

PIKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 @ 8:30 AM

Mark Flint
Jeff Nelson
Ryan Coleman

REGARDING CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Flint with all commissioners present in addition to Pike County Attorney Val Fleig, Pike County Auditor Judith Gumbel, and Commissioner's Assistant Kristi Dischinger. Also, in attendance were Pike County Highway Superintendent Josh Byrd, Pike County Highway Office Manager Melanie Britton, Pike County EDC Executive Director Ashley Willis, Pike County Assessor Mike Goodpaster, Pike County EMS Director Chris Young, Pike County Sheriff Kent Johnson, and Press Dispatch Editor Andy Heuring.

President Flint extended heartfelt sympathy to Commissioner Jeff Nelson in the loss of his father, and Commissioner Nelson thanked all for their expressions of sympathy.

REGARDING APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR AUGUST 16, 2021

President Flint asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. Hearing done he called for a motion to approve. Commissioner Nelson seconded by Commissioner Ryan Coleman motioned to approve the minutes. Motion passed 3 – 0.

REGARDING APPROVAL OF CLAIMS FOR SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

Commissioner Coleman seconded by Commissioner Nelson motioned to approve claims. Motion passed 3 – 0.

REGARDING OLD BUSINESS

CR 350 N Project

A lengthy discussion was held concerning the CR 350 N Project originally planned to connect with ST RD 61. INDOT, has offered a federal exchange in lieu of our upgrade of CR 175E and CR 300 to federal standards within a 5-year period as a requisite to the project and the continuation of the federal CR 350 N Project to HWY 61. The exchange will get us out of the contract for 350 N. The proposal is that the County would complete a road from the cul-de-sac to CR 175 E. The estimate that INDOT gave Melanie Britton, County Highway Office Manager was 1.5 million. No one knows yet what the cost would be to complete 350, Ms. Britton said that what she understands is that once the contract is closed out for the preliminary engineering and the right of way engineering they will deposit the money in our account, and INDOT will be done with the project. We could not ask any more questions. It would be understood that there can be absolutely no funding for the road to CR 175 E including any Community Crossings funding. RQAW is seeking significant funds to downgrade the project which Commissioner Flint said is not going to happen. With this offer, it is Ms. Britton's opinion that INDOT is trying to reconcile the situation and help out the County.

There are two (2) parcels around the cul-de-sac yet to be completely worked out per Ms. Britton. In actuality the County would not have to put in a cul-de-sac.

The commissioners are uncertain as to what the next steps should be. Commissioner Flint asked if there was a time line to make this decision, and no one knew of any. He stated that this project probably should not have been approved from the beginning.

Commission Nelson seconded by Commissioner Coleman voted to table this discussion until more information is available. Motion passed 3 – 0.

Ratts 1 Solar RUA Amendment

The Commissioner's Administrative Assistant Kristi Dischinger was able to get Nikki Jeffers via telephone to discuss this amendment. The County was presented with the First Amendment to Road Use Agreement between RATTS1 SOLAR LLC and the Pike County Commissioners for signature and a **Road Use Agreement with Burns & McDonnell** to complete the Apollo Substation which is a part of the RATTS 1 Solar project. This is referred to under new business as **Hoosier Energy RUA Apollo Switch Yard for Ratts 1.**

Highway Superintendent Josh Byrd asked why the County needed to sign the Burns & McDonnell Agreement. County Attorney Val Fleig asked Ms. Jeffers why we were double bonding the roads. Ms. Jeffers agreed that it was for more protection for RATTS. Attorney Fleig asked why the county should even be involved with Burns & McDonnell. Commissioner Flint stated that the County has an agreement with RATTS 1 and that if RATTS 1 Solar needs an agreement with a subcontractor that is under their duties as contractor. The County will hold RATTS 1 Solar LLC responsible. Ms. Jeffers said that she understood the County's position.

The group then discussed the First Amendment to Road Use Agreement. The Amendment includes the surety bond at \$1,521,933, and the escrow will be at 10% or \$152,193.

