

Commissioner Meeting
January 5, 2021

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

Location: Commissioner's Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Courthouse

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

Minutes

Seiler made a motion to approve the minutes from Commissioner meeting December 15, 2020 and December 30, 2020 as presented. Gries seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Claims

Gries made a motion to approve Claims #4540, 4541, and 4542. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Health Department / Kim Hay

Hay reported 1713 Cases. 191 in current isolation. 9 hospitalized. Deaths increased to 12. 1510 have recovered. Hay read a letter from Dr. Tretter. "COVID Update 1/5/21. COVID-19 continues its high prevalence in our county. We continue to see a large number of new cases daily, with many others requiring quarantine due to close contact. It is imperative that we continue to emphasize the precautions needed to control the spread, including wearing masks, hand washing, social distancing, and avoiding crowds. The Governor's most recent executive order continues to restrict gathering size based on our county's color-coded designation, which is currently RED, the highest level. Local hospitals continue to see high volumes of patients, and our region's hospitalization and death rates remain high.

COVID-19 vaccines are coming soon to Spencer County. Currently, we are in Phase 1A, as directed by IDOH, which allows vaccinations of health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities. These vaccinations are under way now. Beginning next week, our local health department will begin to receive limited doses of vaccines with orders to begin vaccinating law enforcement, firefighters, and first responders. We do not know when we will move to the next phase, which is expected to include members of our community at highest risk due to age or medical conditions, but when information becomes available, we will share the information widely.

VSO / Butch Meredith

Meredith presented his progress. For week of December 14, 2020 the total Veterans assisted this week was 65 and total phone calls totaled 102. For week of December 21, 2020 the total Veterans assisted this week was 30 and total phone calls totaled 46.

Meredith provided an update on some of the building maintenance projects:

Contractors sealed the chimney area to stop leaks in roof and to prevent further damage to walls and ceilings.

Contractors replaced the main waterline in the basement stopping a water leak in the Surveyor's office and preventing major problems in the future.

Contractors trimmed all the trees on the Courthouse property to remove dead limbs to prevent damage to people, cars, and to improve the overall health of the trees.

Contractors landscaped our front lawn with boulders, plants, and rocks to prevent erosion of the topsoil and to prevent a slip hazard on the front sidewalk.

Acquired a quote to install roofing material on the north balconies to stop water from entering the building causing damage to offices. Work is expected to be done this month.

Acquired a quote to repair and paint section of the Courtroom that was damaged by roof leaks. This includes painting the stairwell on the third floor. This is expected to be done this month.

HWY Report / Dale Kenney

Kenney came to discuss a Community Crossing Grant Agreement. Kenney needs the Commissioners to sign the Preliminary award letter dated December 8, 2020. The preliminary award amount is \$140,278.12. The Community Crossings Matching Grant Funds are administered by INDOT and will be used for funding up to 75% of the construction of our project or purchase of materials.

Rick Shaefer

Shaefer brought a map outlining his Dad's property and the relation to Long Johnntown Road. He is asking that the stretch of road between IN-545 and the property line at GI Farms remains open. He is not asking it to remain open as a maintained road but as a road. Lindsey did some research on the road. Shaefer purchased this property in 1994. In 1994 the legal description of this road is listed as an unapproved road. It is considered an extension of 1615 N.

Brown made a motion to improve whatever needs to be done on the gravel road on the Zogleman's and give access to the Weiss family's entrance. This is 1615 N extension. They need to let the County Highway Department know they need to install a culvert and there is a permit for that, and they do not do that. This road can be improved to a standard gravel road. There will be some cost involved. At the same time, Lindsey will work on the road closure. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Lindsey is requesting a linear footage from the intersection of Long Johnntown to where the driveway will be, so he can define the closure of 1300 from that point forward. They agreed.

For clarification, Long Johnntown Road is still technically on the books, but we are not receiving funding for it. The County will keep it open to the end of the Schaefer property which will give them access to their property.

Legal Report

Lindsey is following up on the Ohio Valley Gas Corporation in regards to the right to full access, operate, repair, and maintain the segments of the pipeline system that lie within the boundaries of the Spencer County Highway System. He made some changes to the acknowledgement that acknowledges they will be in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations including Spencer County Ordinance 1999-01. Seiler motioned to approve. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

There were some appointments made yesterday that were discussed but not made official.

Redevelopment Commission

Gries made a motion to appoint Wayne Blake to Redevelopment Commission. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Advisory Plan

Seiler made a motion to re-appoint Jane Lynam to Advisory Plan. Gries seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Parks and Recreation

Brown made a motion to appoint Mike Sisley to Parks and Recreation. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Lindsey provided three (3) Certificate of Appointment letters for the following:

Paul Giles to Economic Development

Paul Brockman to Redevelopment

Scott Singleton to Redevelopment

Wayne Blake to Redevelopment

Don Foertsch to Port Authority

Michael Cochenour to Port Authority

John Bowen to Port Authority

Old Business**Meeting Date and Times**

Seiler made a motion to keep the meeting dates on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 2:00 P.M. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

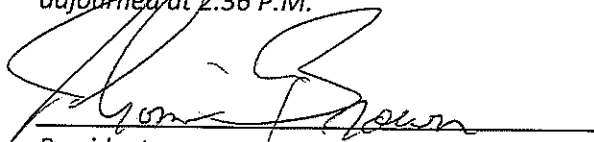
Tara Damian

Damian came to discuss small structures. Last year she was tasked with a drainage study for County Road 200 but since the County has decided to pursue an EDA grant. Her inspectors are getting ready to do end of the year small structure inspections and was asking if the Commissioners would be interested in doing it. It is basically doing an inventory of all of our asset, drainage assets, to help the highway department better prioritize and budget in future years. Cost depends on how many we want to do. The inspections can be done by County, Township, or even just inspecting the ones we have concerns about.

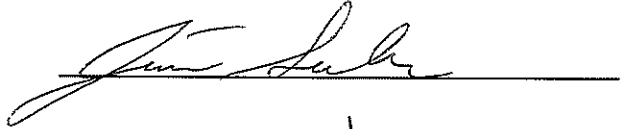
Damian recommends since this is new to maybe just start with a township. For now, Brown wants to hold off and give Kenney from Highway an opportunity to see where we are right now.

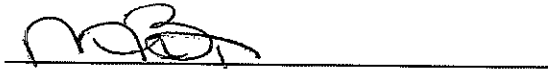
Brown discussed a bill Ann gave him in regard to the website annual fee from CivicPlus. It was not budgeted. Seiler motioned to approve. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Seiler motioned to adjourn meeting. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved. Meeting was adjourned at 2:36 P.M.



President





Attest: Auditor, Melissa L. Bunner

