

**PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>, 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, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Approval of Payroll – January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.**

**Approval of Claims – January 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021.**

**Approval of Minutes for January 12, 2021.**

**Weights and Measures Monthly Report for December 16<sup>th</sup> to January 15, 2021 - Filed.**

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

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Citizen Appointments to the following Boards:**

- **Alcohol Beverage Board – 1 Appointment (*No political affiliation necessary.*)**

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

Com. Good, Jason has been on the board for the last 3 years and we had no other applications.

Com. Blaney, I would just like to thank all of these people who are willing to serve on these boards. It takes a lot of their time, they do a good job and they don't get anything in return.

- **Board of Health – 2 Appointments - 1 Democrat and 1 Republican**

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the reappointment of Dr. Patrick Fleming and Kathryn Lemmon, Com. Biggs, second.

- **Convention, Recreation & Visitors Commission – 3 Appointments (*No political affiliation necessary.*)**

Com. Blaney, moved to approve Cathy Brown Brown, Matt Soliday and Lisa Wodrich, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

- **Plan Commission – 1 Appointment (*No political affiliation necessary.*)**

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the reappoint of Dr. Brian Damitz, Com. Biggs, second.

motion carried.

Com. Blaney, He is doing a great job and he is also the Plan Commission's BZA appointment.

- **PTBOA – 2 Appointments (*No political affiliation necessary.*)**

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the reappointment of Nancy Kolosa and Tami Bianco, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

- **Redevelopment Commission – 2 Appointments (*No political affiliation necessary.*)**

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the reappointment of Jason Gilliana and Stephen Sularski, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Blaney, They are doing a fantastic job.

- **Stormwater Advisory Board – 2 Appointments (*No political affiliation necessary.*)**

Com. Blaney, moved to approve Paul Nelson and Todd Elliott, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

- **West Porter Fire – 1 Appointment (*No political affiliation necessary.*)**

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the reappointment of Jack Weber, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Com. Good, Because of the way some of the departments are laid out in the Admin. Center and at the Courthouse we had a skeleton crew for our staff which took place during COVID because of the proximity of the offices and the way things were set up. After the last several weeks I believe everyone is seeing the numbers are starting to recede in the County. I think were at the Orange level right now and getting close to Yellow. We feel at this time we are going to lift those restrictions in County Government. Next Monday we are requiring all of those employees that had been on skeleton crews back to work.

Com. Blaney, We only had 17 new cases today in the County. It is down compared to what we have been dealing with from the past few months.

Com. Good, We would like to start bringing all of our employees back. We will monitor it very closely. One of the reasons we decided this if you notice when you enter the building there is a thermal camera. So as people are entering the building their temperatures are automatically being taken. The Building Facilities Dept. has done a lot of things regarding safety protocols. The masks will still be required. We have to let the vaccines roll out over the next several months. It is time to get our employees back and get back to business.

Com. Blaney, If we see some spikes we will act accordingly.

Com. Biggs, Hopefully by the time the weather breaks and it gets warm we will be done with these masks. We've done what we needed to do internally. It has been a real trial especially for the people who work here, but also the people in the positions who have to manage this. Hopefully by the time the weather breaks in the spring we will be done with 99% of it.

Com. Blaney, The Health Dept. is doing a fantastic job getting the vaccines out. If you get the opportunity to schedule your vaccine go for it. You should have a pretty good experience. It is in and out. It's pretty quick.

Atty. McClure, The only thing I would like to point out to be clear when we say skeleton crew and we bring our people back every department is a little bit different. Everyone has been working. They have either been working from home remotely or they have been working from here. They have been going back and forth in each individual department so if we did have an outbreak it didn't take the whole office down. Just for clarity's sake and the paper's sake everyone has been working. What we are saying we are going to take those additional issues away and bring everyone back to the building and get back to business as normal. All of the other restrictions as far as masks in the hallways, masks in offices and the things that we

previously put out are still there. We're taking the rotational skeleton crew issue off due to the significant reduction of cases that we have right now.

Com. Blaney, It is just more efficient when everyone can work together in the same building.

Com. Good, A couple of shout outs to the Building Facilities Dept. Since they had this thrown at them they have been dealing with this for quite some time. I know Vicki's office, Curt has been doing a lot of the communicating and writing. The information you see in the paper and social media. For us to handle this all of the departments were affected. I just wanted to thank them for hanging in there. We didn't have a lot of complaints. Originally we were always trying to make sure that this County did not shut down so we could keep commerce and other things going in this community, because that is what pays the bills. I'm feeling very good about how we came out in this. There are always areas that people can question and argue about. I'm not a doctor. I do real estate. When my doctor tells me to do something I do it. That is how we have sort of approached this.

