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FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monday, December 6, 2021

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

FULTON COUNTY H.O.P.E. – Pat Brown reported on Recovery Café, a peer-support organization that helps find resources much like a 12-step program. The program is free with a pledge of time. There were 20 crisis cases delivered to treatment this year. They were 1 of 10 awarded a grant from State for a street outreach program. H.O.P.E. will be in Fulton, Kewanna and Akron to seek out those needing help. Unmet mental health needs is a navigation challenge. Childcare is one of the biggest issues in the county currently. Stable, safe, affordable housing is also a challenge. Sexual assault is a prevailing issue within Recovery Café. A meal is served every night with local restaurants providing meals. Isolation due to COVID is an ongoing issue with overdoses and suicides. H.O.P.E. is open Wednesday and Thursday mornings, Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. Commissioners offer to allow Pat to utilize DLZ to help with grant information through the Commissioners contract.

RECORDER – Deb Bock delivered a proposed media conversion agreement with Fidlar to back index documents in the amount of $115,840.26. Steve motioned to approve, Rick seconded; carries 3-0.

HIGHWAY – Steve motioned to approve all fall bids opened, Rick seconded; carries 3-0. John presented permit request 21-46 for a sewer main extension and curb step installation. Rick motioned to approve, Steve seconded. Permit 21-47 for frontier to replace copper along 1200 W was motioned for approval by Rick, seconded by Steve; carries 3-0. Rick motioned to approve permit 21-48 for a sewer line und Lakeshore Drive, Macy, Steve seconded; carries 3-0. Permit 21-49 requests for fiber optic line to the highway department was motioned for approval by Steve, seconded by Rick; carries 3-0. John presented a contract for Midwest Spray Team retaining the same price as the last two years. Steve motioned to approve, Rick seconded; carries. John updated on the department activities including the road for the new communications tower, patching and grading and preparing for winter. The 2021 PASER asset management plan was presented. Bids will be opened on January 17 for Community Crossing project at Sweetgum Rd. John would like to have shelf-ready projects for future opportunities; Commissioners approve.

IT/MAINTENANCE – Gibson Lewis will begin tomorrow on the plaster work in the courthouse. The new detention center work is mostly complete, they are up and running. An A/V specialist will be at the jail today. Bryan mentioned Rochester Downtown Partnership interested in putting a large tent on the courthouse lawn and will be reaching out to him. Josh suggests having an online request form for these situations.

EMA – Larry Hoover stated that he sent out a warning to the weather service today concerning wind advisory. He picked up the free antibacterial wipes. The LEPC exercise is Wednesday night at 6:00 at the Rochester Fire Department.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES – No update.

CORONER – Jeri Good updated the activity has accelerated in the second half of the year. There were 16 calls the first half of the year and is now up to 65. All 13 autopsies have occurred in the second half of the year. She is concerned with drug overdoses with more this year than ever, there have been 7 officially and is expecting 3 more from pending reports. Fentanyl from China and Mexico is being mixed with meth, cocaine and even marijuana. She would like to get cleaning supplies, sheets, a sweeper, additional tables, and signage within the soft costs of the bond. Commissioners suggest she get in touch with Area Plan for the sign. She estimates needing $9,000 for all requested items.

JAIL MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN – Chad Calvert stated he has money in his budget for snow removal equipment; Commissioners approve.

SHERIFF – Chris Sailors stated all prisoners were moved, the body scanner was installed, and the UV disinfectant machine was put together. The scanner and disinfection machine will need to be trained on. He would like to work with the Coroner to include all departments on the sign and the Highway department on signage to the jail. He is still in the process of moving remaining records and items from the old Sheriff Office and jail. He would like to meet this week to review the soft cost budget of the jail bond.

SOIL AND WATER – Lois Mann stated that she has invoiced the State of Indiana for projects. So far $15,865 was paid to landowners for conservation practices and anticipates $147,000 total by the end of the year. Lois reports there are tons of nitrates, nitrites and phosphorus that is being withheld from local waterways with these conservation practices. She accompanied the Health Department to collect water testing supplies to finish the water sampling project in the Lake Manitou watershed. Mill Creek Conservancy has requested additional appropriation of funds for $15,000 toward additional work scooping sediments. The annual banquet will be at the Geneva Center on February 7th at 6:00 p.m. The Clean Water Indiana Grant will expire in 2022. If CWI offers a grant for the following years it probably will not be at the level that the current grant offered. Steve suggests looking into ARPA funds for options.

