

**Commissioners Meeting
March 15, 2022**

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

Meeting was called to order by President Seiler at 3:07 P.M.

Minutes

Gries made a motion to approve the minutes for March 1, 2022. Brown seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Claims

Brown made a motion to approve claim numbers 4862, 4866, 4867, 4869, 4871, 4875, 4876, and 4877. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Health Department / Kim Hoy

County is in the "Yellow". Hoy states that 54% of the County is fully vaccinated. This is for ages 5 and older.

There was discussion about a grant called the 2022 Crisis CoAg Grant. There will be a meeting Thursday with the Health Department Board. Bill Young will bring back more information after that meeting has taken place.

VSO / Butch Meredith

For week of February 21, 2022, total Veterans assisted this week was 52 and the phone calls totaled 68. For week of February 28, 2022, total Veterans assisted this week was 126 and the phone calls totaled 182.

Meredith received his certification for successfully completing the Training, Responsibility, Involvement, and Preparation of Claims (TRIP) program.

Hwy Report / Dale Kenney

Kenney provided a list of three (3) roads he is asking approval to add to the county road inventory. They are as follows:

1425 N located at Base Road travel east 325 feet

Mulberry Alley located at 1st and 2nd Street

Mulberry Alley located at 5th and 6th Street

Brown motioned to approve adding these roads to the inventory. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Kenney provided a list of the CEDIT Roads to the Commissioners.

Thursday, County Road 2000N will be shut down at 700E and 800 for the installation of culverts.

Brown is requesting to have administrative meetings at the Highway Department. All agreed and have set a meeting for Monday, March 21, 2022 at 2pm.

Broadband Update / Wayne Blake, Jim Dauby, Steve Seibert

PSC was granted a one-year extension for funded project completion. This extension runs through end of October 2022.

Customer installations have ramped up significantly. There were 90 installations in February versus the low point of 22 last September.

The largest phase (Dale / Mariah Hill) has 100 customers remaining to be installed and is expected to be completed mid-April.

Mainline fiber construction continues to proceed nicely. To date, 465 miles of mainline fiber have been constructed withing Spencer County with 177 miles to go in Phase 6 – 8. Mainline completion is expected by July.

Blake discussed the Indiana Connectivity Program. This program is for those who currently lack broadband service or have actual broadband speeds of less than 25/3Mbps.

There was discussion about the last installment of the money Spencer County committed to the project. As a rule, final payment is not generally paid until the work is done, however, the Commissioners are not opposed to giving half of the money now and the rest when the project is done. This will be discussed at the County Council meeting.

Legal Report

Lindsey followed up on the questions about the speed limit changes for county roads from the previous meeting. The previous discussion invoked the request to reduce the speed on County Road 2100. The statute provides that in order to do this we need to have an engineering and traffic investigation. In non-urban areas it can be reduced to not less than 30 mph. Per the Highway Department, there are several other areas that need to be considered. Purdue University has a traffic safety engineer with Indiana LTAC that will conduct those studies

free of charge. After some discussion, it was agreed that there needs to be a meeting with the Highway Department to find out what roads need to be evaluated and then see what the results are of the study before any determinations can be made.

Mid-States Corridor / Bill Kaiser

Kaiser presented a chart showing a summary of the five (5) preliminary routes being considered for the new expressway that would run from I-64 North to I-69 South of Indianapolis. The five (5) routes are being identified as single letters: B, C, M, O, and P.

Alt B joins with I-69 near Washington. The 34-mile-long route passes Huntingburg and Jasper to the west before eventually connecting to the I-69 at a new interchange which is directly south of U.S. 50 Interchange.

Alt C also connects to I-69 through the U.S. 50 Interchange. This includes a section of U.S. 50 to the east. This route runs for 42 miles.

Alt M travels North, passing Huntingburg and Jasper to the east before joining State Road 37 near Bedford.

Alt P extends through the heart of Dubois County, eventually connecting I-69 through the U.S. 231 exchange. This route passes through Huntingburg and Jasper by continuing northward. The 54-mile-long route briefly passes Loogootee to the east before winding its way to I-69.

Apt O route will travel through Paoli and Orleans.

The announcement of the recommended route will be on April 15, 2022.

Kaiser also presented an agreement to appoint the Board of Development Authority. He is asking to appoint the same 5 members: Mark Schroeder, Scott Blazey, David Drake, Sue Elisperrmann, and Ken Mulzer Jr.

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

Old Business

No Report.

New Business

Auditor Bunner presented an invoice / contract for Data Pit Stop. This request is in response to the recent State Board of Accounts audit. Bunner is presenting to the County Council as an additional but is asking the Commissioners for their approval.

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

Gries is asking Lindsey to draft an ordinance for grant requests. This would require anyone requesting a grant must bring the request to the Commissioners for approval before applying. Lindsey will review this request and bring it back when more information is available.

Gries motioned to adjourn the meeting. Brown seconded the motion. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 P.M.


President

Attest:


Auditor, Melissa L. Bunner


