

**Commissioners Meeting
January 19, 2021**

Present: Jim Seiler, Tom Brown, Heather Gries, Auditor Melissa L. Bunner

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

Minutes

Gries made a motion to approve minutes for January 4, 2021, January 5, 2021 and January 11, 2021. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Claims

Seiler made a motion to approve claim numbers 4544, 4547, 4550, 4552, and 4553. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Health Department / Kim Hay

Hay reported 2003 total cases, 142 in isolation, 3 hospitalized, 18 deaths, and over 1800 recovered. The seven (7) day early release is not an option at this time. It is now the ten (10) day early release after seven (7) days with a negative test after the seven (7) days. However, the recommendation is fourteen (14) days.

Hay read a statement from Dr. Tretter. It reads "Spencer County will be designated with a color code of RED for the fifth straight week this week. This indicates that we continue to see a large number of new Covid-19 cases in our county and have a high positivity rate among all those being tested. We know that there have been identified new strains of the Coronavirus that are much more infectious and easily transmitted, and at least one of these new mutant strains have already been found in Indiana. This suggests that we will likely continue to see high case counts in our community for the foreseeable future, which means it continues to be very important for our community to be even more diligent about the precautions that we know help reduce transmission: washing hands, wearing face coverings in public, avoid gatherings, maintain social distance, and staying home when ill. We encourage people to get tested if symptomatic or exposed to individuals with Covid-19 and follow all isolation and quarantine guidance as given. The Spencer County Health Department continues to provide Covid-19 vaccinations to eligible individuals. The Indiana Department of Health establishes who is eligible for a vaccine, and at this time it includes all health care workers who have direct contact with patients, first responders and emergency personnel, and anyone age 70 and over. These individuals can schedule an appointment for a vaccine by going to the State Department website <https://ourshot.in.gov> or call 211. As vaccine supply becomes more readily available, the State Department of Health will expand the eligibility to more people to receive the shot. We highly encourage everyone to get the vaccination when it is available to them, as it has been shown to be safe and effective. The vaccine, with the proper Covid-19 precautions will help us to move past the pandemic and reduce the illness, hospitalizations, and deaths this disease has caused for our community."

Payroll / Melissa Bunner

Melanie Miller had ten (10) employees in quarantine for the first payroll in 2021. The most current ordinance regarding the eighty (80) hours of emergency sick pay due to COVID-19 expired December 31, 2020. Seiler motioned to extend the ordinance to March 31, 2021. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved. This will be retro-active to those employees in quarantine for the first payroll of 2021. The maximum hours are eighty (80) and the rules apply as they did before. Must be a letter from the Health Department to accompany the leave. Lindsey will draft a new amended ordinance and present at the next meeting.

VSO / Butch Meredith

Meredith presented his progress. For week of December 28, 2020 the total Veterans assisted this week was 37 and total phone calls totaled 44. For week of January 4, 2021 the total Veterans assisted this week was 61 and total phone calls totaled 102.

Meredith reported several deaths of our local veterans. For this week it was Army Veteran Rannie Basham. There will be three (3) more reported for next week.

Meredith reported the courthouse maintenance updates. The courtroom repair and painting of the stairwell will be done afterhours and the weekend. This has already been approved and the money was encumbered to cover the expenses for this year. The next project will be the

balconies out front estimated to start in February. This project has been quoted, approved and the money has been encumbered from last year to cover this expense as well. The drainage pipes are leaking into offices and needs to be repaired. There is one more project that will need to be discussed at a future date. It has been put on hold since 2018. It is the exit lights throughout the courthouse. There are twenty-four (24) lights in total.

Sheriff / Kelli Reinke

Reinke has started drug testing again this year and is using Hi-Tech (Gentox). Reinke has \$1,000 in the budget and tests three (3) times per year. She is seeking \$1,500 more for testing for the rest of the year. In past years, there was \$2,800.00 in the budget. In the last test, there were sixteen (16) people tested. She has a total of 59 employees. The tests through Hi-Tech is \$10.00 less per person than the Indiana Drug Testing Company which the highway department uses. There is also no administration fee or site fee for Hi-Tech to come to a secondary location and test. Hi-Tech charges \$42.00/test with no fees. Indiana Drug Testing Company charges \$51.00/test plus fees.

