STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
July 20, 2015

The Steuben County Commissioners met at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, July 20, 2015, in the Commissioners’ Room of the Steuben Community Center. Present this day were Commissioners Ronald L. Smith, James Crowl and Lynne Liechty. Also present were Ruth Beer, Steuben County Council Vice President, Donald Stuckey, County Attorney and Kim Koomler, Steuben County Auditor.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the claims submitted for payment this day totaling $291,734.13. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the miscellaneous claims from January 2, 2015-June 30, 2015, in the amount of $443,550.36. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the Commissioners’ Meeting minutes from the meeting held July 6, 2015. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

The Commissioners signed the minutes from the June 15, 2015 regularly scheduled Commissioners’ Meeting and from the Special Commissioners’ Meeting on June 24, 2015, which were approved at the previous meeting.

The Commissioners discussed the Federal Surplus Units that need to be returned. Donald Stuckey, County Attorney, stated that he is still waiting to hear back from them. Mr. Stuckey said that he said that it sounded as if they were counting on the County to deliver the units to Fort Wayne. The matter was put on hold to allow Mr. Stuckey to get more information around for the next meeting on August 3.

The Commissioners were given information on the towing coverage that is included in the County Vehicle Insurance Policy. It was determined that clarification is needed on that coverage and the Commissioners requested that either Tony Culver be contacted for clarification or have him come to the next meeting.

John Court, District Sales Manager for Colonial Life, came to the Commissioners and gave a presentation on new options that are available to County Employees that would improve the plans that are currently offered. Mr. Court feels that these new options would make the plan more robust and a better plan for the government and employees as a whole. Mr. Court stated that the County currently has a very strong benefit package in place, but he thinks that the plan could be enhanced some. He said that their policies are meant to put money in the policy holders pockets when they need it most, help offset co-pays and deductibles, loss of income, etc.

Mr. Court stated that the four (4) products they are looking at providing are an Accident Plan, Critical Illness, Short-term Disability and Whole Life Insurance. He stated that these plans would help enhance what the County currently has in place. Mr. Court also spoke about dependent verification and said that doing the verification could save the County money. Mr. Court also said that if a meeting is conducted and at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the county employees attend that meeting, Colonial Life can do $5,000.00 free accidental life and dismemberment life insurance. Mr. Court stated that for any wellness checks Colonial Life will send the covered person, a $50.00 check, which encourages those employees to have those health screenings that ultimately keep health costs down.

Melissa Shepherd, Payroll, stated that the dependent verification was one of the things that she wanted Mr. Court to speak to the Commissioners about because it saves a lot of money if there are people falling through the cracks. James Crowl made a motion to give consideration to his presentation. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Kim Koomler, Auditor, requested permission from the Commissioners to move Melissa Shepherd’s office out of where it is now into a room that was dedicated to the Assessor’s Office. The Assessor’s Office has removed all of their belongings from that room and moving Ms. Shepherd into that office would give her more space, would allow her to have an extra room for storage and give her space to meet with new and/or existing employees. Kim Koomler stated that she is checking with Tami Sumney, IT Director, if the office is already wired for computers and
Donald Stuckey stated that there is a sale called a Certificate Sale where the Commissioners sell the certificates to the properties. He said that DeKalb County conducts Certificate Sales every couple of years. Kim Koomler stated that, to her knowledge, Steuben County does not do Certificate Sales.
James Crowl asked if there was a Lake Association and Mr. Spiker said there was; however, the lots in question do not belong to the Lake Association. Ronald Smith asked if Mr. Spiker had talked to the Association and Mr. Spiker stated that he had not.

Donald Stuckey, County Attorney, stated that he will look at what options there are and will report back to the Commissioners and Mr. Spiker at the next Commissioners Meeting on August 3.

Brett Hays, Community Corrections, came to the Commissioners to request permission to purchase a new computer server and submitted two (2) quotes for those servers. Mr. Hays stated that the current server controls the doors, alarms and camera viewing. He said that the current server is not backed up and if it goes down, they will lose everything. The proposed new server will be backed up and nothing will be lost if it goes down. James Crowl made a motion to accept the quote from Lenovo in the amount of $3,852.02. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Gary Fair, Community Center Maintenance, submitted quotes for the 2016 parking lot sealcoating and striping in the total amount of $9,292.40 from Asphalt Sealcoat & Patching Inc. Mr. Fair stated that covers all County parking lots including EMS North and the small lot on South Street for the Sheriff’s Department.

