

**Commissioners Meeting
August 2, 2022**

Present: Jim Seiler, Tom Brown, Heather Gries, Auditor Melissa Bunner, Attorney Jeff Lindsey

Meeting was called to order by President Seiler at 2:59 P.M.

Minutes

Gries made a motion to approve the minutes for July 19, 2022. Brown seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Claims

Brown made a motion to approve claim numbers 5001, 5004, 5005, 5006, 5007, 5008, and 5009. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Health Department / Kim Hay

Hay reported approximately thirty-six (36) positive cases. Spencer County is considered "high community spread".

The sharps containers and sharps disposal for the Spencer County Health Department has been resolved through Solid Waste.

VSO Report

For week of July 11, 2022, total Veterans assisted this week was 89 and the phone calls totaled 137. For week of July 18, 2022, total Veterans assisted this week was 111 and the phone calls totaled 163.

There was one (1) Veteran that passed away. Mr. John Abner Conner was an Army Veteran.

Meredith is planning a "Welcome Home" event next year at the fairgrounds for our Spencer County Vietnam Veterans. No date has been determined yet.

Coroner / Loyla Thayer

The Indiana Department of Health aims to improve drug specificity and completeness on death certificates by providing more precise and comprehensive death data. The IDOH is trying to increase coroner participation in the Indiana Coroner Case Management System (ICCMS). By participating in this grant, the coroner will receive \$500 to use for needed supplies that are critical in supporting investigation efforts. Thayer is interested in two (2) laptops to use on scenes. **Gries motioned to approve this grant. Brown seconded the motion. Motion approved.**

Sheriff's Department / K. Reinke

Reinke discussed the need for active shooter training in the courthouse. She will discuss possible dates with the Judge and then bring back her request.

Reinke discussed the animal problems her department is experiencing. She gets a call to pick up an aggressive dog and it Takes a Village refused to take the animal. In 2020 there were 199 complaints and 11 bites. In 2021 there were 274 complaints and 23 bites. In 2022, so far, there are 17 dog bites. She is looking for direction on what to do with these animals.

Hwy Report / Dale Kenney and Gina Mullen

At the last meeting there was a bridge bid opening:

For: BRIDGE 248 ON CR1825N ON CROOKED CREEK

Durcholz Excavating & Construction Co., Inc.

\$139,650.00

CLR, Inc.

\$148,740.00

Brown motioned to reject both bids. Gries seconded the motion, motion approved.

It was recommended that Kenney send out letters of interest and then bid out for a design and build bid. This will encompass the entire project. It will need to be advertised since it is expected to exceed \$150,000.00.

Kenney provided a request for a road in St. Meinrad at the end of Green Street between 5th and 6th Street. It is not on the inventory, but he is requesting to spread rock on the road to improve it. Brown motioned to approve adding to the inventory and developing it. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

A concerned citizen addressed a problem with road 1200 N. There is not enough room for a bus to turnaround at the end of this road. The Highway Department is aware of this issue and is reviewing it. He has also been directed to the North Spencer School Board.

Gries revisited a complaint from a Lamar resident that was addressed back at the February 1, 2022 meeting. The complaint from the resident states that after having his property surveyed, the property owner to his east has two (2) buildings on the road right of way. Lindsey is going to prepare a letter for both property owners advising them of the right a way and giving them time to remove / move them from the road right of way.

There was discussion regarding the Fuel Tax Refund. There are two (2) companies that help with submitting the fuel tax refunds. NECS charges 33% and Malcon charges 50%. The recommendation is to use NECS since they charge the lower percentage.

Building Inspector / Todd Hays

Hays is investigating seven (7) properties that have been deemed unsafe. They are as follows:

- 1116 Cherry Street, Richland City
- 4510 W CR 785 N, Midway
- 4400 N Orchard Road, Rockport
- 2376 W SR 66, Rockport
- 796 W CR 150 S, Rockport
- 734 W Eureka Rd, Rockport
- 4124 N Old SR 245, Grandview

Brown motioned to approve letters be sent to the property owners. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Legal Report

The arbitration has been rescheduled for August 11th and August 16th at the Evansville Airport at 9:00 AM.

Lindsey provided a Quit Claim Deed for the Wilma J. Miller trust. Parcel No. 74-10-01-200-001,000-008 needs to be transferred from the Spencer County Commissioners to the Hammond Township Trustee. **Brown motioned to approve. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.**

There was discussion about CDL requirements. CDL's are not required to operate tractors, plows and graders. They are required for anyone operating heavy machinery / trucks. **Brown motioned to accept. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.**

Old Business

ARPA

- The County Council approved five (5) requests for the ARPA funding.
- Spencer County Jail HVAC project \$150,000.00
- Spencer County Highway Department \$23,348.50
- Spencer County Ambulance Service \$43,000.00
- Lamar Sewer System \$39,800.00
- Christian Resource Center \$20,180.00

Gries motioned to approve these requests. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion approved.

There was discussion regarding the ARPA decision making process. The ARPA Task Force makes the recommendations and then the Commissioners take action first then the County Council second.

Gries motioned to approve this process. Brown seconded the motion. Motion approved.

New Business

Gries asked if the meeting scheduled on September 20th could be moved to September 19th at 8:00 A.M. This meeting date conflicts with an AIC conference.

Brown motioned to approve this request. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

County Councilman David Gogel discussed the options of carrying a firearm for meetings. The Ordinance states no but asking if there are any options. Lindsey will review this request.

Brown discussed the work being done by Ed Mehrlinger throughout the courthouse. He is looking at starting in mid-August for the project on the lower levels. The third floor and courtrooms are expected to start in September.

Gries motioned to adjourn the meeting. Brown seconded the motion. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 P.M.

President



Attest:


Auditor, Melissa L. Bunner