

Jennings County Commissioner Meeting  
Government Annex Building, Commissioners Meeting Room  
July 9, 2020 6:30 pm

All Commissioners were present. Matt Sporleder led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Katrina Coryell from the JCCDV was requesting a \$10,000.00 donation on the 2021 budget. This is the same it has been in the past. That money will go to match a VOCA grant. It requires a 20% match. Matt explained that he is unsure what COVID will do for the upcoming budget. He said that they have been voting on things providing the Council is able to find the money. Bob Willhite made the motion to approve the \$10,000.00 if the Council can fund it. Dave Lane seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Marie Shepherd from Area Plan had a rezoning request from Robert Decamp for some parcels in Center Township from Ag to Residential Single Family. This is across from the golf course. He wants to develop the back part of that at some point. It has passed with essential services and APC. Bob made the motion to approve. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Marie also had some roads in Indiana Gardens that need named. In the enclosed packet there was one that was Lynn Street, she said the recorded plat does not have a name for the small street that has 5 parcels that run in front it. It could be developed in the future. There are no homes on these parcels. She is asking if the Commissioners want to name the street or wait until/if someone wants to develop one of the lots. There is also a duplicate street in Indiana Gardens and in North Vernon, Elm Street. This is confusing to 911. North Vernon Post Office delivers to Indiana Gardens. Discussion is held on names for streets. They decided on Apple Lane. The next one is Lynn Court which will be Shagbark Drive. The next one is off of Elm Street which will be Murray Lane. The next one is Huckleberry Drive, a portion of Maple Drive goes into 95 N to Huckleberry Drive. There are 2 homes along the street that already use Huckleberry Drive. Maple will be changed to Huckleberry Drive. The other one is off of Beech Street, an unnamed street that goes back to 5 additional parcels. They are not developed currently, it is a dead end. This will be Birch Way. Bob made the motion to rename these roads/streets. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Nicci Lucas, Human Resources, said she found someone to work at the Recycle Center, Marshall (Wayne) Fletcher. He started yesterday working with John Post. She said she is still trying to find someone who could fill in if either John or Wayne needed to be out. Bob made the motion to allow this position to be filled. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

She also is asking the Commissioners to see what their thoughts are on the masks, screeners at the door, etc? The 2 current screeners work for the school system and they are getting ready to go back in a couple of weeks. She said she is on the last couple of boxes of masks. She will need to order more if this is going to continue. Council appropriated enough to get through the first of August for the screeners. Ordering more supplies will come out of General Fund but that would need to be approved by Council also. Nicci will check with the Council. All Commissioners agree.

Amy Thompson, Clerk, stated that Senate Bill #179 was passed which provided the counties with an

County Commissioners

Page 2

July 9, 2020

initial layer of cyber security. They are mandated to do that. She has been in discussion with them. She has agreements that need to be signed by the Commissioners. The IT Dept and Amy were on a conference call today with the task force that is coordinating all of the implementation with the IT Dept. It will be delivered the week of the 15<sup>th</sup>. It will be a large pallet of items that will come to the annex and into the computer room. Rob from Eaglepoint will be working with them on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to install this. She sent the agreements to the Commissioners to look over. It does provide security and everything will pass through that. This is through FireEye. It is paid for through a grant from the Secretary of State. It is required until 2022 and at that time they will address whether they want to continue with it. Bob made the motion to sign this agreement. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

J.L. Brewer was here for the annual letter of support that he asks for each year for the Community Corrections Grant. They are submitting for grant funds to continue the operations, also asking for additional funds to help with the Work Release Center. The total they are asking for is approximately \$1.8 million. He realizes with the state of economy they may not receive all of that but hopefully they can get more than they normally get to help fund the work release. He is asking for a letter of support for this. They currently have about 140 on the work release program, 60 of those are from Jennings County. Bob made the motion to sign the support. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously. He gave an update on the Work Release Facility – they are holding a public hearing on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July as part of the bonding process. Once that happens there is a 30 day statute of limitations and then they can sell bonds. Hopefully it will begin construction sometime in September.

