

**PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9TH, 2024
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, January 9th, 2024 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Administration Center.

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

Call to Order/Pledge

CONSENT AGENDA

Reorganization

- **President**

Com. Regnitz, moved to approve Jim Biggs as President, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

- **Vice President**

Com. Biggs, moved to approve Barb Regnitz as Vice President, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

- **Secretary**

Com. Biggs, moved to approve Laura Blaney as Secretary, Com. Regnitz, second, motion carried.

- **County Attorney**

Com. Biggs, moved to appoint Scott McClure as County Attorney, Com. Regnitz, second, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Payroll – December 22nd, 2023 and January 5th, 2024.

Approval of Claims – December 14th, 2023.

Approval of Minutes for November 14th and November 15th, 2023.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Citizen Appointments to the following Boards:

- **Alcohol Beverage Board - 1 Appointment.**

Com. Regnitz, moved to reappoint Robert Filipek, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

- **Board of Zoning Appeals – 2 Appointments.**

Com. Regnitz, moved to appoint Debra Kerr Cook and reappoint Marv Brickner, Com. Blaney second, motion carried.

- **Convention, Recreation and Visitors Commission – 2 Appointments.**

Com. Regnitz, moved to reappoint Rich Riley and Dave Bolla, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

- **Park and Recreation Board – 1 Appointments (*Democrat affiliation*).**

Com. Regnitz, moved to reappoint Karl English, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

- **Plan Commission – 1 Appointment (*Democrat affiliation.*)**

Com. Regnitz, moved to reappoint Rick Burns, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

- **PTABOA – 2 Appointments.**

Com. Regnitz, moved to reappoint Nancy Kolasa, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

Com. Regnitz, moved to appoint Linda Zila to replace Tammy Bianco, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

- **Redevelopment Commission – 2 Appointments.**

Com. Regnitz, moved to reappoint Jason Gilliana and Bill Herring, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

- **Stormwater Advisory Committee – 2 Appointment (*Must reside in South District unincorporated Porter County*).**

Com. Regnitz, moved to reappoint Bill Laird and Scott Severson, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

- **West Porter Fire District - 3 Appointments (*No political affiliation necessary. Must be qualified by knowledge and experience in matters pertaining to fire protection and related activities in the district; and must be a resident of the West Porter Township Fire Dist.*) One will be to complete the term of Pat Dragash which ends Dec. 31, 2025. One will be to complete the term of Robert Greany which ends Dec.31, 2024.**

Com. Regnitz, moved to appoint Brad Zupan, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

Com. Regnitz, moved to appoint Rob Rabelhofer to replace Pat Dragash, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

Com. Regnitz, moved to appoint Joe Wiszowaty to replace Bob Greany, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners Appointed to the following Boards:

- Storm Water
- Community Corrections
- Juvenile Justice
- Redevelopment
- Child Protection
- Center for Workforce Innovations
- NIRPC
- Plan Commission
- EMA
- 911

Com. Regnitz, I asked Scott if we could do these all together. Moved to keep the board appointments as is with the following changes. I will be on the Redevelopment Board and Com. Blaney will take the Child Protection Board. Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

A Legal Service Agreement between the Porter County Board of Commissioners and Rhame, Elwood and McClure.

Com. Regnitz, moved to approve the Rhame, Elwood and McClure legal service contract, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

Receive and Open Bids – Porter County’s Bridge 56 (carrying CR 1050 S over Pleasant Twp. Ditch) Replacement Project.

BIDS

Milestone	\$ 937,944.73
Dunnet Bay	\$1,070,066.35
LaPorte Const.	\$1,003,365.00
Rieth Riley	\$ 893,672.00
Gariup Const.	\$1,051,500.00
Ellas Const.	\$ 884,165.46
Superior Const.	\$1,132,000.00

Mr. Novotney, What we will do now is review the bids for responsiveness. Double check the numbers. Confirm bidder responsibility and we will be back later on the agenda to hopefully award the contract.

Opioid Grant Process Discussion.

Com. Regnitz, We are going to hopefully pass a resolution to establish a committee or a board. What are we calling this Scott a board or a committee?