Com. Blaney, We know we're not out of the woods. We're just in a good place.

Com. Good, Yes, we have to start getting the mind set of coming back to work.

Com. Biggs, For the public to be aware we've taken lumps here just like other businesses have and their households have. We've had dozens of cases that we've had to deal with and we never missed a beat up here. I think we're all pretty stunned that we haven't. These masks, taking your temperature and the rotating of personnel in and out of the building wasn't done as a precautionary it was done out of necessity. Hopefully we're through the worst of it.

Com. Good, Keep wearing the masks and let's slowly start to move back to normal. I would also like to thank the IT Dept. who set up the ability of remotely working from home. They took care of any cyber security issues. Eric and his team found a solution and the solution has worked very well to be able to do that and also protect all of our data within the County. We are also insured for cyber security. Also people at the venues were able to work in other departments. We have been moving people around. People have been doing things that they haven't done before. These were important people to our venues and we wanted to keep them so when we are ready to go we have the same staff.

Com. Blaney, I would like to add that we asked so many of our employees to do different things and step out of their comfort zone and take on extra responsibilities and we didn't get any complaints. I think the public should really feel good knowing that these are the people that they are spending their tax dollars on. The people are just fantastic.

## **COMMISSIONERS**

### **A Resolution Establishing the Intent to Conduct a Commissioners' Sale to Sell Tax Certificates for Properties that are Severely Delinquent in Payment of Property Taxes.**

Atty. McClure, This is the second step. We had the tax sale in December and this is the follow up to the tax sale. We have been doing these certificate sales once a year. This would be the resolution establishing that. Attached to the resolution is a spreadsheet showing all of the parcels that would be subject to the certificate sale. If the Commissioners are looking to approve this resolution we have previously sent a matrix on how much the opening bid was that was connected to how many times it had previously been bid on at the property tax sale. It is either \$50 or \$75 and if memory serves me if it had been on just one tax sale then the opening bid was \$75. If it had been on two or more it was a \$50 opening bid. I would just ask for that to be part of the motion. I have reviewed the resolution in working with the Auditor's office. I find it in good form and recommend approval.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the Resolution with the opening bid starting at \$75 for parcels being on the tax sale once and \$50 if they were on two or more, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, Can we change the \$50 or \$75 or is that mandated by the State?

Atty. McClure, No we can change it.

Com. Good, It just seems awful cheap.

Atty. McClure, These are the parcels that don't sell at tax sale for a reason. We're just trying to clean them up.

Com. Good, Okay.

**A Contract Agreement between Dannielle Herald and Porter County Government for Grant Writing Services.**

Com. Blaney, Can I quickly point out that we have been working with Kate Sanders for a few years. She has decided to further her education so she will not be renewing her contract with us. Dannielle came recommended by Kate. In 2020 with Kate's help we were awarded \$498,366.59 towards various grants. It is a very worthwhile endeavor to have grant money (Inaudible). We're looking forward to have Dannielle joining us.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Grant Writing Services Contract, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, I believe these contracts are just hourly. So we're only getting billed for the time they are putting in.

**GIS, Eric Gibson - Health Insurance Stop Loss Insurance Renewal with UMR/HCC.**

Mr. Gibson, Thank you for the opportunity. Over the last several months I think we've done a lot of (Inaudible) work behind the scenes, strategic planning and what not. As you know this is the time of the year when we get together (Inaudible). On the Executive Summary that you have in front of you you have the UMR/HCC illustrations for all of those options. On the left column it is going to be your current plan. Initial renewal offer there, obviously there was some negotiation back and forth on the actual terms but this is the format on the renewal. Then another alternate with HCC and UMR. The real question here today is whether or not to buy more insurance or take on more claim and liability. Obviously the past year has been a little strange from a claims perspective without going into too much detail on that. The question here is do we move spec from \$150 to \$175 and change the aggregating spec or just take that initial renewal offer? So if you go from fix costs only that is your UMR admit plus your Stop Loss. You are currently at \$1.14 million. If you go to that initial renewal it's about \$108,000.00 more. So again you are going to be purchasing more insurance with that one. Taking on less claims liability over the course of the year. Or you can go to the Alternate I. With the spec of \$175 and the aggregating spec of \$108k you are actually going to be spending about \$40,000.00 less in the Stop Loss Policy itself. Again, taking on more claims and liability. Currently your planning is actually running about \$100,000.00 over expected. That being said if you net out the prescription drug rebates that we built into last year you are actually under expected by \$200k.

