

MAY 2
Franklin County Commissioners
May 1, 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.

Open Bids: Highway Wheel Loader: The following bids were received: John Deere and JCB. Commissioner Linkel stated that he had reviewed the bids and still feels that the John Deere is the best offer. It meets all the specs and he is very comfortable. Commissioner Roberts stated that the JCB was equal to the John Deere and it would save the county \$8,000.00. Commissioner Linkel made a motion to accept the John Deere bid as: \$151,000.00 less trade in of \$6,000.00 with a final bid of \$145,000.00. The commissioner continued debating the parking brake, front differential and horsepower and torque. The JCB representative was in the audience and stated that he could provide another model that would meet the specs of Commissioner Linkel with exception of the brake. Commissioner Wilson stated that the specs should be followed as close as possible. Commissioner Roberts stated that Horse Power is only a number and the torque should be considered. Councilman Keith Hall was in the audience and asked a question of which President Wilson commented back that "We are not asking for your input." At this time Councilman Hall stated that the Commissioners were reversing what they had said earlier that the elected officials could comment during the meeting. He then asked President Wilson "if he was the dictator for the day." Commissioner Wilson responded that the purchase "was not relevant to him." Councilman Hall reminded him that he was a citizen and taxpayer and asked he was saying that no one is allowed to speak. Commissioner Wilson then asked that he hold his comments to the end of the meeting. Councilman Hall stated that Council is the fiscal department of the county and the commissioners are spending an extra \$8,000.00 for a piece of equipment and wanted to know if this is justified. Councilman Hall also stated the specs were written to match the John Deere catalog and made it impossible for any company to compete. Commissioner Linkel stated that Caterpillar could meet the specs but the JCB rep stated that Caterpillar does not have a torque convertor in its transmission and could not have met the specs. Commissioner Linkel considered rebidding the wheel loader again but Commissioner Roberts stated two rounds of bidding was enough and they need to come to a conclusion. At the time President Wilson 2nd the motion. Motion carried. Commissioner Roberts was opposed.

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

Betty Lecher – Rebuttal – responded to Commissioner Wilson's letter to the editor of the Brookville Democrat and she talked about Health Insurance for Commissioners, Citizens right to access public records and the recording keeping at the highway department. Ms. Lecher also quoted from the handbook, which the Commissioners changed to include elected officials in the health coverage. She commented that the Commissioners showed no mercy to taxpayers for the cost of providing the coverage. She also explained the Indiana Code for broad and easy access to public records. She also said the Commissioners are required to make a reasonable effort to satisfy her request. She also questioned why the Highway Department does not track costs of projects by assigning special project numbers. There was no comment by the Commissioners.

Ted Cooley – Franklin County Highway Engineer: Highway 52 near New Trenton will be closed from July 11 to November 11 to repair two culverts. The official detour for trucks will be SR 1 to SR 46 and US 52. Commissioner Roberts stated he would like to see 2 unofficial detours for local traffic. He would like to see Johnson Fork in Dearborn County and St. Peters Road in Franklin County. His concern is trucks using the narrow, winding New Trenton hill. The state would like only one local detour as the state will pay to repair any damage caused by the detour. County Engineer Cooley will ask the state for the two detours.

First Group Engineering – Shawn Strange: much discussion was held interviewing and questioning Mr. Strange before voting on the contract of \$41,800.00. This amount will be reduced to exclude gravel roads that were included in the prior proposal. In order to receive the 50-50 match for state grants for road repairs the county must do an analysis of paved roads and a plan for future maintenance must be included. The analysis must be done in a time to apply for the first round of grants. There will be grants available up to \$1 million dollars available in 2016 and 2017. Mr. Strange stated his group would meet the deadline. At first, Commissioner Linkel was hesitant in case the council would require multiple vendors. Mr. Cooley stated that quotes were already received from USI in the amount of \$103,000.00 and Structure Point for \$92,000.00. Mr. Strange also informed the Commissioners his firm could hold down cost and promised to exceed state requirement for the pavement study. A motion was made by Eric Roberts to move forward to offer a contract to Mr. Strange and was 2nd by Tom Linkel. Motion carried. They would sign the paperwork at the May 9th meeting. Discussion was also held concerning how to pay; using bridge fund or money intended for local roads. Councilman Hall stated the Highway Department has sufficient money available in the inspection category to cover this contract.

Direct Deposit – Tom Linkel: read a detailed explanation on Direct Deposit which he stated was merely his opinion. He stated that at first everyone knew he was not in favor but with a better understanding he is OK with it.

Other business: Locked store room – Commissioner Linkel stated that he and Commissioner Wilson along with Auditor Brack looked over the store room and that there is a lot of information available to anyone going there that should not be available to the public. President Wilson will get with Darin Brack and have keys made and anyone needing to go in the storage should be accompanied by a County Employee and a log in sheet needs to be available. Night Meetings: Councilman Hall stated that a person in attendance of the Council meeting asked why there were not NIGHT MEETINGS so more people could attend. It should be noted that night meetings used to be held but there was hardly any attendance.

Adjourn: with not further business being addressed a motion was made by Tom Wilson and 2nd by Eric Roberts to adjourn. Motion carried.

Others in attendance: Betty Lecher, Mark and Millie Simmermeyer, Keith Hall, Gene Eaton, Sara Duffy, Lyle Frost, James Sprague, Ray Kerseys, Shawn Strange, Marty Han and Ted Cooley. The names are spelled correctly per the sign in sheet.

AYE 

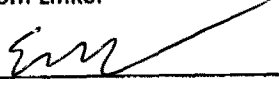
Tom Wilson
AYE

NAY

Tom Wilson
NAY



Tom Linkel



Eric Roberts

Attest:

Stephen Brack, Auditor

Tom Linkel

Eric Roberts