

**PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MARCH 15TH, 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, March 15th, 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, March 15th, 2022.

Call to Order/Pledge

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Payroll – March 4th, 2022.

Approval of Claims – February 24th and March 10th, 2022.

Approval of Minutes for February 16th, 2022.

Treasurers Monthly Report – February 28th, 2022 – Filed.

Weights and Measures Monthly Report – January 16th to February 15th, 2022.

MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE – SCOT MACDONALD, DIRECTOR

ARTISTIC SERVICES AGREEMENT

VENUE RENTAL AGREEMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW BUSINESS

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

COMMISSIONERS

Accepting Citizen Applications for the Plan Commission Board – Must be of Democrat affiliation with a deadline of March 31st. The appointee will complete the term of Michael Mirochna which ends December 31st, 2022.

Accepting Citizen Applications for the Airport Authority Board - Must be of Democrat affiliation with a deadline of March 31st. The appointee will complete the term of Bob Poparad which ends June 30th, 2024.

Appointment of Citizens to the Sub-Committees pertaining to the ARP Funds.

Com. Good, We have been advertising and promoting people to come forward to sign up for the public outreach and the citizen's appointments to the ARP funds discussion. The Commissioners will fill their one appointment for each committee this morning. I will go first. My committee is Infrastructure. I would like to nominate James Hazzard, who is an appointee from Portage.

Com. Good, moved to approve the appointment of James Hazzard to the Infrastructure and Drainage Sub-Committee, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Blaney, For the COVID Health Response Committee I nominate Patrice Mullen.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the appointment of Patrice Mullen to the COVID Health Response Sub-Committee, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the appointment of Robyn Lane to the Non-Profits Sub-Committee, Com. Good, second, motion carried.

Com. Biggs, If no one will protest I would also like to put her on the Behavioral and Mental Health Sub-Committee as well if the Board doesn't have a problem with that.

Com. Blaney, Well we did have a lot of applications. Are you sure?

Com. Biggs, No I'm not sure. I'm fine. Whatever the Board would like to do. We can just simply select a name from the rest of the applications, but considering her background I just thought she would be a good fit on that board as well. It makes no difference to me. If we want to take a name from the list of names we can do that as well.

Com. Good, I think just for the mere fact that a lot of the discussion over the last 2 months that we're trying to get more people from the public involved having 2 the same person on 2 different committees that is sort of defeats what everyone has been waving the flag about. Jim it's your committee why don't you come up with another name. We're all putting the names forward for our committees.

Com. Blaney, I don't want to be the one to nominate to work on your committee.

Com. Biggs, It's not my committee. It's this Board's committee. If you recommend a name then I will be fine with it.

Com. Blaney, Alright, let me look.

Com. Good, We will just come back to it.

Atty. McClure, The Westchester Public Library needs to have an appointment to their Board of Trustees. They have requested the reappointment of Ms. Rondi Whiteman. That was their recommendation to this Board. That was the Westchester Public Library's recommendation to Board of Commissioners for appointment to the Westchester Public Library Board of Trustees.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the Appointment of Rondi Whiteman to the Westchester Public Library Board of Trustees, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

A Cooperative Funding and Development Agreement between the Porter County Convention, Recreation & Visitor's Commission and the Porter County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the promotion and development of each of the following:

- Porter County Memorial Opera House
- Porter County Expo Center
- Porter County Museum Foundation

Com. Good, We do this every year.

Ms. Weimer, Our attorneys work together on this.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the Cooperative Funding and Development Agreements, Com. Good, second, motion carried.

A Resolution of the Porter County Board of Commissioner Canceling Property Taxes Assessed Against Real Property Owned by a Political Subdivision Pursuant to Indiana Code 6-1.1-36-7.

Com. Good, Is that a 2nd Reading? Didn't we do....?

Atty. McClure, What happens is in a city, this is the City of Portage, when they purchase property through the Redevelopment Commission or otherwise the year in which they purchase it the property taxes aren't changed until the beginning of the following year. There used to be a different process for these to be appealed and the last couple of years the state statute has been

modified to allow the Commissioners to do this. This is property that the City of Portage owns and I believe purchased over the last year with the Redevelopment Commission.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the Resolution of the Porter County Board of Commissioner Canceling Property Taxes Assessed against Real Property Owned by a Political Subdivision, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

A proposed raise from \$15.50 an hour to \$20.00 an hour for Joe Dziubczynski (Admin Security).

