May 4, 2020 Commissioners’ Meeting Continued

STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
May 4, 2020

The Steuben County Commissioners met at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, May 4, 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. Participating telephonically were Erin Schiffli, Mike Marturello, Karen DeForest, Bill Schmidt, Dan Caruso, Steuben County Councilman, Harry Noll and Brett Hays.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the claims submitted for payment this day totaling $249,204.72 and the April 24, 2020 payroll in the amount of $413,666.68. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Kim Meyers, Auditor and Melissa Bixler, Treasurer, submitted the Monthly Comparison Report and the March and April Monthly Financial Statement for review and approval. James Crowl made a motion to approve those reports. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the minutes from the Commissioners’ Meetings on March 16, March 17, April 6 and April 20, 2020. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

The Commissioners signed the minutes from the March 2, 2020 Commissioners’ Meeting and the March 9, 2020, Admin/Emergency Expenditure Meeting for the Index Book, which were approved at a prior meeting.

Gary Fair, Community Center Building Manager, submitted quotes for a new Utility Trailer to be used by all the buildings and the Sheriff’s Department until their trailer is fixed. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the low quote from Rapid Rental in the amount of $1,750.00 with a three (3) year warranty to be paid from Cum. Cap. 1138-000-4000.15. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Mr. Fair reported that the Farmer’s Market opened this past weekend and they had quite the crowd. He also stated that the sealcoating will have to be done down the road and the Farmer’s Market is able to move to a different parking lot if needed.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the Memorandums from the Administrative Meetings held on March 17, March 19, March 23, March 24 and April 6, 2020. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

James Crowl made a motion to approve the Ambulance Billing Services Write Offs in the amount of $6,284.81. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the Steuben County Government Part-Time Employee Drug Screening Waiver Policy. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Jennifer Sharkey, Highway Engineer, submitted NIPSCO utility permits #2881, #2882 and #2883 for approval. James Crowl made a motion to approve the NIPSCO utility permits. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Ms. Sharkey submitted a Reimbursement Voucher for the 200 N Phase II Project Preliminary Engineering Design. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the Reimbursement Voucher. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Ms. Sharkey said the Highway Department received approximately 5,000 tons of asphalt millings from the SR 120 milling work and it was free of charge. She said they have used about 1,000 tons on the road bed on 100 N east of the R. Smith gravel pit. She said they also plan to use the material on 500 N, on SR 127 by the Outlets and near 700 N.
May 4, 2020 Commissioners’ Meeting Continued

Jennifer Sharkey said she provided a letter to Ms. Goodman, whom is a grant liaison with the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, because they are trying to get an idea of what communities have been expending due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She said they provided their estimate which just shy of $12,000.00 in expenditures.

Ms. Sharkey requested permission to advertise for the CR 500 S Project. She said this is the Community Crossings Project that was awarded late last year and would go from Pleasant Lake to 400 W. James Crowl made a motion to move forward with advertising the project. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Ms. Sharkey said an Agreement will need to be drafted for the 700 N chip and seal because the developer, Rick Bristle, will be paying for that to be done. Donald Stuckey said he will get that drafted.

Jennifer Sharkey said there has been guardrail damage and they sent a letter to the person responsible; however, they have not been able to get in contact with that person or receive payment for that damage.

Attorney Latriealle Wheat, 107 W. Maumee St., Angola, said she would like to speak about the intersection of Wolf Street and South Drive in Pleasant Lake. She said the survey shows a “perfect intersection” but in reality, it isn’t. Attorney Wheat says as Wolf Street approaches South Drive, the road splits in two (2) and is causing problems because the street has become misplaced. Attorney Wheat said Dean Opdyke, Fee Simple Title Holder and Brandon Mills, Contract Purchaser, are both here to express their concerns as well. Brandon Mills, 4990 S. Wolf Street, said the leg going to the left is ninety-eight percent (98%) of the traffic and it is constant. He said there is a stop sign there and a lot of people do not stop. He said he has a five (5) year old daughter whom plays outside and it isn’t safe with the amount of traffic that goes through there. Mr. Mills said there is a stop sign in the center of the triangle and a set of mailboxes directly to the south of that which is where the road right of way essentially is. He said to the mailboxes to the stop sign is where Wolf Street is supposed to be.