The agreement also contains the road and lengths thereof as per this agreement Superintendent Byrd pointed out that there was a discrepancy with a small section of 550 N. One map says paved, and one does not. The Road mileage portion says paved. Ms. Jeffers acknowledged that it should be paved. President Flint asked Ms. Jeffers to get that information to the County in writing.

Discussion followed concerning the type of monitoring that was going to be used. Ms. Jeffers stated that although nothing was certain at this time, they are looking at cameras and that she personally favored trail cameras. There are questions regarding theft of the cameras and placement of the cameras. There are also discussions as to whether drive throughs will be on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. President Flint asked if it would be "roving security." This matter is all just under discussion at this time.

Ms. Jeffers also mentioned that they are looking into the purchase of more signage.

President Flint called for a motion in regard to the First Amendment to Road Use Agreement.

Commissioner Coleman seconded by Commissioner Nelson motioned to approve the amendment upon receipt of the clarified paved section of Highway 550 N. The motion passed 3 – 0.

REGARDING NEW BUSINESS

Hoosier Energy RUA- Apollo switchyard for Ratts 1

As discussed under Old Business "Ratts 1 Solar RUA Amendment 1.

EMS Transfers

The EMS transfer requests concerned moving the incentive pay and moving the balance from Advanced EMT to Basic EMT (\$12,666) and Tech Vacation and Sick Leave (\$3,755).

Commissioner Nelson seconded by Commissioner Coleman moved to allow the transfers. Motion passed 3 – 0.

CBDG Block Grant Closeout Forms Approval

A letter was received by Ashley Willis stating that the Covid-19 Community Block Grant monitoring review of Grantee Performance (Closeout Form 1) proceeded with no findings. In the letter it was explained that the grant was now ready to proceed to Closeout Form 2 and Closeout Form 3 which requires the submission of reports by October 1, 2021. These reports were ready for Commissioner Flints signature at the meeting.

Commissioner Nelson seconded by Commissioner Coleman motioned to approve the submission of these reports. Motion passed 3 – 0.

REGARDING BUSINESS BY COMMISSIONERS

Capital Asset Policy

Auditor Gumbel explained that the asset policy being recommended had an asset minimum of \$5,000. She stated that the current practice was to keep items on an inventory at \$500. She and Ms. Dischinger agreed that the County will now be keeping this listing as well as a basic inventory starting with the \$500 items and an inventory of items purchased with a federal grant. SBOA has requested that the county have this in place by December of 2021.

Commissioners' Additional

This additional appropriation is in regard to the funds needed to pay Pike County Growth & Development Council's portion of the READI match.

Commissioner Nelson seconded by Commissioner Coleman motioned to approve the request for the additional appropriation of \$2,783. Motion passed 3 – 0.

Commissioners' Transfer

Ms. Dischinger explained that legal fees are exceeding the amount that was budgeted for 2021. She requested that the Commissioners consider a transfer of \$3,500 from FICA to Legal Services.

Commissioner Nelson seconded by Commissioner Coleman moved to allow the transfer. Motion Passed 3 – 0.

Courthouse Status-COVID - No report was given.

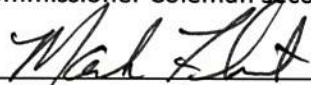
REGARDING BUSINESS BY PUBLIC

There was no business by public.

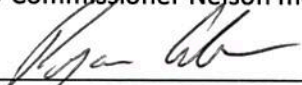
REGARDING ADJOURNMENT

President Flint called for a motion to adjourn.

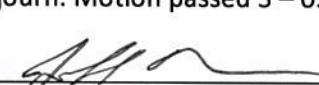
Commissioner Coleman seconded by Commissioner Nelson moved to adjourn. Motion passed 3 – 0.



Mark Flint, President

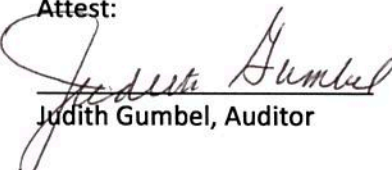


Ryan Coleman, Member



Jeff Nelson, Member

Attest:



Judith Gumbel, Auditor

9-20-21
Date