Atty. McClure, Committee.

Com. Regnitz, This is a grant process for the opioid settlement funds. Each person on the board will be on the board for one year. That board will be constituted of one Commissioner, two Porter County Council members and two citizen appointments. That group will be reviewed different grant applications and recommending awardees at both the Commissioners’ meeting and the Council meeting. Scott would you like to walk through the resolution real quick.

RESOLUTION 24 - _____
RESOLUTION OF THE PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS OPIOID GRANT RECOMMENDATION
COMMITTEE

Porter County has and shall continue to receive settlement funds from class action lawsuit settlements. The settlement funds will be paid through 2038. The use of the funds is governed by I.C. 4-16-4 et al, which provides the legal requirements for the use of the funds.

The Porter County Commissioners wish to create the Opioid Grant Committee comprised of two (2) members of the Porter County Council, one (1) member of the Board of Commissioners, and two (2) citizen appointments. The two (2) citizen board members shall be appointed by the Board of Commissioners. The Auditor shall also have an appointment as a nonvoting member. The term for each board member will be for one year.

The Committee shall create a grant application process for the available settlement funds, both restricted and unrestricted, in compliance with I.C. 4-16-4. The Committee shall then present the grant

application process to the County Council and Board of Commissioners for adoption. The Committee shall then administer the grant application process and make a non-binding recommendation of grant awards to the Porter County Board of Commissioners for approval and to the Porter County Council for appropriation.

Adopted this the _____ day of January, 2024.

/s/Jim Biggs
/s/Barb Regnitz
/s/Laura Blaney
/s/Attest: Karen Martin, Auditor

Com. Regnitz, The other thing I would like upon passing this is we will open up for applications to be on this committee. The deadline will be the Friday before our January 30th meeting and we will make those appointments at our next meeting on the 30th.

Com. Regnitz, moved to approve the Resolution of the Porter County Board of Commissioners Opioid Grant Recommendation Committee Resolution 24-01, Com. Blaney second, motion carried.

Organizational Solutions Development, Inc. – A proposed contract to perform a nationwide search for the next Development and Stormwater Management Engineer. - TABLED

Com. Regnitz, Are we doing this today Scott?

Atty. McClure, We can. We've already approved the contract for the search for the department head. This is for an engineer. It's up to the Commissioners but I think we can hold off for a meeting or two while we see how the search is going for the department head.

Com. Biggs, Is that the wishes of the Commissioners?

Com. Regnitz, Yes.

Baker Tilly – An Engagement Letter between Porter County Government Baker Tilly regarding the scope of services pertaining to revenue and disbursement analysis.

Com. Blaney, We got a contract from Jeremy.

Com. Biggs, I saw that email the as well and my feeling as Board President is that we've been asked by their Board President to do a comprehensive plan and that is very difficult to do without this information. If they don't choose to fund it that is their decision not this Board's. I'll entertain a motion to approve.

Com. Regnitz, Can we have a further discussion about this or do you want to vote on this today?

Com. Biggs, Whatever you and Com. Blaney would like to do. My feeling is we've been asked through an email by the President of the County Council to do a comprehensive plan for county government. This information is critical to that plan. Whatever you would like to do.

Com. Biggs, no motion.

Skillman Project Updates:

▪ **Memorial Opera House**

Project Update.

Mr. Rogers, Regarding the masonry project we have substantially completed the work including the roofing work that we were looking to complete on those two turrets on the south side of the building. We've also listed all of the punch list items on the jobsite and have completed the majority of the work. There is a few equipment that they have to demobilize off site. A little bit of cleanup but outside they will have that done by the end of month. Issue some deduct

change orders for a couple of allowances that were housed in the contract and bring some money back into the budget. Outside of that we are real happy with the work that Berglund Const. did on the job site. If there are any questions I can go ahead and answer them for you.

Com. Biggs, It sounds like we just beat the weather.

Mr. Rogers, Yes.

Com. Biggs, When do you project scheduling going inside the building?

