

COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
MAY 3, 2021 9:00 AM

ATTENDANCE:

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| COMMISSIONERS: | Rick Woodall, President Thomas Helmer, Vice President David Berry |
| ATTORNEY: | James Ensley, Attorney |
| AUDITOR: | Kristina Alexander, Auditor |
| COUNCIL: | Larry Parker Phillip Gick |
| AUDIENCE: | 16 Individuals |

The Putnam County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on May 3, 2021, at 9:00 AM at the Putnam County Courthouse. Rick Woodall opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

KRAMBO'S 12TH MOTORCYCLE SCAVENGER HUNT FUNDRAISER

Beth Krampe came to the meeting to ask if once again the county would give permission to close County Road 445 W for the fundraiser on June 19, 2021. Last year they had 250 people attend. They raised over \$18,000.

Tom Helmer made the motion to approve. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

REELSVILLE WATER DEPARTMENT

Beth Krampe serves on the board and was asked to bring it up to the Commissioners for the county to consider part of the American Rescue Plan funding to help the water department improve upon their system. They were trying to be proactive to prevent future problems. They would also like to look at adding septic systems.

METRONET

A representative from MetroNet stating the company was investigating a proof-of-concept wireless trial in the City of Greencastle. They were requesting authorization to attach an access point on the courthouse communications mast. This test could potentially be used to extend customer high speed internet. The timeframe they were looking to temporarily install the device would be Summer-Fall 2021.

After some discussion, the Commissioners gave the consensus to proceed. MetroNet needed to get them more information and paperwork before moving forward.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Rick Woodall said from what he understood first half of the 7.2M should be deposited this month to the county. The county has made no decisions on how to spend the money. We were still waiting for clear guidelines on how it could be spent.

The county does need to draw up an ordinance and get it adopted. Commissioner Woodall gave an example of one to the County Attorney to draw up and hopefully have it at their next meeting. The county also needs the Auditor's office to create a fund to receipt the money in, it needs to be in the 9000 series of funds. He also wondered if the money could be invested by the county until a plan of action was approved. Auditor Kristina Alexander advised Jacque Clements with Association of Indiana Counties told her there was nothing stating the county could not invest the money.

Rick Woodall made the motion to create the fund and to later have a public hearing for the adoption of an ordinance. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The county would be forming a committee to draw up a plan of action to spend the money. Commissioner Woodall said part of it would need to be set aside to offset the shortfall in income tax revenue for the 2022 and 2023 county budgets.

COUNTY ROAD 50W

County resident Tim Reffett came to the meeting along with several of his neighbors requesting the county address the gravel road they live on. It was located 3 miles W of the Town of Roachdale or 2 miles E of 231.

The road has a lot of traffic on it due to the covered bridge. The dust from the road has been horrendous. So bad at times you cannot see your neighbor's house because the dust was so thick. This makes for unsafe driving conditions. One resident said the school bus had refused to go down it more than once, then the parents had to scramble to get their children to school.

Mr. Reffett said several of the residents have been a part of the dust control program the county offers. However, it only helps for a month and then they are back to square one again. He understood paving a road was expensive but maybe the county could do a chip & seal. They were looking for a more permanent solution.

Rick Woodall said the county had no plans to chip and seal any gravel roads in the future. The county struggles to maintain the paved roads they currently have. The county has a little over 800 miles of road and around half were still gravel. The Commissioners wish they had the money to pave every road in the county but unfortunately the money the county receives does not make that feasible.

Commissioner Woodall suggested the neighbors think about doing what other county residents have done and they pool their resources and pay for the mile stretch of road to be done. Highway Supervisor Mike Ricketts said to do a proper chip and seal it would be \$42,712 per mile. This could be split between the property owners.

It was asked if the American Rescue Plan funds could be used to help pay for roads in the county. Commissioner Woodall replied regretfully no. The money cannot be used for roads or bridges.

The county was awarded a 1M grant through Community Crossings. None of this would go towards gravel roads but to upkeep current paved roads and chip & seal roads.

The residents said they would like a formal quote from the Highway Department to chip & seal their road.

DUST CONTROL PROGRAM

Rick Woodall said the county has had more and more people requesting to be a part of the program. The county budgets 15K a year. In the past it was a 50/50 cost share. The cost last year was \$330 for the 300 feet in front of a house.

This year the cost would be different since they were trying to help as many residents as possible. Loren Hoopingardner (the person that applies the oil) said he would reduce his price this year to \$300 per 300 feet. Rick Woodall proposed the county pays \$100 and the resident would pay \$200.

