

WARREN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2019

The Warren County Commissioners met for their second meeting for the month of February 2019. Present for the meeting were Thomas Hetrick, Adam Hanthorne, Brian Jordan and Jud Barce, County Attorney. Also, in attendance were Mike Shettle, Jenny Hobough, Matt Herndon, Clint Heidenreich, Lori Heidenreich, Phil Astell, John Kuiper, Charity Shettle, Sharon Hutchison, Lee Kay, Rusty Hart, Hunter Reece, Randy Haddock and John Sundquist.

1. The meeting was called to order by Brian Jordan, President of the Commissioners.
2. Brian Jordan led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. New Business:
 - a. Approval of Meeting Agenda – Brian Jordan presented the agenda and requested the third-floor bathroom renovation be removed from the agenda. Jordan requested to add KIRPC Discussion. Adam Hanthorne made a motion to amend and approve the agenda with a second from Tom Hetrick, all voted in favor.
 - b. Adam Hanthorne made a motion to approve the February 5, 2019 Commissioner meeting minutes, seconded by Tom Hetrick, all voted in favor and the minutes were signed.
 - c. Adam Hanthorne made a motion to approve the February 5, 2019 through February 19, 2019 Accounts Payable Claim Dockets with a second from Tom Hetrick, all voted in favor and the claim dockets were signed.
 - d. Adam Hanthorne made a motion to approve the February 15, January 18 and February 4, 2019 payroll dockets with a second from Tom Hetrick, all voted in favor and the payroll dockets were signed.
 - e. Adam Hanthorne made a motion to adjourn the Commissioner meeting with a second by Tom Hetrick, all voted in favor.
 - f. Drainage Board Meeting was held.
 - g. Adam Hanthorne made a motion to reconvene the Commissioners meeting with a second from Tom Hetrick, all voted in favor.
 - h. Highway Department – Matt Herndon, Highway Department Superintendent, explained that 100E is opened and work is continuing on Gillespie with guardrail set by the contractor and permanent safety barriers placed. The highway will possibly place gravel Thursday and then reopen the road. Jenny Hobough, Highway Department Office Manager, stated that this is no longer a bridge but now a culvert. Jordan inquired about a working meeting with the Commissioners at the Highway Department after the Commissioner Meeting on March 4th to discuss the Community Crossings Grant work plans as well as summer work plans. Herndon stated that bridge #66, south 550E location, will need to be looked at as well as chip and seal. Herndon stated with the weather coming in tonight, they will begin working at 5:30 a.m. Herndon stated that NextEra Energy called to discuss the roads for construction use during the building of the Jordan Creek Wind Farm. Hetrick stated that there is a tentative road use list in signed contract. Hetrick suggested that Jordan, President of the Commissioners, reach out to NextEra in order to find out the plans concerning the road work. Kuiper stated that he had a call from the NextEra Attorney, Mary Solada, who stated that the project developer is planning to meet with the Commissioners and Council in the near future.
 - i. Brian Jordan opened the sealed Share Crop Submissions. The names were read and included Nicholas J Tabert, Nicholas and Veronica Weston, State Line Farms (Matt Sims), Greg Haniford, Gates Farms (Mike and Dustin Gates), Jim Willet, Kyle Clute, William E Inman, Sam Verhoeven, Dean Bahms, Cameron Syneseal, P.J. Garriott and Joseph Silver. Decision will be made at the March 4th meeting. Hetrick suggested having an executive session to discuss the submitters. The meeting will set at a later date.
 - j. First reading of the proposed ordinance relating to the budget review and recommendation process. Brian Jordan read the proposed ordinance. Jordan explained that this is the first reading of the ordinance and the final reading will be March 4th. Sharon Hutchison, Council Member, stated that she feels that asking the Department Heads to come to the Commissioners for a specific meeting is a waste of time for the Department Head as well as tax payer money. She does not feel that it is necessary due to the tight timeline. Rusty Hart stated that preparing budgets in March for the following year will create an issue with only having 3 months of data. Rusty questioned the necessity to create an ordinance when the Commissioners can just ask the office holders to attend a meeting to answer questions. Charity Shettle made comments concerning the budget process. Lori Heidenreich, Treasurer, explained that having only 3 months of information to set up the next year's budget is difficult as well as the County does not have the NAV's until in July, LIT distribution report until May. Heidenreich stated that she has continually not spent her budget and only having 3 months to go off of makes things very difficult and Commissioners do not have information from the State to say what type of raise can be given at that point. Mike Shettle stated that he works with large budgets for State institutions and he has already done his budget for 2020 as well as the executives must know what is going on in the subordinate budgets. There are other issues that he is unaware of as he creates large budgets. Rusty stated that elected officials are not subordinates to the Commissioners and the budgets are approved by the Council. Mike stated he assumed all are Department Heads. Matt Herndon, Highway Department Superintendent, stated that creating a budget with only 3 months to plan is very difficult as the sand, stone, repairs, etc. are hard to foresee. Hetrick inquired about the Council reviewing the budget in August. Weston-Hubner explained the proposed budget calendar and dates that the State has moved forward. The ordinance states that the Commissioners must see the budget 30 days prior to the Council receiving the budget which moves the calendar 2 months in advance of last year. Lee Kay, County Council, stated that in the last 2 years the Commissioners and Council have received the budget binders at the same time, a month before the Council meets. Then a combined meeting was conducted with the Council, Commissioners, office holders, department heads, etc. to discuss the budgets.
 - k. County Attorney January Invoice – Adam Hanthorne made a motion to pay the invoice with a second from Tom Hetrick, all voted in favor.
 - l. Brian Jordan discussed KIRPC. Paula Max has requested to join KIRPC and John Kuiper is willing to give up his seat. Max is working on Main St in Pine Village improvements. The Commissioners agreed to have this change and this will be on the agenda next month. Barce will discuss with KIRPC to approve the change.
 - m. Smith Scholarship applications were distributed to the Commissioners. Weston-Hubner explained that the reapplicants will be distributed to the Commissioners on March 18, Commissioner decision on April 1 and