Mr. Fair also submitted a request to hire a shredding company to shred four (4) boxes of information from ex-Commissioner Loretta Smart. He stated that each box would cost $6.00 for a total amount of $24.00. James Crowl made a motion to enable Gary Fair to hire the shredding company to shred the four (4) boxes of information. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Gary Fair submitted invoices from Kone in the amount of $959.21 and from Delta T Mechanical in the amount of $280.00. Mr. Fair also stated that another invoice from Clear Lake Electric will be submitted for repairs due to the power outage as well. The Commissioners requested that the invoices be submitted to insurance to see if they will cover them since the repairs were needed due to the power outage. Lynne Liechty made a motion to conditionally move forward with the invoices depending upon what is found out from the insurance company. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Gary Fair also submitted two (2) quotes for work to be done at the home at the County Park. James Crowl made a motion to accept the quote from Manahan Construction in the amount of $4,670.00, to be paid from CAGIT 1110-000-3000.39. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Gary Fair asked the Commissioners if they wanted him to continue working on the issues at the County Park home or if they would like Mr. Goshorn to take over. The Commissioners decided that Mr. Goshorn has his hands full and Gary Fair should continue to work on the project.

Mr. Fair informed the Commissioners that possible HVAC repairs will be needed at the home at the County Park. He said that the ducts will need cleaning as well and the price quote for that, from Duraclean, is $360.00. James Crowl made a motion to get the duct cleaning done. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Ronald Smith told Gary Fair that he felt that the price they are paying to have the home painted was fairly high. Gary Fair stated that he asked for quotes from other companies and Strahan was $700.00 cheaper than the others.

Gary Fair reported to the Commissioners that the Delta T invoice for the MSD Tower chiller, in the amount of $70,000.00, has been received. Mr. Fair asked if Dr. Wilson had been approached yet regarding the sale of the MSD Tower. Donald Stuckey, County Attorney, stated that a legal description needs to be created and the cost for that should be split between Steuben County and the MSD. Donald Stuckey stated that he will be calling an engineer to get that process started.

Mr. Fair also asked about the acquisition of the Washington Street property. Donald Stuckey stated that County Council needs to indicate their intent and that gives the Commissioners the okay to hire appraisers and move
forward. Donald Stuckey stated that since it typically takes appraisers a while to get an appraisal scheduled and done, he would start making some phone calls.

Emmett Heller, Highway Superintendent, updated the Commissioners on work being done by the Highway Department.

Jennifer Sharkey, County Engineer, submitted Utility Permit #2737 from Davenport Excavating for approval. Ms. Sharkey stated that this is for a road cut on 200 N. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve Utility Permit #2737 from Davenport Excavating. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Ms. Sharkey stated that as of Friday she was not able to touch base with Mediacom; however, their representative should be on site today to figure out the relocation efforts and get that scheduled. The lack of relocation of those services has delayed the project quite a bit because the contractor cannot move forward until the utilities are relocated. Ms. Sharkey also stated that the City of Angola has selected an emergency vehicle preemption system for their project which now allows the County to move forward with installing that same system in the signal operation. She said that had been removed since it was not compatible but it has now been approved. Ms. Sharkey stated that the funds for that signal should already be included in the project, but since it is a proprietary system, there is a letter that needs to be sent to INDOT explaining why the County would like to use the proprietary material. James Crowl made a motion to write this change into the project. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Jennifer Sharkey also submitted a reimbursement voucher for an invoice in the amount of $16,379.76 for construction inspection services from June 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve that reimbursement voucher. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Ms. Sharkey stated that the Bike Trail is progressing but it is moving a little slower than desired. She said that a lot of the work can’t be seen from the road because it is the retaining wall that is currently being worked on. Ms. Sharkey reported that they are still having their weekly meetings. She also informed the Commissioners that she had a complaint from a citizen regarding project operations and how the progress seems slow going and that the work site was messy. Ms. Sharkey explained that they had jumped around quite a bit because of different issues that have come up so they could keep the project moving.

