

**FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Tuesday, September 7, 2021**

**Meeting Called to Order** at 9:00 a.m. with Pledge to the Flag. Present: Rick Ranstead, Steve Metzger, County Attorney Holli Shorter-Pifer and Auditor Christina Sriver.

**REASSESSMENT BID OPENING** – Ad Valorem Solutions was the only bidder in the amount of \$400,464. They are the current reassessment contractor for the amount of \$348,200. Commissioners will have the county attorney review and will readdress the contract in the next meeting.

**DLZ CONTRACT** – The contract will provide assistance to complete a list of needs, funding sources and securing funding as it becomes available. The contract is not to exceed \$10,000 for one year from today's date. Rick motioned to approve, Steve seconded; carries 3-0.

**FEDCO/READI Grant** – Terry Lee explained the READI grant is an investment opportunity for the city and county to invest in infrastructure and other projects to steady and increase population and is a \$500,000,000 initiative. He is looking to fund 10 regions up to \$50,000,000 per region. The region consists of 6 counties: Tipton, Howard, Miami, Cass, Clinton and Fulton. The final draft of regional development plan will be complete in approximately a week. The top 20-25 projects throughout the region used the \$50,000,000. IEDC is purposing that as the 10 regions are awarded (18 completing) the award will be combined with other sources of funding like OCRA, Indiana Housing Community Development Authority, USDA and others. Proposals of regional development plans are due to the IEDC by September 30<sup>th</sup>. The top project for Fulton County includes housing, business retention and expansion in hotel development. Andis Dimants of Realty Metrix discussed an \$81 million project with a focus on multi-family and workforce housing, hospitality, and commercial at US 31 and SR 25. The multifamily project will be done in 5 specific phases over a period of 60 months. Hospitality will be done in 4 phases over a 60 month development cycle. Retail will be done in 6 phases across 6 commercial lots. During each phase there will be a monotone feel and each phase will have a different community feel. The projected construction costs have some accommodation for fluctuating costs. The total project is dependent on all three combined projects. Terry Lee stated the next step of the project is for the County Council to pledge local funds. The funding will need to flow with the project. There will need to be \$5 million pledged. The READI grant proceeds are expected to be \$8.3 million. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant could also be used for the local match. Steve motioned to move forward with the request funding from County Council, Rick seconded; carries 3-0. The presentation given today will be provided to Council. Realty Matrix offers housing management on a national basis to provide the highest level of housing possible and investors to offer a long-term stable investment.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT** – John Geier presented permit request 21-31 from NIPSCO to retire gas service at the corner of N Lakeshore Drive and NW Lakeshore Drive intersection. Steve motioned to approve, Rick seconded; carries 3-0. Permit 21-31 requests tile installation of a 15' tile under 550 S. Rick motioned to approve, Steve seconded; carries 3-0. John updated on the department activities including pugging, changing large culverts and screening of millings. John and the Sheriff have recommended speed zones as stated in the proposed ordinance. Bryan read the ordinance aloud:

**Ordinance Number 09072021**  
**An ordinance establishing speed limits on County Road 50 North, near Rochester,**  
**in Rochester Township**

**WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Highway Department and the Fulton County Sheriff have completed a traffic study of 50 North as described in Subsection One.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDAINED** that the speed limits set forth in subsection one supersedes all prior speed limits at this location.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED**, that Fulton County Highway Department post appropriate speed limit signs to advise motorists of the speed limit at this location.

(Subsection One)

**SPEED ZONE FOR COUNTY ROAD 50 North**

Thirty-five mile per hour (35 M.P.H.) speed zone on County Road 50 North starting at the intersection of US 31 and continuing West for 10,783 feet (ten thousand, seven hundred and eighty-three feet), ending at the intersection of County Road 200 West.

Rick motioned to perform the second reading by title only, Steve seconded; carries. Bryan read the ordinance by title only. John also proposes an ordinance for speed zones in an emergency or detour areas. Rick motioned to perform all three readings in this meeting, Steve seconded; carries 3-0. Bryan read the ordinance aloud:

**BEFORE THE FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Ordinance Number 09072021-A**

**An ordinance establishing temporary speed limits for specified Fulton County roads, in Fulton County during the time of an emergency or when a detour is established.**

**WHEREAS** the Fulton County Highway Department and the Fulton County Sheriff will determine it necessary for public safety to execute such a speed limit.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDAINED** that the speed limits set forth in subsection one supersedes all prior speed limits at these locations.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDAINED** that Fulton County Highway Department post appropriate speed limit signs to advise motorists of the speed limit at these locations. It is also further ordained that signage is required to be taken down promptly after any such emergency or established detour is no longer needed, returning speed zone to prior speed limit.