Mr. Rogers, Inside the building will occur late into May of 2024. After the spring show is complete. Before that we have a bid opening for the first package of general trades, plumbing, mechanical and electrical. We still have to bid the finished package which we will have here in the next month or so. We will get started in May after we procure permits and submit all of the documentation, get materials on the job site as well.

Com. Biggs, Sounds like everything is just going as planned and pretty smoothly.

Mr. Rogers, Absolutely, one little step at a time. All the way until we have it complete.

Com. Biggs, Thank you.

Mr. Rogers, You are welcome.

Berglund Construction – Pay App. #2 regarding Bid Package #1 Brick Masonry Repair in the amount of \$177,231.68.

Com. Biggs, Do we need to approve that?

Atty. McClure, It has gone through process. Berglund puts in their pay app. then Skillman verifies it is done before it comes to us. Once it gets to us it goes on our agenda and we have Skillman in front of us saying that it has been reviewed.

Com. Biggs, So it is with your approval that it is in front of us?

Mr. Cherry, Yes.

Com. Regnitz, moved to approve Pay App. #2 from Berglund Construction regarding Bid Package #1 Brick Masonry Repair, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

Receive and Open Bids for the Memorial Opera House – Bid Package No. 2 General Trades, Plumbing, Mechanical and Electrical.

Mr. Rogers, The Auditor and Scott McClure will go ahead and read each bid package one at a time. Afterwards we will take them back to our offices. We will review the scope (Inaudible) and everything. Issue a bid tab and we will review with the Commissioners and the rest of (Inaudible) team later this week for an award later in this month on January 30th.

BIDS

Larson/Danielson (general)	\$1,207,860.00
LGS (plumbing)	\$ 149,000.00
Gariup	\$1,127,500.00
EMCOR Hyre (electrical)	\$ 461,138.00
Mechanical Concepts (plumbing)	\$1,127,000.00
Reichert Plumbing (plumbing)	\$ 193,000.00
H & T Electrical	\$ 610,929.00
Circle “R” (plumbing)	\$ 147,750.00
Circle “R” (mechanical)	\$1,406,000.00

Com. Biggs, You will take these back and review and make sure we are looking at apples to apples.

- **Highway Department**

Project Update.

Mr. Cherry, We are currently in the design development stage working towards the 50%

design. Targeting at the end of this month to have those documents (Inaudible) estimate where we are. In the meantime we had the soil borings complete and got the report which is good timing. We can take that information and incorporate that into the next estimate. Also the environmental assessment report we would expect this week. They were out there last week. Just putting everything together. Looking at mid-February for the next design development estimate which is a check point for us. The team is working well together.

Com. Biggs, That is what I'm hearing too. Looks like the Opera House is moving along as it should.

- **Jail**

Project Update.

Mr. Cherry, We received the schematic design documents from DLZ. We will continue to track and procure some of those critical items such as the security system upgrades, coordinating those. Their work with some of the design work that DLZ is doing and complete here at the end of the month. From there we can now develop a bidding strategy and a scope strategy that aligns with the financial calendar, the bond issues that you have. I think towards the end of this month. February will be a busy month for both projects starting to really zoom in on where these are going.

Com. Biggs, I think I mentioned in our lasting meeting that I've been impressed with how well you guys have managed three projects in a row. It is like three balls in the air at the same time. It doesn't happen all that often at the local government arena. I appreciate it and everything seems to be running well. Good job.

Mr. Cherry, So far so good.

AUDITOR, KAREN MARTIN

Jackson Township ARPA Agreement.

Pine Township ARPA Agreement.

Ms. Martin, Before you have to ARPA agreements these are some of the last that we have. They are from Jackson Township and Pine Township.

Com. Biggs, Your recommendation Ms. Auditor.

Ms. Martin, Is to go with them.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Jackson and Pine Township ARPA Agreements, Com. Regnitz, second, motion carried.

PURDUE EXTENSION – ANNETTE JONES, DIRECTOR

Contractual Services Agreement between Purdue University and Porter County Government.

Com. Regnitz, moved to approve the Contractual Services Agreement with Purdue University, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

FACILITIES – DANIEL SULLIVAN, DIRECTOR

Videotec – An agreement to provide and install (12) new Cat 6 Plenum data drops around 157 Franklin in the Voters Registration area in the amount of \$4,901.00.