Com. Good, Joe is here at night and other off hours when the building is opened. Joe is a great guy.

Com. Blaney, Mr. Reliable.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Pay Increase for Joe Dziubczynski, Admin. Security, Com Biggs, second, motion carried.

A Request by Tim Stoner to continue leasing approximately 10 acres of County land for farming on S.R. 2 in 2022. Mr. Stoner will give the County \$1400.00 for the use.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Continuation of Mr. Stoner Leasing County Land, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

GIS – Approval of the following:

- **A Plan Letter with UMR regarding the 2022 Medical Summary Plan.**
- **Medical Summary of Changes.**
- **UMR Admin Renewal / Optum RX.**
- **Berkley Stop Loss Renewal.**
- **Berkley Captive Contingent Quote.**

Mr. Gibson, We have a Plan Letter with UMR regarding the 2022 Medical Summary. Plan Summary Description. That is the document that governs the Benefits Plan. Numbers 1 and 2 are basically the same thing in a sense of the changes are one thing and then the letter is what is actually approving those changes. Basically it is just a lot of required language from UMR. Nothing major. Some of it is regulatory and some of it is just clearing up any confusion that currently stands at the SPD.

Com. Good, It makes the plan a little easier to administer as well. It firms our plan up a lot more without a lot of gray areas. I'm glad to see these changes have been made for our employees and people who are on the insurance.

Mr. Gibson, Regarding the UMR Admin. Renewal you are on your last year of a 3 year rate guarantee. There are no changes from that perspective. Everything is good. Regarding the Berkley Stop Loss. As you know we went out to the Stop Loss market. They came back aggressive. Much more aggressive than HCC was to the tune of about \$300,000.00 in savings on a max cost basis. Obviously that is claims fund dollars. That is a big deal. Then also a no new laser policy going forward which is going to be very beneficial.

Atty. McClure, I can't remember that we never had a laser so that is a major improvement for the health insurance.

Mr. Gibson, That is a big deal.

Atty. McClure, At the end day the laser is within our Stop Loss Insurance. Certain individuals can qualify for a laser which is just a fancy way of saying that they are outside of the Stop Loss Insurance. In recent memory I can remember we had 4, 5 or 6 lasers within that. So having none is....

Com. Blaney, They are very expensive.

Atty. McClure, Those keep going past our 150. That is a major improvement to the health plan.

Mr. Gibson, Lastly we have the Berkley Captive. This is a pooling strategy that we've been analyzing for you over the last couple of years. Basically you are now going to be pooled together with some other local municipalities. As well as some private organizations across the nation.

The County is also going to have the ability to possibly get a premium refund on the Stop Loss Policy which has never happened before. It is going to be a great improvement there as well.

Com. Good, Good news.

Atty. McClure, Very good!

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the GIS documents per the agenda, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, Thank you again for all of your hard work you are doing on behalf of the County. We've really come along way and I know we're continuing to keep it going down but you have to manage it to keep it down.

Mr. Gibson, We're chipping away. We appreciate your openness to do the new things as well. It's a big deal.

Atty. McClure, Thank you.

Opioids Litigation

- 1. Proposed Resolution to opt back in to Opioid Settlement pursuant to I.C. 4-6-15.2.**
- 2. Amendment to Attorney Fee Contract from 33 1/3% to 8.7%.**
- 3. Participation Agreement for Settlement:**
 - 1. Johnson & Johnson - \$534,149.56.**
 - 2. McKesson Corp., Cardinal Health, Inc. & AmericourceBergen Corp. - \$2,277,832.48.**

Com. Good, If you have or have not been following this Board over the last couple of years we have been doing the Opioid dance for the law suits that have been coming in. We jumped in and we jumped out.

