

**Commissioners Meeting
July 18, 2017**

Present: Al Logsdon, Jim Seiler, Tom Brown, Larry Dale Kenney, Attorney Jeff Lindsey, Auditor Autumn Winkler

Meeting was called to order by President Jim Seiler at 2:00 P.M.

Minutes

Logsdon made a motion to approve the minutes from July 5th as presented. Brown seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Highway Report

Kenney reported they are working on getting roads ready for the second bid package. They are installing culverts and rip/rap on CR 300N and Mulzer will spread rock next week. The chip and seal crew is working on CR 1850N and hope to finish by the end of the week. We are doing work on CR150 at Gentryville and plan to have Mulzer haul rock there also next week. There have been complaints in district 3 about some culverts and Kenney reported they have been doing some ditch work and there are a few concrete culverts that need replaced. Brown asked Kenney if they had done ditch work on CR625 and Kenney stated they had there were some bad wash outs through there. Brown stated some grader work needs to be done there. There have been a few complaints about mowing on Fulda Shortcut so they are working on getting all that cut back. Kenney reported the tile was installed on CR 200W just south of CR 500 this week and everything went well.

Legal Report

Lindsey presented an RFP for website upgrade for commissioner review. Brown made a motion to advertise the RFP. Logsdon seconded the motion, motion was approved. Brown asked Lindsey where we are with updating the Personnel Policy and Lindsey stated that he will contact Kent Irwin to get an update and move this forward.

Jane McGinnis – Assessor

McGinnis came to inform the board that AK Steel is not only appealing some of their assessments, but has also failed to pay the spring installment of their property taxes. AK Steel has 8 parcels, 6 real and 2 personal property, they are appealing one real parcel. They have filed significantly lower values on their personal property return also. Brown asked if they had given a reason why they did not pay and McGinnis stated not to her, but reasons why is not something that would be discussed with her, but the Treasurer. Allen Thompson, the corporate tax manager, for AK Steel met with McGinnis earlier in the year to discuss the real parcel assessment and inform her that they would be filing an amended personal property return for 16 pay 17. McGinnis informed Thompson that the counties position on the amended return would be to not allow an amendment on 16 pay 17 due to the settlement agreement signed by all parties. If this is litigated and it's determined that they can file an amended return then it's a matter of questioning their figures. The real estate parcel they are appealing is the parcel that the plant sits on which for 16 pay 17 was assessed at approximately 90 million. For 17 pay 18 it was assessed at 88 million due to changes in Ag land etc., but they are appealing that it should be lowered to 45.8 million. To further cause confusion they filed an appeal form with a 1/1/17 date, but used values from 2016. The deadline to appeal 16 pay 17 was August 22nd of last year, so we are saying it's too late to appeal those values. It is past the deadline for the AK Steel case to proceed to the federal court regarding pool five. Lindsey has been in contact with Buddy Downs at Ice Miller and we should be receiving an engagement letter to continue services with them. McGinnis requests that we continue to use Ice Miller, due to their knowledge on everything with AK Steel so far. No formal action can be taken until we receive the letter, but there was a consensus to remain with Ice Miller for legal services. There was discussion about using TMA- Tax Management Associates as a personal property appraiser, but McGinnis is unsure at this time who will be used for the real estate appraisal. Logsdon made a motion to approve the Assessor's request to use TMA and a qualified real estate appraiser. Brown seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Tina Gehlhausen – CASA

Gehlhausen came before the board just to give an update on how the program is doing. There are currently 63 volunteers serving 133 children with 26 on a waiting list. They are actively seeking new volunteers and starting new training classes all the time. We have more volunteers than many of our surrounding counties.

Gehlhausen presented a list of funding sources for 2016:

- State CASA Funds - \$16,181.47
- County Funds - \$15,000.00
- Foundations - \$10,500.00
- Community Service Organizations - \$4,625.00
- Corporations - \$4,960.00
- Individuals - \$6,805.00
- Fundraising Events - \$30,823.00
- Product Sales - \$1,515.00
- United Way - \$214.75
- Churches/Religious Organizations - \$9,812.23
- Grants - \$3,000.00
- Total: \$103,436.45

Gehlhausen presented charts of comparative data for similarly situated counties demographically and nearby counties geographically and showed that we are serving higher numbers with less budget than many other counties.

Broadband Committee

Paul Dauby and Kathy Reinke came before the board to request that the RFI be closed so the process can move forward. One proposal was submitted from the RFI, but then withdrawn due to confidential information included. That proposal was never resubmitted. Reinke stated that the provider said they ask questions that were never answered. Reinke stated that the broadband committee would like to work closely with the commissioners and ask providers why they are not submitting proposals and what some of the issues are. The committee feels there needs to be a more intimate relationship and that could possibly bring more offering to the table.

Debbie Steinkamp – Property Maintenance Complaint

Steinkamp presented a finding of fact on a property in Hatfield that has had numerous complaints. There was a house that burnt on the property in October of 2015 and the property owner has been contacted many times about cleaning up the property to no avail. Steinkamp is hoping to move forward with action to get the property cleaned up. Solid Waste sent the property owner a letter in December informing him he was put on notice to get the property cleaned up, he contacted them in January and said he needed two more months to get it cleaned up and they have heard nothing from him since. A letter was sent to the property owner regular mail and certified mail informing him of the public hearing today and the certified mail was returned, he would not sign for it. Steinkamp is requesting permission to send a letter stating that the commissioner's confirmed the violation, there will be a \$100.00 fine and he has 10 days to appeal it with the court or clean it up. If this is not done a contractor will be hired to clean up the property and the owner will be sent an order of payment for all expenses. If the owner does not pay the order of payment a lien will be placed on the owner's property. Lindsey suggested that we give him 30 days not 10 days to clean it up. Logsdon made a motion to assess him a \$100.00 fine and allow him 30 days for clean up or a contractor will be hired to clean it up. Brown seconded the motion, motion was approved.

New Business

Brown stated that the union contract ends December 31st and he wants to re-negotiate it before the end of the year. Lindsey stated that as long as the council continues to allow the wage increases each year we have no leverage to force them to negotiate. Brown stated that after January 1st they just wouldn't be under contract anymore, Lindsey stated that the terms of the contract makes it automatically renew each year if not negotiated.

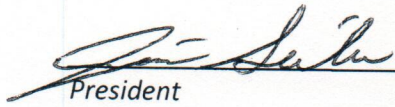
Claims

Brown made a motion to approve all claims paid since the last meeting. Logsdon seconded the motion, motion was approved.

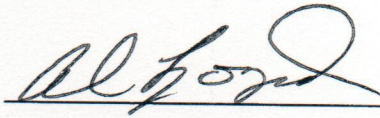
Veteran Service Officer Position

We will run an ad in the paper and an Executive Session was scheduled for August 15th.

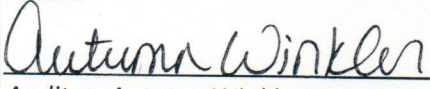
Logsdon made a motion to adjourn. Brown seconded the motion, motion approved.
Meeting was adjourned at 3:18 P.M.



President



Attest:



Auditor, Autumn Winkler

