

Franklin County Commissioners
April 11, 2016
Commissioners/Council Meeting Room 203

Commissioners: Tom Wilson, Tom Linkel and Eric Roberts
Commissioners Secretary: Carol Westerman
Auditor: Stephen Brack

Open: The meeting was called to order by President Tom Wilson and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: a motion was made by Tom Linkel to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and was 2nd by Eric Roberts. Motion carried.

Claims: A motion was made by Tom Linkel to approve claims and was 2nd by Eric Roberts. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: A motion was made by Eric Roberts to acknowledge receipt of Treasurers report and was 2nd by Tom Linkel. Motion carried.

Veterans Officer: A motion was made by Tom Wilson to acknowledge receipt of the Veterans Officer report and was 2nd by Tom Linkel. Motion carried.

Wheel Loader: Much discussion was held concerning the bids received for the Wheel Loader from CAT and JCB and did not meet the specifications. A 3rd bid was received from John Deere but was not accepted as it was sent electronically, which is not accepted by the Commissioners. Commissioner Linkel stated various reasons the bids should not be accepted and asked that this piece of equipment be rebid. Commissioner Roberts disagreed with some of the reasoning and asked Commissioner Linkel if the real reason he wanted to reject the bids was due to the fact he wanted a John Deere, to which Mr. Linkel stated he does favor John Deere. Commissioner Linkel then made a motion to reject all bids and was 2nd by Tom Wilson. Commissioner Roberts was opposed. Motion carried. A question was directed to Commissioner Linkel from the audience by Councilman Keith Hall, stating: How many official bids did you receive? Answer 2. Mr. Hall commented as to the fact he didn't understand why there would be a rebid when 2 bids that met specification were accepted. Commissioner Linkel said his goal was to purchase a John Deere loader, because the old loader was good and dependable for years. It was decided to readvertise for sealed bids to be accepted at the April 25th meeting and no electronic bids would be accepted.

Franklin County Engineer – Ted Cooley: presented his update. INDOT wasn't able to attend the meeting to discuss the closure of St. Rd. 1 and US 52 Highway for bridge repair. INDOT is getting estimates for a stoplight traffic control rather than closing the bridge. The stoplight control will extend the closure from 90 days to 150 days. Mr. Cooley suggested that residents gather petitions against the complete closure. Several residents expressed their concern over a closure; such as hauling grain, smaller roads are not able to handle semi-truck traffic, passing of school buses and farm equipment. Also Cedar Grove Volunteer Fire Dept. may have difficulty in provide fire protection. The Commissioners will send a letter to INDOT requesting the use of stoplights to control traffic and leave the bridge open. There were four projects prioritized for use of FHWA in 2020: (1) \$1.3 million to rehab St. Mary's Road from Brookville to Levee Road; the county 20% would be \$260,000; (2) a new North Hamburg Bridge #31 over Bullfork

Creek; the current structure is on the list of 19 worst bridges in the county. Mr. Cooley indicated that the Highway Dept. could possibly install a new bridge for under \$400,000; a question was asked from the audience as to why Rockdale Bridge was selected as it is one of the three worst bridges. Mr. Cooley explained that some work had already been done on that bridge. Commissioner Roberts said the bridge is shorter in length and could be fixed by the Highway Dept. at a lesser expense: (3) a \$1 million major pavement rehab for an eligible county road. Commissioner Roberts suggested waiting until the county received the Pavement Evaluation study before making a decision. Commissioner Wilson wanted to divide up the money between 3 parts of the county that the commissioners oversee. Commissioner Roberts spoke against the idea; (4) Federal funding for guardrails. Commissioner Roberts requested Mr. Cooley to prepare estimates for each of the 19 worst bridges in the inspectors report and traffic county for each bridge, which will help in planning the budget for the upcoming year. Mr. Cooley also reported that the county must commit to do improvements as part of the ADA Transition plan and that the county agrees to not discriminate on projects that used federal funds as part of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Commissioner Linkel stated that the county couldn't commit to something it can't afford and Commissioner Roberts said the county could possibly complete the work locally now for \$1,000 instead of spending \$20,000 later. Commissioner Roberts also asked for estimates on installing curb ramps at four pedestrian bridges and other required locations in the county.