Atty. McClure, We had the assistance of a law firm out of Indianapolis who was dealing with all of the local municipalities in the suit against the opioid distributors and manufacturers. Last year we had a proposed State Statute that we opted out of. The main reasons for that opt out at that point in time was that we would then be prohibited from participating in any future settlements when we knew there were some large defendants that were unsettled at that point in time. There was a potential for a significant loss to Porter County. Also, under the former Statute the Family and Social Services Administration would ultimately have received Porter County's funds and that would have then been distributed and decided upon by the Family and Social Services Administration which is a State office of how and where that would have been spent. Then last year we had an opt in and opt out date to go through under this new statute that was passed and signed by the Governor on March 10th of this year. House enrolled Act 1193 the Opioids Bill. Those issues were taken care of which would allow us and ultimately my recommendation would be for us to opt back in to the settlement and that would be pursuant to I.C. 4-6-15.2. It takes care of those first three issues. In total the money would ultimately be Porter County's would come directly to us. There would be some guidelines as to what that could be spent on through the Federal Court that is handling the multi district litigation. Unsurprisingly the uses for that surround the addition issue whether it's pre-addiction, addiction or post-addiction. There are 7 or 8 pages right now that the Federal Court has put together as to what the money can be spent on. That is the first good issue that we would have some local control here over what those funds would be utilized for. Also we would now be able to participate in future settlements from additional distributors and manufactures. Also due to the new legislation there is a significant decrease in the attorney fees. We were on a normal contingent fee of a 33 1/3%. We didn't have any out of pocket. At the time obviously no one knew where the litigation was going to go or how it was going to proceed. Under this new opt in that would be reduced down to 8.7% instead of 33 1/3%. That ultimately puts more dollars here in Porter County to help with this issue because there are multiply counties, cities and towns that are in the State of Indiana that either need to decide to opt back in or stay out. That is why there is a little bit of a rush to get this done because happening at the same time the Federal Litigation is still progressing as if the individual cities and towns are not opting back in to the State Statutes. Given the fact that these things are moving in such a positive manner I put it on the agenda for everyone's consideration. I also sent an email to everyone with the Exhibits and the House Bill. The Exhibit being the draft of what can be utilized for the money as it comes in. This is Step 1. Step 2 then would be to finalize the payment dates. As you can see on the agenda we're also proposed to approve the Participation Settlement Agreements for Johnson and Johnson as everyone can see the number a little over \$500,000.00. The other group of individuals there is being referred to as the distributors within the legal documents. Those are the names of the individual corporations. That settlement right now is for Porter County being \$2,277,832.48. The

attorney fees would come out of that and then there is a payment term. That is not all coming in one year. That is spread out over several years and those payments dates have yet to be completely determined because the Federal Court is waiting to see who opts back in and how it all settles out. Once the Commissioners' make their decision on whether to opt back in or not then we would in the following meetings have updates as to when and in more precise parameters what this money could be spent on. The State Legislature definitely met the local municipalities and cities half way on getting this accomplished and I don't have any reservations on recommending to the Commissioners that we opt back in at this point in time on the Opioid Settlement through the House Enrolled Act 1193.

Com. Good, Scott where you have McKesson Corp., Cardinal Health, Inc. & AmericourceBergen Corp. there still could be other people coming forward to be named in this agreement as well?

Atty. McClure, There are potentially several more coming.

Com. Good, There are more coming. Just so everyone understands that.

Atty. McClure, And not to get too far in the weeds. Part of the reason why some of these haven't moved farther towards settlement is because these companies themselves want to deal with the State of Indiana as a whole. They were also pushing the State to get the legislation to a point where the locals would opt back in because they obviously want to deal with a larger piece than many many smaller pieces. I believe July 1st is the date of whether you're opting in or not. Once all of the locals make their decision I do think they will be starting to move a little quicker because they are not dealing with so many smaller parts. They will be dealing with much larger state sizes.

Com. Good, We should do all 3 separate.

Atty. McClure, Would agree because the opt in is a special process that once it is done and signed and there is a special process to get it certified and mailed with the Attorney General's office with the State of Indiana. I would like to have an individual motion for 1, 2 and 3.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve to Opt Back in to the Opioid Settlement, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Amendment to Attorney Fee Contract from 33 1/3% to 8.7%, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Participation Agreement for Settlement: Johnson & Johnson - \$534,149.56 and McKesson Corp., Cardinal Health, Inc. & AmericourceBergen Corp. - \$2,277,832.48, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Matt Gavelek, Sr. County Hwy. Engineer – Discussion regarding Highway Funding.

