

## MINUTES OF THE CLINTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

August 17, 2020

9:00 A.M.

The Clinton County Commissioners met for a regular meeting on August 17, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the Clinton County Courthouse, 125 Courthouse Square, Frankfort, IN 46041.

Commissioner Josh Uitts called the meeting to order with the following members shown to be present or absent:

### PRESENT

Josh Uitts

Steve Woods

Jordan Brewer

### ABSENT

Others in attendance were Commissioner Assistant Jerri Sexton, Kevin Myers, Chris Overman, Brett Barton, Liz Stitzel, Rodney Wann, Renee Crick, Rich Kelly, Tom Little, Britt Ostler and others shown to be present in the minutes. Commissioner's Assistant Jerri Sexton recorded the minutes.

### **IN THE MATTER OF THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Uitts led the pledge of allegiance.

### **IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC COMMENT**

Commissioner Uitts asked for public comment. Mr. Huffer stated that they have mowed and sprayed the neighbors yard, but wants to know the progress on the trash, junk and debris. Liz Stitzel stated that they did mow and spray and after the second time Mr. Huffer just needs to call and they can send a mower out without posting for 10 days. She stated that the junk and debris issue is with legal and that there is a deadline coming up in early September and at that point if nothing has changed they should be able to get a court date assigned.

No other comments were received.

### **IN THE MATTER OF CO-ALLIANCE**

Mark Ranson updated the Commissioners on fuel usage.. The county had bid fuel in December and booked it through their station on 28. The county has used about 15,000 out of the 60-70,000 so far. Because of COVID they are allowed to move that fuel into next year until that contract is expired and then offer a new contract or work off of a different set of standards at the Commissioners preference.

In April Alan Dunn had contacted him about booking more fuel at the lowest it's ever been. The county booked about 6 more months of fuel. They have January-June contracts for 2021. When they have used the 2020 contract, the 2021 contract will kick in. The county may be covered through most of 2021 depending on usage.

Commissioner Uitts stated that we would not be able to get the better price until we use the original, which is \$1.87 plus taxes which puts it at \$2.17. Mark stated the new price is \$1.33 and they were hit pretty hard with the pandemic with barrels sold below zero.

Commissioner asked Mark to explain how the cards work. Mark stated that the cards work through their station but also at other stations. Commissioner Uitts stated that they would like to stop usage at other stations. Mark stated that he doesn't know that there is a way to do that but what happens is when they are used at other stations it goes off of an OPIS national average and that is the price that gets billed to the county and doesn't count against our usage. The fuel they book is through that station and it is a service that CountryMark allows them to offer and a lot of cities and towns use for budget purposes.

Commissioner Uitts requested the reports that track the cards and vehicle usage. He would also like to make it so that those cards can't be used anywhere else. Mark will get the reports and check into the cards to see if they can make that happen.

Commissioner Brewer wanted to be clear that we have roughly 75,000 to be used for 2020 and at least part of 2021. Mark stated that is correct and that we have used a little over 8,000 gallons outside of our booking.

Sheriff Kelly stated that they do go out of county often to transport inmates and use the cards at other stations. He can make all of the standard use back to the pumps if that's going to create an issue. Mark stated that just because the board advertises one price, that is not what is being charged, it is the OPIS national average that gets charged.

### **IN THE MATTER OF HIGHWAY UPDATE**

Kevin Myers reported that they could be chip sealing as early as next week, but the contractor is in another county so probably the week after next. They are looking at making cold mix to do a little paving but don't know budget wise if that is the wise thing to do this year due to less income that they receive from the state, plus having to pay their 25% for the community crossing out of their budget. They were only going to make a couple thousand tons basically for repair work but it may be wise to cut back on that. They are looking at doing some drainage work at the highway department that's been needed for many years.

Commissioner Uitts stated that there is a bad repair job on Krug road, he would like Kevin to look at. Kevin stated he would take a look at it but it is in the city.

Kevin stated the single axle truck they have been waiting on for 6-7 months has arrived. They are outfitting it to pull the patcher and they will still be using the old patcher.

### **IN THE MATTER OF AREA PLAN**

Liz Stitzel stated that Sandy Kinsler had called and requested the county to post no trespassing signs on the remainder of the colfax manson elevator. Tom Little stated that the building is insured for liability. Commissioner Uitts stated he would reach out to the Redevelopment Commission to see if they want to post signs.

Liz stated they had a tall grass complaint at 11481 E SR 28 and presented pictures for reference. Commissioners agreed that she send the letter to mow within 10 days or they will send a mower out.

Liz stated that the Eatons have filed a tall grass complaint against a neighbor on 380 East. There have been several disputes between the neighbors. The complaint is about small patches of grass around trees and she didn't feel that was the intent of the tall grass ordinance to mow these small areas. Commissioner Uitts and all the Commissioners agreed that they do not feel that this falls within the intent of the ordinance.

