

PIKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 6, 2024 @ 8:30 AM

Mark Flint
Jeff Nelson
Ryan Coleman

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President Mark Flint called the meeting to order. All Commissioners were present. Also, in attendance were County Attorney Val Fleig, County Auditor Judith Gumbel, and County Administrator Kristi Dischinger. Others attending were County Highway Superintendent Josh Byrd, County EMA/E-911 Director Brandon Truitt, County Coroner Ray Brooks, County Sheriff Jason McKinney, County EMS Director Chris Young, County Extension Director Brooke Goble, Highway Office Manager Melanie Britton, Pike County EDC Director Ashley Willis, County Health Nurse Amy Gladish, Auditor's Chief Deputy Audra Warner, Jarod & Marva Bradfield, Larry Haag, Kurt Vogel, Jim Shoultz, Levi and Holly Hume, and Press Dispatch Editor Sherri Sebella.

Public Hearing for EMS BOT

President Flint called the Public Hearing for the EMS BOT to order. Greg Martz stated that he submitted a draft contract to Pike County Attorney Val Fleig for his review. He said that the schematic design is about 30% complete. That should take 3 to 4 weeks to complete. He said that the state takes about 30 days to approve a permit after it is submitted. He foresees that construction could be ready to start in the summer. He stated that it would be completed by 11 months after start-up, but he would be targeting a 9-month completion date.

President Fleig asked Attorney Fleig what the next step was, and Mr. Fleig stated that it was the approval of the contract. President Flint asked if there were any questions and then called for a motion to approve the contract for the new ambulance barn. Commissioner Jeff Nelson seconded by Commissioner Ryan Coleman motioned to approve the contract. Motion passed 3 – 0.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES APRIL 15, 2024

President Flint asked if there were any questions. He called for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Coleman seconded by Commissioner Nelson motioned to approve the minutes. Motion passed 3 – 0.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS FOR MAY 8, 2024

President Flint asked if there were any questions regarding the claims. He asked for a motion to approve which was made by Commissioner Nelson and seconded by Commissioner Coleman. Motion passed 3 – 0.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

E911 Additional

E-911 Director Brandon Truitt stated that he has a \$6,875 bill for Power Phones that was billed in December. There is no money in the budget.

President Flint asked for a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation. Commissioner Coleman seconded by Commissioner Nelson motioned to approve the request. Motion passed 3 – 0.

Health Department Additional

County Health Nurse Amy Gladish stated that they were requesting to get a \$100,000 Additional Appropriation in place for repairs and updating of the proposed Winslow Medical Building. She stated that Fund 1159 has \$190,000 in it that is revenue from the COVID vaccines given by the Health Department during the pandemic. She stated that the Health Board has approved the use of \$100,000 for building repairs for the Health Department's occupancy of the building that the County has decided to purchase. Ms. Gladish had a list of needed repairs and the department's thoughts as to the priorities. Commissioner Flint stated that the Commissioners wanted to work with the Department to get the County building ready and appreciated the dollars that the Health Department is providing for the cause. He then asked for a motion.

Commissioner Nelson seconded by Commissioner Coleman motioned to approve the Additional Appropriation Request. Motion passed 3 – 0.

Highway Additional (3)

Highway Superintendent Josh Byrd and Office Manager Melanie Britton explained three Additional Appropriation Requests needed by his department.

- 1) \$3,200 for the insurance premium for the 2019 Volvo that was recently purchased out of Fund 1176, MVH
- 2) \$3,700 from Fund 1135, CUM Bridge to pay fees associated with the Alternative Analysis Study on historic Bridge 32.
- 3) \$12,000 from either Fund 1135, CUM Bridge or Fund 1176, MVH to pay for CDL Training.

It was explained that the CUM Bridge Fund is getting low and it was thought that it would be a good idea to give the Highway a choice of Funds. President Flint asked if there were any questions. It was discussed that it would be better to leave the choice of funds for the \$12,000 up to the Council.

Commissioner Coleman seconded by Commissioner Nelson motioned to approve all three of the Additional Appropriation Requests leaving it open for the Council to choose from which fund (1135 or 1176) to appropriate the \$12,000. Motion passed 3 – 0.

Commissioner Coleman then shared that the Tri-State CDL Training School is now in business. Superintendent Byrd stated that they had also contacted the school in Vincennes. The hope is not to have to go to Evansville for the classes.

Highway Annual Report

Office Manager Melanie Britton explained that this is the standard highway report that has to be submitted every year. The report has to be approved before it is submitted. President Flint asked if there were any questions. Hearing none he called for a motion to approve.

Motion was made by Commissioner Nelson seconded by Commissioner Coleman to accept the report. Motion passed 3 – 0.

Approval to Advertise for Bids- CCMG 2024-01

Superintendent Byrd stated that this was the usual process that had to be completed prior to purchasing the materials for the CCMG Grant that was just received by the County. President Flint called for a motion to advertise for bids for the CCMG 2024-01 projects.