Mr. Gavelek, We have prepared a little presentation regarding our road conditions, our current strategy and our proposed strategy for some proposed funding. Porter County has about 781 miles of roads. That is the distance from here to Southern Georgia to put it in perspective. About 60% of our roads are asphalt and 35% are chip and seal and then other miscellaneous types. Each year I go through every road segment which is about 3200 and I rate the conditions of our roads. I do it the same time each year. The same person does it. I've been getting 3 years of data so we're collecting information on the condition of our roads. We use a system that the state requires which is called PASER. It is an ordered rate system that allows us to keep track of the condition of our roads. We are at a 5.1 average which is kind of the low fair range. For us one of the big needs that we have is in the next 5 years we have about 70% of roads need heavy rehab or reconstruction. That is a huge challenge we have ahead of us. It is important that we are doing the right strategies now. In our software what I can do is every little segment I model out the deterioration of that segment and I can project that out over time. We have about 20 different treatments. It is really accurate to the square yard. With that we looked at our existing strategy. What are we doing now and is our current strategy sufficient or are we losing ground. Our current strategy the Highway Dept. does about \$1.5 million of in-house chip and seal. Then they hire out crack seal. On top of that we do about \$2 million of asphalt projects a year which is \$1million from Commissioners and then \$1 million matching from the State Community Crossing Matching Grant. What you can see are some pictures of some modeling this current strategy out 20 years. You can see on this top picture that we are slightly losing ground on our PASER value. Then the bottom picture is our remaining service life. So years before we need to reconstruct a road we really go down with this current strategy. To answer the question our current strategy does not keep up with our deterioration.

Atty. McClure, Before you move from that slide the \$1.5 million for chip and seal and crack seal we believe is this year. We projecting that to come out of the Highway budget correct?

Mr. Gavelek, That is correct.

Atty. McClure, The \$1 million match from CCMG Grant that is not budgeted. We have been finding that on a year to year basis.

Mr. Gavelek, Correct.

Atty. McClure, Our existing funding strategy is not budgeted at budget time with the \$1 million for the CCMG.

Mr. Gavelek, Correct. The next slide will show you different strategies where I took dozens and just tested and let the computer do its thing. I landed on 2 strategies. I took a look at 2 different strategies. One of them is adding \$2 million of asphalt paving on top of the existing strategy. That is strategy #2. Strategy #3 is \$4 million of extra asphalt. We gain ground with the \$2 million. With the \$4 million we greatly gain ground. With the strategy that you have \$2 million of asphalt we reduce our poor roads down from 40% where we're at right not to 25%. If we add the \$4 million of asphalt we gain a lot of good roads. In 20 years from now we will have 40% of our roads in good condition. You can pick any variant of that but the more money we add to it we will be able to improve our road conditions. Adding another \$2 million a year which is a \$3 million net outlay for our funding needs as you mentioned Scott that causes us to just slightly gain ground. That roughly is our funding need.

Com. Biggs, Is your projections take in growth because growth means more traffic.

Mr. Gavelek, It doesn't take in growth. It's really hard to project out. I do take into account inflation. We know this year has been rough but we have had many years with no inflation. It is about 3% inflation and we held funding at the same because that has kind of been a past practice that funding is kind of leveled off for years.

Com. Good, I would also like to point out over the last 5 years and I am Center District Commissioner I think in our data somewhere it shows in our most worn out roads and most used roads 65% of them are in Center District because of the traffic. I think the last 5 years we've had back to back to back detours on 30. We've had back to back detours on 2 and also on 49. We had one year detour on Smoke Rd. Due to that we have been dealing with traffic issues and complaints.

Bringing it back to what Jim said all of the people coming here from Illinois to do everything over those 2 years our roads took a tremendous amount of punishment. I think people that live around the center area of Valpo have probably noticed that just by driving to work every day and it is concerning to us. We need to get back on top of this but these detours that the states give they give us a little bit of money to handle the detour but in the long run it is really a very small pittance.

