

COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

DECEMBER 7, 2020

PRESENT: ALL

BE IT REMEMBERED that the White County Commissioners held a regular meeting on December 7, 2020, at the White County Building, 2nd -floor Commissioners' Conference room beginning at 8:15 a.m.

Commissioners present were: President John C. Heimlich, Commissioner Steve Burton, and Commissioner David Diener. Also present was White County Auditor Gayle Rogers, White County Attorney George Loy, and the Commissioners' Assistant Donya Tirpak.

Commissioner Heimlich called the meeting to order.

PASSING OF COMMISSIONER-ELECT KEVIN PAGE

Commissioner Heimlich took a moment to recognize the loss of a leader in our community, a future Commissioner to the County, and a father and husband to the Page family. Kevin Page was a person who was passionate and committed to the community, and everyone will miss him dearly.

MINUTES

None

PAYROLL

- Commissioner Diener made a motion to approve payroll for December 7, seconded by Commissioner Burton. **Vote: Unanimous**

CLAIMS

- Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve and pay the claims as presented, seconded by Commissioner Diener. **Vote: Unanimous**

FEDERAL FUNDING APPLICATION – BRIDGE 240 & BRIDGE 180

White County Highway Department requested federal funding from INDOT for the replacement of Bridge 240 and Bridge 180. The County must commit the local matching funds.

1. Bridge 240, County Road 1300 South over Moots Creek, County match: \$327,620.00
 2. Bridge 180, County Road 100 East over Big Creek Ditch, County match: \$368,240.00
- Commissioner Diener made a motion to approve the matching funds for the replacement of Bridge 240 and Bridge 180 out of the Cum Bridge funds, seconded by Commissioner Burton. **Vote: Unanimous**

CHANGE ORDER – CR 1100 PROJECT

F&K Construction submitted in writing Change Order #4 for County Road 1100 W. project. The change order is for changing the centerline and edge striping from paint to thermoplastic. The change order increases the contract price \$5,150.97.

- Commissioner Burton made a motion to approve Change Order #4 for the CR 1100 W. project for \$5,150.97, seconded by Commissioner Diener. **Vote: Unanimous**

APPOINTMENT – COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Judge Mrzlack, the Chairman, submitted a letter stating that Lynn Saylor resigned from the Community Corrections Advisory board. He recommended replacing her with Destiny Vargas. Destiny is the new director of the United Council on Opioids for White County United Way.

- Commissioner Diener motioned to appoint Destiny Vargas to fill the unexpired term (12/31/23) of Lynn Saylor on the Community Corrections Advisory Board, seconded by Commissioner Burton. **Vote: Unanimous**

COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

DECEMBER 7, 2020

PRESENT: ALL

CARES ACT FUNDS

Auditor Rogers said that the Indiana Finance Authority allocated \$78,297.00 of CARES Act money to White County to support public awareness, education, and safety.

Since the County must use the funds by the end of 2020, a committee will determine the funds' best use. Auditor Rogers asked the Commissioners permission to allow the committee to spend the money as needed rather than returning to the Commissioners for approval due to time constraints.

- Commissioner Burton made a motion to allow the committee to spend the \$78,297 from the CARES Act for public awareness, education, and safety, seconded by Commissioner Diener. **Vote: Unanimous**

DEVASTATION OF LAKE FREEMAN

Councilman Anderson voiced his disappointment of NIPSCO lowering Lake Freeman's lake level to the Tippecanoe River, south of the Oakdale Dam, to protect endangered species of mussels. Since Freeman is so low, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services wants to take water out of Lake Shafer. NIPSCO has applied for a variance to take water from Lake Shafer, and the regulatory commission is taking public comment until December 9.

Councilman Anderson requested the Commissioners and Council write a joint letter stating how this affects our County's economic impact.

The Commissioners and Council agreed to write a joint letter to address Lake Freeman and our community's devastation.

County Attorney Loy said that Congressman Jim Baird's office was also notified by Monticello and the County looking for a solution.

PUBLIC HEARING - PETITION TO VACATE ALLEY BY IDAVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

County Attorney Loy said that on November 16, 2020, the Idaville Volunteer Fire Department Inc., filed a petition with the Commissioners to vacate a dedicated but unimproved alley adjacent to their properties. The vacated alley is necessary to accommodate an upcoming construction project for the Volunteer Fire Dept. The petition was published according to law, and now it's time to hold a public hearing.

Commissioner Heimlich announced that the public hearing is now open for public comment.

Mr. Saltwell, Secretary for Idaville Volunteer Fire Dept., was present to answer any questions.