Senior night presentation May 1, 2019. Jordan explained the Smith Scholarship history and that there have been over 1,000 Warren County students that have received 4 years of tuition paid to Purdue if qualifications are maintained. This is the second year that the scholarships will be named at the Seeger Senior Night so that kids will know prior to attending at the request of Purdue. The Community Foundation has inquired about next year having the Commissioners attend for the interview process.

- n. Community Action Program Recommendation. Jordan read the letter. Jennifer Larson was previously appointed by the Commissioners. Community Action has recommended confirmation of continued appointment from April 2019 to April 2020. Tom Hetrick made a motion to appoint Jenny Larson back to the Community Action Program with a second from Adam Hanthorne, all voted in favor.
 - o. The County Farm Fence Fund creation was explained by Barce. The new fund would need much guidance in the ordinance, as well as for SBOA. Barce asked if there would be other uses for the funds other than fencing the parcel. Hetrick stated that many years ago the funds from the County Farm were used perpetuate the County Farm and then was changed to the County General at some point in time. Barce discussed options for the funds in many years. Hetrick suggested that after the fence the fund balance would go to an amount and then the remainder would then go to the County General Fund. Barce stated that the ordinance would need to state exactly what the funds are to be used for after the fence has been built. Jordan inquired about having the fund open for later use of repairs after the fence has been built. Barce stated that this is a fund that can be used for the fence then not used until another project is needed. Barce will send an ordinance that shows both options. Barce stated that new funds must be advertised and the ordinance read in 2 separate meetings.
4. Elected Official/Department Head comments:
- a. Sharon Hutchison, County Council, presented information concerning a study that is conducted by Tippecanoe County Area Plan. The agreement would be with the Commissioners for providing traffic studies in Warren County. Tippecanoe County Area Plan can present this at a later meeting if the Commissioners so choose.
 - b. Sharon Hutchison reported from KIRPC that the 2020 Census is in the near future. KIRPC can provide information in the unincorporated towns that can help with grants. Additionally, Hutchison stated that KIRPC discussed The Blight Clearance Program in the County as well as Towns for environmental cleanup with a 10% match for the County.
 - c. Phil Astell, EMA Director, explained that the generator at the Pine Village Fire Department needs repaired. Astell explained that he has 2 companies for the reverse 911 system that is being explored. Fountain County is interested in working together on this project, sharing the cost. Astell suggested the Fountain and Warren County Commissioners meet together to review the reverse 911 systems. Astell explained that the reverse 911 system allows an area to be selected and messages would be sent to all in that area for example road closures, weather, etc. Jordan stated that Benton County EMA Director is willing to explain the system they use to the Commissioners. Hanthorne stated that Benton County uses Code Red for their reverse 911 and the Benton County EMA Director is very pleased with the system. Astell further explained that there are multiple uses for the system besides just weather related. Astell will look at 5 companies and bring 2 companies to the Commissioners. Hetrick inquired if this is for information only or for control of County citizens such as citizen on the roads when not allowed can get arrested. Jordan explained that this is an alert system to get information out to the people in a specific area. Hart suggested that should be done for through dispatch. Hanthorne stated that there is an amber alert, silver alert, etc. that the systems are used for as well. Astell explained that the message can be email, text or voice to that specific area. Hart suggested only allow certain specific people to send the alerts. Astell explained that people have to sign up for the cell phone alerts, but the landlines are automatic. Hanthorne suggested specific alerts for each manager such as highway, sheriff, EMA and would be locked down in order to keep control.
 - d. Rusty Hart, Sheriff, discussed the Commissioner appointment to the 911 board. Phil Astell was previous appointment from the Commissioners. There is a 911 Board Meeting Friday at 8:30 a.m. There is 1 Commissioner and 1 Commissioner appointee on the Board. Tom Hetrick made a motion to reappoint Phil Astell to the 911 board with a second from Adam Hanthorne, all voted in favor. Hart inquired which Commissioner will be a board member. Tom Hetrick made a motion to appoint Adam Hanthorne with a second from Brian Jordan, all voted in favor. The meetings are at the Fountain County Courthouse in the Commissioner Room.
 - e. Hart explained the First Amendment Auditors to the Commissioners. The Auditors can walk into a public place with video cameras that is not posted "no public" in order to provoke people. There are questions of who has the authority as we do not have a policy in our Courthouse. Public places need to be posted as well as a policy will need to be established in the near future. Hart has had the discussion with his deputies concerning this. The Courthouse does not have a policy for guns in the building. Jud recommended posting a policy as the Auditors want the conflict. Hart stated that the rules must be clearly posted. The restriction of firearms in the third floor is recommended. Hunter has the ability to restrict video on the third floor or guns in the courtroom. Hart suggested getting input from all Office Holders. Hunter Reece, Judge, explained that there are many items that the community should not see things in certain offices such as employee records, etc. as each office has private information. Charity Shettle stated that be very careful of how the ordinance is worded. Hart stated that making designated public areas is a good start. Hetrick stated that he does not understand having people with guns in the courthouse and suggested having it a gun free area. Hart stated that no security in the courthouse makes it difficult when people are allowed carry firearms in the building. Hart suggested security in the courthouse. Hart inquired about an ordinance for when the County closes the roads, a state of emergency or travel advisory condition that would allow tickets or arrests for those who violate. Jud stated that an ordinance can be created, he will look into this. Hetrick again inquired if this is for information or controlling the citizens of the County. Hart stated that when the roads are closed there is no ordinance that allows the Sheriff's Department to do anything. Jenny Hobaugh, Highway Department Office Manager, stated that the highway receives phone calls to get people that are stranded. Jordan explained to that having a notification system would allow the County to reach people concerning the alerts. Hetrick stated that people should know to stay off the roads as there is no cure or law for stupid people. This would be holding the taxpayer's hands because they are too stupid to know when to stay off the roads. John Kuiper, Zoning Director, stated that we do have an employee policy that employees are not allowed to carry firearms in the courthouse.

