River.**

Mr. Thompson, The environmental report is going to be submitted soon for approval with FHWA which then allows us to go forward with right-of-way services. Right-of-way services is the next step with INDOT procedures for contracts. This is for \$32,000.00, 6 parcels on that and then USI will actually do the appraisals and then do the actual contact for the purchasing.

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

**A Performance Agreement with Red Fish Development, LLC for recording of secondary plat of The Preserves – Phase II.**

Mr. Thompson, This is new. With this development Red Fish is going through the process of having a secondary plat approved for Phase II so they can get building permits and this is one of the procedures. Mike Novotney and I have been working on this particular issue. We do have a Maintenance Agreement and I just thought it would be a great idea to have a Performance Agreement signed and notarized. This is not the Letter of Credit that will be coming later. The Performance Guarantee basically outlines everything that is out before the consultant as far as this goes. This is good for 2 years. They have to complete the infrastructure in 2 years. We'll allow a 2 year extension at 6 month intervals with a new engineer's estimate based off of the cost of living upgrades that could possible occur. Basically we're trying to outline everything to the Developer right up front of what is expected of them and what we will do.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Performance Agreement with Red Fish Development, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

**A recommendation for Consulting Design Services for Bridge 98 – 600 North over Salt Creek.**

Mr. Thompson, This is one of the bridges that were awarded Federal funding for construction and construction inspections for INDOT's fiscal year 20/25. We reviewed the Letter of Interests that came in for this one and we had 10 different consultants submit Letter of Interests. It was quite a return. We are coming before you to recommend that we start negotiations with Lochmueller Group.

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



**A recommendation for Consulting Design Services for Bridge 1009 – Lenburg Rd, over Salt Creek (City of Portage).**

Mr. Thompson, On this particular bridge the department received 9 Letter of Interests from consultants. We had quite a group to select from again. This is part of the Fiscal year 20/25 Federal funding that we have for construction and construction inspections. On this bridge we are recommending Butler Fairman and Seufert.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve Butler Fairman and Seufert, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

**HEALTH DEPT. / COVID – DISCUSSION**

Mr. Martin, Good Morning my name is Fred Martin. I live at 822 S. Regal Lane, Kouts, IN. How are you this morning? I was going to have a fundraiser in Kouts and after conflict with the Health Dept. I cancelled the event unfortunately. At the fundraiser we were going to have the South County (Inaudible).

Com. Good, Are you running for office?

Mr. Martin, Yes I am.

Com. Good, What office are you running for?

Mr. Martin, County Commissioner.

Com. Good, Oh really.

Mr. Martin, This has nothing to do with that. This is separate. I did a similar event last year and I was going to do it again this year. I filled out the paperwork and 2 weeks prior to my event the Health Dept. wanted COVID paperwork filled out. So I filled it out to the best of my ability with the answers that I knew for sure. I was honest and there were certain things that I did not know. Two of the big hang-ups the exact location of where the 4H Club was going to have the food trailer parked. There was a special plug that was going to be installed and I didn't know where that was going to be installed. The other concern they had was the size of the parking and the number of people there were going to be.

Com. Good, How many people are you going to have?

Mr. Martin, It's a fluid situation because people come, we were going to have musicians. People come and buy a sandwich, listen to some music. Last year we may have had 100 people total. I was hoping for more this year, but there again when every other sentence from the person I was trying to talk to is "We'll come down there and shut you down". In fact I was told that members of the Health Dept. and County Commissioners will come down and shut you down. So rather than have a scene.....do I believe you were going to come and shut me down, no. I feel there needs to be some cooperation. I'm the person, the Kouts Parks Board does not have a staff, they have a volunteer board and a couple of contractors hired to do maintenance.

Com. Good, Let me interrupt for a second. First of all the Health Dept. has its own board and its own meetings. It also has its own governing body. I would think you would know that running for office. That would be probably where you would want to go to a public meeting and talk to them. We're following the Governor's orders as far as I know. The Health Dept. has their own separate initiative. They have their own separate board. They have a county public health official who makes all of these decision. They have their own attorney. They have their own doctors on that board. And remember that board is a volunteer board.

