

JENNINGS COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING

February 22, at 6:00 PM

Matt Sporleder, Shane Boswell, and Bob Wilhite were present. Matt Sporleder opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Started meeting at 6:20 due to an executive session at 6:00pm.

Ellie Bright submitted a quote from All Star Paving for replacing the ramp at the Probation Department. This will replace the wood ramp with a concrete ramp, for ADA compliance. Ellie said that the county approved this previously, possibly before covid. Matt is suggesting paying for this with the Cares Act money. Shane made a motion to approve the quote of \$52,000. Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Ellie said that they are considering electronic sign-in at the courthouse in lieu of paper sign in. Ellie stated that this would be at no cost to the commissioners because she has the money in her circuit court budget.

Ellie attended the council meeting to get the council's approval on letting RFG perform a study to determine if the county could fund PERF for the employees. RFG said the cost for this would be approximately \$7500.00 to \$10,000.00. Matt asked Alex who determines PERF for the county and Alex replied, the council. Matt said that he doesn't understand why Ellie came to the commissioners. Ellie is not asking for money; she is just asking for a 'rubber stamp' from the commissioners. The county currently has 457B for all county employees. The county contributes up to a 2.5 % salary match. County employees are not required to contribute to the 457B. PERF will be more of an expense to the county and all employees will be required to opt into PERF. Shane is concerned and thinks that the county needs to conduct an employee survey to get the employees' opinion on this. Matt also has concerns about the future funding for PERF. Ellie said that PERF will be great for the county employees, and that we need to take care of our employees. The county council is willing to fund \$3500.00 towards the study RFG will perform. Shane made a motion to allow this council to fund the \$3500, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Ellie discussed the Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council. This committee is required by law, and it has been created to help create a better outcome for people with mental health issues and substance abuse issues. The committee meets every 4th Wednesday of the month and Ellie is asking for the commissioner's involvement. This committee was created in 2022 and has really kicked off in 2023. Ellie has looked at state grants and these grants will require a county match. Matt asked if this committee would qualify to use monies from the Opioid Settlement Fund? Ellie said that she has some really good ideas for the Opioid Settlement money.

Nicci presented a work from home request that was approved in the last meeting but was not signed. She also presents three travel requests for the health department. The meetings are local and will not require any county money. Shane made a motion to approve the travel request, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Nicci also presents the ID badge Policy that was tabled from the last meeting for the commissioners approval. Employees will get one replacement badge free but if they lose or misplace it, they would be charged \$5.00 for a new one. Matt does not like the idea of charging the employees for a replacement. Matt wants to run this for 1 year on a trial basis and then revisit to see how the process is working. Shane said that the commissioners put the new system in place and forced the employees to use the new system, so he does not feel right charging the employees. Nicci asked Matt if he would be buying the supplies for replacement badges out of his budget, and he replied, "If I have to." Shane made a motion to approve the policy with these changes. Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The school superintendent reached out to Nicci and said that they were going to send out a survey to their employees regarding the services at the wellness clinic. Since we partner with the school, they are asking for us to send out the same survey. Bob made a motion to approve our participation in the survey, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Purdue Extension reached out to Nicci to ask if they could use the hand washing stations during the eclipse festival in April. Bob made a motion to approve this request, Shane seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Nicci made the commissioners aware of the safety meeting on Wednesday the 28th at 9am.

Kenny Freeman said the floor in the jail pods need replaced. Kenny paid for the repairs already and wants to be reimbursed. The cost of the repairs is \$4000.00. Matt told Kenny that he needs to give them a heads up prior to the needed repairs. Kenny said that Natasha would be making a list of needed repairs and will bring it to the commissioners.

Alex drafted an ordinance concerning impoundment and towing fees for the Sheriff's Department. This ordinance will allow the sheriff's department to charge to get the automobile out of impoundment. This does not include traffic accidents, this is for violations of no insurance, driving while suspended, etc. Shane made a motion to approve the ordinance; Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Trent Linville with Airwave Networks is requesting use of a public right away access. Airwave Networks is a high-speed internet provider in Southeast Indiana and the New Hampshire Seacoast. Airwave offers fiber optic internet over radio waves and fiber to the home internet services. Airwave provides high speed internet to people living in rural areas. Everything is run underground. Matt states that he is concerned with companies overlapping. Matt wants to research this and try to obtain more information. Matt is asking to table this until the next meeting. Matt said to add it to the next agenda for approval and /or discussion.

Denise Keith informed the commissioners that her neighbors are putting human waste into the ground. Denise went to the Health Department and reported the issue. The Health Department issued a letter to the neighbor. The Health Department investigated this issue. The neighbors have two campers set up and there are two pits but there was no waste in the pits. Denise is saying that the pits are on her property, and it would be her responsibility to cover up the holes. Alex advice the commissioners that this is a civil matter between her and the neighbor. Alex instructed Denise to attend a Health Department Board Meeting. Denise is asking that the neighbor fill the holes in, that's all. Chad Ebinger did a survey on Denise's property. Matt asked Denise for a week or two to allow him to talk with Chad Ebinger.

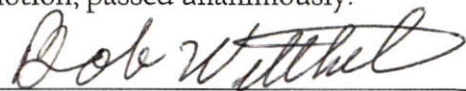
Historical Society is asking to use the courthouse lawn April 26th - 28th. Shane made a motion to approve, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Matt is asking for The Historical Society to follow up with Travis Shepherd so that there are no conflicts with the lawn maintenance on those days.

Shane made a motion to appoint Mark Smith to the Animal Control Board; Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Alex reviewed an agreement between the county and WTH. Shane made a motion to approve the agreement, Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Shane made a motion to adjourn; Bob seconded the motion, passed unanimously.


Sarah J. Abel, Auditor


Bob Wilhite


Matt Sporleder, President


Shane Boswell