Com. Blaney, That is pretty good in a COVID year.

Atty. McClure, About how much under?

Mr. Gibson, About \$200,000.00.

Com. Good, Eric we're working on our list. We have our list of goals and objectives so we're....

Mr. Gibson, There are a lot of things in the background. There is still some meat left on that bone. We found some good meat, we're just sure if a COVID year is the time to make the (Inaudible).

Com. Good, Exactly, so we're playing it a little safe this year because of COVID and I think that is probably wise.

Atty. McClure, Then in the next meeting or two we are going to be dealing with the renewal of the UMR and the rest of this. This is just the first part of this and we're also doing this because we have a firm quote that is good until Friday until the Additional Claims Data comes out.

Mr. Gibson, Correct. We did go to market. Given the HCC quote a lot of folks were declining just because they didn't feel like they were going to be competitive. It's a good sign that this was a fair offer.

Atty. McClure, That is why we're doing this out of sequence, not much. It basically has to do with that none of us have exceedingly high hopes for data that will be coming in Friday. Not that we necessarily think it's going to be terrible but enough to move the meter a significant amount, probably not.

Com. Good, This locks us in though?

Atty. McClure, Yes. So I think the discussion comes down to whether or not we take the terms or the alternative one. Both are with UMR. Both are with HCC. To put this into the record part of this has to do with that whenever you're self-insured and you have your Stop Loss Insurance as your back-up and right now at \$150,000.00 per person that is insured if an individual hits a certain benchmark or has certain issues the Stop Loss Insurance uses a fancy term called Lazoring that basically changes or modifies the Stop Loss Insurance for that particular person that is insured that is included within these quotes. There is a known amount that an individual who are under the Lazor for the Stop Loss. I guess in a way that is good and in a way that is bad. In the way that it's good for this equation is to some extent that the known individuals that would potentially be hitting the Stop Loss or have been identified by the matrix and the data themselves. When we're making the decision to potentially take on additional liability with the specific deductible going up \$25,000.00 to some extent we're doing it with knowing the significant known events are already being taken care of irrespective of this decision. To some extent we are taking on additional liability, however we would need to be getting to 5, 6 or 7 people getting all of the way to the Stop Loss beyond the individuals already Lazored before we would be even. Then we would have to have more after that before we would actually start potentially seeing additional costs to the plan. Given that matrix and given that difference here between going up about...we're currently at \$800,978.00. To remain on the exact same terms the renewal would be \$933,658.00. Alternative I which would be still at the same insurance and the terms would remain the same except for the specific deductible would go from \$150,000.00 on the Stop Loss to \$175,000.00 on the Stop Loss. That quote brings us down to \$786,564.00. So that \$150,000.00 is basically if we paid the extra to remain exactly the same as opposed to the \$13,000.00 / \$14,000.00 we would save by changing that deductible. Basically that \$150,000.00 would take roughly 6 additional people that aren't already Lazored to get back there. I think that frames the argument for everyone.

Com. Blaney, Knowing all of that I don't see how we don't choose Alternate I.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve Alternate I for the Stop Loss, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Biggs, My concern is taking on additional claims and liability during the pandemic, but I can also understand or appreciate the other choices here.

Mr. Gibson, It's a tough question because no one has a crystal ball.

Com. Good, I think where I'm coming from we did such a good job in managing our employees this year that I don't feel as risky. I think we all probably have our own reasons why, but I learned in insurance a long time ago if you can take a little back you take it back. It's a probability game in a lot of ways anyway. I think we're trending right. I think knowing that we're playing it a little safe this year already. Next year if we have some more meat on the bone I don't feel so bad about Alternate I. I definitely hear what you're saying Jim.

Com. Blaney, And this is not going to affect our employees, the employees will not notice this change.

Mr. Gibson, No this is not planned design changes. This is all behind the scenes Stop Loss Insurance.

Com. Blaney, This will not cost them.

Com. Biggs, And the other thing if you and Jeff are fine with it then I'm fine with it. So I support my second.

Com. Good, Thank you Eric will continue our trend down and keep plugging away.

