

**PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2022
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 6th, 2022 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.

Com. Good, Good Morning this is the Porter County Board of Commissioners' meeting Tuesday, September 6th, 2022.

Call to Order/Pledge

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Payroll – August 5th and August 19th and September 2nd, 2022.

Approval of Claims – August 5th, August 18th, August 25th and September 1st, 2022.

Approval of Minutes for August 2nd, 2022.

Weights and Measures Monthly Reports May 16th to June 15th, June 16th to July 15th and July 16th to August 15th, 2022.

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

MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE – SCOT MACDONALD, DIRECTOR

ARTISTIC SERVICES AGREEMENT

VENUE RENTAL AGREEMENT

- 1. Silverleaf Booking.**
- 2. Porter County LGBTQ Outreach.**

Com. Good, moved to approve the Venue Rental Agreements, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW BUSINESS

COMMISSIONERS

SHERIFF'S DEPT. – MAJOR GARY GEAR

Lestinsky Auctioneers, LLC – A Contract for Sale of Personal Property at a Public Auction pertaining to vehicles, bicycles and miscellaneous items.

Major Gear, The Sheriff's Dept., Facilities, Juvenile Detention Center, Animal Shelter and Porter County 911 just submitted vehicles. That is all they have this year.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Lestinsky Auctioneers Contract, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, When is the sale?

Major Gear, October 7th.

E911 – DEBBY GUNN, DIRECTOR

A request to Transfer Funds – Fund #1222 - Acct. #1110 Salaries in the amount of \$50,000.00 to Acct. #1130 Overtime. To augment overtime budget shortage due to recent full time employment loss.

Ms. Gunn, Over the past year we've had 17 employees leave. We have had to rely much more than we would have like to on our overtime. In addition to that we've also been very proactive in preparing for P1. So we offered overtime as well. That is the reason behind our request for transfer.

Com. Good, We've had problems with overtime out there for more than the last year and a half. We've had a problem with overtime out there for quite some time and that always seems to be the juggernaut we're in here. I know where we're at today I don't think there's a way around this but it's obviously something that needs to be dealt with and figure out a way to try to limit the amount of overtime that we spend there. That is through proper staffing. I think that is something that we really need to engage in and get moving on again. Just my comments.

Com. Biggs, What is your office hearing to the primary reason people are leaving.

Ms. Gunn, We're finding that the 911 Center is actually a very good training facility for other dispatch center in the private sector such as the railroad and NIPSCO.

Com. Blaney, The mill.

Ms. Gunn, In the past 6 months that is where our employees have left for. I understand we can't compete with their salaries in the private sector but when you can leave a job and make \$40,000.00 more I can understand why people are leaving. That is why we've lost a considerable number of our dispatchers. We've lost to the railroad alone in the past I venture to say 2 to 2 ½ years we've lost three fully trained dispatchers to the railroad. We've just recently lost one to NIPSCO and we've also lost a few to the mill.

Com. Biggs, We can't continue down that road. That is not sustainable. We're going to have to do something internally to make it more attractive to stay.

Ms. Gunn, I agree.

Com. Biggs, What that is exactly I'm not sure but it sounds to me that we are going to have to look at wages and make those adjustment somehow, some way.

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

Com. Blaney, Have we made any movements to recruit more people because if we know they are going to be leaving it seems like we should get more in training.

Ms. Gunn, You are absolutely right and I agree with you. We've been fortunate enough to actually higher four people from Lake County within the past couple of months. Since the beginning of July actually. One went through training at an expedited pace because of her experience which I think has benefited us. We've been able to augment our shortages with people of experience. Regarding the training aspect our training turnaround is about six months now. Realistically when you consider every perspective involved here, every aspect involved here we're looking at cost of inaction. I would like to second Com. Biggs' idea of making this a more appealing place to work regarding wages and something that we really need to dive into because with our training being six months long and fortunately being able to pick up some of these people with experience we've been able to cut some of that time down. Now we're looking into the amount of trainers that we actually have in the Center as well. That is another aspect that is difficult. We are looking at ways to incentivize our CTO's. The CTO in my opinion has the most difficult position on the floor barring the responsibility level that the supervisors have. CTO's are tasked with 12 hours literally tethered to another person in the room. With paltry stipends in my opinion where it's very difficult to keep a CTO in the position. That is another aspect that we've tossed around and presented ideas. I'm kind of brainstorming with my team regarding how we can make this more appealing for trainers. Realistically if we have all of our trainers with trainees which we do now. Our hands are tied bringing new people on anyway. These are all challenges we are facing that aren't new to the Center. We're working through them.

Com. Biggs, Could you repeat again how many dispatchers we lost in whatever time period you quoted.