Mr. Sullivan, This is basically data connections for computer, printers and whatever is needed as part of the Voter's Administration new office.

Com. Regnitz, moved to approve the Videotec Agreement to provide and install (12) new Cat 6 Plenum data drops around 157 Franklin in the Voters Registration area in the amount of \$4,901.00, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

Quotes for asbestos remediation for the Sheriff's Residence.

- **M&O Environmental**

- **Base Quote #1 - \$6,250.00 2 Days to Complete**
 - **Base Quote #2 - \$9,450.00 2 Days to Complete**
 - **Base Quote #3 - \$11,950.00 3 Days to Complete**
-
- **Safe Environmental**
 - **Base Quote #1 – \$9,350.00 3 Days to Complete**
 - **Base Quote #2 - \$15,325.00 5 Days to Complete**
 - **Base Quote #3 - \$20,387.00 5 Days to Complete**

Mr. Sullivan, I'm going to ask this gentleman to introduce himself.

Mr. Hiney, I my name is Zach Hiney with AMERCO.

Mr. Sullivan, Zach helped us to get various bids. Quotes for different levels for remediation of asbestos from the basement of the Sheriff's residence at 153 Franklin St. We are recommending that we go with Base Quote #3 the bid from M&O, which basically removes everything out of there. It remediates all of the asbestos as well lead based paint that was found down there in the basement.

Com. Biggs, You are saying you are recommending Base Quote #3, the lowest.

Mr. Sullivan, No it is the highest quote at \$11,950.00. The low bid of Base Quote #3 which was the most work but it turned out to be the best value for this.

Com. Regnitz, Can you just explain the difference between Base Quote #'s 1, 2 and 3?

Mr. Hiney, We broke the quotes into different categories to afford you the opportunity to choose what you wanted to do. Base Quote #1 was to do the bare minimum to make it safe down there. To even occupy the space because the asbestos is actually falling off of the walls. It was kind of just a clean project. Base Quote #2 was to do the cleanup project and remove from the perimeter walls because I think the objectives are to do some work down there. That would afford you the opportunity to do that. Then Base Quote #3 was just to get rid of it all so you don't have to worry about it in the future. We weren't sure where pricing was going to come in but definitely came in in your favor. This is some of the better pricing I've seen lately from asbestos contractors. We actually solicited quotes from four contractors but only two bid on the project. They are all qualified to do the project.

Mr. Sullivan, I should give a little history in future plans as well. This came up because we were remediating mold. We wanted to get rid of anything that could create mold down there including wood. We were going to remove the wood paneling which was moldy unfortunately we discovered this. Ultimately the plan is especially for those outside walls which has significant gaps in the stones right now that need tuck pointing. The tuck point for the sake of the preservation of that building, which is the ultimate goal for that building. By doing this complete remediation we are set up for whatever we are going to do with that in the future.

Com. Blaney, Can we still do the tuck pointing with the cheapest quote?

Mr. Sullivan, No we would still have to remove it.

Com. Biggs, What about sealing it. Taking it out of the building sealing it up.

Com. Blaney, That is what the cheapest one was.

Mr. Hiney, That was an element of quote 1 or 2. Whatever remains will be sealed in place. If you do Base Quote #1 it's there and you really can't do anything with the walls. If you do Base Quote #2 the outside walls can be worked on but the side walls would still have it present. For the \$2500.00 to just get rid of it all additionally you will never get that price to remove those two walls. I would say 40% of the price is just preparation with the plastic and the sealing. The little bit of extra to get rid of it so you never have to worry about asbestos seems like a very cost advantageous opportunity.

Com. Regnitz, Well I think the important thing is that we are going to need to do some tuck pointing at some point. I don't know when we will be able to do that but for us to be able to do that we have to be able to remove it, correct?

Mr. Hiney, Correct.

Com. Regnitz, moved to approve M&O Environmental for Base Quote #3 in the amount of \$11,950.00, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

AMERECO - Proposal to provide oversight and monitoring during the asbestos remediation at the Sheriff's Residence in the amount of \$950 a day.

