April 6, 2020 Commissioners’ Meeting Continued

STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
April 6, 2020

The Steuben County Commissioners met at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, April 6, 2020, in the Commissioners’ Room of the Steuben County Community Center. Present this day were Commissioners James Crowl and Lynne Liechty. Also present were Donald Stuckey, County Attorney and Kim Meyers, Steuben County Auditor. Present via Conference Call were Lori Lucas, Rita Wolfgram, Bill Schmidt, Mary Kay Dearhoff, Mike Osborn, Shawn Brichard, Mike Marturello, Frank Charlton, Edward & Carol Reter, John Short, Karen DeForest, Linda Meyers and Kim Anderson.

James Crowl stated this is a new procedure for Steuben County due to COVID-19 and this meeting is for essential County business only and should be a short meeting.

Jennifer Sharkey, Highway Engineer, submitted NIPSCO Utility Permit #2878, #2879, #2880 and Dilts Excavating Permit #2750RC for approval. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve those Utility Permits. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Ms. Sharkey also submitted a reimbursement voucher for CR 200 N/Phase II. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve that reimbursement voucher. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Jennifer Sharkey collected the Bridge Inspection Score Sheets from the Commissioners.

Ms. Sharkey stated the brush has been cleared from the intersection of Old 27 and 800 S on both DeKalb and Steuben sides.

Ms. Sharkey notified the Commissioners that the Highway Department joined Sourcewell, which is a cooperative joint purchasing group in which a lot of other counties around us participate in. She said it collects awarded contracts that have met all of the legal bidding requirements and other entities are able to utilize those contracts as well. She said she would like to use Sourcewell to procure two (2) mower cab tractors and two (2) rotary side mowers.

Ms. Sharkey said they would like to purchase a John Deere 6105E 2-wheel drive for $56,808.00 and a John Deere 6105E 4-wheel drive for $69,306.00 for a total expenditure of $126,114.00 for the cab tractors. She further stated they would like to purchase a two (2) 60” Diamond Mowers for $27,969.00 each for a total expenditure of $55,938.00. Ms. Sharkey said the trade in allowance for the 2006 New Holland will be $8,800.00 making the total expenditure for the two (2) tractors and two (2) mowers $173,252.56. She said they do have the funds in the Highway line items.

Ms. Sharkey said she does not have a delivery date as of yet; however, they will be operational for the 2020 season. James Crowl made a motion to approve the purchase of two (2) John Deere cab tractors and two (2) Diamond mowers for a total expenditure of $173,252.56. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Jennifer Sharkey said she wanted the Commissioners to be aware that they are looking at the impacts of limited travel and gasoline purchases to the MVH Fund. Ms. Sharkey said she will be keeping an eye on that and will adjust projects as appropriate.

Ms. Sharkey asked how to proceed with the half (1/2) holiday for Good Friday coming up this week and how to accommodate that schedule on Thursday since they are on four (4) ten (10) hour days. Kim Meyers said she spoke to Crystal Dadura, HR, and they were going to recommend the five (5) hour half day.

Rodney Robinson, Sheriff, informed the Commissioners that the fire suppression backflow valve has failed and needs to be replaced. He said he was able to get Koorsen to take the price down to $5,206.02 and he does have the funds in his budget. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the replacement of the backflow valve. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.
Sheriff Robinson said the Detective struck a deer with his 2013 Ford Taurus. He submitted a quote from the dealership to replace the Taurus with a Fusion. He said the difference, after the insurance settlement, is roughly $15,000.00.

Sheriff Robinson said they tried to order four (4) Chargers, two (2) from Dunham’s and two (2) from another Dealer but Dunham’s order was rejected by Chrysler so now they have to look to a different style of vehicle. Sheriff Robinson said he has looked into purchasing two (2) Durango’s. He said the Coroner would like to acquire the last administrative Tahoe because the current 2011 Coroner’s Tahoe is giving him problems. Rodney Robinson said they could stay within their budget by changing the purchase order to two (2) Charger’s and two (2) Durango’s and hope they stay in this year’s ordering and receiving. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the change in the vehicle order. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Rodney Robinson asked if the fusion would come out of his current funds and if they will make up the difference when they receive it. Sheriff Robinson said that was not included in his calculation, he doesn’t think there will be enough funds for the Fusion and he will need an additional $15,000.00. Kim Meyers said they will end up having to ask for an additional appropriation after the fact and he should come to County Council to request that sooner rather than later.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the claims submitted for payment this day totaling $254,331.84, the Treasurer’s Report and the Monthly Comparison Report for approval. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

James Crowl made a motion to approve the March 27, 2020 Payroll in the amount of $421,164.84. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Lynne Liechty stated Council on Aging has requested a possible reduction in rent due to decreased trips and the fact their income is lower. Commissioner Liechty said she will speak to Denise Kreais to see where they are and discuss it at another time.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the insurance settlement on the Ford Taurus in the amount of $5,400.00. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Ambulance Billing Services has inquired whether or not the Commissioners want to continue turning things over to small claims if payments are not received. Donald Stuckey suggested the Commissioners suspend the collection efforts because the Courts are setting things out in anticipation of not being able to do business for a couple months. Lynne Liechty made a motion to stop the collections process for the time being. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Mike Marturello, Herald Republican, requested how much the County paid for the billboard on I-69. Lynne Liechty said they approved a rough quote but have not received the actual invoice. Commissioner Liechty said Steve Swick was going to try to help the County and run that message for 30 days for $1,200.00. She said as time goes forward, they are permitted to make changes to the sign. Bill Schmidt asked what the sign said. Commissioner Liechty stated the sign says, “Welcome to Steuben County, Indiana, 14-Day Quarantine for Summer Residents and Guests. Stay at Home. Practice Social Distancing. A message brought to you by the Commissioners of Steuben County.”

Frank Charlton, County Park Superintendent, said he has been receiving a lot of calls from Campers and he has been telling them they still plan on opening May 1, but as of right now the County Park is still locked down and no one is to enter the Park until further notice. James Crowl said they will have to follow the Governor’s lead on this. Commissioner Crowl said we shouldn’t commit to May 1 until we find out from the Governor. Mr. Charlton said both gates are still locked and there is a cable across the bridge near the boat launch.

Ed Reter, Steuben County Campground Lot 119, asked if there was any chance for him to get into the campground to mow six (6) yards. James Crowl said the campground is shut down and there will be no access.
The Commissioners received the following correspondence: Jennifer Voris, OCRA re: OCRA Contact; Diana Raggio, OCRA re: Next Level Connections Broadband Grant Program Challenge Determination; Janel Meyer, SCSWCD re: Board Meeting Agenda – Essential Business; Janel Meyer, SCSWCD re: Board Meeting Update; Stacey Meek, NICC re: Advisory Board Meeting; Therese Brown re: MRBC Board Meeting Options; Indiana Attorney General re: Travelers and their rights amid COVID-19 pandemic; Northeast Indiana Works re: WorkOne Centers Closed; Michael Gaynor – GoRail re: COVID-19 impact on Freight Rail; Robert Elliott, Purdue re: Purdue Road School – PDH and CEU Instructions; Rodney Renkenberger re: Ratification of Motion for Evergreen Project; Rodney Renkenberger, MRBC Board Meeting Options; Thomas Barclay, Office of Lt. Governor re: Concerns of Counties.

STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Ronald L. Smith, President, South District

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James A. Crowl, Vice President, Middle District

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Lynne Liechty, North District

Attest: ________________________
Kim Meyers, Steuben County Auditor

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