Com. Blaney, It is not rebuild your road kind of money.

Com. Good, It is like take a little bit of this and call it a day. I felt like I needed to say that because I spent the last 4 years dealing with this. We've always given our money out equally by each district and I think 2 years ago Jim and Laura allowed Center District to get a little bit more of the money to help us get caught up. Those were decisions that we had internally to make it work. Roads and drainage, it impacts everybody.

Com. Biggs, The increase in retail in and around Center Valpo, and certain parts of Portage Township on Rt. 6 you look at those County roads that are adjacent to that and they are in the worst shape.

Mr. Gavelek, Absolutely and another reason why Center is in worse shape than District 1 and 3 is because you have quite of bit of chip and seal that the Highway crew have been able to keep it in good condition but you don't have any. You have 90 miles of subdivisions that were built in the 80's, 90's sometimes earlier and that pavement has unfortunately not been able to be a priority. It has just aged.

Com. Good, Last year we did \$3 million out of the Foundation earnings. We did a subdivision paving program because we had over 300 subdivisions. We went with our worst 20. Our worst 20 hadn't seen anything for 40 to 50 years. We got into some of these older subdivisions and got them spiffed up with that Foundation money. We are constantly looking for ways to get more black on the ground. We are behind.

Com. Blaney, And you are going in front of the Council with this presentation?

Mr. Polarek, Correct, it was submitted for the additional. It won't be on until their April meeting because of the timing.

Com. Blaney, You are giving them this presentation also so they are informed? I think we need to start budgeting.

Com. Good, I would ask that you get on their agenda.

Com. Blaney, It is hard enough for us to kind of scramble to find the money to match now if we are bumping that up a couple of million dollars more.

Com. Good, And just so everyone knows ARP Funds and any funds that we've gotten from the Federal Government that everyone has been cooing over the last 2 years none of it goes towards paving. I just want to clarify that because I don't think a lot of people really know that. It's not allowed. Some people come to me and say well you have all that money. Well it's a different bucket.

Com. Biggs, Your message is we're going to have to do something a little differently here. If you've lived in Porter County 10 years or more you've seen the difference in traffic. Right there by the bypass where Target is at. 10 years ago none of that was there.

Mr. Gavelek, 700 North in your District has been the bypass for U.S. 6.

Com. Blaney, I've tried with the State with INDOT to get them to take our weather into account but they are not having it.

SHERIFF DAVE REYNOLDS

An Ordinance for a New Fund to Receipt Monies from Various Agencies pertaining to the Work of Special Units – 2nd Reading.

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

JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER - ALISON COX, DIRECTOR

An Ordinance Renaming the Porter County Truancy Court Fund (Non-Reverting Fund 4927) to the Porter Circuit Court Problem Solving Court Fund for the Receipt of Fees Associated with any Problem Solving Court Administered by the Porter Circuit Court – 2nd Reading.

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

HEALTH DEPT. - LETTY ZEPEDA, DIRECTOR

An Ordinance to Establish a Fund #8911 for the Receipt of Funds from COVID Related Grants Pertaining to Immunization and Vaccines for Children in the amount of \$345,894.75 – 1st Reading.

Com. Good, Letty I just want to thank you for your service with the County. I don't know if we'll get another opportunity to say that. Letty is retiring and moving on to a better life. Thank you for your service Letty.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Com. Good, Is there anyone wishing to come forward and speak against the creation of this fund? Second call is there anyone wishing to speak against this fund? Third and final call anyone wishing to speak against this fund? Is there anyone wishing to speak in favor of this fund? Second call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this fund? Third and final call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this fund?

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Ordinance on 1st Reading, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

An Ordinance to Establish a Fund #8912 for the Receipt of Funds from COVID Related Grants Pertaining to Epidemiology & Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Disease in the amount of \$100,000.00 – 1st Reading.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Com. Good, Is there anyone wishing to come forward and speak against the creation of this fund? Second call is there anyone wishing to speak against this fund?

Ms. Miller, (Inaudible, not near a microphone.) Or all ages for these shots?

