

**PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, APRIL 27TH, 2021
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, April 27^h, 2021 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, April 27th, 2021.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Payroll – April 16th, 2021.

Approval of Claims – April 8th and April 22nd, 2021.

Approval of Minutes for April 6th, 2021.

Treasurer's Monthly Report for March 31st, 2021 – Filed.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW BUSINESS

COMMISSIONERS

Baker Tilly US, LLP – An Engagement Letter of Agreement to assist Porter County Government with advisory services.

Atty. McClure, The County Council had requested that we have an agreement with Baker Tilly. This is to deal with long term budgeting goals and also to deal with a potential influx of some of the federal money that is coming in. The Council as a whole requested that Baker Tilly be a part of the discussion for them moving forward.

Com. Blaney, I think it's a great idea.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve Baker Tilly US, LLP, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Biggs, I agree. I think all governments every few years should audit itself to determine where it's going to take its future.

Com. Good, I believe that is being heard tonight at the Council meeting. I saw it on the agenda.

Atty. McClure, It is.

A Resolution Accepting the Tax Sale Certificates.

Atty. McClure, The Commissioners can give the Tax Sale Certificates to governmental entities. One of those was given to yourself so the Commissioners now have to accept that one parcel.

Com. Blaney, moved to accept the Parcel, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Summerhill – Federal Prisoner Per Diem Agreement.

Atty. McClure, This is an agreement with Summerhill to review the per diem that the County is reimbursed for the federal prisoners that it houses. This agreement will review the amount of money that it costs and whether or not our per diem needs to be raised. I believe our current per diem hasn't been adjusted since maybe the latter part of 2013. I think we're currently sitting at around \$56.00 per federal inmate a day. We're looking to see whether or not if (Inaudible) issues or things like that should take that per diem rate forward or up. The nice part of this contract is if in fact if the per diem would not necessitate a raise in the per diem than there is no fee for this contract. If in fact it does than the fee would kick in. Given the fact that it's 2013 and now it is 2021 it seems like it is in good order to look at this per diem issue for the federal prisoners.

Com. Biggs, I think it is a foregone conclusion that it is costing more to house those federal prisoners than it did in 2013. I think we all should be aware of that.

Atty. McClure, And this was the process to get us there.

Com. Blaney, Regardless we should look at it.

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

Schmidt Assoc. – Additions and Renovations to the Memorial Opera House.

Atty. McClure, This is the architectural agreement for the architectural services to be producing the plans for the Memorial Opera House remodel.

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

NORTH COUNTY ANNEX – PAY APP.

Pangere Corp. – Pay App. #18 in the amount of \$35,628.20 for material and labor. With a remaining balance of \$76,136.81.

Com. Good, Pangere was the general contractor for this project.

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

157 FRANKLIN ST. – PAY APP.

Continental Electric – Pay App. #18 in the amount of \$4,979.01 for electrical work. This will be the final payment.

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

EMA – LANCE BELLA, DIRECTOR

An Ordinance Establishing a Non-Reverting Fund for the 2020 Homeland Security Grant Program, SHSP Grant Agreement – 2nd Reading.

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

DEVELOPMENT & STORM WATER MNGMNT. – BOB THOMPSON, DIRECTOR

A Request to approve the Construction Plans and Documents for Bridges 272 and 273.

Com. Good, For historical purposes where are those bridges?

Mr. Thompson, This is heading north on Willowcreek Rd. outside of the downtown area or what is the Portage City downtown area. It heads north. There are 2 bridges there, Chrisman Rd. when it heads up to U.S. 20. Two bridges that are over the CSX Railroad. We are going to be putting a thin deck overlay on them but the main work is going to be reconstruction of the concrete approaches along with the joints and abutments.

Com. Biggs, You're not talking about the big bridge at the north end of Willowcreek going over the railroad?

Mr. Thompson, The very large one going into U.S. Steel?
Com. Biggs, No, south of 20.

Mr. Thompson, Those 2 bridges between Central Ave. and U.S. 20 we are reworking.

Com. Good, The approaches and then we are doing an overlay on them.

Com Biggs, The entire length of it?