#### **JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER – ALLISON COX, DIRECTOR**

#### **An Agreement between the Porter County Board of Commissioners and the Board of Newton County, Indiana for the housing of children.**

Mr. Steen, Allison has asked that I be here for her. This is the contract with Newton County for 2021.

Com. Blaney, Are there any changes?

Mr. Steen, No there are no changes. The per diem stays the same. It is for 100 bed days.

Com. Biggs, What is the per diem rate?

Mr. Steen, \$140 per day.

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

Com. Biggs, Quick question. Over the last 3 years what were the number of beds that we've been? Have they gone up, have they down?

Mr. Steen, Jim it is pretty much stayed the same, stayed consistent. It has been a good deal for us. A good deal for other counties. So it is typically no changes.

Com. Biggs, You know other counties paid for that building.

Mr. Steen, Yes sir.

Com. Biggs, Not a bad deal.

Mr. Steen, Not a bad deal.

Com. Blaney, Thank you.

#### **PURDUE EXTENSION – ANNETTA JONES, DIRECTOR**

**An Extension Contractual Services Agreement between Purdue University and Porter County Government.**

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

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

Com. Good, That department has had a pretty busy last couple of weeks.

**Receive and Open Sealed Bids for Bridge 73, 50 West over Cobb Ditch.**

Com. Good, Bob where is this geography wise?

Mr. Thompson, 50 West is between 600 South and S.R. 8. It is one of our few gravel roads that we have left. It was the bridge that was washed out in the storm events so we do have to FEMA money on this to reimburse us once we complete the project.

Com. Good, So this replacing a bridge that was taken out by the flooding several years ago.

Mr. Thompson, Correct. We've had this road and bridge closed for almost a couple of years.

Com. Blaney, It has been rough on some of the farmers.

Com. Biggs, What is the span of that bridge?

Mr. Thompson, It was a single span, but we are now going to a 3 span. The main reason a lot of our bridges are having to go to that are for the purposes of clearing the 100 year flood event.

Com. Biggs, It will be much different than what is out there currently.

Mr. Thompson, Correct.

Com. Good, I think one of the things with the bridge program that we've implemented several years ago as we're redoing these bridges we're going in and assessing them. We're not just looking at them as how they service today. We're looking at how they are going to service as roads in the future. We have been buying additional right-of-way. We've been trying to get rid of guardrails and trying to do more grading. Elevations raised up. We're not just rebuilding bridges. We're taking ground...we worked with the Town of Porter regarding the sewer and easement along with a trail up there. Again, up here we're trying to do things that are purposeful moving forward so we don't leave the next Commissioners with something at some point in time is not doable. We're trying to take some of this ground back and make these bridges better as we rebuild them and rehab them. Just a little pitch for the bridge crew.

## **BIDS**

**Dunnet Bay Construction Co.**, 115 North Brandon Dr., Glendale Heights, IL - \$1,007,158.74

**Garriup Construction**, Gary, IN - \$837,500.00

**JCI Bridge Group**, LaPorte, IN - \$810,890.44

**Reith Riley Construction**, Gary, IN - \$840,826.96

**Larson Danielson**, LaPorte, IN - \$838,077.64

**LaPorte Construction**, LaPorte, IN - \$777,425.62

Com. Good, It is good to see we got a lot of good participation there.

Mr. Thompson, We will be back at the next meeting to award.

## **An Amendment to the Dunes Kankakee Trail Fund Ordinance No. 11-11 – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.**

Mr. Thompson, The Kankakee Trail was created in 2011 and it was for the purpose of receiving federal funding for the project that we had back then it was S.R. 49 and U.S. 20 interchange project where we bridged over with the trail for the Dunes Kankakee. Basically it goes over to the Visitor's Center and gets us over through the intersection and connects us to the National Parks. This trail fund has been sitting there and has about \$90,000.00, which was from the reimbursement of our Dunes Kankakee Trail Project. It has been sitting there for almost 10 years so I was hoping to repurposes this so we can keep working on the Dunes Kankakee Trail, but also more importantly the Calumet Trail, which this connects into. Then we can keep the funding going for these 2 trails and use this \$90,000.00 for these trails. They are both very important trails.

Atty. McClure, So ultimately if the Commissioners were to pass this the funds that were deposited here would be only used for the purpose related to trail construction, reconstruction and maintenance. So it would only be for trails. Those are our main trail hubs. That is what we would be utilizing it for.

Com. Good, Who controls this money? Is it at NIRPC or with us?

