The Steuben County Commissioners met at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, in the Commissioners’ Room of the Steuben County Community Center. Present this day were Commissioners James Crowl and Lynne Liechty. Also present was Kim Meyers, Auditor and Kelli Johnson, Chief Deputy Auditor. Participating telephonically were Bill Schmidt, Karen DeForest, Mike Marturello and Erin Schiffli.

Alicia vanEe, Health Department, submitted information on the CARES Act and an Acceptance Letter for approval and signature. She said they have gotten information and documentation on the CARES Act reimbursement program for expenses through the county and this document opens the door so they can attempt to apply for reimbursement for the Coronavirus response in Steuben County. Ms. vanEe said it needs to be signed by the Commissioners, the Indiana Fiscal Body will accept it and then the proper documentation has to be submitted to prove the expenditures. She said this is expedited and is not FEMA; however, this will only cover certain things. The funds used must have already been appropriated and when the funds are reimbursed, they will have to be put back into the same appropriation. Ms. vanEe said this will not cover any administrative costs, it will only cover costs associated with an employee that has been repurposed from their normal duties. She said this will get Steuben County started with reimbursements for PPE purchases, the plexi glass barriers, cleaning supplies, etc. Ms. vanEe said it is good until December, 2020. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the CARES Act Acceptance Letter. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Ms. vanEe reported there were three (3) new cases over the weekend and the recovery rate has jumped to over 40 people; however, they are looking at certain reinfection rates as well. Ms. vanEe said the Health Department is doing all of the Steuben County case investigations. Alicia vanEe said, as of today, OptumServ has not reported their numbers to the Health Department. Lynne Liechty said it makes it very hard to make decisions when the don’t have the correct numbers. Ms. vanEe said that is why they no longer report on the amount of tests given because they do not know if it is accurate or not.

Kim Meyers, Auditor, said Waggoner, Irwin and Scheele has submitted a quote in the amount of $2,575.00 for a comparison on Steuben County Government’s wages. She said they are trying to get Steuben County in line with market values and there is a three-level situation they would like to look at. WIS is calculating that to see what it would cost the County. She said there are funds in the consultant line item that are available for this study. James Crowl made a motion to approve the expenditure of funds for the study. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to officially approve to the painting of Rensch Hall’s Roof in the amount $9,440.00. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

James Crowl made a motion to go up another tier of redi-rock at the Clear Lake Beach. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

The Commissioners briefly discussed video conferencing platforms and determined that Randy Brown, EMA and Tami Sumney, IT Director, shall come to the next Commissioners’ meeting to discuss the options.

Bill Schmidt asked when the Commissioners will start having in person meetings. James Crowl said they are waiting on more information from the Governor. Mike Marturello said Indiana is currently in Stage III and it runs until June 13.

Frank Charlton, County Park Superintendent, spoke to the Commissioners about the County Park Beach being closed. The Commissioners discussed and decided to allow the beach to open to the public; however, the playground is to remain taped off in order to restrict use. The Commissioners determined the restrooms at the Campground will remain closed as well.
May 26, 2020 Commissioners’ Administrative/Emergency Expenditure Meeting Continued

STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Ronald L. Smith, President, South District

James A. Crowl, Vice President, Middle District

Lynne Liechty, North District

Attest: Kim Meyers, Steuben County Auditor