(Subsection One)

**SPEED ZONE FOR EMERGENCY OR ESTABLISHED DETOURS**

Thirty-five mile per hour (35 M.P.H.) speed zone at sites determined by the Fulton County Highway Department and the Fulton County Sheriff as an emergency or established detour. This is only for the duration of the emergency or established detour.

Rick motioned to approve the ordinance, Steve seconded; carries 3-0. Rick noted that a strike team will be at the fairgrounds today and tomorrow and requests the highway department to provide traffic control; Commissioners approve.

**SHERIFF** – Chris Sailors announced that the open house is scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. There will be a planning meeting Thursday, a list of invitees will need to be received by Thursday morning. The jail inspection will be performed on Monday, September 13. There are 10 COVID-positive cases in the jail currently. There are 3 deputies out due to COVID. There were 2 correction officers that tested positive for COVID.

**COMMUNICATIONS** – Gail Karas stated that half of her staff is out due to COVID. The 911 calls can rollover to another county, other counties do not take admin messages. When other counties take 911 calls they still come back to the county one way or another. When helping other counties one person is still sent to the territory or agency. You do not want another county taking your emergency calls and dispatching because they do not know the county or units. When necessary, or we are below a threshold, sometimes we don't have a choice. Schedules are all over the place right now and are assigned so that helps with flex time and doesn't fall on the department, it was fixed in job descriptions a couple years ago and was fixed in hers as well. You'll see Gail all over the place and her job still continues. For giving numbers, she will not be able to do that. She reminds Commissioners that her department is 24/7 not admin. Last Friday there was a COVID meeting and the county is still in red. An emergency cannot be scheduled and falls under certain guidelines. She realizes Dr. Reyburn has to throw that into effect and declare an emergency but there is no reason why the EMA Department where you can get your PPE gear and so forth and make it regularly available but that goes into the overtime and so forth. So when there is an emergency all hands on deck and everything falls to the wayside you don't document if you've done 911 hours and COVID hours because it's all one thing, emergencies don't plan they just proceed. On behalf of the health department they don't have an administrator to go and speak for them to understand how overtime and emergencies work so Gail is here to help them but the folks in the strike team the two girls (Dawn and Misty) and maybe a third (Carrie) in the health department are going out to the strike team and are going to have overtime. The comp time is going to overcede and they need to be paid overtime. Whatever line item that overtime is going to be paid out of we need to know that so the folks can get paid overtime. And appropriate the appropriate amount of money because you have a different plethora of people in the health department and some of them may not do COVID. Those in the emergency situation need to be paid overtime so on behalf of the sheriff and herself they will need to know what line item to take that overtime out of and there should be established funds for that. There is money available for COVID ten-fold, especially for the health department. That COVID money is readily available. Whatever needs to be done to work on that needs to be established. That plan has to be updated because that goes forth to the state and the feds on that type of documentation to help get those grants established. Dawn Risten stated that she is handling emergency preparedness and there is a grant in place for that overtime. The problem that she is running into is to hire somebody that is going to be underneath that grant and by doing that her overtime can no longer be paid out of that grant fund. Because the health department is short-staffed right now there she and misty are doing a lot of extra stuff and they were just told that their overtime can't be going on because it was not budgeted. Carrie will sometimes have to be working through lunch because there will be no one available to cover her lunch. They have not discussed any of that they've just run into that at the end of last week. She and Misty are going to meet with the strike team to be trained on how to test so that the employees that potentially will be hired on Wednesday by Dr. Reyburn they will have to train as well. Dawn did food inspections over the weekend and is not happening during the week because she is bombarded with COVID. She is hoping to get people hired to run the testing and vaccination site if the booster is approved by the FDA on September 20<sup>th</sup> and is hoping to have (the testing and vaccination site) fully staffed so the health department does not have to be involved like they were before and go back to their routine and go back to the way things were functioning and hopefully won't have all the overtime that they are currently looking at having now. Gail stated that Larry Hoover (EMA Director) can help by directing traffic, that's what emergency management and volunteers are supposed to be doing but she believes he is not available this week. Rick stated that he thinks her overtime could come out of the emergency money that they are going to establish. Gail spoke with Dr. Reyburn and gave his blessing for whatever they need to appropriate for that, she will work with the Auditor's office. She asks for Commissioners blessing and stated Council will need to appropriate. Gail will help the health