Mr. Thompson, No this is with us. If we go forward and use this I am going to have to go forward in front of the County Council to re-appropriate this money into the line item that we use.

Com. Good, And you're thinking that this could probably go towards the Calumet Trail?

Mr. Thompson, Possibly, that is one of the intents we are looking at too.

Com. Biggs, How much money does that fund holding?

Mr. Thompson, Currently it is roughly \$90,000.00. We spent a few hundred dollars last year to maintain and fix bollards around the trail at the interchange.

Com. Biggs, I'm just curious where do those funds derive from which that fund holds?

Mr. Thompson, That came from a reimbursement grant. The project I mentioned getting through that interchange was through NIRPC a congressional appropriation through Congressman Visclosky's office. It was a reimbursement. We spent all of the money to get it done, the engineering and the construction and then they reimbursed us.

Com. Biggs, We can apply for additional grants or whatever for this fund as well to keep....

Mr. Thompson, Sure that would be the whole intent. We have had \$200,000.00 coming up of federal funding for the Calumet Trail and that will be reimbursement as well. It would be great to direct that funding back into the reimbursement to keep it moving.

Com. Good, Within the next several months we will probably be having a presentation about the Calumet Trail. What we have been working on and what has been happening. We have been collaborating with the National Park Service. We think we have some pretty exciting things coming out of this. There are some federal funds sitting there waiting for this trail to be done or parts of it. We are working on all of that as well. We are going to try to have something in a format that we can give a presentation to show people what we are up to and where we are

trying to go. At that point when we roll that out we will try to have the National Park people here and to show the community that we're working together to try and make something happen. The National Park is now coming into more funds and then with NICTD taking care of the bridge at 49 and widening that that cost now goes to the NICTD project. The clouds are starting to open and projects like this always come down to timing. I think with what is going on with NICTD and the work on the rail this is just a perfect time to roll this project out. We're excited to show people what we're thinking and where we're going. I know this will enhance the north park, the North Lake Shore Communities and the north part of the County. Everyone can use that as well too.

Com. Biggs, There has been a sense by quite a few residence that we've kind of forgotten about the Cal Trail but there is nothing further from the truth.

Mr. Thompson, We'll keep our fingers crossed there could be construction going in there in a year.

Com. Good, The double tracks are going to be starting in the summer or fall of this year.

Com. Biggs, To say it's an understatement that it is going to be better and much more improved by the time we're finished.

Com. Good, If you remember the original trail was on an easement that NIPSCO had which a very high tension electric wires on a national grid. Then you also had a high pressure gas line below the trail. It was getting to the point where we thought this wasn't as much of a trail as a high end utility easement. Do we really want to have the community in and out there around this stuff. About that time we were questioning all of these decisions and that is when the National Park got their designation so they got a little pep in their step. Then we were all talking and collaborating and the ideas were coming out. It will take a little longer to get there, but it will not be on an easement and hopefully we will be doing some other thing as well. Timing is everything. I think with NICTD picking up a lot of the infrastructure costs on some things I think that it sets the deck for us to do something. If we can use some existing trails and roads and other things it will reduce the cost and get it done quicker. Plus the more of the park gets to be enjoyed rather than just a segment of it.

Com. Biggs, It will be a much more interesting walk or ride than it was.

Com. Good, Com. Biggs and I sat on the NICTD Board and the numbers of bikes on trains has been huge coming out of Chicago. It is double digit growth every year. The City of Chicago is looking for places to come out here. The trail would connect with Michigan City. There are about 10 to 11 miles of things that you can do.

Com. Blaney, It also takes you to New Buffalo.

## **PUBLIC HEARING OPENED**

Com. Good, Is there 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? Is there anyone wishing to speak against this ordinance? Second call anyone wishing to speak against this ordinance? Third and final call anyone wishing to speak against this ordinance?

## **PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED**

Com. Blaney, moved to approved the Amendment for the Dunes Kankakee Trail on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

## **United Consulting – An Annual On-call Engineering Services Supplemental Agreement.**

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

## **Wetlands Banking Group of Indiana – An Agreement to purchase credits for the 100 South Project.**

Mr. Thompson, We are required to mitigate some wetland impacts we have with the 100 South Project. Instead of us going out and actually creating a wetland we are going and purchasing credits. This particular one is the Plains, I can't think of the name it's just down in Newton County south of the Kankakee River. The prairie down there that they just reestablished. We're actually going to go down there and purchase credits from them for \$19,000.00. This is just one place that we're going to have to buy credits for 100 South. We do have another one that we are going to have to come forward with later.