Mr. Sullivan, The proposal you just awarded would be for a 3 day project. This would be 3 days at \$950.00 a day.

Com. Regnitz, Can I ask you Zach because that building is not occupied do we really need to be doing that monitoring while they are doing the work?

Mr. Hiney, There is no statutory requirement to do any in air sampling or have us do any oversight. The simplistic way to look at it is your insurance policy to say they did it correctly and the quality is acceptable in the building. The contractor is not required to do any air sampling outside of their normal OSCA sampling to protect their workers. This is to afford you data of any potential occupants or that it is safe. You'll also have to verify to a third party that the work is done.

Com. Biggs, How many days are you projecting that they need to be out there?

Mr. Hiney, Their schedule is 3 days. We would be out there 3 days. An alternative is to just to the last day of sampling and do a clearance once they are done. Walk through at the end and let you know that it's safe for you to be down there.

Com. Regnitz, Do we have a risk in you doing that just on the last day?

Mr. Hiney, It's just that you have no data for the other two days. As you said it is unoccupied. So I think the risk is very low. It is your decision.

Mr. Sullivan, That would include physical samples. You would be able to see that they got it all out as well on that third day.

Mr. Hiney, A license inspector would walk through the area to verify the work is done. We do aggressive air sampling which is not just sampling the air but we agitate it so we can pick up fibers that might be on the ground. You can't see asbestos.

Com. Biggs, My feeling is because it is asbestos we're talking something less than \$2000.00 difference one day to three days. My preference would be to have them out there all three days. If it appears that for whatever reason it may go longer we will have to adjust.

Mr. Hiney, The other thing that this includes by retaining us we would make sure that all of the proper paperwork is in place before the project begins. Coordinating a date. It is not just the physical three days.

Com. Biggs, Because it is a public building we lose some control of what is going in and out of there all of the time. It's not like a home. It is probably better than we're safe than sorry.

Com. Regnitz, moved to approve the Amereco proposal for asbestos oversight and monitoring at the Sheriff's Residence at \$950.00 per day, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

HIGHWAY DEPT. – JIM POLAREK, DIRECTOR

Award Bids for 2024 Supplies.

- **Signs and Post - All bids**
- **Road Markings and Stripping - Airmarking**
- **Calcium Chloride - Great Lakes Chloride**
- **Culverts - All bids**
- **Pre-engineered Bridges - American Timber Bridge**
- **Slag - Beemsterboer**
- **Diesel Fuel - Triple J-Mar**
- **Limestone - Whitcomb Trucking and Harry Brown**

Com. Regnitz, moved to approve the 2024 Supplies recommended by the Highway Superintendent, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

DEVELOPMENT & STORM WATER MNGMNT. – MIKE NOVOTNEY, INTERIM DIR.

Announcements – The Department will be seeking Sealed Bids for Porter County’s Bridge 1016 (carrying Midwest Steel Hwy. over US 12 & 2 RRs) Rehabilitation Project, Small Structure PI-001 (carrying Brummitt Rd. over Kemper Ditch, Arm 19) Replacement Project, and Small Structure LI-004 (carrying Meridian Rd. over Damon Run) Replacement Project.

Mr. Novotney, The Board is well aware we have over 20 bridge replacement and rehabilitation projects currently in various stages of the design and engineering process to prepare construction contracts for those projects. We are nearing completion on those design and engineering tasks on three of those projects. We are announcing this morning that we will soon be seeking sealed bids for our Bridge 1016 rehabilitation project that carries Midwest Steel Highway over U.S. 12 & 2 railroads including NICTD as well as our small structure PI-001 which is Pine Township. Small structure replacement which carried Brummitt Rd. over Kemper Ditch, Arm 19. And then our small structure LI-004 Liberty Township replacement project which carries Meridian Rd. over Damon Run. That is in the vicinity of the Timberland Developments if you are familiar with that stretch of Meridian Rd. All of these structures are in significant need of replacement or rehabilitation work so we are glad to announce that we are almost there and we will soon be seeking prices for that work.