department get an appropriated line item for them to get established for those employees that are working over for the COVID only, so that we are clear for COVID versus just doing your regular thing so there is a certain amount stashed. Rick stated for the record that Gail needed permission to work from home for an emergency and it was granted. Gail stated that the tower project is still moving and the letters to the FCC and the Tribal Council are still continuing and are projected to be finished in October. Dawn stated she and Misty are headed over to set things up with the strike team so they are ready to go by noon. They will be trained so that they will be able to train everybody come Friday. The county should have their testing site hopefully up and running full-force come Monday. Gail stated that the Commissioners need to thank Cathi Collins from the jail as well. She has been ten-folds doing the same thing. She's been helping them out greatly. Dawn thanked the highway department for already putting out signs. They already have a lot of the barricades up and ready to go, she noticed the signs when she went to pick up keys at the fairgrounds yesterday.

**COVID PHASE III GRANT CLOSEOUT** – Steve motioned to approve a letter requesting release of funds from OCRA on the phase III grant, Rick seconded; carries 3-0.

**TRANSPO** – Rick motioned to approve access to Darryl Hoover and Mark Hartman of Chambers & Co., LLC to obtain access to the portal for TRANSPO reporting (Black Cat) for the purpose of assisting TRANSPO in addressing the 2019 compliance report findings, Steve seconded; carries 3-0. Steve motioned to approve access to Alan G.L. Smith and Tracy L. Kelly of Rea Logan & Co. LLC to obtain access to the portal for TRANSPO reporting (Black Cat) for the purpose of assisting TRANSPO in addressing the 2019 compliance report findings, Rick seconded; carries 3-0.

**MINUTES** – Meeting minutes from August 16<sup>th</sup> were motioned for approval by Rick, Steve seconded; carries 3-0.

**CLAIMS** – Approved as presented

July 2021 Sur/Wheel Tax Distribution	\$	49,946.63
2021 Annual Riverboat Distribution	\$	82,421.19
TRANSPO Pass-through	\$	60,573.00
SIHO June Bank Fees	\$	76.00
Payroll 8/27/21	\$	210,547.49
Payroll Deductions 8/27/21	\$	93,147.24
August 2021 Credit Card	\$	8,502.91
Tourism 7/21/21	\$	8,000.00
Tourism 8/11/21	\$	7,802.00
Tourism 6/9/21	\$	4,810.00
September Misc. Claims	\$	497,754.92

**TRANSFERS** – Approved as presented

Department	Fund	From Account	To Account	Amount
			Deputy \$14,200	
			Health Insurance \$368	
			HSA \$204	
			Life Insurance \$5	
			Dental \$10	
Auditor	County General	Deputy PT	PERF \$1,250	\$16,037
To support Council-approved full-time position and raise				

Prosecutor	Pre-trial Diversion	Office Equipment	Continuing Education	\$500
Money transferred to cover training expenses				

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS** – Approved as presented

Department	Fund	For	Amount
Highway	MVH	Extra Help	\$25,000
To cover pay for additional part-time employees			
Recorder	Recorders Records Perpetuation	Furniture/Equipment	\$8,620
new plat book storage cabinet			
Network Admin.	Jail Construction	IT Infrastructure	\$198,362
Fiber to new jail			
Personnel \$33,264			
OASDI \$2,545			
Trash Removal \$120			
Contract \$2,000			
Health	COVID Testing & Vaccinations	Other Supply \$1,000	\$38,929
For the COVID testing and vaccination site			

**OLD BUSINESS** – Rick recommends and motions to appoint Straeter to the Hospital Board. Bryan will have him fill out a questionnaire Steve seconded the motion; carries 3-0.

**NEW BUSINESS** – The Chamber of Commerce has requested to use the courthouse lawn for the chili cook-off on October 19<sup>th</sup>. The Chamber will provide the indemnification for use. The car club is a separate entity and will have to ask permission separately. Commissioners discussed that any employee that has a positive COVID test should be allowed to have up to 10 days (or 10 days' worth of normal work hours off) with pay. This will be retroactive to April 1, 2021. Rick motioned to approve, Steve seconded; carries 3-0.

**RECESS** – Steve motioned to recess at 10:27 a.m., seconded by Rick; carries 3-0.