

FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING
12/14/2021 - 10:00 A.M.
COMMISSIONERS/COUNCIL MEETING ROOM, #203

The Franklin County Commissioners met in a regular meeting on December 14, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Meeting Room. Those presents were Tom Linkel, Tom Wilson, Gerald Wendel, Faye Hay, Crystal McQueen, Rob Seig, Pete Cates, and Eugena Monroe, Deputy Auditor. Those in virtual attendance Grant Reeves.

OPEN: The meeting was called to order and the pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Linkel.

Tax Refund Exchange passed on to the Auditor and Treasurer. Brief description on how the Tax Refund Exchange works. **Tom Linkel made the motion to accept. Gerald Wendel seconds motion. Motion Carried.**

Tom Linkel closed Commissioners Meeting and opened a Drainage Board Meeting. Tom Wilson seconds motion. Motion Carried.

Tom Linkel spoke with the Auditor and Surveyor and come to find some accounting adjustments on the drainage ditches in the county. We will fix it and advise the landowners. The James Boyle ditch is a shared ditch between Franklin and Union County. It has not been collected upon for two and a half years. Assessment is for \$10 an acre which was established in 2017. The fee stays in place for four years. Roughly there is 250 acres which would be equivalent to collections of \$2,500 should have been assessed to landowners. Rob Seig advised he has spoken to Ted Young the Union County Surveyor about the joint ditches. Rob Seig is working with the Auditor to confirm what he believes is an arrange payment of around \$6,000 that needs to be collected from the landowners. Tom Linkel wanted to make it public that we found it, we are aware of it, and we are working on correcting it.

Tom Linkel closed the Drainage Board Meeting and reopened the Commissioners Meeting. Gerald Wendel seconds the motion. Motion Carried.

Board Band Letter of Support brought to the Commissioners by John Palmer and Grant Reeves. They are not looking for financial support from the County. What they are looking for is a signature of support from the County in implementation of board band services throughout Franklin County. **Tom Linkel makes a motion to sign the Board Band Letter of Support. Tom Wilson seconds the motion. Motion Carried.**

Southeastern Indiana Workforce is looking for a signature of support for a work program. The program will help with job training within the area. **Tom Linkel made a motion for signature of support for Southeastern Indiana Workforce. Gerald Wendel seconds the motion. Motion Carried.**

Debbie Tibbets gives COVID 19 update from the Health Department.

Utility Contract on Saint Peters Road. An unidentified utility company was doing work on landowners' property along St. Peters Road in Franklin County. When approached by the landowner the utility company showed a permit obtained from the Franklin County Highway Department to the landowners. The landowner then contacted the Commissioners about the permit. The utility contract is still responsible for contacting the landowner. The wordage of the permits needs to be updated immediately by Larry and Grant Reeves then sent back for review by the Commissioners. Great Plains Communication needs to be contacted. A hold is now in placed on the permits.

Gobbles Creek Bridge Rob Seig has completed as much as he can on the project. Rob has communicated with each of the landowners involved in the project. Rob is currently waiting on legal work from Grant Reeves. Offer letters and legal documents will need to be sent to each of the landowners. Rob believes some of the landowners will donate the land.

Policy on Accident Report. The issue becomes when a mailbox is damaged due to snow or by a vehicle. There is already a policy and/or ordinance on a property owners' mailbox being damaged. The DOT drug testing policy must be followed if there is an accident or incident. An accident report must be filed if there is another vehicle involved.

Pete Cates, Sheriff Department is asking the Commissioners approval in continuing the Agreement for Lieberman Technologies Program. This is agreement is for the continued usage of software for collecting cash and making payments. This is used for tax warrants. Software contract is in the amount of \$6,200.00. **Tom Linkel makes a motion to approve the Lieberman Agreement. Gerald Wendel seconded the motion. Motion Carried.**

Robert Brack for the Park Board. **Tom Linkel motion to approve. Tom Wilson Seconded. Motion Carried.**
Ronald Cooper for the Alcoholic Beverage Board. **Tom Linkel motion to approve. Tom Wilson Seconded. Motion Carried.**

John Palmer for the Convention Recreation Board. **Tom Linkel motion to approve. Tom Wilson Seconded. Motion Carried.**

Tim Ziemke for the Convention Recreation Board. **Tom Linkel motion to approve. Tom Wilson Seconded. Motion Carried.**

Karen Fuegi for the SIEOC Board. **Tom Linkel motion to approve. Tom Wilson Seconded. Motion Carried.**

Cindy Orschell for the SIRPC Board. **Tom Linkel motion to approve. Tom Wilson Seconded. Motion Carried.**

Tom Linkel for the SIRPC Board. **Tom Linkel motion to approve. Tom Wilson Seconded. Motion Carried.**

Bill Schirmer for the Regional Economic Development Commission. **Tom Linkel motion to approve. Tom Wilson Seconded. Motion Carried.**

John Palmer for the Regional Economic Development Commission. **Tom Linkel motion to approve. Tom Wilson Seconded. Motion Carried**

Eric Knight for the Cemetery Board. **Tom Linkel motion to approve. Tom Wilson Seconded. Motion Carried**
Tom Linkel motion to approve. Tom Wilson Seconded. Motion Carried

Lovely Lynn Griffin for the Health Board. **Tom Linkel motion to approve. Tom Wilson Seconded. Motion Carried.**

Tom Linkel spoke on behalf of the Highway Department about taking the funds that have been set aside for a new snow truck and using them for a service truck for the mechanic. Funds to cover the new snow truck are around \$170,000. Tom Linkel negotiated a price down to \$139,064.51 for the new service truck. **Tom Linkel makes a motion to approve the purchase of the new service truck. Gerald Wendel Seconded. Motion Carried.**
Security access for Lowell.

The Commissioners have been asked by the Auditor and Treasurer for their Chief Deputies to be given full security access in the Low System. **Tom Linkel motion to approve. Gerald Wendel Seconded. Motion Carried.**

Minutes approved Tom Linkel makes a motion to approve minutes for November 30, 2021. Tom Wilson Seconded. Motion Carried.

Commissioners want to acknowledge they received the Treasurers and Clerks Report.

Claims in the amount of \$10,019,761.01. **Tom Linkel makes a motion to approve claims. Tom Wilson Seconded. Motion Carried.**

Payroll and payroll deductions in the amount of \$200,626.89. **Tom Linkel makes a motion to approve. Gerald Wendel Seconded. Motion Carried.**

Amy Lindsey, EMA Director is requesting that Jesus Olvera be approved as an EMA volunteer and make the same annual stipend that the rest of the volunteers make. They make about \$300 a year before taxes. **Tom Linkel makes a motion for Jesus Olvera to be paid \$300 as an EMA volunteer. Tom Wilson seconded. Motion Carried.**

Amy Lindsey, EMA Director spoke about Emergency Preparedness of Franklin County. Where we are presently as a County. Amy continued to speak about improving the County's future position if a disaster should occur.

Grant Reeves asked if the bonds had been approved. Tom Linkel advised yes; they had been approved. Grant went on to mention he will be submitting his employment contract. He advised the Commissions in his submittal his salary amount would be increasing from \$175,000.00 to \$185,000.00.

Cemetery Board would like permission to purchase a drone to be able to view cemetery boundaries. Drone cost is \$500.00. **Tom Linkel makes a motion to approve purchase. Tom Wilson Seconded. Motion Carried.**

AYES:

NAYS:



Tom Wilson

Tom Wilson

Tom Linkel

Tom Linkel



Gerald Wendel

Gerald Wendel

ATTESTED BY:



Karla J. Bauman, Auditor