A Request for Zoning Map Amendment – Petitioner: Boys & Girls Club of Greater Northwest Indiana – Request to re-zone two parcels near the intersection of Long Run Rd. & Greendale Dr., immediately adjacent to the existing South Haven Boys & Girls Club, from R2 (Medium Density, Single Family Residential) to IN (Institutional) – 2nd Reading.

Mr. Novotney, This zoning map amendment will allow them to expand their facilities and programs for the neighborhood. You did pass this ordinance upon 1st Reading at your last meeting December 12th. So this is the 2nd Reading.

Com. Regnitz, And we left something out on that. We said it was only for the Institutional purposes. Was that correct Scott?

Mr. Novotney, There were written commitments associated with the case.

Atty. McClure, The commitments were part of 1st Reading the Commissioners’ level. (Inaudible) part of this 2nd Reading if it passes.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Rezone on 2nd Reading, Com. Regnitz, second, motion carried.

Financial Commitment Letter – Commit \$1,500,000.00 of local funding match to support Porter County’s CCMG 2024-1 grant application for road improvements.

Mr. Novotney, You have seen over the years what a valuable grant program and a vehicle that has been for the county to complete road improvements across the county. They even increased that maximum funding level of \$1.5 million. There is 50% local match. In order to take full advantage of that available state money the commitment from the county would be \$1.5 million. At this point I’m sure there is mechanics to be figured out with the Council. I’ve let them know about the increase in the available funding and once again find funding to support the paving improvement this year, but at this point in order to get the grant application in by the end of the month the Commission needs to provide the commitment letter.

Com. Regnitz, Did you get a read from the Council on it?

Mr. Novotney, I think they have been and will continue to be full support of infrastructure improvements across the county.

Com. Regnitz, moved to approve the Financial Commitment Letter Commit \$1,500,000.00 of local funding match to support Porter County's CCMG 2024-1 grant application for road improvements, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

Mr. Novotney, I did just want to note on that I understand the Board of Commissioners have an Admin. meeting with the Highway Dept. later on this week. One of the topics of discussion at that I believe is what roads may get included in that application. That is still to be determined. The Highway Dept. Superintendent has been in touch with our Highway Engineer about selecting those roads. Soon to come and we will wrap that up by the end of the month to get that application in.

Construction Plans & Construction Services Contract – Approve plans for construction and award contract for Porter County's Bridge 56 (carrying CR 1050 S over Pleasant Twp. Ditch) Replacement Project to lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

Mr. Novotney, I am going to call up Chris D'Antonio and Martin Bobcek who have been working feverishly and diligently working in the back to review the bids we received earlier in this meeting. We will present the results of that analysis and be able to recommend a contract award for you this morning. On Bridge 56 replacement project which carries C.R. 1050 S over Pleasant Township Ditch. I'm sure Laura in particular will be happy about this one. It has been closed for almost two years. We will be able to open it up a little be later this year.

Mr. Bobcek, Hi Martin Bobcek Highway Engineer. The apparent low bidder was Ellas Construction for \$884,165.46. The three lowest bidders were reviewed. All bids were responsible and complete.

Com. Biggs, And your recommendation.

Mr. Bobcek, Our recommendation would be to award to Ellas Construction for their bid amount.

Mr. Novotney, At \$884,165.46.

Com. Regnitz, moved to approve Ellas Construction for the replacement of Bridge 56, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

Mr. Novotney, I did want to acknowledge the efforts that Chris and Martin have made. Not only on this Bridge 56 replacement project but those twenty other that I mentioned. They have been working very hard over the last several months keeping those projects on track. I think everything looks good. You will see a report from me a little bit later this week about sort of where we are at financially with the bridge program as I look at closing some things up before I finish up here at the county. Thank you.

HUB COALITION PORTER COUNTY – DAWN PELC, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2024 Community Grant Briefs – Pertaining to the ICJI Comprehensive Community Plan for Prevention Treatment/Intervention, Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement and Administration. Each category will receive \$42,500.00 with a total of \$170,000.00.