Rick Hall, attorney with Barnes and Thornburg, was at the meeting via speakerphone. Through the Federal Government Relief for COVID there has been approximately \$800,000.00 that has come to Jennings County through the state. He said that a lot of counties are struggling to get the full advantage of this money. He said he feels the counties will need the money later on. They have set up a program where they will take the county through the eligible expenses for the Cares Act. Someone at the county will have to take the lead and gather the information to support the request. After that is done they will discuss strategies on how the county might be able to use remaining Cares Act money to help alleviate future expenses and to help better prepare the county in the future. You cannot use the money for revenue replacement but there are things that can be done that can alleviate some budget pressure and still meet the legal requirements. They are doing this for about 3 dozen counties across the state. There is a \$5,000.00 fixed fee for their help on this. Matt asked Jerry Shepherd and Nicci Lucas their thoughts. They think it is a good idea. Nicci said she doesn't have the time be in charge of something like this. Bob made the motion to hire Rick Hall. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Barb King, from the North Vernon Plain Dealer, asked if he will be advising the county on potential upgrade of equipment or processes that they will do with the Cares Act funds. He said this definitely is part of what they will do.

County Commissioners

Page 3

July 9, 2020

Next is the second reading on the Health and Safety Ordinance. George Prather from the audience asked if it could be read out loud. He said it seems to him that this ordinance says they are in control of the wind, like it doesn't apply to everybody. He feels it's not a very good thing for citizens as a whole. Matt said that not every situation allows for everything to be treated the same, an ordinance that works for one area may not work for another. He said the Sheriff asked for this ordinance and they, along with Ellie drafted this off of ordinances of other counties. Basically it boils down to common sense has to come in to play. Mr. Prather's questions were addressed.

Greg Wilds had quotes for the awnings for the courthouse and the carpet for Judge Webster's quarters. There is 73 yards of carpet to be installed. Greg said the quote is for moving of the furniture. The quotes for the awning was a little over a year ago, the company said they will honor the same price still. The 3 awning quotes is \$9,354.00 and Judge Webster and Judge Smith requested the color black. Discussion is held about the color as they are currently green. There is \$40,419.00 left in the Cumulative Courthouse Fund for the year. So with the carpet (\$2,300 and \$3,348) plus the awning (\$9,354) that would take the Cum Courthouse to approximately \$25,000.00 for the rest of the year. Bob made the motion to allow Greg to proceed with these projects. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Greg also spoke for the Jail Committee. They have come to the decision that they will not go geothermal due to not having specs drawn up. He was told they didn't have the backing for that, it was not a unanimous vote. Greg said the Sheriff has been working closely with Mark Edmondson. Greg has talked to him several times but he has not given him any definite figures. He said that Edmondson is approaching this as a piece meal. Greg thinks on a project that size some specs are needed. He reported that Kurt with Johnson Melloh spent a lot of time on the jail project. Kurt was going to design it and take bids along with whoever else wanted to bid on it. If Kurt did not get the bid the only thing the county would owe him is for his design fees. Greg's recommendation is going with Johnson Melloh's design and drawings. Kurt was going to draw it up as Geothermal and as Conventional. The geothermal estimate was 26 years, and the conventional was 18 years and the estimated cost difference is \$168,366 (conventional being less). Bob made a motion to table any discussion until next meeting. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Matt went back to the Health and Safety Ordinance. No other discussion was brought up. Bob made a motion to approve the ordinance. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Culvert Ordinance was brought up. Ellie is out and has not had an opportunity to correct it. Jim Reeves recommended tabling this until next meeting. Bob made the motion to table it. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

County Commissioners

Page 4

July 9, 2020

Randy Shepherd, Fair Board President, spoke about the drainage issue at the Fair Grounds. This is on the north side, 500 N where the school ties in. Andy Ertel did a study on it in 2018 and this will be updated. The Fair Board is going to pay to have this done. They would like to have help from the county on the drainage on the fairgrounds itself. Matt said he would like to see the first stage completed and then see what needs done.

The second thing he asked is if they would like to do an all day tractor pull event. There would be some food vendors. The Fair Board will pick up the cost, \$1500-1800 for the sled and whatever the insurance would cost. This is tentatively set for August. They will have signage for social distancing. Bob made the motion to allow. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Bob made the motion to approve the prior minutes with the exception of 73 yards of carpet instead of 7.3. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Bob made the motion to sign payroll and all claims. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Floyd Bowman said that Mark Edmundson has a business in Crothersville that is residential. He lives in Jennings County. Matt feels that more research should be done on companies that quote commercial jobs to see if they are qualified to do so.

APC said there is another street that needs changed in Indiana Gardens and there is also one in North Vernon. The one in Indiana Gardens will be changed to Red Oak Street. Bob made the motion to change the name of this street. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Matt said he would like to have monthly updates on the COVID information from the Health Dept.

Bob made the motion to adjourn. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.



Tessia Salsman, Auditor



Bob Willhite, Vice-President



Matt Sporleder, President



Dave Lane