5. Old Business:

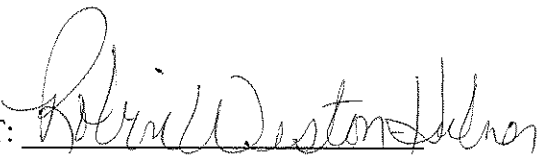
- a. Sale of Surplus Real Estate - The parcel that Brent Hoskins inquired about in Johnsonville has been tabled until Hoskins purchases the adjoining property.


6. Public Comment:

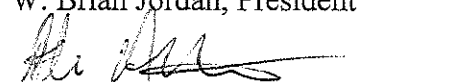
- a. Hetrick questioned the proposed budget calendar that Weston-Hubner distributed earlier in the meeting. Hetrick stated that in the past the Council went over the budget in August and the Commissioners in July when was the budget prepared. Weston-Hubner stated that for the last several years the State has moved the dates forward in order to have the budgets approved by the end of the year. Hetrick questioned when the office holders would need the budget prepared if like last year. Weston-Hubner stated that the budget would be due to the Auditor by the first or middle of May, possible a little later. Hetrick addressed the Office Holders and stated that previously the Commissioners would meet with the Office Holders and spend time with each office holder so that the Commissioners had a better rapport with the office holders also keeping the Commissioners in touch. Hetrick stated that he does not visit offices and this would give the Commissioners a better rapport with the Office Holders. Hetrick stated that make this more harmonious with the office holders. Hetrick stated that he is trying to make County government work more efficiently and better for all taxpayers.

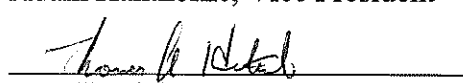
Next Commissioner will be held March 5, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.

There being no further business Adam Hanthorne made a motion to adjourn with a second from Tom Hetrick, all voted in favor.

ATTEST: 
Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor


W. Brian Jordan, President


Adam Hanthorne, Vice President


Tom Hetrick