Ms. Pelc, HUB Coalition Porter County was originally the Substance Abuse Council. By the state we are designated to oversee any kind of substance use and mental health initiatives in the county. Right now we are ranked #1 out of the 92 counties as far as providing prevention, treatment, recovery and different trainings to law enforcement. Some of the programs we do like this year we are going to do girls on the run. That is a new one. It is prevention youth mentoring. Everything thing that we do and the money that we get from the county measure fees they are all evidence based programs and strategies. I don't know if you would like to hear something more specifically some of the things we are going to be doing or if we have enough time. One thing about this fund is we do get grants from SAMSA and the CDC. Most of that

money is for adolescents 11 through 17. The county measure fees gives us more flexibility to address things like with the elderly, the vet population and different special populations like rural. We take advantage of that and do different trainings and do different programs and strategies like for the younger, elementary. Because prevention is really most effective in the elementary aged group which we really don't get funding like federal or state funding for that. We try to use that to our advantage with these counter measure funds that are provided to us.

Com. Biggs, Thank you. What do you need from us today?

Ms. Pelc, I come to you today to ask for \$170,000.00 in order to implement these programs. We ourselves do not implement the programs. We are like the middle man. We get the grants and then we review them. We have a review team. Then we provide the money to the agencies to perform these different strategies and programs.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the 2024 Community Grant Briefs, Com. Regnitz, second, motion carried.

COM. BLANEY'S COMMENT

Com. Blaney, I have something to say. Tomorrow is the first day of filing for the 2024 Elections and I'm usually the first one in the door to file. I love this job, I love Porter County and I love its people. We've had fabulous department heads and employees over the years. I'm so grateful to have been on a team with them. I've sat at this dais with my children as babies in carriers at my feet when my babysitters fell through. And now my youngest I sat at home nervous because she was driving through the snow today and she is getting college letters in the mail. I have been part of some truly exemplary teams. I've made lifelong friends from both sides of the aisle. We've ushered in a foundation. A new Animal Shelter. A new Stormwater Dept. A new H.R. Dept. We've managed growth and made some major infrastructure and capital improvements while enjoying the lowest income tax rate in the state. The advice I received as I was deciding from one of the people I respect most in government was to ask myself if I could still make a difference here. And if not where? Well where is to be determined but it is time. Today is my last first meeting of the year and I will not be running for reelection. I have appreciated all of the support I have received over the years. This was a really tough and painful decision, but I do look forward to this last year and working with all of you for one more year. I hope to make it a good one. Thank you.

Com. Biggs, I look forward to working with you. I know that we are opposing parties. We haven't always seen eye to eye over the years that we've worked up here. I've always respected you. You've never lied to me at least that I'm aware of. I haven't always agreed with you. You haven't always agreed with me, but I know that you had the county's best interest at heart. Your skill sets are going to be difficult to replace. I appreciate it.

Mr. Monhaut, I'm Jake Monhaut with Portage Recovery Association. Last year I was here and we were awarded \$10,000.00 to open up our café. I wanted to give it a couple of months and come back with an update. I think things are going really well. It's a new concept. We have programming every single day. We're opened seven days a week. We're on a total voluntary basis so far. We've had events where we've had Women's nights there on Wednesday. Men's night is on Monday's. We've had movie nights, poetry night, book club, all sorts of cool stuff going on. Everything is going great and hopefully we can continue this relationship in the future.

Com. Blaney, Good for you.

Com. Biggs, That is refreshing because not everyone we have given money to has come back and given us an update.

Mr. Monhaut, We are grateful.

Com. Regnitz, Jake I just want you to know I think you are doing such an amazing job in Portage. There really aren't a lot of services in Portage. For you and a number of tremendous volunteers to step up and provide support for the recovery community it is truly amazing.

Mr. Monhaut, The best is yet to come. I really want to have a 24 hour facility in the next few years. I think it is really pertinent in this county. Just somewhere safe to go. Thank you.

Com. Regnitz, Did you hear the thing about the citizen appointment?

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

Jim Biggs

Barb Regnitz

Laura Blaney

Attest: _____
Karen Martin, Auditor