Commissioner Nelson seconded by Commissioner Coleman motioned to advertise for bids. Motion passed 3 – 0.

Environmental Agreement-Hinderliter Environmental Services (well monitoring)

County Administrator Kristi Dischinger explained they are going to be working on the Melhiser Station that is near the jail. They are going to place a well behind the station, and this is the agreement that is necessary to complete the work. President Flint stated that if there were no questions, he would like a motion to approve.

Motion was made by Commissioner Coleman and seconded by Commissioner Nelson to approve the Environmental Agreement with Hinderliter Environmental Services. Motion carried 3 – 0.

BUSINESS BY COMMISSIONERS

Window Tint-Shades

Ms. Dischinger stated that they finally got back with her in regard to the credit for the windows that were installed “out of spec”. The transoms were supposed to be etched and instead were clear. The credit that was offered was \$36,730 if the company had to do nothing. The company did get the County a quote for the tinting of the glass, but there are concerns. They feel that in some areas the tinting would be the correct amount to take care of glare of the sun, in other cases not enough, and in all would probably darken the entire building. However, should it be decided to tint only the transoms, the County would still have a credit of \$26,780. If all of the windows were tinted in the entire building, there would still remain a credit of \$7,845.

Ms. Dischinger also has companies coming in to quote solar shades. The first company was Corbin’s and it was \$49,460 on a very rough estimate. After the credit it would still cost the County another \$12,000. Evansville Blinds and Shades also quoted at \$39,594. Their quote did not include shades for the basement windows. Evansville Blinds and Shades also quoted a lot of the double windows as one window. Ms. Dischinger stated that if the Commissioners decide to go with shades, she would like to have Corbin’s requote because they had done the really rough estimate just to give the commissioners a comparative price between tinting and shades.

President Flint asked what her recommendation was, and she stated “shades”. Once the tint is on, it is on. Shades can be changed. President Flint asked the Commissioners if they had a motion.

Commissioner Coleman seconded by Commissioner Nelson motioned to purchase the shades.

Motion passed 3 – 0.

Email Migration Quotes?

County Administrator Dischinger reported that initially SHI, who was recommended by the state, had given the County a quote of \$10,000 to do that migration. They continually put off giving the County a “Statement of Work” and when they finally did the \$10,000 became \$30,000. She started over. She got quotes from Eck Mundy and SONDHI Solutions. The system won’t be going to Google but rather to Microsoft. Email addresses will not change for those that are already on in.gov but will change for the others. She said that it is still up in the air as to what type of licensing will be needed. We are currently on Enterprise which is 12.50/month/user. Eck-Mundy used this in their quote. SSONDHI used the \$22/month. \$20,700 is Eck’s labor for the Migration. SHI’s is \$24,000, and SONDHI’s is \$10,000. The difference is literally the hours that ECK and SONDHI quoted to get the job done. But SONDHI would also need pay for travel time and lodging. This was not included in their quote.

Ms. Dischinger stated that SONDHI was also interested in becoming our IT contractor. They would provide one person on site who would remain their employee. The company said they would be open to our county unit’s sharing the IT Staff.

Ms. Dischinger’s recommendation would be NOT going with SHI but going with one of the other two, going from Google to MSN (this would allow going with the better office suite), Commissioner Flint likes the fact that SONDHI has a large workforce. Ms. Dischinger stated that the figures quoted were just for the Migration. President Flint asked the others for their thoughts. Commissioner Nelson said that he would like to table it. Commissioner Coleman agreed. President Flint stated that it would be tabled until the next meeting.

Clerk/Treasurer Monthly Reports

The Reports were in the packets for their review.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Highway Superintendent Byrd stated that he had been in the Ashyre bottoms for the last week to get the creek opened up so that the roads weren’t flooded. Other than that he worked with the solar panels. He also discussed the PSC Fiber Optics request for an easement for two roads, Old 64 to 257. This will bring them through County property. County Attorney Fleig wants it flagged to be sure where the line is going. Mr. Byrd stated that it would probably be a good thing for the Commissioners to approve so they could go ahead and move if he finds upon inspection that everything is ok. PSC needs the easement within 10 days. President Flint asked the others if they were ok with that if Mr. Byrd approves. Attorney Fleig stated that what they want to make sure of is that PSI stays out of the ditch.

Commissioner Coleman seconded by Commissioner Nelson motioned to allow the easement upon Superintendent Byrd’s approval. Motion passed 3 – 0.

Other than that Mr. Byrd said that he is getting ready for CCMG. He reiterated that the grant is for 1.9 million.

County Administrator Dischinger stated that INDOT was again requesting a letter of support to complete the last section of I-69 across into Kentucky. She said that they had written a letter last year, but the project was not done.

Commissioner Coleman seconded by Commissioner motioned to approve the writing of a letter of support. Motion passed 3 – 0.

