

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Meeting Called to Order at 6:00 p.m. with Pledge to the Flag. Present: Bryan Lewis, Rick Ranstead, Steve Metzger, and Auditor Christina Sriver.

NYONA SOUTH MUD LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT PETITION TO FILL VACANCIES – Attorney for Nyona South Mud Lake Conservancy District, Andy Perkins, explained the statute that allows Commissioners to fill vacant seats on the Conservancy Board. Bryan nominated Joyce Clark for Mark Butler’s position. Steve motioned to approve, Rick seconded; carries. Rick motioned to approve Jim Hansel to fill Mike Trigg’s position, Steve seconded; carries. Steve motioned to approve Ray Eber to fill vacancy for Judy Copeland, Rick seconded; carries.

FOUR-COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT – Dr. Carrie Cadwell delivered the annual report. 988 Fulton County residents 242 bed days dedicated to Fulton County. New services offered in 2020 include: Mobile Crisis Team, ER Navigation, Justice Liaison, and Crisis Stabilization will be opened in February this year. Mobile Crisis is available 24/7/365. So far there have been twenty-eight deployments in Fulton County including one in-patient stay.

HIGHWAY – John Geier presented Permit 21-1 for David Daake to install a driveway entrance. Rick motioned to approve, Steve seconded; carries. Permit 21-2 was presented for Precision Utility Group to bore 20 feet under the road to install phone cable. Steve motioned to approve, Rick seconded; carries. John is working to put together a permitting process and submitted some preliminary information for Commissioners to consider. John updated on department activities including patching, cutting brush, cutting trees, culver work and stockpiling material. Rebecca Hartzler, Town of Akron Clerk/Treasurer, was in attendance to discuss paving Noyer Driver. In exploring a grant opportunity it was discovered that the road is part of the County inventory. She has applied for a CCMG grant, if approved the Town would continue to maintain and take the road into the Town inventory. Holli Shorter-Pifer will reach out to Andy Perkins, attorney for Town of Akron, for information on transferring the asset. Bill Walsh, Parks and Recreation, requests county assistance to pave the Prairie’s Edge parking lot. A donor would like to contribute financially to the project and would be affordable with the Highway Department’s help with labor. Rick motioned to approve, Steve seconded; carries. John presented an updated USI On-Call Agreement as we have been working from an agreement approved in 2018. Rick motioned to approve, Steve seconded; carries. The bid opening will be moved from February 1 to February 15 to meet advertising requirements. John has been looking at projects for the 2021 CCMG call for applications. He requests 775 W from SR 14 to CR 400 S in Union Township; 250 S from 800 W to the Town of Kewanna boundary; and 600 W from SR 114 to CR 400 W in Wayne Township. Steve motioned to approve the financial commitment letter for the projects, Rick seconded; carries. Highway mechanic would like to purchase items for the shop to enable more in-house repairs. There are funds in the budget available to purchase the requested items. Steve motioned to approve the purchases, Rick seconded; carries. USI has requested a waiver for a cul-de-sac at Blacketor Drive. The County Plan maximum is 900 feet for maximum length for such road; the designed road is 1100 feet. Rick motioned to approve, Steve

seconded; carries. Jeff Olinger will replace Dave Chilcutt for the Assistant Mechanic position at the beginning of February; John is looking for a laborer.

SHERIFF – Chris Sailors reviewed the year-end report. He requests a waiver of probationary pay for the new deputy to start at full pay. Steve motioned to approve, Rick seconded; carries. The jail construction is still on schedule with masonry almost complete and moving on to installing windows.

CLERK – Teri Furnivall presented a Resolution to approve drafting a plan for vote centers. She also reviewed the annual report. The vote center will allow voters to vote anywhere in the County rather than a designated poll center. This will reduce the staff needed and costs associated. Forty-six counties in the state have vote centers in place. Bryan read the proposed resolution aloud:

Resolution 01192021-A

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DESIGNATION OF FULTON COUNTY
AS A VOTE CENTER COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 3-11-18.1 allows counties to adopt the vote center model and;

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners of Fulton County approves the designation of Fulton County as vote center county and;

WHEREAS, the county election board has the responsibility for properly drafting a vote center plan for Fulton County, which will take effect upon unanimous vote of the county election board and having the plan is propely filed with the Indiana Election Division;

BE IT SO RESOLVED Y THE FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF FULTON COUNTY that Fulton County is approved to operate as a vote center county, upon the required approval and filing of the county vote center plan.

Teri clarified that the Vote Center Plan must be submitted to the State prior to becoming a vote-center county. Rick motioned to approve, Steve seconded; carries.