Mr. Martin, They have a paid staff, is that correct?

Com. Good, They have a paid staff and I was just mentioning it because you mentioned the volunteer board down there. I think the one thing that COVID has done is it has proven that our little Health Dept. that we've had in this County for years who basically did some immunizations, some sewer and septic and food oversight regarding restaurants COVID has pretty much stretched the limits of that department to a totally different level one that anyone has ever dealt with. I'm not going to sit here and defend them because I wasn't on the phone, but again the Health Dept. has their own board. I saw in an article in Indianapolis about 2 weeks ago where there was a public health official in a town down in Indianapolis that accused the mayor of that town for influencing what the health dept. did. So there is out cry from that on the other side. With this Board what we try to do is allow our Health Dept. and our health officials run what

they're doing down there. I just want to be clear here where the lines are and who is responsible for what.

Mr. Martin, I was told was this was that the Commissioners and the Commissioners' attorney were involved in this as well. That is why I wanted to bring it up.

Com. Blaney, They have their own attorney too.

Com. Good, Sometimes when you're in the heat of the battle they say things. I don't know I wasn't there.

Mr. Martin, So you don't know certain fees. It's all determined by the Health Dept.?

Com. Good, No, they have their own board. They have their own fund, everything. They're operated.....so boards like ours can't influence them. They're going by the State and the Governor's protocols.

Com. Blaney, And trying to keep the community safe.

Mr. Martin, And I understand that, but when they bring that they will call the police. As I was told by the town that there were no laws or ordinances being violated by having this event.

Com. Good, If it fit what the Governor's mandated said in (Inaudible). And it is their responsibility to make sure that your event fits those protocols.

Mr. Martin, I understand.

Com. Good, Maybe it was the exchange of information on both sides.

Mr. Martin, (Inaudible) posting the signs, making sure people had masks, hand sanitizers. I feel there needs to be some cooperation other than if you don't do exactly what we say we will just come and shut you down.

Com. Good, I find it very hard to believe that that is what happened. You can take it up with the Health Dept. You can grind your axe with them.

Mr. Martin, Thank you.

### **AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD – DISCUSSION**

Mr. Click, My name is Justin Click and I live in Hobart, Indiana and I'm a pilot and a tenant in the Porter County Airport. The reason that I'm here today is I'm trying to understand this whole appointment board. Who gets appointed and why they get appointed and what are then reasons they don't get reappointed. I and a lot of people at the airport deal with a lot of issues and the board we have in place and all of the members on the board are great to work with. They understand the airport. It has been brought to our attention that one particular board member has not been allowed to reapply and we don't really know why. He does a fantastic job for that airport and has been out there for 20 + years. He started at the bottom and worked his way to the top. I've never seen any of you out at the airport and I've been out there probably 4 out of 7 days of the week. I fly over 300 hours a year. If you see bi planes flying over Valpo that's me, I'm in the plane. That is what I operate, give people rides. It's a big part of the airport. To find out that we're losing a member on the board that knows how the airport works and the ins and outs of everything and not tell anyone. This new guy that is coming on...what are his qualifications. Who is he? We've never heard of him. I don't know how that works. I'm not a politician. I would think you would want someone at the airport that understands the airport. I'm not alone. There is another gentleman here with me who operates the flight school. That operation flies thousands of hours. I guess we're not in the know. It would be nice if the people that use and operate the airport would be involved a little bit with some of the decisions that go on. It seems like it is a closed door thing.

Com. Blaney, Bob Poparad is a pilot and I'm pretty sure he learned to fly at the Porter County Airport.

Mr. Click, I've never seen him out there.

Atty. McClure, Well the way the appointment works is the Airport Authority Board is appointed by the County Commissioners. It is based upon their vote who gets appointed.

Mr. Click, Right, I'm just curious. I'm asking how this works.

Com. Blaney, I talked to several people. I talked to my father-in-law who is out there all of the time.

Mr. Click, I know your father-in-law real well.

Com. Blaney, Then you know I'm at the airport.