COMMUNICATIONS – Gail Karas stated the LEPC exercise is mandatory and very important for funding. When there is an event planned for the Courthouse lawn an emergency plan should be included. A radio is the only form of communication with the old jail remaining. Gail presented the November reports. The communications tower has been approved; the antennae structure registration has also been approved. Her Assistant Director is working on a new schedule for dispatchers. HB 1198 included dispatchers in public safety allowing employees to be included in the 7-K exemption. Commissioners approve moving forward to a committee for approval.

2022 FEDCO CONTRACT – A contract for $110,300 for economic development for 2022 with FEDCO was motioned for approval by Rick, seconded by Steve; carries 3-0.

PROBATION – The 2022-2023 Juvenile Community Corrections Grant for $46,050 was motioned for approval by Steve, seconded by Rick; carries 3-0.

MINUTES – Meeting minutes of November 15 and 19 were motioned for approval Rick, seconded by Steve; carries 3-0.

CLAIMS – Approved as presented

Payroll 11/19/21	$	$235,081.19
Payroll Deductions 11/19/21	$	97,737.80
Payroll 12/3/21	$	249,014.38
Payroll Deductions	$	87,550.80
November Wheel/Sur Tax	$	52,814.72
November LIT Distribution	$	652,487.75

December 6 Misc. Claims	$	432,524.41
November Credit Card	$	5,967.61

TRANSFERS – Approved as presented

Department	Fund	From Account	To Account	Amount
Treasurer	County General	31011 Cont. Ed	31001 Dues	$70
Dues				
Probation	County General	31011 Cont. Ed	32010 Cell Phone	$150
For November and December cell phone invoices				
Council	County General	31011 Cont. Ed	39800 Consult Fee	$2,000
For G.O. Bond Fees				
Park & Rec.	Non-reverting Park Operations	32301 Repair & Maintenance	31500 Contract	$100
Invoices for remainder of year.				
Clerk	Clerk Perpetuation	41106 Voting Equipment	41000 Equipment	$5,934
For blinds in the Clerk's offices				

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS – Approved as presented

Department	**Fund**	**For**	**Amount**
Public Defender	County General	32025 Reimburse Conflict Attorney	$15,000
Caseload increase			
Communications	Statewide 911	32301 E-911 Sprint Contract	$5,000
Remaining Telco charges for legacy lines and maintenance			
Highway	MVH	19004Overtime Worker	$14,000
Additional part-time positions/hours,			
Highway	LIT-Jail Construction	Stone, Gravel, Aggregate	$8,750
Materials for the road to 911 tower at new jail site.			
Highway	MVH	10217 Asst. Supt.	$1
To cover budget shortfall			
Highway	MVH	12007 Clerk	$5
To cover budget shortfall			
Highway	MVH	12026 Asst. Mechanic	$380
To cover budget shortfall			

ENCUMBRANCES –

Department	**Fund**	**For**	**Amount**
Highway	Cum. Bridge	30100 All Bridge Inspection	$50,607
For an ongoing project			
Highway	MVH	31501 Engineering Study/Fees	$2,912
For an ongoing project			
Highway	LRS	39800 Consult Fee	$4,681
For an ongoing project			
Health	Health	21000 Office Supply	$131
For credit card payment on supplies ordered			

IT/Maintenance Bobcat purchase	Cum Cap	41000 Equipment	$65,902.36
IT/Maintenance Clock restoration	County General	38800 Equip Repair/Maint.	$30,000
IT/Maintenance For plaster work and lighting at courthouse	County General	36003 Building & Repair	$206,863

OLD BUSINESS – Steve discussed a solar policy, Rick is on the Area Plan Commission. An additional Commissioner will attend the next meeting to discuss. Rick motioned to appoint IT for the single point of contact for all broadband projects, Steve seconded; carries 3-0. Gail stated that she takes part with broadband as well and partners with Josh on many projects. Commissioners add her as a contact. Steve thanked employees for hard work.

NEW BUSINESS – Bryan stated a friend of Earl Gearte reached out and requested a plaque recognizing his years of service on the County Council. Bryan expressed that he does not want to set precedence and encourages Rick and Steve to consider how they would like to handle the request. Bryan met with RTC regarding Kewanna property; they are looking for a piece of property to put a hut for broadband. The final meeting of the year will be on Thursday, December 30 at 9:00 a.m. rather than the 31st due to the observed holiday.

RECESS – Rick motioned to recess at 10:46, seconded by Steve; carries 3-0.

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

Bryan Lewis

Rick Ranstead

Steve Metzger

Attest: Christina Sriver, County Auditor

I affirm under penalties of perjury, that I have taken reasonable care to redact each social security number in this document, unless required by law: Christina Sriver

Prepared by: Christina Sriver

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FULTON COUNTY