Concerns Expressed: Millie Simmermeyer asked the Commissioners to comment on "Take Home Vehicles." She stated this should be counted as a wage to the employee and the County can go back 3-4 years for adjustments. This can be taxed and a penalties and interest can be charged. The Department head is responsible to report accurate wages of employees. It was stated by Commissioner Roberts that he thought this was done in 2009 – 2010 but didn't know why this practice was stopped. Auditor Brack stated he would check into this through the Auditor's Association and report his findings. At this time there are 7 employees who have "Take Home Vehicles:" County Engineer, 3 Road Forman, SAC, Garage Mechanic and the Prosecutor.

60 – 120 Hours Comp Time: Again Mrs. Simmermeyer asked if this needed to be approved by County Council and how is going to save the county money?

Health Insurance: Councilman Hall asked about the bidding our county health insurance to brokers beside Mike Kramer, Pinnacle and Med Ben. Mr. Hall stated that he is not comfortable telling the taxpayers they are getting the best deal for the county employees when for 10 years the county has been dealing with only one broker and health insurance company. Both Commissioners Linkel and Wilson felt the county is getting the best deal and they received figures last week but did not disclose at the meeting. Following the discussion Commissioner Linkel stated that he would consider hiring a consultant to examine the health insurance options to see if the county is receiving the best package at the best price. Councilman Hall stated that the 3 most expensive expenditures to the county are Highway, Sheriff/Jail and Health Insurance. He stated let's get some help to do this fair. How do surrounding counties bid for Health care. Ms. Simmermeyer said that Union County as well as the State of Indiana has changed their process due to expense.

Indemnity Agreement - Metamora Fire Department: The commissioners were asked to sign the Indemnity Agreement for the fireworks held in Metamora. Commissioner Roberts asked that the agreement be rewritten as the way it reads now the county is paying for the fireworks. President Wilson asked John Worth to look the agreement over and bring back to the April 25th meeting.

Metamora Fire Department – Permit fee: A motion was made by Tom Linkel to waive the permit fee for the add on addition to the Fire Department in the Historic District and was 2nd by Eric Roberts. Motion carried.

Payroll: A motion was made by Tom Linkel to approve payroll and was 2nd by Eric Roberts. Motion carried.

Fred Layton: approach the Commissioners regarding all of the negatives being reported by the media. He stated that people don't understand that the Commissioners are on call 24/7 and what all they do. He also said he doesn't understand why council would not give them insurance. Mr. Layton said there have been many times that Commissioners Wilson and Linkel have stopped by his job site to see how things were going, etc. He just really appreciates the work they do.

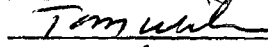
SAC – Daryl Kramer: asked that since Steve Monroe is on Workman's Comp is there a need to put more money on the line in order to get someone to fill in while he is off. At this time if there is a need the Sheriff's Dept. is called but they will not do anything with the animal and the part-time at the Transfer station will only feed the dogs at the shelter.


Commissioner Linkel stated to the Auditor that Treasurer Voelker is unable to access some information from the LOW System. The Auditor stated that LOW was working directly with Ms. Voelker to correct the problem. Mr. Linkel state he would like there to be transparency.


A motion was made by Tom Wilson to recess this meeting and reconvene at 2:00PM for the meeting with the DNR.

Others in attendance: Mark and Millie Simmermeyer, Betty Lecher, Mike Kohlsdorf, Tim Wilson, Sara Duffy, Keith Hall, James Sprague, Lyle Frost, Freddy Layton, Larry Merkel, Wayne Monroe, Bill Schirmer, Daryl Kramer, Pete Hebauf, Linda Hall and Ted Cooley. The names are spelled correctly per the sign in sheet.

AYE



Tom Wilson


Tom Linkel


Eric Roberts

NAY

Tom Wilson

Tom Linkel

Eric Roberts

Attest:

Stephen Brack, Auditor