Mr. Thompson, For the bridges yes.

Com. Good, And then for the approaches they have concrete approaches that.....

Mr. Thompson, What will make this tricky is because it is 4 lanes and we're not going to close the road. We are going to do half at a time. Obviously we are going to be narrowing the traffic down because it is a 4 lane road to 2 lanes each direction and we will be narrowing it down to 1 lane each direction.

Com. Biggs, It's probably a good idea that the local residence find an alternate route.

Mr. Thompson, Hence why we need our signs. We really need the signs that are out at the Expo Center to start advertising our work. We having paving projects that will be starting next week.

Com. Good, I think you need to go grab them and if the sign department needs to make some signs temporarily for that we can come up with something.

Com. Biggs, I'm not telling you anything you don't know that is a major corridor through the City of Portage.

Com. Blaney, Are you having problems?

Mr. Thompson, No I haven't contacted them yet. Highway Engineering made me aware that they have projects coming up and they really need those signs. I'll contact Rich Sexton and ask for some signs.

Com. Blaney, I think that you should probably have the electronic ones. We can put signs out at Expo for them.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Construction Plans for Bridges 272 and 273, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, You'll probably be at some point taking that out to bid?

Mr. Thompson, Yes that is our next item. We want to advertise this and then the goal is we will be opening bids at one of your May meetings and then awarding the contract in June. The whole idea is to get the construction done during the summer months. We try not to hurt the school as much.

The Porter County Commissioners shall be seeking sealed bids for the reconstruction of concrete approaches and deck overlay work for Bridges 272 and 273 – Willowcreek/Chrisman Roads in Portage.

Com. Good, moved to approve to seek seal bids for Bridges 272 and 273, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

INDOT – An LPA Agreement for Bridge 131, CR 200 West over Damon Run.

Com. Good, What type of bridge is that going to be?

Mr. Thompson, Right now it is a single span over Damon Run. More than likely it is going to be a 3 span. By the time we're getting the proposal done it's going to go from 40' in length to more than 70' in length because of the 100 year storm flow that we have to make sure passes underneath the bridge. This is the agreement with INDOT for federal funding which is for construction and construction engineering. It is set to be under construction in fiscal year 2024 of INDOT or July 1st, 2023. We are starting to enter into the right-of-way phase which we need this agreement in place now to go forward with right-of-way.

Com. Good, This is a pretty substantial upgrade to the bridge that is there now. I would say.

Mr. Thompson, Yes. Most of our bridges that are in the 40' range that we're putting into federal funding are going to be substantial construction with lengthening.

Com Good, That is good to see. It is good that we're thinking out ahead.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the INDOT agreement for Bridge 131, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

INDOT – An LPA Agreement for Bridge 149, Waverly Road over Little Calumet River, Town of Porter.

Mr. Thompson, This is the one with the pedestrian way that we are going to be adding to it. Not really lengthen but there is a large flow of water going underneath it. We really can't raise the grade on this bridge but again it's for the federal funding and we're getting close to start the right-of-way acquisition phase.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the INDOT agreement for Bridge 149, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, Bob is this the one that we made some easement provisions for sewer?

Mr. Thompson, We were talking about that. We need to get into contact with the Town of Porter when they getting started in the acquisition phase.

Atty. McClure, The Town of Porter needs to tell us if they need it.

Com. Good, Right that is when we get into the actual engineering.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PORTER COUNTY – BECKI GUFFIN

A request to use the Northwest corner of the Courthouse grounds Thursday, April 29th from 12 until 1:00 p.m. for the League of Women Voters National Day of Action to bring awareness to the redistricting process and the need for Fair Maps. They would also like permission to set up an information/register to Vote table and signs will be displayed.

Com. Biggs, You're not going to be out there long.

Ms. Guffin, No it's the middle of the day. People are going to work. We just want to take an opportunity to give them some information and hopefully get them to register to vote. We've already gotten permission from the City to use the sidewalks and they told me since I wanted to set up a table on the lawn I needed to contact you.

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

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

Jeffrey J. Good

Laura M. Blaney

Jim Biggs

Attest: _____
Vicki Urbanik, Auditor