

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

OF THE CLINTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, JULY 9, 2020

The Clinton County Board of Commissioners convened in a special session at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 9, 2020 in the Commissioner's meeting room, at 125 Courthouse Square, Frankfort, Indiana. The following Commissioners were present: Josh Uitts, Steve Woods, and Scott Shoemaker. Also in attendance were Todd Lappin, Lorita Pearson, Sheriff Kelly, Caren Crum, Bethany Perlee, Cody Miller, Greg Miller, Rodney Wann, Dr. Stephen Tharp, Hillary Doyle, Brett Todd, Matt Neal, Britt Ostler, Tom Little and Jerri Sexton recorded the minutes.

Commissioner Josh Uitts called the session to order at 2:35 p.m.

Commissioner Uitts asked for public comment.

Matt Neal from the 4-H Fair council stated that he and others on the council felt blind-sided by the decision that was made to not hold the carnival portion of the fair due to the COVID pandemic. There were lots of volunteer time and effort put in by the board to make something positive happen for the community. They felt they were not included in the discussion about not having the carnival.

Commissioner Uitts stated that they only made the decision to ask the council not to have the carnival. Commissioner Uitts stated he came to the meeting to ask Jamie to go back to the council and ask the fair council to consider cancelling the carnival, but the council decided to go ahead with the carnival despite hearing the concerns of the commissioners, Dr. Tharp, Sheriff Kelly, and EMS director Greg Miller.

Matt stated that they wanted to continue the carnival because of months of work that had went into it but also they had met with the BOH and Dr. Tharp, Purdue University officials and the carnival owner several times and laid out extensive plans for social distancing, cleaning and everything that would meet the governor's mandate. Matt stated that the carnival is a major source of income for them yearly.

Bethany Perlee stated that the communication from the commissioners has been very low and it is very frustrating.

Commissioner Uitts stated that communication goes both ways and he hasn't

seen any of the fair council members at a commissioners meeting to discuss fair plans. He agrees there needs to be better communication.

Commissioner Woods stated this Board of Commissioners have put more money into the fairgrounds. That the county took over all the insurance and have put more money into it than

any other group of commissioners. He stated as far as he knew the council wanted to go ahead with the carnival and we needed to have this meeting to talk about it

Bethany Perlee stated the information relayed to her was that they needed to make the decision to cancel the carnival or the decision will be made for them.

Commissioner Uitts stated there are things we can't control and this is not because they had a problem with their plans. He asked Dr. Tharp to speak regarding the concerns with the carnival portion of the fair.

Dr. Tharp stated that there has been an increase of cases in the county and the concern is how we handle mass amount of people coming together, because the reality is that they don't follow the CDC guidelines.

Bethany Perlee asked if they have seen any of their plans on every aspect.

Rodney Wann stated they have been involved from the beginning and was asked to help the council with their plans, and agreed to help with the caveat that this may or may not happen when we get to that time frame, because of the many unknown variables that we have no control over.

Dr. Tharp stated that he thought the carnival was the biggest concern. They were counting on moving into stage 5 of reopening the state but when the governor pulled back because the COVID situation is getting worse not better. That raised concerns and where he got his cou

Todd Lappin stated the number one role of government is the protection of health, safety and security of its citizens. His concerns are with the new school year coming up and the increase of infection. He stated he didn't know how you would police the wearing of the mask and social distancing at the fair because it's not a law and they can't enforce it. The only option is for the fair board to tell people to leave for not wearing

a mask and they could enforce trespassing.

Matt asked about the timing.

Commissioner Uitts explained that there was a commissioners meeting the previous Tuesday at 9:00, and it was decided then that they would ask the fair board to cancel the carnival. They had a drainage board meeting at 10:15 that he had to leave to make it to the fair council meeting at 11:00. He talked to Jamie and he said he would go back to the fair board to ask them to cancel. He received a message from Jamie around 2:15 and then decided to have this meeting 48 hours later due to advertising and the open door policy. The governor made his decision on the 1st and the commissioners didn't meet again until the 7th and cannot make decisions outside of meetings. Commissioner Uitts apologized for the unfortunate timing. Bethany asked what they were supposed to do for income for next year's carnival if they cancel this one.

Commissioner Uitts stated that they haven't explored all options. We do have a loss of income, and Mr. Huseman has already submitted an invoice. He stated the county does have the ability to recoup money that has been lost due to COVID-19 and will explore that with Baker-Tilly. One option was to delay the carnival and have it later in the year.

Sheriff Kelly stated that this is a strong community and this event will rebound next year and this year. He stated the carnival is a side show to the 4-H fair and we have the responsibility to our community to keep it safe. The ripple effect of 1 person getting COVID-19 in his facility is thousands of dollars. He is about \$75,000 in the hole because of paying overtime to cover for people in quarantine. It's not just about the carnival, it's about all the people that have to be out there such as the Sheriff Department, EMS, health officials, Frankfort Police Department, and Fire Department. It's a very difficult place to control a crowd. He asks the fair council to consider everyone in the community and he supports the decision the commissioners and the health officials have to make.

Rodney Wann stated that this is not against the plan that the fair board came up with that the BOH worked just as passionately on as they have. They want to make the best decision collectively for the community.

Cody Miller wanted to commend the Sheriff statements that were made. They are here

because the history of the fairgrounds that they want to continue for the community and their kids. She stated that she thinks when you are faced with hard situations it is where you find your cracks, and that maybe communication is where we are finding those cracks. They are here as a board to work it out.

Commissioner Uitts stated he has been very guilty of out of sight out of mind because he has not had to worry about what is happening at the fairgrounds because nobody has ever complained to him about anything that is going on at the fairgrounds.

Commissioner Shoemaker stated that they have grown complacent, because before they had a lot of problems out there and now they don't have these issues with this board. He advocated to cancel the carnival in April. He is going to vote to create an executive order to cancel the

day. He stated he is on his way out but asks that this Board of Commissioners to be giving 20-25K out of Landfill to the fair council because this is a huge loss for them.

Commissioner Woods stated he wasn't going to be here next year as well, but he thinks someone from the fair council should come to a commissioners meeting quarterly. He also has had no complaints. He expressed his appreciation for the work that the fair board does and we will find funds to make sure the fair continues.

Commissioner Shoemaker motioned to ban the carnival for 2020, Commissioner Woods seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Bethany asked if there was going to be an official statement from the commissioners.

Matt stated they would like the statement to say something along the lines of after meeting with the fair council, sheriff, and health officials, due to the COVID 19 it is in the best interest of the community to cancel the carnival portion of the Clinton County Fair.

Commissioner Shoemaker motioned to amend the executive order to ban the carnival for July 11th-18th 2020, Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Royer asked about the parade.

Commissioner Uitts stated that it was his understanding that the parade is cancelled.

Without any further business to come before the Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Woods motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Shoemaker at 3:31 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CLINTON COUNTY

Joshua Uitts

Steve Woods

ATTEST:

Britt Ostler, Auditor