Jennifer Sharkey said that she has attended some meetings on the Maple Street Project and she would like permission to go ahead and give the consultant the notice to proceed with finalizing the design. She stated that she met with Commissioner Liechty and the Steuben County EDC to discuss the property and possible solutions, but at this time a decision needs to be made to have the driveway placed as proposed and they will work to see what can be done with the remainder of that property. She reported that she believes they will have enough fill material to accomplish the grades necessary for that drive, but further assistance would be out of the Highway Department’s realm. James Crowl asked if the speed limit had been changed on that road and Ms. Sharkey told him that INDOT will not approve the change. Lynne Liechty stated that they did look again at the drive during the last meeting and they think that with the parking lot and making it a little bit larger they can get the turning circumference needed. Commissioner Liechty stated that they determined that it would be a good temporary solution that actually may end up working long term. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the notice to proceed. James Crowl seconded the motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Also for the Maple Street Project, Ms. Sharkey stated that ownership of the land and road right of way needs to be determined as part of the application process. She stated that the titleholder of the land needs to be the applicant for the project. She stated that currently the titleholder is the Orland Chamber. Donald Stuckey stated that he has a deed from the Orland Chamber to Steuben County Commissioners and that the front of the property has already been transferred to INDOT. Jennifer Sharkey said that before the permit is applied for, it would have to be transferred to the County so that it would be a County Project and all of the application and bonding fees are waived. If it was the Orland Chamber applying for the project, those fees would be applicable from the State. Donald Stuckey stated that the deed looks fine from a legal aspect.
Ms. Sharkey reported that they had an early utility coordination meeting on the 200 N/SR 827 Project. She stated that there were two (2) utilities that did not attend the meeting, but they were able to discuss some issues with the companies that were in attendance. Ms. Sharkey said that after that meeting it was determined that the right turn lane at the four way stop is not warranted at this time so that may not be included in the project. She stated that decision was determined by the traffic counts and the design standards.

Jennifer Sharkey stated that design approval is needed between Kelly Green Drive and Glendarin Way. Ronald Smith said that the Commissioners would support whatever resolution Ms. Sharkey came up with because she has the credentials. Commissioner Smith requested that Ms. Sharkey put together a proposal on that issue.

Ms. Sharkey also submitted a reimbursement voucher for the costs that have been incurred from preliminary engineering services from May 1, 2015 – May 31, 2015, for an invoice in the amount of $18,865.51. James Crowl made a motion to approve that reimbursement voucher. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Ms. Sharkey reported that she is working with the Waste District on learning of their projects to make sure road work and sewer projects don’t overlap too much. She stated that a meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 23, 2015, to go over those issues.

Jennifer Sharkey informed the Commissioners that she will attending a Federal Funding Policy Update in August at INDOT. She reported that there are new federal requirements for the reimbursement process and the timeframe of those reimbursements.

Jennifer Sharkey asked for approval of the additional $200,000.00 from Major Moves for road work. She stated that earlier in the year she submitted a $900,000.00 request and the Commissioners approved $700,000.00, but now she would like to request the additional $200,000.00. She reported that right now they have recovered about twenty-four percent (24%), even with the bad weather. Ms. Sharkey said that right now they are sealing Orland Road and they are looking at doing 800 W, Pine Canyon, double chip seal on 700 N and some patching on various other roads which would bring the percentage up another eight to ten percent (8%-10%). After those projects approximately thirty-two to thirty-four percent (32%-34%) would be recovered by the end of July, weather permitting. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the additional $200,000.00. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Ronald Smith informed Jennifer Sharkey that the gentleman from Lawnscape was excited about the proposed project and he indicated that he would also be interested in helping at the County Park when it came to landscaping there. Jennifer Sharkey stated that Lawnscape is going to be working on a proposed plan and she provided him some information with the proposed areas of having a landscaped boulevard and the dimensions.

Frank Charlton, Building Department, came back to the Commissioners regarding the demolition bid submitted by Diggin’ & Dozin’. Mr. Charlton stated that he believes the bid is in line with anything that needs to be done at the property and he feels that it is a fair proposal. He would like the Commissioners blessing to award Diggin’ & Dozin’ the bid, upon necessity. James Crowl made a motion to approve that recommendation. Lynne Liechty seconded the motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Donald Stuckey, County Attorney, opened the annual salt bids from Morton Salt, Detroit Salt Company, Cargill Deicing and Compass Minerals. Morton Salt’s bid was for $73.19 per ton, dumped or delivered, Detroit Salt Company’s bid was for $72.15 per ton, maximum of 2,000 tons, delivered, Cargill Deicing Technologies submitted a bid in the amount of $78.21 per ton, delivery included and Compass Minerals submitted a bid; however, Mr. Stuckey did not see an actual dollar amount other than the ten percent (10%) bid bond, in the amount of $14,500.00, that was received. All of the bids were given to Jennifer Sharkey, County Engineer, for further review and recommendation. The winning bid will be announced at the August 3, 2015, Commissioners’ Meeting.

