September 16, 2019 Commissioners’ Meeting Continued

STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
September 16, 2019

The Steuben County Commissioners met at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, September 16, 2019, in the Commissioners’ Room of the Steuben County Community Center. Present this day were Commissioners Ronald Smith, James Crowl and Lynne Liechty. Also present were Ruth Beer, Steuben County Councilwoman and Kim Meyers, Steuben County Auditor.

A Kone Claim was submitted for review because of the issues that are going on with the elevator. Donald Stuckey said Kone has done the work. The problem is when they ordered the part, when they got that part in, it didn’t work, so they had to get another one. Mr. Stuckey said the question is in the Contract where it says Kone is supposed to replace items every two (2) years and he is interested to know if they did that. James Crowl said they should have a service record showing that. Donald Stuckey said the Contract doesn’t say motherboard and he is not familiar with some of the terms in the Contract and if they are the same things that went bad in the elevator.

Jody Kinsey, USI, submitted information on the Health Insurance renewal. Ms. Kinsey said she has updates for September, they are still negotiating on one claimant, but she is in a position to lock in those renewal numbers and will come back with recommendations at the next meeting. Ms. Kinsey said the fixed costs renewal increased 1.79% and is equal to $13,304.00. She said the expected claims costs are expected to increase by 10.98% which is due to medical inflation and will cost approximately $293,066.00. Ms. Kinsey said that is actually lower than the USI analysis they presented last month as they were looking at closer to a 13% increase. Jody Kinsey said that overall, the total expected costs increase is approximately 8.92% or $306,370.00.

She said that they hope to come back with full recommendations at the next meeting. Ms. Kinsey said the decisions including increase in deductibles and/or premiums have not been made, but they will help get those recommendations to the Commissioners.

Ms. Kinsey said she recommends changing the Pharmacy Benefit Manager. Currently Magellen is being used, but Express Scripts may offer potential savings of $123,000.00, which is 22% of the pharmacy claims cost.

Jody Kinsey also reported on the ElectRx program and possible savings with expansion of that program.

Ms. Kinsey submitted information regarding the implementation of a Tele-Doc Program. She said ProClaim reviewed emergency room and urgent care claims and in eight (8) months of claims activity, there were over $167,000.00 in emergency room claims and over $7,000.00 in urgent care claims. Ms. Kinsey said implementing the Call-A-Doc Program is an option, but there is a monthly cost per employee which equals an annual cost of $5,500.00, but she believes that cost will be offset by the savings.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the claims submitted for payment this day totaling $589,833.62. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

James Crowl made a motion to approve the minutes from the Commissioners’ Meeting on September 3, 2019. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

The Commissioners signed the minutes from the August 19, 2019, meeting that was approved at the last Commissioners’ Meeting.

Brett Hays, NICC, requested permission to purchase a 2012 Dodge Charger that came from the Angola Police Department in the amount of $6,730.00. Mr. Hays stated that he has the funds for this purchase. James Crowl made a motion to approve the vehicle purchase request. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to add the 1998 K3500 to the next Online Auction. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Mr. Hays also informed the Commissioners that he is getting quotes for the water damage repair.
Frank Charlton reported that the Camper Meeting went well and there were about thirty (30) to forty (40) campers in attendance.

Kylee Harris stated that she would be reaching out to Northern Industrial Flooring regarding refinishing the floor in the Event Center.

James Crowl requested Frank Charlton to see if the cameras located at the Old County Home site could be used at the County Park.

Patrick Kirkpatrick, EMS Director, submitted August Closeouts in the amount of $500.00 and August Writeoffs in the amount of $1,327.45 for approval. Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the August Closeouts and Writeoffs. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Rae Delaney, Payroll, submitted the September 13, 2019 payroll in the amount of $389,686.75 for approval. James Crowl made a motion to approve the September 13, 2019 payroll. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the Administrative Meeting Memo from the Administrative Meeting held on Friday, September 6, 2019, at 8:30 a.m. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

James Crowl made a motion to approve the Boat Storage Off Season Contract with Dry Dock Marine Center, Inc. for the buildings at the County Park. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Steuben County 4-H Fair Association, Inc. and the Steuben County Parks Department. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to officially approve the five (5) year State Mandatory Sprinkler Pipe Inspection for the Courthouse in the amount of $500.00. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

James Crowl made a motion to approve the 2020 Holiday Schedule. Lynne Liechty seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to approve the Administrative Meeting/Emergency Expenditure Meeting Schedule. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

Ronald Smith asked if the Commission Board wanted to discuss the EDC Housing Strategy or Turning Point allocation again. The Commission Board decided there was no discussion needed.

Lynne Liechty submitted a proposed Courthouse diagram to be submitted at the Angola Common Council Meeting on Monday, October 7, 2019.

Gary Fair, Community Center Building Manager, introduced Tim Zimmerman, Kone Sales Representative, to the Commissioners. Mr. Fair said they have experienced several delays on the elevator repair project, including everything from diagnostic equipment not working properly, to ordering products from the manufacturer and having it fail right out of the box. He said the board that was put in on Friday, six (6) of them were ordered and the fifth one was the first one that worked. Mr. Fair said he did not see an inspection tag on any of the boards.