There were two types of dust control: oil and calcium chloride. They have had problems in the past of the oil not holding up as long. And with the calcium chloride you had to be careful when grading because you cannot always see it on the road, so it gets accidentally graded and there goes the dust control product.

Mr. Ricketts would like to implement this year where everyone wanting it would fill out a permit which would let the county know where all the dust control had been laid since it was not done by them. If the resident does the dust control the landowner takes responsibility of fixing holes for "X" time when it comes to filling in potholes.

Another product was duraberm, but Mr. Ricketts does not like it used as a dust control because it packs the road so hard it literally ruins a grader blade.

Mr. Ricketts said there was a seminar later this year he wants to attend giving them additional training. He would like to get this training before going out and grading so they could do a more effective job.

The Commissioners asked for Jim Ensley to update the dust control document. The document should reflect \$200 resident \$100 county for dust control program. Rick Woodall made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Supervisor Mike Ricketts told the Commissioners they could now accept the bid from Milestone in the amount of \$1,253,021.56 for the 10.321 miles since the county had received notice of being awarded 1M from the Community Crossings grant. Roads should be done by October 2021. Rick Woodall made the motion to accept. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ricketts said he had a request from Bryan Duncan who has property by Bridge 71 the county closed a couple of years ago. The county had put up a road closed sign; but Mr. Duncan has informed him there was a constant problem of vehicles parking by the bridge and driving on his property.

Mr. Duncan, at his own expense, would like to put up a gate across the road. He would give the Highway Department a key to the gate. Whenever the county wanted to replace the bridge and open the road back up he would remove the gate.

Mr. Ricketts said the county did not have any plans for the next 2-3 years of replacing the bridge. The road had a low traffic count. He did not have a problem with the resident putting up a gate.

Jim Ensley said he would need to check with the county's insurance company on liability. Rick Woodall made the motion to allow the landowner to put up a gate at his own expense pending approval by the insurance company. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

JERRELL CONSULTING

The Commissioners received an invoice in the amount of \$6,250 for the grant administration work done on the IOCRA COVID-19 small business grant. Tom Helmer made the motion to approve. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried. The money to pay the invoice had been approved at a previous meeting to be paid out of the EDIT warchest fund.

Over 25 recipients applied per Kristin Clary. After May 10 all will be verified for approval by Grant Administrator Kristy Jerrell.

CONGRESSIONAL SCHOOL REPORT

Auditor Kristina Alexander submitted the annual report to the Commissioners to approve and sign. Dave Berry made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried.

DUST BOWL BIKE RACE

Jim Ensley said part of the route was going to go over Bridge 139 which was closed by the county. He sent the information to the county insurance company for review. Their response was to have the race change the route or have a structural engineer approve the bike traffic over the bridge for the race.

Shari Hinds with USI who represents the company that does the bridge inspections for the county happened to be attending the meeting. She stated USI would go and look at the bridge and give recommendation to the county at no cost. They could add it to the route they already have scheduled with the Highway Supervisor.

WABASH VALLEY POWER – ROADS

Jim Ensley said they have a finalized agreement on road compensation for damage the company caused. The current agreement now was for specific roads. If the company damages other roads before project completed those will be addressed as well per Highway Supervisor.

MUSEUM COURTHOUSE PICTURES

Auditor Kristina Alexander asked when the pictures loaned from the courthouse to the museum would be returned. Several offices have been asking when to expect them back. Jim Ensley said he would need to check the agreements. The Commissioners approved an agreement and with COVID the museum had asked for an extension. He would check and get back with the board on the date.

BABY BOX AT EMS

Rick Woodall said there would be a baby box at the EMS building. The soft opening of it would be tomorrow and a ceremony held on May 10th at 10:00 a.m.

CLAIMS

April 22, 2021 – Tom Helmer made the motion to approve. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

April 30, 2021 – Tom Helmer made the motion to approve. Rick Woodall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

May 3, 2021 – Rick Woodall made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PAYROLL

April 23, 2021 – Dave Berry made the motion to approve. Tom Helmer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

April 19, 2021 – Dave Berry made the motion to approve. Rick Woodall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

MAIL

The Board of Commissioners acknowledged their mail.

ADJOURN

Rick Woodall made the motion to adjourn. Dave Berry seconded. The motion carried.

Rick Woodall, President

Dave Berry

Tom Helmer, Vice President

Attest: Auditor's Office