

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Monday, September 21, 2020

Meeting opened at 6:00 p.m. with Pledge to the Flag. Present: Bryan Lewis, Rick Ranstead, Steve Metzger, Holli Shorter-Pifer and Auditor Christina Sriver.

ORDINANCE – Bryan performed the third reading of Ordinance 09082020: Ordinance Extending the Agricultural Extension Agent Voting Authority on the Fulton County Area Plan Commission. With no comments heard from the audience Rick motioned to approve the ordinance, Steve seconded; carries 3-0.

STEVEN RAY/NIRPC – Steven Ray (Northern Indiana Regional Planning Council) discussed a project for phone systems for Communications at a cost of \$62,183.00 A USDA grant is being pursued in the amount of \$21,764 with the remaining \$40,419 being charged to the County; Statewide 911 Fund (1222) will be used to pay the County portion. Rick motioned to approve the grant application, Steve seconded; carries.

COURTHOUSE LAWN – Jo Fisher explained that she and her sons have advocated for domestic abuse victims for twenty years. For the last ten years she has displayed crosses in Plymouth at the Courthouse. She requests use of the Fulton County Courthouse lawn for the month of October to display crosses in honor of National Domestic Violence month. Due to the fact that it is not religious in nature the County Attorney has no objections. Rick motioned to approve the placement of the crosses for the month of October, Steve seconded; carries.

HIGHWAY – John Geier presented permit request 20-24 for Frontier. Steve motioned to approve, Rick seconded; carries. Permit request 20-25 was presented for an irrigation pipe at CR 500N between roads 250 E & 350 E. Rick motioned to approve, Steve seconded; carries. Permit request 20-26 was presented for NIPSCO for gas lines at 6585 S Sunset Blvd, Macy. The road was just paved last week but will need to be cut in order to tap into the existing line. Rick motioned to approve with the understanding that the road will be restored to the original quality, Steve seconded; carries. John updated on the department activities including laying pug and spraying new roads with Bioseal. There is \$280,286 remaining of the 2020 Community Crossings grant left available to request by September 25th. Engineering has been done on 900 W to SR 110 and is ready to apply for. State detours closed three sections of roads last week. Since the County was not notified of the preliminary meetings the State will reimburse for any damage to roads due to the detours. John would like to purchase a skid loader for the Kewanna property. Council has given permission; John will appropriate from MVH. He is advertising for an open position at the department. He will be submitting the IPEP grant for radios tomorrow. There will be a field check meeting on October 7th for Old S 31 at the highway garage and snow plow training October 26th also at the department garage.

EMA – Larry Hoover will have an EMI (state association) board meeting in Indy October 20th and 21st.

SHERIFF – Chris Sailors discussed the State detour on CR 125 E between 600 S and 400 S and requests dropping the speed limit temporarily during the detour. The detour on SR 17 on 950 S and requests dropping the speed limit temporarily there as well. Rick motioned to temporarily reduce the speed limit to 35 MPH at all state project sites as presented by John Geier for detours serving closures on SR 17, SR 25 N and SR 25 S, Steve seconded; carries. The Highway Department requested the Sheriff to review

speed limits at 200 N between Old 31 and SR 25; Liberty Road between Southway and Mitchell drive; Old 17 between 525 N and 475 N; and River Road off Olson to Riverwood Acres. Bruce Lake Station (100 N) between 825 W and SR 17 was also studied. John Geier believes there may already be a speed ordinance for that area. There was a jail meeting today – the delay for the cells early to mid-November to December, as of today the manufacturer announced the expected date is now the first part of November. The next cement pour will start tomorrow morning. Last week the first 1/3 of the intake area was poured, the second part will be done tomorrow. The steel framing and electrical is also ongoing. A female correctional officer will be off on medical leave for six to eight weeks but has no paid time off requiring an unpaid leave of absence. He asks for a variance of the personnel policy to allow time off without pay so she can return to work. Commissioners approve.

COMMUNICATIONS – Gail Karas stated the vehicle inspection form was sent to her for the online auction of the Communications vehicle. She spoke with the highway mechanic about stripping the vehicle. Larry would like to sell the EMA Durango as well. Commissioners approve. She will be removing \$30,000 of the tower cost for the new jail and could remove an additional \$30,000 but that would be dependent on the fire departments having enough 800 radios.

IT/MAINTENANCE – Josh Sriver delivered a report to Commissioners earlier today. The Sheriff has ordered the body cameras; the IT funds will cover a portion of the \$40,175 for cameras, software and maintenance. Devin has been working with the Clerk concerning election equipment and preparation.

FULTON COUNTY H.O.P.E. – Bonnie Dunbar, President, and Virga Smith, Treasurer, thanked the Commissioners for the \$5,000 contribution and explained how the money was spent. They have placed 21 people under roof; 12 adults and 9 children in housing with rent assistance. There have been several household items donated. IUK completed a Section 8: Low Income Housing Study at no cost establishing a shortage of low income housing. This causes a long waiting list for housing; one particular apartment had 37 applicants. Of Fulton County residents 23% are renters, higher than state average. Fulton County has more renters that are overburdened than anywhere in the State.

PERSONNEL POLICY REVISIONS – Gail Karas and Jodi Miller (matron) discussed holiday pay policies. Revisions will be tabled pending another personnel policy meeting. Steve motioned for payroll to be processed as is and if there are any mistakes it will be amended, Rick seconded; carries.

HOSPITAL BOARD APPOINTMENT – Tabled until the next meeting.

MINUTES – Minutes for September 8th were motioned for approval by Rick, seconded by Steve; carries 3-0.

CLAIMS – Motioned for approval by Steve, seconded by Rick; carries.

September 21 st Misc. Claims	\$1,365,165.93
Payroll 9/11/20	\$205,292.90
Payroll Deductions 9/11/20	\$68,964.29
August Host Fees	\$69,347.51
August Jail Construction	\$1,522,110.58

TRANSFERS – Approved as presented

Department	Fund	From Account	To Account	Amount
Soil & Water	County General	Secretary	HSA	\$2,500
To appropriate for HSA contributions				
Park & Rec	Park & Rec	Repair & Maint.	Contract	\$3,500
To pay contractor invoice				
Prosecutor	Pretrial Diversion	Office Supply	Legal Research	\$636.94
Legal research				
Highway	MVH	Federal Aid Repaving Project	Community Crossings Grant	\$128,268.94
Match for 2020 Community Crossings repaving project				
Commissioners	County General	Consult Fee-\$3,085	Equip Repair/Maint - \$2,000 Equipment - \$1,085	\$3,085
To cover Probation copier maintenance fees; to pay for weights for Weights and Measures Inspector.				

OLD BUSINESS – Rick O’Niell (audience member) asked who the Health Department answers to and why the Historical Society could not hold the Trail of Courage. Commissioners suggest he speak the Health Board as their supervising body.

NEW BUSINESS – None

RECESS – Rick motioned to recess at 7:56 p.m., Steve seconded; carries 3-0.