Ms. Gunn, A year and a half it is 17 now.

Com. Biggs, That is not bleeding. That's a bleed out.

A request to lease (7) Concept Seating 24/7 Chairs from Shelby Products for 3-years in the amount of \$9,878.40.

Ms. Gunn, We are leasing chairs now. The last time we purchased chairs was in 2017. The chairs that we have actually have a list of problems with them. We found as I explored a leasing option that these chairs are the same chairs that we actually purchased but the warranties ran out on these chairs. The leasing option provides entirely new chairs once a year. In the meantime if there is any malfunctioning of the chairs we get replacement parts, which we have been given a demonstration on how easy the replacement parts can be done ourselves. If there is a malfunction of the chair that we are unable to handle they will be in four to five days at no charge with a brand new chair for us.

Com. Biggs, These are not office chairs they are dispatching chairs. Everyone understands we never shut down. Someone is sitting in those chairs 24/7 365 days a year for the most part.

Ms. Young, If this lease is approved they will buy back our current chairs of which we have eight. They will give us \$100.00, which will be \$800.00 credit towards this lease contract.

Ms. Gunn, The company provided us with the new quote showing the \$800.00 credit.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the contract with Shelby Products for 3 years, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

AUDITOR VICKI URBANIK

Center Township ARPA Agreement.

Ms. Urbanik, As you recall the Commissioner approved a plan and the Council appropriated up to \$500,000.00 for the different township trustees. This written agreement spells out the terms and conditions of the Center Township ARPA allocation, which is being proposed in a variety of different areas. One is assistance to households in the form of poor relief help. As well as gas cards, grocery vouchers and V-line tokens. Some of the funding is also designated for two years towards their social workers pay. Another allocation is for non-profits with which they have a partnership. Another portion is reserved for premium pay for three of their workers. So with your approval this will be another written agreement and there will be more.

Com. Biggs, Vicki this allocation is outside of the ARP funds that the Council has been holding for the better part of a month.

Ms. Urbanik, Yes. I like to think of our ARPA plan in three phases and this was the first phase

A Resolution Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans.

CLERK JESSICA BAILEY

A Memorandum of Agreement – Indiana Legal Help Kiosk Project.

ITS DEPARTMENT - LEE CHILDRESS, DIRECTOR

A request to cancel the approval of the lease with Adams Remco for Savin Copiers from the February 22nd meeting due to lack of copier inventory and replace the order with Toshiba Copiers. This new contract will also include a new copier for Voters. The original contract was for 63 payments at \$1,563.61 each. The new lease contract is for 63 payments at \$1,463.80 each.

A request to Transfer Funds – Fund #1000 – Acct. #4540 Other Equipment in the amount of \$18,000.00 to Acct. #3610 Maintenance Agreement. To cover maintenance agreement from Information & Records Associates for Docuware maintenance agreement.

EXPO CENTER – LORI DALY, DIRECTOR

A request to approve a Performance Agreement with Night Moves.

A request to approve a contract with FE Moran to complete the 3-year internals and perform the 5 year.

FACILITIES DEPT. – DANIEL SULLIVAN, DIRECTOR

Steindler Signs – A Quote for Signage at the Portage Township Trustee in the amount of \$19,181.30.

Steindler Signs – A Quote for Signage at the North County Annex in the amount of \$19,606.30.

HIGHWAY DEPT. – JIM POLAREK, SUPERVISOR

A request to Transfer Funds – Fund #1176 – Acct. #1111 Hourly in the amount of \$25,000.00 to Acct. #1130 Overtime. Needed in anticipation of winter snowplowing.

A request to purchase a Lowboy Semi Tractor from M&K Truck Centers in the amount of \$160,564.30.

A request to purchase a Bucket Truck from Altec Industries in the amount of \$193,334.00.

A request to trade in (5) trucks and lease (5) 2022 F350 trucks w/Plows from Enterprise in the amount of \$67,650.24 annually.

DEVELOPMENT & STORM WATER MNGMNT. – BOB THOMPSON, DIRECTOR

A Performance Agreement between Duneland School Corporation and Porter County.

Duneland School Corp. Zoning Map Amendment – RR, Rural Residential District to IN, Institutional District -1st Reading.

Lochmueller Group – An Agreement for Design Services for Bridge 56.

A Performance Agreement between Lakeshore Development, LLC pertaining to Magnolia Meadows, Phase 3.

Acceptance of the United Consulting Small Structure Report.

THERESA BIGGS

A request to hold a Rosary Rally on the Courthouse grounds at the North East corner on Saturday, October 15th, 2022 from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. There will be approximately 25 to 30 people will be in attendance.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

Jeffrey J. Good

Laura M. Blaney

Jim Biggs