Donald Stuckey said there is a road right of way and the County needs to stay on the road right of way. The County does not allow people to get on their right of way and property owners should not allow the County to get off the right of way. Mr. Stuckey said he doesn’t think the County has the right to go on this gentleman’s property to remove what is there, but he can remove it. He said if a contractor was down there, perhaps permission can be granted by the property owner to remove the roadway that exists.

Donald Stuckey clarified that the County cannot, without the property owner’s written permission, go on the property and remove the road. If permission is given, the Highway Department can mill the road while they are there doing the work. Mr. Stuckey said the written permission can be drafted by Attorney Wheat and delivered to the Auditor and the Engineer so the work can be done. He also said notice would be given before anything is done.

Jennifer Sharkey said if the one side is cleaned up, she doesn’t anticipate they would keep the other side, and assumes she needs to contact that property owner to enter the property and remove the road. Mr. Stuckey said she was correct.

James Crowl made a motion to approve the NICC quotes from Manahan Construction not to exceed $3,470 for the water leak repairs and not to exceed $425.00 for the bathroom repairs and further stated the invoices shall be paid from Cum. Cap. 1138-000-4000.15. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes.

Bill Schmidt asked Jennifer Sharkey who installed the sign on Bayview Road. Ms. Sharkey said that the Sheriff’s Department installed the speed sign and they also placed a sign on Bellefontaine Road.

Frank Charlton, County Park Superintendent, asked if there were any restrictions on visitors coming into the Campground. James Crowl said the Campground is open for Seasonal Campers, no transient campers are permitted and the restrooms, beach and playground are to remain closed. Mr. Charlton said he received a lot of phone calls because Mara Emerick sent a mass email to the Campers. Frank Charlton said the water has been turned off in the restrooms and shower houses.
Frank Charlton said Kelly Bailey, SUP 101 Lakes, asked if she was going to be permitted to open this year and if so, she has some guidelines she would like to put into place. Lynne Liechty said that would be in a different Phase of the Governor’s Plan. James Crowl said we can plan on her opening at some point, unless the Governor says otherwise.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the Council on Aging 5311 Rural Transit Grant Application. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

James Crowl said a Public Notice regarding policies for County Buildings that go into effect as of May 11, 2020, will be sent out immediately following the meeting.

Donald Stuckey said he spoke with Patrick Kirkpatrick, EMS Director, regarding the funds they received. Kim Meyers informed Mr. Stuckey it is taken care of.

Mike Marturello, Herald Republican, asked if the guidelines the Commissioners are putting out today will be put on the website. James Crowl said it will be put on the website and sent out like normal.

Lynne Liechty reminded people that there is a drop box to take all tax payments.

The Commissioners received the following correspondence: Paula Thomas re: Comments for May 1, 2020 Meeting; Stephanie Yager, IACC re: Board of Directors Virtual Meeting; Michael Galbraith, RDA re: 2019 NEIndiana Regional Development Authority Annual Report; Caleb Shannon re: RV Parks and Campgrounds are Essential for Indiana’s Economic Recovery; Nate Johnson re: RV Parks and Campgrounds are Essential for Indiana’s Economic Recovery; US Dept of the Interior re: White House Invitation; John Sampson, NEIndiana re: Regional Meeting; Dan & Diane Cooper re: Campground Bridge; Joy Hudson, HPG re: 4/24/20 Meeting Report; Katie Virag, INIndiana re: National Media Result: Billboard; Jon Hollabaugh re: Parcel Information; Stephanie Yager, IACC re: Initial Guidance for local government reimbursements for COVID-19 related expenses; Jerod Evans re: SRS Support Letter; Sophie Stevens, Community Relations Manager re: Website Updates; Gary Probst re: Humane Shelter; Julie Clary re: Lake James Sandbar; Alex Webster re: IGS Energy; Robert Elliott re: 106th Road School; Miguel Trevino, DLZ re: Checking In; Joy Hudson, HPG re: Coronavirus – RDA relief fund; Stephanie Yager, IACC re: Revised Stay at Home Order; Joy Hudson, HPG re: Caucus Virtual Meeting

STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

_____________________________________________
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