Tami Sumney, IT Director, came to the Commissioners for permission to purchase thirty-three (33) new computers from the 2013 Bond. Ms. Sumney submitted two quotes for those computers, one from CivitasIT and another from CDW. Lynne Liechty made a motion to accept the quote from CivitasIT in the amount of $52,467.00. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.
Ronald Smith asked Donald Stuckey to speak about the Memorandum of Understanding with the Humane Shelter. Donald Stuckey stated that Commissioner Liechty provided it to him and he approved it as far as the legal basis goes. Mr. Stuckey stated that the method is acceptable for the rest of the year. Lynne Liechty said that she talked to Sheriff Troyer about a change in language and Steve Mumby wrote a letter to the same effect indicating that it is any law enforcement officer that can be present. Steve Mumby stated that nothing has changed, it would be the same as it was historically. He stated that there are situations in which law enforcement must be involved and that goes through dispatch. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve and sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Humane Shelter for the remainder of 2015. James Crowl stated that he is not pleased with the number and he voted against that number to start with. Ronald Smith seconded the motion and the motion carried with two (2) ayes and one (1) nay.

Ronald Smith stated that a number needs to be plugged into the 2016 budget request for the Humane Shelter. James Crowl said that a memo was received from the County’s financial agency about the cut backs that must take place and asked his fellow Commissioners to consider that greatly. Lynne Liechty stated that they are going to have to hold the line on a number of things. James Crowl stated that County Council knows the situation and the numbers that Peters provided has shown that the County can’t sustain their budget, so numbers must be adjusted to make things work. Lynne Liechty stated that she is looking for everyone to be as conservative as they possibly can because a budget crunch is going to be looked at.

Ronald Smith stated that the request that came from the Humane Shelter for the 2016 Budget is in the amount of $96,000.00 and the Commissioners need to determine a level that will be submitted as part of the Commissioners’ Budget to County Council. James Crowl stated that the financial agency took the $18,000.00 into consideration for the report, not the $45,000.00.

Steve Mumby stated that in the last meeting that the Humane Shelter attended, there was a request that the Humane Shelter support the entire County. Mr. Mumby stated that they are looking for clarification in going into 2016, is the County looking to support the entire County for that $96,000.00? The entire County bill including Angola is $150,000.00. Lynne Liechty stated that the Commissioners are not looking at it as a bill, they are looking at what the County can afford to help the Humane Shelter. The Commissioners are looking at their current budget and where they are, the $45,000.00 needs to be held countywide. Commissioner Liechty stated that if the Humane Shelter can go to the other government agencies and request funds that would be a good idea or even have the Humane Shelter look into licensing. Steve Mumby stated that the County has reduced their incentive to negotiate with the Humane Shelter with the restrictions. Lynne Liechty stated that she understands Mr. Mumby’s position; however, one thing she thinks really needs to be looked at is continuation of the dog licensing. Steve Mumby stated that he’s willing to work with the County on that but there are a lot of expenses that come with the licensing. Donald Stuckey stated that the statute does permit sending out the form with property taxes.

Ronald Smith stated that the Commissioners need to come up with a number to plug into the 2016 Budget Proposal. Lynne Liechty stated that she would make a motion to plug in $45,000.00. James Crowl stated that a non-profit organization that has been held at $18,000.00 for a good number of years, with no request whatsoever, bumps to a request of $96,000.00. Lynne Liechty said that she is requesting $45,000.00 for 2016. James Crowl said for the entire year, with 100% county pickup, he would second that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