### **IN THE MATTER OF OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Uitts stated that they had cancelled the carnival portion of the 4-H Fair due to overwhelming concerns from the Board of Commissioners, as well as the Board of Health for the spread of COVID-19. Mr. Huseman submitted an invoice for \$28,121.00 for expenses and damages. Tom Little discussed the invoice with Mr. Huseman, and he stated that he would settle for \$14,000. Commissioners discussed their opinions and options about the invoice. Tom also stated that the contract is not with the Commissioners it is with the Fair Council and the contract could be terminated due to acts of God and he didn't see any liability for the county. The Commissioners agreed not to pay the invoice or settled amount and Tom will contact Mr. Huseman.

### **IN THE MATTER OF NEW BUSINESS**

The Extension office is requesting light repairs in the amount of \$2600, the Commissioners agree to have the light repairs done by Sexton Building and Electric if there is still money in the budget.

Commissioner Brewer mentioned the need for weed control for the parking lot. Commissioner Uitts stated that Nickel Plate Flats reached out to Warren Landscaping for a quote. Warren Landscaping quoted \$300.00 for our portion of the lot. Commissioner Brewer motioned to approve Warren Landscaping to do the weed control for the parking lot. Commissioner Woods seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

### **IN THE MATTER OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

Renee Crick stated with her recent cancer diagnosis they are looking at putting in for an assistant director for next year's budget. They have saved about \$40,000 out of 911 budget this year from fees the state has taken over that they no longer have to fund. This position would be an evening or night position. Renee stated she was able to modify her budget and submit to the Auditor's office. She will be here for the first budget hearing and her surgery is September 3rd. She is hoping to hire a part-time person that can start in the training process. Commissioner Woods asked if there was any reason to wait until the first of the year since we've already saved money this year. Renee stated that pulling a working shift supervisor would create over time to fill that position. She will be taking applications and will probably hire from within, but it will be advertised.

Brett Barton stated that because of a decision made by an appellate court he has changed his 4th amendment waiver and asked Tom if he would look at it. Tom stated he would.

### **IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Woods stated that they would be having their insurance meeting after the meetings today. He stated he would not be at the next meeting.

Commissioner Uitts reported that he had a conference call a few days ago with the Secretary of State regarding the Fire Eye and what that means for Clinton County. Commissioner Uitts stated that we are on pace to have that installed. They have a call with Tim Elston tomorrow to get everything implemented. This is a mandate

but it is funded for three years. This will protect the county against ransomware and ransom attacks. We have a strong system already in place.

Commissioner Woods stated that there was a sexual harassment incident involving an outside company we do business with and a county employee. We are sending a letter to the company stating the county will not tolerate this behavior. Commissioner Woods motioned to sign the letter, Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Uitts stated that the Town of Mulberry receives a portion of the public safety LIT every year and pledges their portion to help fund Central Dispatch. They have received an increase but want their commitment to remain the same. Commissioner Woods motioned to amend the Central Dispatch agreement with the Town of Mulberry, Commissioner Brewer seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS**

Commissioner Woods motioned to approve the following claims as submitted, Commissioner Brewer seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

- Friday claims dated August 7, 2020 in the amount of \$116,232.03
- Friday claim dated August 14, 2020 in the amount of \$ 1,253.60
- Bi-weekly claims dated August 17, 2020 in the amount of \$ 514,025.33
- Court claims dated August 17, 2020 in the amount of \$ 21,796.90

Commissioner Woods motioned to approve the claim from Connor Company that was held back in the previous meeting. Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Claim for \$150,000 for the county's portion for the construction of the Madison Township Ambulance Bay. Commissioner Uitts stated that we had funds left over from the Headquarters building. Commissioner Brewer motioned to approve the claim, Commissioner Woods seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

**IN THE MATTER OF PAYROLL**

Commissioner Woods motioned to approve the payroll as submitted, Commissioner Brewer seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll dated July 31, 2020 in the amount of \$397,724.94

**IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONER MINUTES**


Commissioner Woods motioned to approve regular meeting minutes dated August 3, 2020, Commissioner Brewer seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Woods motioned to approve Special Meeting Minutes dated July 9, 2020, Commissioner Brewer abstained, Commissioner Uitts seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Rodney Wann reported that they are in the final stages of securing a grant and is seeking guidance from the Commissioners on using a part time person contractually. Dennis stated if she is on payroll now to leave her on payroll and increase hours.

Without any further business to come before the Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Brewer motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Woods at 9:55a.m.

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CLINTON COUNTY

  
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Josh Uitts, President

  
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Steve Woods

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jordan Brewer

ATTEST:

  
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Britt Ostler, Auditor