

Minutes of
Jackson County Commissioners
September 6th, 2016
6:00PM

Present: Commissioner Matt Reedy, Commissioner Jerry Hounshel & Commissioner Tom Joray
Absent: All present.

Commissioner Matt Reedy called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a silent prayer observed.

Commissioner Jerry Hounshel made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 16th, 2016 Commissioner Meeting, Commissioner Tom Joray seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

After review, Commissioner Joray made a motion to approve the payroll of August 19th, 2016 in the amount of \$378,115.99 and September 2nd, 2016 in the amount of \$384,324.37 along with Claims, which included Electronic Checks for September 6th, 2016, in the amount of \$2,154,445.09. Commissioner Hounshel seconded. Three(3) yes votes, motion carried.

Reports from other Committees: None

Jerry Allman then appeared before Commissioners concerning an issue involving a ditch that has arose as he was trying to build a pond on his property. After some discussion, it was discovered that the Army Corp of Engineer's have stated that by building the pond, he will be closing off a ditch. County Surveyor Dan Blann stated that this is not a county drain or legal drain. Commissioner thanked Allman for his time, but instructed him that the Commissioners cannot help with this matter and that he must deal with the Army Corp of Engineers to resolve the issue.

Plumer Hay Farms Contract with the County – discussion was held regarding the current contract the Commissioners have with Plumer Hay Farms. The field has not had a cutting in 2016, resulting in the Highway Department mowing the area. Attorney Bevers stated that she sent out Certified Mail informing Plumer Hay Farms of the situation, and that the 10 day response time will be up at the end of this week. This issue was asked to be placed on the next meeting agenda for discussion and the possibility of returning their Spring 2016 rental payment.

Tim Burbrink then came before Commissioners requesting that road 975 N be added to the county inventory. After discussion, it was decided that this road is currently considered an “unimproved county road”. Commissioners asked Highway Supervisor, Jerry Ault to go out and look at the road and report back the condition at the next Commissioner Meeting. This issue was then tabled until the Sept 20th, 2016 meeting.

Cypress Lake Lane – Attorney Bevers presented a Perpetual Highway Easement for approval. This is the County Acceptance of Right of Way from DNR, for a public purpose, the Cypress Lake Lane that is just South of the Lake. This road will be numbered once measured. Commissioner Joray made a motion to approve. Commissioner Hounshel seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

Mitch Patrick and Ken Neely then appeared before Commissioners. Neely is the Contractor that just finished cleaning and repairing the base of the Courthouse, work which is now complete. Additional issues were found regarding the clock tower and upper parapets. Two quotes were presented from Ken Neely to the Commissioners regarding these issues. Commissioners agreed that this work needs to be

done and instructed Auditor Kathy Hohenstreiter to look into where the funds can come from to pay for these additional repairs.

Discussion was then held between the Commissioners, Brad Isaccs and Jerry Ault regarding the situation with the Shieldstown Covered Bridge. Commissioners just received notification that the Bridge is now on the National Register of Historic Places. The contractors, Duncan Robertson are still not on site and have made no attempt to make any progress in regards to this matter. The contractors are now receiving a penalty of \$1,500 per day and are currently up to \$42,000 in fines. The performance bond was located and the County is not listed on the bond. Since this is the case, the county can do the following: 1. Sue the State of Indiana or 2. Start contacting State Representatives etc and see if help can be provided. Commissioner Reedy stated that he would like to have Attorney Bevers contact Joe Jones tomorrow – September 7 2016. If no response, then he will start making calls to state reps.

The 2017 County Holiday Schedule was then presented for approval. After review, Commissioner Joray made motion to approve. Commissioner Hounshel seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

Highway Supervisor, Jerry Ault then discussed the following:

1. The county auction will be held on October 1, 2016 at the Highway garage with Max Klosterman as auctioneer. Commissioner Joray made a motion allowing Ault to sign the contract with Klosterman for this auction. Commissioner Hounshel seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.
2. The foundation for the new Salt Barn is up.
3. Bid packets have been sent out regarding work needed to be done for the 50/50 Grant that was awarded to the county. Deadline for the bids is Oct 3 at 4:00pm and will be opened at the Oct 4th, 2016 Commissioner Meeting.
4. Ault stated that he would like to see a 30 year step increase for employees. Currently the Salary Ordinance goes to 25 years. Commissioners agreed and advised Ault to approach Council.
5. Both job openings at the highway have been filled.
6. Ault provided a list of gravel roads that he would like to be removed from the county inventory. Commissioners advised Ault to do a little more research and that this must go to the Plan Commission first.
7. Reported on ditch work that was done on the road in front of the County Highway garage.

Sheriff Carothers then presented the August 2016 Jail report, the July Meal Expenditure Report and Dog Detention Report.

Human Resource Director, Jeff Hubbard stated that he has received the SIHO insurance quote back but is currently waiting on another quote.

Commissioner Hounshel then asked about the Joe Peteres property in Vallonia. Commissioner Hounshel stated his concern of the state of the building with Fort Vallonia Days approaching in 5 ½ weeks. Attorney Bevers stated that once the complaint is filed, Peters has 20 days to respond. If he does not respond, the Judge can order the county to clean up the property.

Auditor Kathy Hohenstreiter then informed Commissioners about Fraudulent Letters that had been received by members of the county regarding delinquent taxes on properties. Hohenstreiter stated that she informed the Tribune and an article was ran to inform citizens.

Attorney Bevers then presented an Assignment of Contract between the Town of Crothersville and the Jackson County Board of Commissioners. This is in regards to the Town of Crothersville giving over the land that the Ambulance building sits on to the Vernon Township Fire Protection District. This was also

provided to the Town of Crothersville tonight for approval. Commissioner Joray made a motion to approve. Commissioner Hounshel seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

Commissioners recessed until Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 9:30AM.

Matt Reedy – President

Jerry Hounshel

Thomas M. Joray

Kathy Hohenstreiter - attest