The Commissioners stated that since the Humane Shelter is a not for profit agency, they are permitted to negotiate additional funds from other government entities. Steve Mumby asked for clarification on the animal pick up provision. Mr. Mumby asked if the Humane Shelter was concluded from denying people who bring animals to the County and accepting animals. James Crowl and Lynne Liechty stated that yes, the Humane Shelter must accept animals from the County, 100%. Ronald Smith stated that the amount that will be plugged into the 2016 Budget for the Humane Shelter will be $45,000.00, they do have the right to petition the other governmental agencies, they have the right to assess patrons’ fees and they can pursue licensing. Rita Nedele asked if the licensing money goes back 100% to the Humane Shelter. Donald Stuckey stated that it goes to the General Fund. Kim Koomler, Auditor, stated that the funds are split, the State gets some, the County gets a small portion and the Humane Shelter gets a portion as set out in the Indiana Code. Mrs. Nedele asked if the money is in a fund that the Humane Shelter has access to. Kim Koomler said that is not necessary true, the fund is there for the County to purchase the tags and
whatever the Humane Shelter may request from the Commissioners. Lynne Liechty stated that they used to be able to charge people that had multiple pets, unneutered pets, breeding operations, kennel licensing, etc. Steve Mumby stated that has to do with ordinances and that would have to be something the County Council agrees to do. Kim Koomler stated that the ordinance is already there and the Humane Shelter has the right to do it now, it just isn’t currently enforced. Mr. Mumby stated that it also requires to have law enforcement on board.

Kim Koomler stated that there are a few items that need to be clarified for the 2016 Budget Requests. Ms. Koomler asked what the Commissioners would like to put in the 2016 Budget Request for Council on Aging. It was noted that they requested $75,000.00; however, the Commissioners decided to plug in $45,000.00 for the 2016 Budget Request.

Kim Koomler stated that RISE, Inc., requested a total of $60,000.00 for 2016. The Commissioners decided to plug $45,000.00 into the 2016 Budget Request.

Kim Koomler stated that for the County Park Improvement line item, $75,000.00 was plugged in. Ms. Koomler stated that it was $32,500.00 for 2015, Eric Ditmars requested $50,000.00 and one Commissioner wanted to bump it to $75,000.00. The Commissioners decided to plug $50,000.00 into the 2016 Budget Request.

Lori Hickey, 1st Deputy Auditor, stated that when looking at the three (3) maintenance job descriptions for the three (3) buildings, the Annex Building Maintenance position is written more like a janitor’s job description and it also puts him in the lower pay range; however, he is way more than that and does repairs, etc. Ms. Hickey asked to change his pay scale and job description. James Crowl stated that he believes that Annex Maintenance should be on the same pay scale as the Courthouse and Community Center. Kim Koomler stated that will need to go before the Personnel Committee before the changes are made.

Kim Koomler stated that it was noted that the Commissioners wanted to set aside $3,000.00 for a keyless pilot entrance for the restrooms at the airport and that would come out of EDIT. Ms. Koomler stated that there is already a line item for $15,000.00 that has not been tapped into and the Commissioners stated that they would like to move forward with that this year, as soon as possible. Lynne Liechty stated that she would get the Auditor the quote for the keyless entry.

Kim Koomler stated that the Highway Department has requested $1.1 Million for the Road Repair/Construction line item for 2016. She said that at least one Commissioner questioned that amount and wanted a discussion. Ronald Smith stated that $250,000.00 has been put in that line item every year, if the Commissioners continue with a $1 Million request every year, Major Moves will be tapped out. The Commissioners requested that $250,000.00 be put in that line item because an additional can always be approved later on in the year.

Ronald Smith asked if the funds for Frank Charlton, Plan Commission, were plugged in the Budget Request. Kim Koomler stated that those funds were not put into the 2016 Budget Request because he is wanting the vehicles this year. She asked if the Commissioners wanted to try to find a place to purchase those vehicles from this year or purchase one this year and one next year. Ronald Smith stated that EDIT has to be the fund. Kim Koomler stated that Frank Charlton said that he has some of the money in his budget to use as a portion of the funds towards the vehicles.

The Commissioners received the following correspondence: Indiana Economic Development Corporation re: IEDC Marketplace News Update; DHS re: IDHS Warns to Beware of Scammers after Storms; DHS re: Citizens Can Report Damage from Recent Severe Weather Online; DHS re: Clearing Debris Important to Protecting Neighborhoods from Flooding; NEIndiana re: News Release – Regional Development Authority Elects Board Chairs; DHS re: More Rain, Severe Storms in Forecast; Heed Warnings to Avoid Flood Roads; DHS re: Severe Weather Forecast Across the State; Here’s How Hoosiers Can Prepare; State of Indiana re: Lt. Governor Ellspermann to Welcome National SBIR Road Tour to Indianapolis.
STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

_____________________________________________
Ronald L. Smith, President, South District

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James A. Croll, Vice President, Middle District

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Lynne A. Liechty, North District

Attest:  __________________________________
Kim Koomler, Steuben County Auditor