Ms. Zepeda, Its all ages.

Ms. Miller, (Inaudible) Do I need to come up?

Com. Good, This is the public hearing portion, yes.

Ms. Miller, I just wanted to make sure I understood. I'm against any of this funding for shots for any children related to the COVID. Especially 5 to 11 year olds. Moderna came out they have a study that shows it is ineffective for these children of this age. So I'm definitely against that. Thank you.

Com. Good, Third and final call anyone wishing to speak against this fund?

Ms. Cusmick, My name is Penny Cusmick, 258 Hodge St., Valparaiso. I know this is a 1st reading but these things are brought up so quickly. It's almost like they are here and gone before you get a chance to even think about what they are about. I would like to request that there would be a little more explanation on some of these things before everyone just jumps in than less than 60 seconds. The opportunity to speak is here and gone before people have a chance to engage their brains on what they are actually getting a chance to speak on. I agree with Dawn about the vaccination of the children. I know the Federal Government is not looking at the science but anyone that has an opportunity to really look at what's going on with vaccinating children. Even the new stuff that is coming out from Pfizer that is being released. Anyone that would want to vaccinate children and enable these funds to be used there is something wrong with that. Thank you very much.

Com. Good, Is there anyone wishing to speak in favor of this fund? Second call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this fund? Third and final call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this fund?

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Com. Biggs, This is Fund 8912 Mr. Chairman?

Com. Good, Yes.

Ms. Zepeda, Can I explain something? The first Fund 8911 was for the Vaccine Grant and the second one we just read was for the testing.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the Ordinance on 1st Reading, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

Com. Blaney, Since we have been discussing the other one I think it is up to the parents whether or not they want to get their children vaccinated for this. I definitely would support it.

Com. Biggs, This has nothing to do with any kind of mandatory...

Com. Good, This is creating a fund that if the money comes in you have a place to put it.

Com. Biggs, And if a parent wants to vaccinate their child the money is there to do it.

Ms. Zepeda, That is their choice.

An Ordinance to Establish a Fund #8913 for the Receipt of Funds from COVID Related Grants Pertaining to Workforce Development CoAg in the amount of \$440,000.00 - 1st Reading.

Ms. Zepeda, The State has offered funding to the Health Dept. to either hire nursing from outside or to use our own nurses to work as liaisons to work with all of the schools which is 69 schools. They work with their nurses and superintendents in education in doing assisting with vaccinations. Whether its flu vaccinations or COVID vaccinations but we are also supposed to be providing health clinics such as vision, hearing and dental. It is the nurse's responsibility to go out there every quarter to all of the schools assuming the schools agree they want us to go out there and help them out and assist and support them for these services.

Com. Biggs, Issues of general health.

Com. Good, And this would be reimbursed to your Health Dept. from the State.

Ms. Zepeda, Yes.

Com. Good, We're creating a fund again to put money in from the State.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Com. Good, Is there anyone wishing to come forward and speak against the creation of this fund? Second call is there anyone wishing to speak against this fund?

Ms. Miller, I guess my question is are you saying that this is something that you would be taking to schools to educate them on getting the shot? Do you encourage them to get the shot?

Ms. Zepeda, No. The State Health Dept. is asking all of the Health Depts. in all of the counties in the State to provide assistance and to help out all of the schools in education. The Health Depts. are the experts in what is needed. We were allowed to either hire out or use our nurses. Our nurses have a very good relationship with all of the nurses in the school systems and the superintendents which is why we decided to use our staff instead. It is to provide whatever assistance the nurses at the schools need. It is not to promote/encourage vaccines. It is to help them with whatever they need to make sure the kids are healthy. It's always our priority to make sure the kids are safe and healthy.

Ms. Miller, And each school has their own school nurse correct?

Ms. Zepeda, Yes they do.

Ms. Miller, Are they not equipment with that information already to be able to educate?

Ms. Zepeda, They are that is why we say assist and support because it is up to the schools and the school superintendents to make that decision whether they want us to help.

Ms. Miller, Do you guys give them pamphlets and things of that nature?

Ms. Zepeda, We do that. We are there and on call for them if they have questions. If they need assistance, if they need literature. Whatever they need we are there for them.