Janet Faker, County Councilwoman, said that she is in support of the project.

There being no further public comments or questions, Commissioner Heimlich closed the public hearing.

- Commissioner Burton made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 20-12-07-01, vacating an unused portion of a particular alley in the Town of Idaville, seconded by Commissioner Diener. **Vote: Unanimous**

ORDINANCE NO. 20-12-07-01

**WHITE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' ORDINANCE VACATING AN
UNUSED PORTION OF A CERTAIN ALLEY IN THE
TOWN OF IDAVILLE, WHITE COUNTY, INDIANA**

WHEREAS, Idaville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., duly file its Petition for Vacation of an unused portion of a certain alley in the Town of Idaville, White County, Indiana, with the White County Commissioners pursuant to I.C. §36-7-3-12; and

WHEREAS, said area proposed to be vacated contains no improved street, alley or roadway and is unused by the public as a street, alley or roadway; and

COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

DECEMBER 7, 2020

PRESENT: ALL

WHEREAS, notice of the filing of said petition and of the time and place of the hearing thereon was duly given in the manner prescribed by law, and;

WHEREAS, the alley sought to be vacated is not necessary for the growth of the Town of Idaville; that the vacation will in no way leave any other real estate without right of ingress and egress; and that said vacation will not cut off the public's access to any church, school, or other public buildings or grounds; and

WHEREAS, the White County Commissioners, at a public hearing held on December 7, 2020, considered all evidence in support thereof, and there being no objections to said proposed vacation, and after due consideration,

IT IS NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED by the White County Commissioners, that:

SECTION I: The following described real estate located in the Town of Idaville, White County, Indiana, to-wit:

A tract of land located in the Southeast Quarter of Section 28, Township 27 North, Range 2 West, Lincoln Township, White County, Indiana; Original Plat of Hanna, now known as Idaville, IN, being part of the land described in Book 11, Page 581, White County Recorder's Office, more fully described by:

Basis of Bearing: State Plane Coordinate System West Zone.

Commencing at a railroad spike located at the Northwest Corner of the Southeast Quarter of Section 28, Township 27 North, Range 2 West, Lincoln Township, White County, Indiana, thence South 00 degrees 13 minutes 51 seconds West 12.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 54 minutes 35 seconds East 31.38 feet to the Point of Beginning (Northwest Corner Lot 7 in the Original Plat of Hanna, now Idaville); thence South 89 degrees 54 minutes 35 seconds East 99.60 feet; thence North 00 degrees 07 minutes 39 seconds East 12.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 54 minutes 35 seconds West 99.60 feet; thence South 00 degrees 13 minutes 51 seconds West 12.00 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 0.027 Acres

is hereby vacated and fee simple title to said vacated real estate is hereby set off to Idaville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., to become a part of Parcel #91-72-28-000-023.000-012 owned by Idaville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., said vacated tract shown on attached Exhibit "A," subject to all easements and restrictions of record and all existing underground utilities.

SECTION II: A copy of this Ordinance shall be entered into the records of the White County Auditor and thereafter recorded in the Office of the White County Recorder.

SECTION III: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

COUNTY BUILDING FOR SALE

Commissioner Diener presented two appraisals from Real Estate Network and Vogel Real Estate for the County-owned property at 103 S. Main Street, Monticello. The Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District occupied the building, but now it is vacant. He asked permission to authorize County Attorney Loy to advertise the sale of the building.

- Commissioner Burton made a motion to allow County Attorney Loy to advertise the county-owned building's sale at 103 S. Main Street, Monticello, seconded by Commissioner Heimlich. **Vote: Unanimous**

AMENDMENT TO THE SLOW OPEN GUIDELINES FOR WHITE COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

HR Director Leah Hull presented an amendment to the Slow Open Plan and Mitigation Strategies due to the surge in people testing positive with the coronavirus. The numbers are expected to increase after the holiday gatherings as well.

Director Hull discussed the amendment, Phase 4A, to the Slow Open Plan:

Phase 4A: (To begin on December 7, 2020)

County Buildings and services remain open to all employees, and the public, start Phase 4A mitigation precautions.

COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

DECEMBER 7, 2020

PRESENT: ALL

Phase 4A mitigation precaution requirements are listed below:

1. Social distancing of at least 6 feet will be required whenever possible. Markings will remain placed on the floors/ground where the public may gather or line up to indicate the 6ft. distance. It is imperative that social distancing guidelines are adhered to and enforced.
2. Rotate staff working in office, if possible. Utilization of tele/remote work is encouraged as long as this method can fulfill the position and office responsibilities. All timekeeping and productivity requirements must be met.
3. Masks will be available to all employees and the public upon request. All are encouraged to wear masks at work stations even when social distancing can be maintained. Employees and the public may wear a mask provided or bring a mask from home to wear, if you prefer. Masks are required to be worn properly (covering both nose and mouth) when in common areas or within 6 feet of another person. (ie: if 6 feet distancing is not possible, person sitting at your desk, or standing too close.) The mask requirement shall be enforced by the Department Heads or additional action will be taken.
4. Frequent sanitation of high contact areas. (i.e.: work stations, door handles, elevators, counters, restroom facilities, faucets, etc.) Additional custodial services may be provided to assist with this service.
5. Screening of all Patrons and employees before entering a County building. If the result of the screening is positive for any factor, the patron will be asked to leave and the employee is required to report if positive results exist and further action will be required (employees may be isolated/quarantined within the guidelines of the appropriate regulations for said building/facility). Stay home if you are sick!!!
6. Contact tracing Sheets will be completed. Employees, please write down all persons (including employees) that you have had contact with on the contact tracing sheet. Each employee should have his/her own contact sheet to document contacts. Please note within 6ft and duration of contact.
7. Sneeze guards are encouraged on counters or desks where social distancing is not possible.

Employee mitigation responsibilities:

- Wash your hands frequently, do not touch your face.
- Required to wear a mask provided by White County Government or a mask that meets the CDC guidelines.
- Barriers and Masks need to be worn properly and in accordance to CDC guidelines. *(Try not to fidget with the mask, exposing your nose, mouth and eyes to infection)*
- Sanitize work stations/counters/copiers/highly touched surfaces between customers or uses.
- Do not share phones, pens, or other highly touched surfaces whenever possible.
- Report if any positive results exist to self-monitoring questionnaire to Department Head and H.R. immediately for further instructions.
- Completion of Contact Tracing sheets.
- STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK!!!!** Contact your supervisor and report your absence, as required. Contact H.R. if you have any questions regarding COVID-19 policies or procedures.
- Assist high risk employees with tasks that require customer contact, when possible.

- Commissioner Diener made a motion to accept the amendment of Phase 4A to the Slow Open Guidelines for White County Government Buildings, seconded by Commissioner Burton. **Vote: Unanimous**

At this time, Council President Butch Kramer called the Council members to order in joint session with the Commissioners. Council members present:

President Butch Kramer
Jim Davis

Vice President Denny Carter
Art Anderson

Jim Annis
Janet Faker

Councilman Casey Crabb was absent.

COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

DECEMBER 7, 2020

PRESENT: ALL

APPOINTMENT – ALCOHOL BEVERAGE BOARD

Council President Kramer said that the Council needs to make an appointment to the Alcohol Beverage Board due to Gordon Denton's passing.

- Councilman Annis made a motion to appoint Art Anderson to the Alcohol Beverage Board with a term expiring December 31, 2021, seconded by Councilman Carter. **Vote: Unanimous**

REDEDICATING COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM FOR JOHN C. HEIMLICH

Commissioner Steve Burton took a moment to thank Commissioner Heimlich for his 24 years of dedication and commitment to White County. As a gesture of appreciation for his service, he would like to rededicate the Commissioners' Conference Room as the John C. Heimlich Conference Room.

- Commissioner Burton made a motion to rededicate the Commissioners' Conference Room as the John C. Heimlich Conference Room, seconded by Commissioner Diener. **Vote: Unanimous**

Commissioner Heimlich said that for the most part, he'd enjoyed the past 24 years as Commissioner. He's met a lot of great people from White County and from around the state. He enjoyed working with the different Commissioners and Council over the years and completing many White County projects. He thanked everyone for their support over the years.

INDIANA BEACH UPDATE

Gene Staples, the Owner, appeared to report to the Commissioners and Council that the 2020 season went better than believed with the coronavirus pandemic. Indiana Beach ended their financial season in the black, and they will continue to make investments to the park. To keep things exciting and fresh, they brought in a giant roller coaster, additional rides, and other boat slips for the lake's boaters.

PROSECUTOR BOB GUY

Prosecutor Bob Guy appeared before the Council and Commissioners asking for assistance in obtaining information from the White County Sheriff's Department. Because of a pending motion in the White Superior Court concerning this matter, and with the recommendation of the County Attorney, the Commissioners advised that the matter should be left to the court to adjudicate.

There being no further business to come before the board, their meeting adjourned.

John C. Heimlich, President

Steve Burton, Vice President

David Diener, Member

ATTEST: _____
Gayle Rogers, Auditor