

**FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
NOVEMBER 1, 2022 - 10:00 A.M.  
COMMISSIONERS/COUNCIL MEETING ROOM, #203**

The Franklin County Commissioners met in regular meeting on November 1, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Meeting Room. Commissioners present: Tom Linkel, Gerald Wendel, Tom Wilson and Karla Bauman, Auditor, present.

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

**Bid Opening Gobles Creek:** County Engineer, Larry Smith opened the two bids that were received for the bridge construction over Gobles Creek. The bid from Paul H. Rohe was for \$988,656 and the bid from RL Vuckson Excavating was for \$1.15 million. Commissioners told Mr. Smith to review the bids and they would award later in the meeting.

Commissioners recessed the commissioners meeting to open the drainage board meeting. Commissioners discussed the Jeff Meyers Ditch construction loan and the amount that is still due on the loan. Tom Linkel moved to pay the balance of the Jeff Meyer Ditch Construction loan in the amount of \$6,514.36 and the amount of \$317.16 for Shafter Ditch repairs from the General Drain Improvement Fund. Commissioner Linkel then amended the motion to include the amount of interest that was deferred on the Jeff Meyer's Ditch in the amount of \$1.041 to also be paid from the General Drain Improvement Fund. This motion was seconded by Tom Wilson, all in favor, motion carried. The further discussed maintaining a minimum balance in the general drain improvement fund. Attorney Reeves will work on a resolution establishing the minimum amount to be maintained. Commissioners closed the drainage board meeting.

**Burn Ban Rescinded:** Commissioners discussed putting into place a standing ordinance that would establish what happens when a burn ban is put in place but is ignored by citizens. The Commissioners discussed adding a penalty for those that ignore the ban. The instructed Attorney Reeves to draft the resolution. **Commissioner Linkel also motioned to repeal the present burn ban that was enacted which was seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.**

**Franklin County Health Department** – Nanette Beres, supervising nurse with the Franklin County Health Department came before commissioners to get approval on a grant application for lead risk assessment. The State has increased the lead monitoring that is required at the county level. The health department must monitor children identified with lead poisoning and inspect the home to find the source of lead poisoning. This will be a reimbursable grant. **Motion to approve the application for the lead risk assessment grant by Tom Linkel, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.**

**Franklin County Nativity Scene:** Wayne Monroe's son-in-law, Mike Rains will take over the Nativity/Christmas Display set-up and take-down on the courthouse lawn. **Motion to approve Mike Rains to handle the Nativity/Christmas Display on the courthouse lawn by Tom Linkel, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.**

**Minutes:** **Motion to approve the October 18<sup>th</sup> and October 25, 2022 minutes by Gerald Wendel, seconded by Tom Wilson, all in favor, motion carried.**

**Payroll & Payroll Deductions: Motion to approve the payroll and payroll deductions in the sum of \$204300.87 by Tom Linkel, seconded by Tom Wilson, all in favor, motion carried.**

**Gobles Creek Bridge: Commissioners discussed the two bids received with county engineer Larry Smith. Motion to award the Gobles Creek Bridge construction to Paul H. Rohe in the sum of \$988,656 by Tom Wilson, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.**

**Ordinance 2022-14 Amendment: Motion to amend Ordinance 2022-14 which is the Cares Act Sick Leave Policy by Tom Wilson, seconded by Tom Linkel, all in favor, motion carried.**

Commissioner Linkel wanted to discuss some items with the other two commissioners before he hands over the reins at the end of the year. Commissioner Linkel requested that County Engineer Larry Smith get a price for painting white lines on the edges of Five Point Road. Commissioner Wilson said that at night drivers have gone off the edge of the road because the blacktop is so dark.

Commissioner Linkel advised the others to stock up on road salt now because barges cannot deliver to Aurora due to low water levels. Commissioner Linkel also discussed that once the county receives the deed for the former state highway garage on Mill Street, that the County will tear down the old building and fence. As part of the deal, the county will turn over the paved area to the Town of Brookville. He said it will be a nightmare to get rid of the calcium at the bottom of the 5,000 storage tanks left behind. He suggested burying it in the pit area at the county landfill. He also advised putting all the county's salt in the dome.

Commissioner Linkel then offered ideas on future equipment needed. He said the county should buy another loader so one can be kept permanently at the salt dome. He recommended buying a knuckle boom to use with the mini-excavator instead of spending \$400,000 for a new grad-all.

Commissioner Linkel also discussed the repairs needed at the courthouse. The estimated cost to replace the asphalt roof with a metal roof is \$1.5 million. Commissioner Wilson stated that the jail repairs for 2022 totaled over \$300,000.00. Commissioner Linkel predicted that the county will need a new jail or a plan of some kind within the next 10 to 15 years. The county cannot continue to afford \$300,000 a year on repairs.

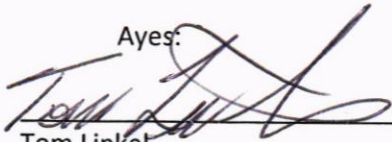
Commissioner Linkel reported that the Indiana State Board of Accounts (SBOA) recently completed an audit of Franklin County's finances and found no infractions of any kind. Auditor Bauman said she wanted everybody to be aware that the allegations that were raised in the spring in regards to the \$1.2 million health insurance over expenditure was discussed with them when they were here and they reviewed the audit that we had performed. Both Commissioner Linkel and Auditor Bauman said that Councilmember Patterson should have talked to elected officials before he made the allegations in a public meeting. Auditor Bauman further stated that the false allegations were reckless and damaging to her office. Commissioner Linkel called the allegation of overspending by Councilmember Patterson careless, damaging and an outright lie. He said we cannot have such a person on council to vote on millions of dollars of taxpayers' money. It's just not right. Both Commissioner Linkel and Councilmember Joe Sizemore called for the resignation of Councilmember Patterson. Councilmember Sizemore said that Councilmember Patterson has no place in county government.

**Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Tom Wilson, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.**

**Others in attendance and/or zoom:** Fayette Hay and Cyrstal McQueen, Commissioner's Secretaries, Bridget Hayes, John Heis, Hollie Maxie, Mike Fehlinger, Joe Sizemore, Larry Smith, Jackie Wilhelm, Rob Seig and Derreck Towel. There were also several in attendance thru zoom.

Minutes approved November 29, 2022

Ayes:

  
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Tom Linkel

  
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Gerald Wendel

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Wilson


Nays:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Linkel

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Gerald Wendel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Wilson

ATTESTED BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Karla J. Bauman, Auditor