Com. Good, Third and final call anyone wishing to speak against this fund? Is there anyone wishing to speak in favor of this fund? Second call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this fund? Third and final call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this fund?

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Ordinance on 1st Reading, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

ITS – LEE CHILDRESS, DIRECTOR

Videotec – A Preventative Maintenance Agreement for the Porter County Jail in the amount of \$29,988.00.

Mr. Childress, You have before a maintenance contract for the video cameras for the Sheriff's department for this year in the amount of \$29,988.00.

Com. Good, This is for the whole year?

Mr. Childress, For the whole year and I might point out that I have a contract that you signed from 2019 and the fee has not increased. It is the same.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Videotec Preventative Maintenance Agreement, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

EXPO CENTER – LORI DALY, DIRECTOR

Boyce Systems – A Maintenance Agreement providing Support Services for the Accounting System in the amount of \$2,325.00. The term shall begin May 1st, 2022 and end April 30, 2023.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Boyce Systems Maintenance Agreement, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

El Salto Mexican Restaurant – Catering Contract.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the El Salto Catering Contract, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

FACILITIES – RAY CLOYD, DIRECTOR

Facility IT Group – A UPS System Service Renewal to provide Preventative Maintenance Inspection in the amount of \$2,690.00.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Facility IT Group UPS System Service Renewal, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

HIGHWAY DEPT. – JIM POLAREK, INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

A Request for an Additional Appropriation Fund #1169 Local Roads and Streets in the amount of \$450,000.00 Acct. #2362 Bituminous. Fund for crack sealing.

Mr. Polarek, This is for funding out of our LRS account which has a healthy cash balance in it. This one would be to crack seal roads. The vast majority of these roads are the ones that have been paid within the last 2 to 6 years. We are sealing those cracks up to keep the water out to prevent potholes hopefully. The contractor has the list of proposed roads and they are working on an estimate as we speak so we should have that exact bid number quote from them in the next couple of weeks.

A Request for an Additional Appropriation Fund #1176 MVH in the amount of \$850,000.00 Acct. #2362 Bituminous. Bituminous for Chip Seal Program.

Mr. Polarek, Our MVH account also has a healthy cash balance. This would come out of the restricted side as far as the State is concerned. It is the bituminous used from our chip seal program.

A Request for an Additional Appropriation Fund #1176 MVH in the amount of \$150,000.00 Acct. #2360 Aggregate. Aggregate for Chip Seal Program.

Mr. Polarek, This one is for aggregate used in the chip seal program out of the same fund.

Com. Blaney, And they have healthy balances because it has been winter. We couldn't do anything.

Mr. Polarek, Correct.

Ms. Downing, 1173 has a healthy balance.

Mr. Polarek, MVH has over \$3 million roughly.

Com. Blaney, It wasn't because we have so much money for roads.

Ms. Downing, Not in 1176. The restricted we have plenty. We will be actually transferring the additional into 1173 on a dollar for dollar basis as we spend the money.

Mr. Polarek, But on another note the unrestricted has started to make its way into the black.

Ms. Downing, Its doing better.

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

DEVELOPMENT & STORM WATER MNGMNT. – BOB THOMPSON, DIRECTOR

A Request to Vacate the Right-of-Way at Biscayne Dr. in Lake Eliza. Petitioner – Kim Marie Korellis – 2nd Reading.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Right-of-Way, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

DLZ – A Construction Inspection Agreement for work on Bridge 68 – Smoke Rd. over Jones Ditch in the amount of \$155,300.00.

Mr. Thompson, This is for Bridge 68 Smoke Rd. over Jones Ditch. This is one we have Federal funding for. As a matter of fact INDOT just release the notice to proceed to Ellis Construction out of Gary to start this bridge. This is the construction inspection agreement. Matt Gavelek and Chris D'Antonio will also be down there doing inspections on it so they can work out an agreement with the consultants.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the DLZ Construction Inspection Agreement, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

A Resolution of the Board of Commissioner of the County of Porter, Indiana Adopting the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Designating the ADA Coordinator, and Adopting Procedures.