Tim Zimmerman apologized for the situation that the County has been put in. He said it is not Kone’s finest moment and it isn’t something they are proud of, but it wasn’t for lack of effort. Mr. Zimmerman said that the technician spent close to 100 hours at the Community Center working on the elevator and the cost of all of that is borne by Kone.
Mr. Zimmerman said with the elevator approaching 30 years old, that is around the point where people look at modernizing and getting a new controller or new elevator; however, that being said, this make and model is a workhorse. What is installed in the Community Center now is a Dover DMC and there are quite a few of them in operation. He said this is the first time in 17 years he has ever experienced a case like this and it just seemed to be one thing after another working against them. Mr. Zimmerman said due to the age of the equipment, when circuit boards are ordered, a lot of them are now aftermarket or refurbished and it becomes harder to get a good OEM quality board. Mr. Zimmerman said it also seems if you mix and match an OEM Board and an aftermarket circuit board, they don’t like talking to each other. He said when they receive a board and it looks brand new, they assume the board is good, but there is no way to test it other than putting it in the controller for the elevator and seeing what happens. If that doesn’t work, troubleshooting the issue is a lengthy process. Tim Zimmerman said the diagnostic tool is simply a laptop computer with special software and adapters that communicate with the elevator controller. The first laptop would not communicate at all so a second one was brought in. They thought it was working, but ended up trying a third laptop and they were then able to communicate and get the right combination of circuit boards installed. He said the elevator is now running, but the doors are still slow and adjustments need to be made to improve that.

Lynne Liechty asked when the boards were last upgraded. Tim Zimmerman said there would not be any upgrade of the boards, it was just replacing them with new. Mr. Zimmerman said he really thinks this is a one-time event because in 17 years he’s never experienced a case like this where it took this long to diagnose the problem and repair it. He said if they were to stockpile every circuit board that exists in the controller, they could put them on the shelf so they are readily available, but one or more of them may be faulty and they wouldn’t know that until it was installed, so he doesn’t think that would be the right answer.

Ronald Smith said the County Attorney has something to bring to Mr. Zimmerman’s attention. Donald Stuckey said he isn’t sure if he is reading this correctly and if the Contract is talking about the same components, but the Contract talks about things being replaced every two (2) years. Mr. Zimmerman said he would have to go back and review that contract. Donald Stuckey said the contract states:

**CONTROL SYSTEM**

Main (CLC) CPU Processor, EPROMS, RAM, serial communication interfaces, I/O circuitry, expander boards, dispatching, car running logic, fault system logic, hall running logic, and group dispatching, CLC terminals, signal inputs/outputs, system power supply board, fuses, safety strings, drive unit sensors, car leveling circuits and memory support battery in the CLC board shall be replaced every two (2) years.

Mr. Zimmerman requested time to go back and review that and he will write a response to that.

Ronald Smith requested Gary Fair to put an elevator upgrade on his list for the 2021 budget year.

Lynne Liechty made a motion to add the Distributor from the Highway Department to the next online auction. James Crowl seconded that motion and the motion carried with three (3) ayes.

The Commissioners concluded that there was no reason for the Highway Department to give weekly Foreman notifications.

Ronald Smith reported that there is an interest in building a new concrete Redi Mix plant that has state of the art mixing capabilities on the Klink Property. Lynne Liechty said she spoke to Anthony Winters and they are looking forward to it and she is hoping it works out well.

The Board of Aviation is seeking permission to use the hot pot from the Highway Department. Ronald Smith said this has been discussed before. Lynne Liechty said she received a call from Randy Strebig and he wanted to use the crack sealer at the Airport. Commissioner Liechty said Mr. Strebig would have to discuss that with Jennifer Sharkey before it is brought to the Commission Board. James Crowl said Mr. Strebig was told that a year ago. Ronald Smith said that was purchased with Highway Funds, letting the Airport use the hot pot would be a questionable action. Donald Stuckey said something would have to be traded or they would have to pay for it.
Ronald Smith said Mr. Strebig can approach the Commission Board regarding the request. Lynne Liechty said she would contact Mr. Strebig.

Donald Stuckey reported he had a conference call with the attorney for the DNR and the Historical Preservation and Archeology Head of the DNR regarding the Lime Lake/Lake Gage Bridge. He said they wanted to make it clear that the bridge could be torn down or replaced tomorrow as long as federal funding is not used and there is nothing anyone can do about it. Mr. Stuckey said the Historical Designation is a Federal Designation and they can’t control what is done with local monies. He said the application was filed in 2010 and several conditions were placed upon it, no one followed through so ARCH got involved and started the process again. Donald Stuckey informed the DNR that the County may want to raise the bridge in the future. The DNR said if the Historical and Archeology Division is contacted they may help in maintaining the integrity of the bridge to raise it as long as the County uses its own money for the project. Donald Stuckey said the Appeal of the Historical Designation is probably a waste of time at this point.

Lynne Liechty said the DNR told her if the bridge is raised, it would have to go up four (4) feet. James Crowl said right now the bridge is in good shape and there are no issues except people wanting to go from one lake to the other. He said he doesn’t see the County spending money to lift the bridge four (4) feet happening.

The Commissioners congratulated Mike Marturello from the Herald Republican for several awards he received last week at the Hoosier State Press Association Better Newspaper Contest Banquet.

The Commissioners received the following correspondence: Janel Meyer, SCSWCD re: Board Meeting Agenda; Stephanie Yager IACC re: IDHS Emergency Management Survey for Indiana County Commissioners.

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