Seiler motioned to transfer \$500.00 from 1000-130-4311.00 Legal Services to 1000-130-4310.00 Mandated Drug Testing (CDL) account. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

HWY Report / Dale Kenney and Gina Mullen

Kenney came to discuss the Chevy Colorado pickup truck that was stolen. It has been recovered. This truck is in rough shape but it is used to go pick up parts or people and at times the Assessor has borrowed it. Kenney is asking for the approval to relicense the vehicle. It only has liability insurance on it at this time. The Commissioners decided to get rid of the vehicle.

Kenney stated they have received two (2) new John Deere tractors. Mullen stated she is waiting on community cross information.

Certificate Sale / Properties / Pricing for SRI / Jeff Lindsey

Lindsey provided a list of properties for consideration for the certificate sale. The price can be set to any amount. The purpose is to get the properties sold and back on the tax roll. It is a bidding process. Seiler motioned to set the minimum bid at \$100. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved. As of now, the sale is expected to be online. Lindsey will find out if there will be an in-person option for the sale.

Appointments

The new ambulance contract gives the Commissioners an appointment to the board. Seiler motioned to appoint Heather Gries to the Ambulance Board. Brown seconded the motion. Motion approved.

IT Contracts / Melissa Bunner

There are three (3) contracts to consider. Affinity Communications submitted a quote / contract totaling \$88,928.00. They currently have the IT contract which expires February 15, 2021. Eck Mundy submitted two (2) quotes / contracts. The first one is for email conversion and the second is for services. These quotes / contracts totaled \$65,572.80. Eck Mundy currently works with the Courthouse third floor and Clerks offices. Matrix Integration submitted a quote / contract totaling \$30,240. After careful consideration, Gries motioned to accept the quote / contract from Eck Mundy. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Legal Report

Lindsey is following up to the request to eliminate the Animal Control Board. Since the Commissioners have a contract with It Takes A Village, they manage the employees and animals. The ordinance that established the board needs to be vacated. Lindsey will bring this back at the next meeting. Seiler motioned to accept the change. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Lindsey is still working on the road closure discussed in the past meetings. He is still waiting on distance information to determine how much of the road will be closed.

Old Business

Lindsey is working on the 911 Dispatch / Coroner move. He is currently working on the lease agreement to get the Coroner moved to a new location. Lindsey is waiting on clarification from AEP regarding firearms. The contract states no firearms, and the Coroner's deputies may carry

firearms. There is also a question regarding whether we need to carry liability insurance. Lindsey will bring it to the next meeting.

Fisher updated the Commissioners on the 911 Dispatch move. She has already submitted everything. She has the phones transferred from the 911 budget. All paperwork has been submitted for reimbursement from the Cares Act. She needs to pay Advanced Radio to remove equipment from Carter Fire and install at new location. Once the Coroner is moved, 911 can move. The only left at that point is to change the locks for security purposes.

When the move is made, AT & T will install a fiber that 911 Dispatch, Highway Department, Solid Waste and EMA will share. This fiber is provided by the state.

New Business

The Health Department has submitted a Cares Grant Allocation Request. They are asking for \$172,704.00 to cover nursing OT, Inspectors OT, two (2) part time COVID contact tracers, and two (2) part time door screeners. Bunner let the Commissioners know the Cares Act money has not been transferred into our accounts yet and is not expected to be moved until February 16, 2021. There are a lot of reimbursements pending to be processed and there is a possibility there is not enough money to cover this request. If the money is not there, an additional will need to be requested.

The Commissioners were asked to sign the Certificate of Appointments for the two (2) appointed to the Health Board during the January 4, 2021 reorganization meeting. The Commissioners signed the certificate.

Eck Mundy has sent a quote for three (3) laptops for the Commissioners totaling \$4,956.00. They need these to participate in zoom meetings and to eliminate the use of personal laptops for county business. Gries motioned to approve. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Gries suggested adding a sign in sheet at the door for the public to show attendance. Will need a table and clipboard. With COVID concerns, no pen will be provided. Gries motioned to approve the sign sheet process. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Seiler motioned to adjourn the meeting. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 P.M.



President

Attest:



Auditor, Melissa L. Bunner