VETERANS SERVICES OFFICER – Ric Fouts gave the monthly report for December. He currently has 611 veterans in the database; there are approximately 1,400 vets in the county. Marion County discontinued vet transports due to driver risk of COVID-19 exposure; we are currently running with one driver. Currently there is \$10,879 in donations for a new van if needed. Ric complimented Parkway Body Shop for repairing a tail light at no cost.

COMMUNICATIONS – Gail Karas presented the annual report. She will use 911 fund to cover the county's match portion of the 911 dispatch center equipment grant. She and Josh will meet to discuss ethernet for the new dispatch center. REMC has requested a data exchange with Fulton County. Gail discussed the need for new chairs that will cost approximately \$2,000-\$3,000 each. She cannot use 911 funds for the purchase but can reimburse for dispatch wages to offset the cost. The COVID meetings have been set aside due to the Health Department doing the vaccination clinic. The meetings will later reconvene with a true instant management team with a handful of people.

DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENT – A data exchange agreement with Fulton County REMC was requested. It is a mutual data exchange with no cost associated. Rick motioned to approve, Steve seconded; carries.

EMA – Larry Hoover stated that he is still waiting on the message signs and LUCAS device.

CORONER – Jeri Good delivered the annual report. She will present more statistics at a later date. There were 218 total deaths, 74 addressed by the Coroner (34%). COVID-19 impacted the number of deaths in the county; typically the county is in the range of 170 per year and increased to 218 this year. She will need to have the new vehicle converted for transporting deceased. She will need to appropriate funds for gas and maintenance.

IT/MAINTENANCE – Josh Sriver sent the incident report for the last two weeks prior to the meeting with detail for the 185 tickets. Josh gave a walk-through of the ticket system. Some companies are not willing to view the courthouse lawn for tree quotes until spring.

RESOLUTION TO BECOME A SANCTIONED COUNTY (CONTINUED) – The ordinance that was presented in the November 16th meeting was presented in a revised version:

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FULTON COUNTY, INDIANA**

**Resolution 01192021
Second Amendment Preservation Resolution**

WHEREAS, the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution states,
“A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed”;

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 32 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana states, “The people shall have the right to bear arms, for the defense of themselves and the State”;

WHEREAS, each County Commissioner of Fulton County, Indiana has sworn to an oath of office “to support the Constitution of this State, and of the United States,” as required by Article XV, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana;

WHEREAS, the Sheriff of Fulton County has sworn an oath of office that includes the solemn promise to support the Constitution of this State, and of the United States,” as required by Article XV, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States has long held that “all those who have framed written constitutions contemplate them as forming the fundamental and paramount law of the nation, and consequently the theory of every such government must be, that an act of the legislature, repugnant to the Constitution, is void.” *Marbury v. Madison*, 5 U.S. 137, 177 (1803); and

WHEREAS, this Resolution does not seek to regulate firearms, ammunition or firearms accessories in any way, and is not in contravention of Ind. Code § 35-47-11.1-1, et seq.

IT IS THEREFORE HEREBY RESOLVED by the Fulton County Commissioners and the Fulton County Sheriff as follows:

1. That Fulton County shall be a County in which the Constitutional right to keep and bear arms is deeply honored and protected and against unlawful infringement; and
2. That the Fulton County Commissioners and Fulton County Sheriff hereby declare their opposition to any law or regulation that unlawfully infringes upon the right to keep and bear arms, and it shall therefore be the policy of the Fulton County Commissioners and the Fulton County Sheriff not to utilize County resources in a manner that unlawfully infringes upon the right to keep and bear arms.

Holli gave an explanation of the purpose of the resolution. The purpose is to prevent unfair laws being passed regarding the ability to have a firearm. Steve motioned to approve, Rick seconded; carries.

GRANT AGREEMENT – A grant agreement for new equipment for the 911 dispatch center was presented. The county will contribute \$40,483 and the federal grant award is \$21,700 (34.9%). Rick motioned to approve the letter of intent to meet conditions, Steve seconded; carries.

MINUTES – Meeting minutes from January 4th, 11th, 19th were motioned for approval by Rick, seconded by Steve; carries.

CLAIMS – Approved as presented.

January 2021 LIT Distribution	\$652,487.75
Payroll 1/1/21	\$231,768.51
Payroll deductions 1/1/21	\$75,690.48
Payroll 1/15/21	\$220,866.64
Payroll deductions 1/15/21	\$95,681.62
Misc. Claims	\$260,654.04
Jail Construction	\$1,533,879.56

OLD BUSINESS – Jillian Kreamer is appointed to the Tourism board, Seth Wilson is appointed to the Fulton County BZA.

NEW BUSINESS – Bob Peterson has willed and bequeathed to Fulton County the fencing that is assumed to have been removed from the Courthouse Square to the County Farm when the new courthouse was built in 1895.

RECESS – Rick motioned to recess at 7:57 p.m., seconded by Steve; carries.