

Ripley County Commissioners Meeting

January 29, 2018

The Commissioners' meeting opened promptly at 7:00 a.m. Monday, January 29, 2018 at the Ripley County Highway Garage, Osgood, Indiana. All Commissioners were in attendance as well as Auditor Wagner.

Ms. Sheri Hines from USI was present and advised the new Bridge Inspection contract would be ready for review week of 1/29/2018. She advised due to additional requirements from the State for the inspections the cost has risen slightly. However 80% of the costs are reimbursed by the State.

Also the asset management plan had been updated and can be used for any future grants through the Community Crossings program.

Superintendent Toops advised the camera system is not yet functional.

Foreman Kissell advised the highway roller is to be prepped by the dealer for delivery. The trucks should be delivered anytime. He is working on specs for the 2018 purchases of single axle dump trucks.

With no further business to attend, Commissioner Linville moved to recess to the annex. Commissioner Stratton seconded and the motion passed with 3 yes.

Commissioner Stratton moved to reconvene the meeting with a second from Commissioner Linville. Motion passed with 3 yes and Commissioner Stutler opened the meeting with the Pledge to the Flag. Commissioners Stutler, Linville, Stratton, County Attorney Ertel, and Auditor Wagner were in attendance.

Commissioner Stutler advised they had failed to elect a president at the earlier January meetings and requested nominations for the position for 2018. Commissioner Linville moved to keep the same president as 2017. There was no second and the motion died. No other nominations were presented and the current President, Gary Stutler, will continue for 2018.

Maintenance—Mr. John Lohrum

Mr. Lohrum advised all boilers in the annex were working and 2 are working at the courthouse.

Auditor Wagner advised the commissioners that the scope of work for replacement of the courthouse boilers had been sent to Choice Mechanical, QPH, Dunlap, and Hydronic & Steam to provide quotes for the 2/12/2018 commissioner meeting.

Elections—Ms. Ginger Bradford

Ms. Bradford presented the commissioners with the polling places for the 2018 elections for their signature. The commissioners signed the form.

Health Department—Ms. Holley Rose—Birth Certificate Fees

Ms. Rose advised the commissioners that the State of Indiana had changed the way birth certificates were provided to individuals. Presently they are requiring that the regular birth certificate as well as a pocket size card be issued. This has increased the cost to the county.

She presented a request from the Health Board that the fee be changed from \$10.00 to \$15.00.

Commissioner Linville moved to approve the increase with a second from Commissioner Stratton. Motion passed with 3 yes.

911-Ms. Leah Hildebrand—Equipment Upgrades

Ms. Hildebrand advised the commissioners that the current 911 system was installed in 2005 and needed upgrades. She advised the upgrades would include an additional radio console for the encrypted radios and replaces the 2005 system. Cost to replace the system is \$56,862.23 with an additional \$11,864.76 for installation. Total \$68,729.99.

Commissioner Stratton moved to approve the upgrade with a second from Commissioner Linville. Motion passed with 3 yes.

Technology—Ms. Kelly Vollet

Ms. Vollet advised the commissioners that ETC had advised the current telephone system needed to have some upgrades to operate properly and those should correct the problems being experienced with the changeover to fiber optic lines. The changes include changing out two chassis, updating software on all three IP Office Systems to version 10.1 as the current version is over 5 years old. They advised there would be NO charge to Ripley County for these changes.

She also advised that ETC had hired a third party, Integration Partners, to install the new phone system at the highway garage that would reduce the cost to \$4321.80 and presented the commissioners with the new contract for the third party. Commissioner Linville moved to accept the contract with a second from Commissioner Stratton. Motion passed with 3 yes.

BREAK—8:44:07

Commissioner Linville moved to bring the previous discussion of comp time, sick time and vacation time counting as hours worked for the highway garage employees off the table for further discussion. Commissioner Stratton seconded and the motion passed.

Commissioner Linville stated he could go along with comp time being counted as actual hours worked as they had been earned by working over the normal 40 hour week.

Commissioner Stratton stated he was against changing the current “actual hours worked” as currently stated in the employee handbook. He stated he did not feel that comp time, sick time or vacation time should be used to put an employee into an overtime position and felt the change could be very detrimental to the county and easily abused. He stated the responsibility of the commissioners was to the taxpayers and financial wellbeing of the county.

Commissioner Linville moved to table the issue for further discussion. Commissioner Stratton seconded and the motion passed with 3 yes.

Commissioner Stutler requested the commissioners hold an Executive Session to discuss Personnel and Disciplinary Issues. Commissioner Stratton stated it could not be done at this meeting. County Attorney Ertel agreed and stated to comply with the open door policy a 48 hour notice would need to be sent to the papers and radio stations. Auditor Wagner will provide the 48 hour notice to the parties for the Executive Session to be held Friday, February 2, 2018 at 8:00 am at the Annex Commissioners’ Room for the discussion of Personnel and Disciplinary Issues.

Probation/Community Corrections—Mr. Shannon Schmaltz

Mr. Schmaltz provided the commissioners with the grant request for the new community corrections period. Commissioner Linville moved to sign the grant request with a second from Commissioner Stratton. Motion passed with 3 yes.

EMA—Mr. Patrick Rose

Mr. Rose advised the Fire Department Association had approved the HAZMAT Contract and he was waiting on the Fire Departments to provide their share of the contract cost.

Sheriff—Sheriff Cumberworth

Sheriff Cumberworth had no issues to discuss and notified the commissioners that he would not be in attendance.

EMS—Mr. Scott Huffman

Mr. Huffman provided the commissioners with notification of two new hires, Mr. James Bolger as EMT and Ms. Marie Bear as Paramedic.

He also advised the department had been certified by the State to teach EMT classes. This will hopefully help the shortage of EMT’s available.

BREAK 9:50:00

APEX Benefits—Ms. Toni Stinson

Ms. Stinson presented the commissioners with a report on how the changes to the health insurance program June 1, 2017 have affected the cost of the program to the county. She advised as of 7 months history the county had saved approximately \$160,000.00 from the changes. If current history continues the changes made can provide substantial savings for the county.

She also discussed some possibly changes for the 2018 renewal that could also increase the savings to the county. She will try to have some renewal quotes provided for the March 12, 2018 meeting.

Auditor Wagner spoke for Mr. Ken Hylton of the Veterans Office and provided the commissioners with a new hire for the Veterans Service Office, Mr. Benjamin Layton.

Auditor Wagner presented the commissioners with the minutes of the January 2 and 15 regular meeting and the January 10 Special Meeting. Commissioner Linville moved to approve all with a second from Commissioner Stratton. Motion passed with 3 yes.

Commissioner Linville moved to pay claims with a second from Commissioner Stratton. Motion passed with 3 yes.

The Commissioners signed the Payroll Vouchers, Claim Vouchers, and Claims being paid from the commissioners' budget.

With no other business to attend, Commissioner Stratton moved to adjourn with a second from Commissioner Linville. Motion passed with 3 yes.

_____ Gary Stutler

_____ Rodney Stratton

_____ Robert Linville

Attest: _____ William Lee Wagner—Ripley County Auditor