Com. Good, Is that where the road....

Mr. Thompson, Correct, I think it is 750. That area is where those impacts are at.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the Wetland Banking Group Credits, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

**INDOT – An Agreement for the 2020-2 CCMG Program. We will also be seeking sealed bids for the paving work within the agreement as one bid packet for the following:**

- **Meridian Rd. – from 900 N to 1050 N**
- **550 South – from Sloan St. to 250 W**
- **Smoke Rd. – from SR 2 to Division Rd.**
- **Baums Bridge Rd. – from SR 8 to 900 S**
- **700 North – from 400 W to 500 W**
- **Tower Rd. (250 West) – from SR 130 to 500 N**

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

Mr. Thompson, I have one favored to ask of the Commissioners on this one. As always with INDOT we're on the clock now. I have to get this agreement back to them fairly quick. The sooner you can sign this the better.

**Lochmueller Group – An Annual On-call Service Agreement to provide Professional Engineering, Surveying, Planning and/or Environmental Services.**

Mr. Thompson, This is to help out Highway Engineering with roads and bridges.

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

**American StructurePoint – A Local Funded Engineering Agreement for Porter County Bridge Replacement #1007, Central Ave. over Willowcreek.**

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

Atty. McClure, This is down by the cemetery. On the strange curve going towards going towards Lake Station.

Mr. Thompson, Correct, its west of Willowcreek Rd.

Com. Good, Chris can you come up and the Commissioners information regarding your discussion with the City of Portage. The Commissioners need to know that there is dialog going on there.

Mr. Murphy, This bridge, Central Ave. over Willowcreek Rd. is located right in the middle of a road improvement project that is funded through NIRPC. The City of Portage is sponsoring through that area generally Phase I from Swanson Rd. over to Peach St. and the bridge sits right in the middle there. The agreement for engineering services with the City of Portage was approved with the Redevelopment Commission last week to start that off and this agreement here today will provide for a replacement bridge. The current bridge Central Ave. over Willowcreek Rd. is very close with regards to its condition rating of requiring some improvement work. This is an opportunity for the County to fit within road reconstruction project if you improve the bridge as part of the road reconstruction project. The intent is to include the bridge replacement construction plans with the road reconstruction plans so the bridge can take advantage of (Inaudible) traffic and other costs that are being funded through the road reconstruction project. So the County's responsibility on the bridge replacement is essentially from end of the (Inaudible) to end of the (Inaudible). Now because the bridge will be constructed just to the end of the north of the existing bridge so we can utilize the existing bridge before we build a new one. There will be some right-of-way acquisition and we worked that out with the City of Portage sharing agreement of the bridge core (Inaudible) right-of-way (Inaudible).

Com. Biggs, So you're saying it will be constructed just north of the existing....so it will be a little jog when we're done?

Mr. Murphy, There is a realignment of Central Ave. on either side of Willowcreek. It kind of helps realign the Swanson Rd. intersection and then also the Willowdale Rd. intersection. Both of those are kind of in the middle of the curve right now. There is road realignment there but it takes the bridge just to the north of the existing bridge if you recall. Just to the south of the existing bridge is the cemetery. We really couldn't go in any other direction. Other than (Inaudible).

Com. Biggs, Any idea how old that existing bridge is?

Mr. Murphy, I do not know.

Mr. Thompson, I could find out. I just do not have it on me.

Com. Good, I bet its 60 years old.

Mr. Murphy, I think at least.

Mr. Thompson, Yes easily.

Mr. Murphy, The current bridge has a sidewalk on it and the new road reconstruction will bring a sidewalk of the intersecting road connecting to the bridge. There will be multi-use passing on the new bridge as well as the road reconstruction.

Com. Biggs, Sounds like a nice project.

Com. Good, Do we have an estimate of construction yet?

Mr. Thompson, Not yet. (Inaudible) I'm probably going to tell you \$1.2 to \$1.4.

Com. Good, What was the current rating on this bridge?

Mr. Thompson, Its efficiency rating was right at 60 and two of the categories that we look at are at a 5. Just so you know if you it goes below 60 and one of those categories such as deck or substructure goes to a 4 we have to inspect it annually.

Com. Good, Okay so we're there.

Mr. Thompson, We're there.

Com. Good, That is all I wanted to hear.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the American StructurePoint Engineering Agreement, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

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

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

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

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