BUSINESS BY PUBLIC

Jarod Bradfield stated that he wanted to discuss Co Rd 300 N about a situation he brought up about 9 months ago at a public meeting. His position has been that detouring St. Rd 61 through 300 N and Meridian was dangerous, He has found out that nothing has been done about it and was present to again make the appeal. He then asked Attorney Fleig what the legal width was for a roadway that has 2-way traffic in Indiana. Attorney Fleig stated that there isn't a statute for a county roadway. He said the state statute that a county roadway should be 20 ft in width for "New Construction". As of right now the width of a county road is the width of the traveled portion, whatever that is. Mr. Bradfield stated that there was a statute that says there is minimally accepted width of 18 feet for two-way traffic. Then he said that a minimum width road could not be used for a detour. He said that when he moved out to this location there was an ATD of 10 cars a day. Today there is 200 cars a day. He feels that the detour will put 1000's of cars a day on the road. Blind spots exist and on one specific hill on Meridian there is no sight at all and is a guaranteed life and death situation for people traveling on the road. He said the width at the top is 17 feet. He said a County truck is about 10 feet wide, that means a car is in the dirt when meeting the truck. He stated that is not an acceptable road width.

Commissioner Flint stated that Meridian Road is going to be closed. He stated that this has just been determined. Mr. Bradfield said that was what he wanted! 300 N will be kept open. Superintendent Byrd said that they are pricing rumble strips to place before the church and before the driveways of some of the homes. Mr. Byrd said they can get signage saying slow etc. but that won't do any good. People will just drive on the other side to get out of the rumble strips. Mr. Bradfield stated that it is all about mitigating the risks.

Superintendent Byrd said that regardless of the County's opinion, INDOT is going to use 300 N as a detour. The County's only option was to approve it if the County wanted to get paid for any damage done to the road.

Mr. Bradfield then said the second issue was the personal purchase of the right of way of County Road 300 N. He stated that he was told that there are some meetings planned. He would like an update. He said the purchase isn't being handled correctly. He has had to get his own appraisals and has had to make a price list rather than being made an offer by BLN. He said that people are being told that BLN is just the middleman and the negotiations are with the Commissioners. He said if that is the case, he wants to meet directly with the Commissioners.

President Flint said that isn't true because the County hired engineering firm BLN to do the negotiations. He said there are meetings being scheduled. In fact, there is a meeting right after the meeting today. It is with INDOT, BLN, Highway, and others.

Mr. Bradfield said that he was offered \$6,800 for his property. He said that he was told to get appraisals. He hired an appraiser. He hired a drainage contractor and a tree expert. He has spent over \$100,000. He stated that when there is over a \$100,000 difference right now, there is no way that he was given a good faith offer. He said that if they met in court that is what the court would require to be done to settle the differences. He said the land owners don't want to go to court. He said that they only want to be treated fairly.

Levi Hume complimented the County on Community Crossings. He also shared that he knew that in other counties, Commissioners had successfully brought a project to a stop.

He stated that he had tried to get all of the landowners together to discuss the widening of his road. That couldn't happen so he has talked with each one individually. Richard Williams has drawn up a design. He stated that everyone is onboard with the plan except one person. He asked why the County was going to such efforts with Community Crossings when current roads weren't being taken care of. He said that the County needs safe roads. He stated that Commissioners are elected positions to take care of the best interests of the people. He stated that the decision needs to be made to widen his road by taking equal distance on both sides of the road so that the road can be safe. He stated that he will ask next month to be on the agenda. County Attorney Fleig said that the only way to do it would be to go through Condemnation Proceedings. Mr. Hume stated, "then let's do it".

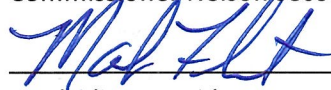
Brooke Goble notified the Commissioners that she is getting ready to go on maternity leave. She will be gone starting next week until September. She requested that she be able to transfer \$2,000 from her travel account to part-time staff so that she could have two people in the office for a longer time while she is on leave. She asked for about 100 additional hours. She was especially concerned about fair time. President Flint asked Auditor Gumbel if there was any trouble with this and she stated, "No."

Commissioner Nelson seconded by Commissioner Coleman motioned to allow the transfer request of \$2,000. Motion passed.

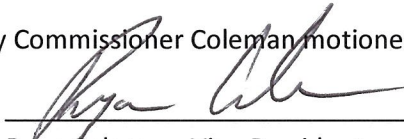
President Flint reminded the group that there would be a private meeting following the adjournment of this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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



Mark Flint, President

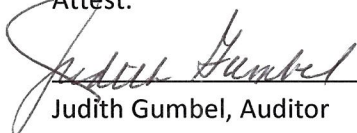


Ryan Coleman, Vice-President



Jeff Nelson, Member

Attest:



Judith Gumbel, Auditor

May 20, 2024
Date