Mr. Thompson, This is the ADA Transition Plan. This is a requirement that we have to have in place along with Title VI for discrimination purposes and allowing claims to be filed with the County since we do receive Federal funding from Federal Highway and through INDOT we have to have these plans in place to continually receive the Federal funding that we get from transportation projects. There is a resolution in place which is here before you. Essentially it names our County Facilities Director as the ADA Coordinator. We did this in house this year. We just figured the 2012 Report did a lot of the facilities and a lot of the measurements. It was a good report still even though we did a lot of reconstruction. This time what we focused on was a grievance procedure that is within. Then if there is a problem they can file a complaint and we will look into it and fix it. That is what this plan is really heavily on. The resolution does talk about that. The notice under the American Disability Act mentions the Commissioners are out there, they realize and they are not going to discriminate. They are going to apply accommodations when appropriate.

Com. Good, I think one of the interesting things to me being up here every time there is something to sign on behalf of INDOT you have to have an ADA person approve the funding. It came out of left field for me from that perspective. I wasn't expecting that. It's odd but it's a requirement.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Resolution pertaining to the ADA Coordinator and Adopting Procedures.

Mr. Thompson, Bridge 168 that was recently let Brummett Rd. over the Little Calumet River. The letting came out at a little over \$2.5 million. We had \$670,000.00 of Federal funding towards it. INDOT saw that and threw \$1.3 million at us for this. It is now 80/20 for the construction on this. The Commissioners are going to be receiving the agreement for this, accepting the additional funding. As a matter of fact it just went out via email today.

Com. Good, Is it DocuSign again?

Mr. Thompson, Its DocuSign.

Com. Biggs, When they start moving stuff will that road be totally closed?

Mr. Thompson, It will be totally closed.

Com. Good, I think you've been having dialogue with the schools correct?

Mr. Thompson, Yes. I've sat down with the facilities director of Duneland Schools and we've mentioned it to them so they are well aware of it. INDOT is in total control of this contract. So what we're hoping that in these situations that hopefully the contractor will be conscience and try to get it as close to the end of school as possible so we don't disrupt them that much.

Com. Biggs, Any idea of how long that will be closed?

Mr. Thompson, That is probably...my guess is going to be 9 to 10 months. It is going to disrupt school in the fall.

Com. Good, We're moving everything up there. There is a sewer line. There is just all kinds of stuff going on up there.

Com. Biggs, If you go to that area there is a lot of stuff, utilities that have to be moved. At the end of the day it is going to be a better road, a better bridge for the school and everyone else too.

Mr. Thompson, It's going to be a much better bridge.

Com. Biggs, It has to be done.

JESSICA CORRAL – SPRING INTO THE ARTS

A Request to the Admin. Center to display Artwork by the students on Friday, April 22nd through Saturday, May 21st, 2022. She is requesting the building be opened on Saturday, April 23rd from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. for the kickoff. Joe Dziubczynski, Admin Security will be in the building for the kickoff.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the Spring into the Arts, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

ALISHA BROWN – EXTRA MILE FITNESS COMPANY

A Request to use County roads located in Jackson Township for the 2nd Annual What the Hill half marathon on Sunday, May 8th from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. The event will begin and end at Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve in Chesterton. A map is attached.

Ms. Brown, My name is Alisha Brown and I am with Race the Region which is affiliated with Extra Mile Fitness. We are requesting to use the County roads to do our 2nd Annual What the Hill half marathon. There will be a 5k included but that will be in the Coffee Creek Watershed.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the 2nd Annual What the Hill half marathon, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the appointment of Ruth Vance to the Behavioral Health & Social Services Sub-Committee, Com. Good, second, motion carried.

RURAL TRUSTEES

Com. Blaney, You were going to get rural trustees for the Social Services Board.

Com. Biggs, Yes, the 2 townships would be Union and Porter. Their trustees would sit on those committees.

Com. Blaney, Did they both agree on it?

Com. Biggs, Yes.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the appointment of Union and Porter Township Trustees as advisors to the committees, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

Jeffrey J. Good

Laura M. Blaney

Jim Biggs

Attest: _____
Vicki Urbanik, Auditor