Mr. Click, It's kind of bizarre. We're asking.

Com. Good, All of the board members (Inaudible) of the County Commissioners.

Com. Blaney, And when I brought up Bob Poparad to these people they said that is a good choice.

Mr. Click, I guess the people that are there every day, flying out of there, working out of there, there is a crop duster now none of us, the people that are using the airport to fly a lot, not just.....

Com. Good, But that is why you have a board and the board runs the airport. Are you saying you want to be a part of the board? Or you want to tell the board what to do?

Mr. Click, No I'm not saying I want to tell the board what to do, but I want to see people on the board that are well qualified. That understand all aspects.

Com. Good, We feel that we fulfilled our obligation. We did not tell anyone not to apply, I don't know where that is coming from, but like everything else I'm sure there is a lot of stories.

Mr. Click, That is why I came here and I'm asking. It just seemed weird that if the people that are on and everything is working, why change it.

Com. Good, Elected officials come and go. They know people that want serve. This happens all of the time. I don't know where the outrage in all of this is. We're very concerned. We received a letter from Kyle Kuebler basically saying that whatever we want to do it's up to us and the board feels very strongly about that.

Mr. Click, I've just never seen any of you around to talk to.

Com. Good, Why do we have to be out there to make you happy?

Mr. Click, It's not about making me happy. It's about asking people out there what we might want.

Com. Good, I've been talking to the board members. I've been up here 6 years and I've never had this happen before. This is just odd.

Com. Blaney, I think you're going to find that you're going to like Bob Poparad.

Mr. Click, I'm not saying that he is a bad guy or anything. I'm just talking about a shift in something for no obvious reason. Like someone didn't let anyone down.

Com. Biggs, Justin let me try to explain this to you. The Board of Commissioners when we make these appointments and the Airport Board is no different. We may make an appointment of someone who is a very seasoned pilot and runs they're plane out of there on regular basis. Then you have other appointments that are more familiar the operations of County government with fiscal resources so on and so forth. We appoint people there to represent the general public who are paying for all of that out there. That is who pays for that out there is the general public. You take someone like Bob Poparad who has a long history. Who is sitting on the fiscal body of County government probably as capable as anyone in this County to know the County fiscal where withal is in keeping that managed the way it should be. I want someone to keep an eye on that out there to make sure it's managed properly, because it is the public who owns it and the public who is paying for it. And I think Bob is a great guy to have sitting in one of those chairs.

Mr. Click, But you guys appointed the guy who is not being able to reapply or being reappointed in the first place correct?

Com. Biggs, Yes sir.

Mr. Click, So why the sudden shift? Why the sudden change?

Com. Biggs, As Com. Good pointed out to you we do that all of the time. The general public does that all of the time with the elected officials. I personally think it's healthy to have a fresh voice on these boards. I think that is a healthy habit to have.

Mr. Click, I think I'll have to see how long some of the other members have been there haven't they?

Com. Biggs, Yes.

Mr. Click, I hear what you're saying and I do agree. A fresh face in politics would be nice. Not the same old people all of the time, but like I said there was a highly qualified individual not.....

Com. Biggs, I get it. Our appointment of Bob had nothing to do with who you currently have. I'll speak for myself it had nothing to do with it. I know Bob Poparad. I know of his capabilities. He is a good appointment for that board under the circumstances.

Mr. Click, I found it odd and the board has been great to work with on things.

Com. Biggs, And as Com. Blaney pointed out you're going to enjoy working with Bob.

Mr. Click, Like I told you my question was why. I'm not talking about him or anything but why the sudden shift in the change when the wheel went around real good.

Com Biggs, That may be but that doesn't submit someone's position on that board indefinitely. That board is expected to operate as it should. If it didn't we would have made more than one appointment.

Mr. Click, I would think if it wouldn't that when you would come in and shift it or change it but if it was working well why change. That is all I'm saying it was working well. They were great people to work with.

Com. Biggs, I think it will continue to work well.

***To continue to hear the rest of the conversation please see the video on our website.***

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

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

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

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

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