

**Commissioners Meeting  
March 2, 2021**

**Present: Jim Seiler, Tom Brown, Heather Gries, Deputy Auditor Courtney Hoffman**

Meeting was called to order by President Brown at 12:30 P.M.

**Planning Commission / Kay Erwin and Todd Hays**

Erwin received complaints about two (2) properties. One is located at 1642 N Orchard Road in REO and the other is located at 10564 McDonald Avenue in Evanston.

Erwin is seeking approval to get estimates on the cost of tearing the property down on Orchard Road. Seiler motioned to approve getting the estimates. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

For the property in Evanston, the request is the same to get approval to get bids to tear down the property. Seiler motioned to approve. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Erwin will send out a letter informing the property owner of the public hearing which will be set for next month.

Erwin asked about the funding to complete both projects. Once the bids come in, Erwin will need to advertise for an additional to cover any expenses not in the budget.

Gries made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 12:36 P.M.

**Public Hearing on closure of County Road / Jeff Lindsey**

Meeting began at 1:28 P.M.

Lindsey submitted a notice of hearing for the proposed road closure of the following: All of County Road 1275 E South of County Road 1700 N and all of the unimproved County Road (designated as County Road 1300 E) which extends southwest of the South end of County Road 1275 E to a point 450 feet from its intersection with Long Johnnytown Road. All public hearing notices were sent you.

1275 E South of 1700 N. No objection to close. Gries made a motion to close. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion approved.

450 feet from Long Johnnytown Road. No objection to close. Gries made a motion to close. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion approved.

An ordinance for both closures will be prepared for next meeting for adoption.

Seiler motioned to adjourn the meeting. Greis seconded the motion. Motion approved. Meeting was adjourned at 1:40 P.M.

**Commissioners Meeting**

Meeting was called to order by President Brown at 1:59 P.M.

President Brown acknowledged the work of the Highway Department in the snow removal during the last snowstorms. They did a great job in the snow removal and they are appreciated.

**Minutes**

Brown made a motion to approve minutes for February 16, 2021 and February 19, 2021. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

**Claims**

Seiler made a motion to approve claim numbers 4572, 4573, 4576, 4577, 4579, and 4580. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

**Health Department / Kim Hay**

Cases are down to only 18 in isolation. Dr. Tretter sent a letter to be read. We continue to battle the COVID 19 pandemic. We continue to see declining numbers of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in our region. Our counties case numbers and positivity rates are the lowest we have seen in months. Back to levels we were seeing last October. However, we are not in the clear yet. The CDC has indicated the rates across the country are starting to plateau indicating we are at risk for another surge. Even in Spencer

County we continue to see resident hospitalizations and deaths. So, it remains crucial that we continue to practice all necessary precautions including wearing masks, avoiding crowds, social distancing, washing hands, and staying home when sick so we can protect ourselves and our neighbors. Vaccine rollout has been very successful in our county as we continue to encourage our residents to get vaccinated. To date 3,191 Spencer County residents have received at least the first vaccination and 1,594 total vaccinated. This week the CDC as approved a third COVID 19 vaccination and we anticipate this will further increase the availability of vaccines for our residents. We are waiting to hear from the Indiana State Department of Health about the availability of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine for our county. Residents should be aware that all appointments to receive the vaccine should be scheduled through the state scheduling system. They can go online to the IDOH website or visit the [www.ourshot.in.gov](http://www.ourshot.in.gov) or call 211 to schedule the vaccine appointment. In the vaccine system residents will be given a choice of when and where they wish to receive the vaccine, the age eligibility, and as more vaccines become available. Watch the local media for updated information.

Right now, Spencer County is receiving 600 doses a week and just as many signing up. This equates to two (2) clinics a week with 300 vaccines per day. This coming Saturday, March 6, 2021 is a vaccination clinic at Chrisney is for the second doses for those who came to the last Chrisney vaccine clinic four (4) weeks ago. No new appointments are set for that day.

#### **VSO / Butch Meredith**

For week of February 8, 2021 the total Veterans assisted this week was 88 and total phone calls totaled 129. For week of February 15, 2021 the total Veterans assisted this week was 58 and total phone calls totaled 92.

There were three (3) Veterans that passed away over the past two weeks. Mr. Tommy Martin an Army Veteran. Mr. Norman Miller a Navy Veteran and Mr. William "Tomcat" Krantz an Army Veteran.

Meredith updated and presented the Safety Manual draft for the Courthouse. It includes the Safety Manual, the Courthouse Bomb Threat Procedure, the Spencer County Courthouse Fire Evacuation Plan, and the Elevator Safety Plan. These have not been updated since 2004. He will get feed back and present a final draft at an upcoming meeting.

Meredith has located two more roof leaks which has paused the painting project. Northwest corner 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and in the closet next to the chimney. Mid-West Roofing will be here to inspect. There will not be a charge for this since we just fixed the roof.

#### **Hwy Report / Dale Kenney**

Mr. Shaefer was here last month for a meeting regarding a road closure. He came today to ask if we could update our website, so more information was available. He would like to see the meeting agenda and any meeting updates.

Kenney would like to add some roads to the inventory. They are as follows:

2,372 feet to 1615 N

1,178 feet to Amherst Drive South

Seiler motioned to add these to the inventory. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved.

#### **Indiana Regional 15 / Lisa Gelhausen**

Gelhausen came to discuss 200 North. The road has surface and drainage issues. MPW and Scepter are expanding and creating jobs and it would be a good public works project. The US Department of Commerce has the Economic Development Administration under their umbrella. Indiana reports to the Chicago regional office. They have a public works program which is a public infrastructure to support economic development is out of money until October 2021. The grant is 50% grant and 50% local. Another option is Impacts to Coal. If you have a downturn in energy or the coal sector that grant is 80% to 20% local. If someone is having an impact due to coal, they would qualify. Third program is American Rescue Plan. EDA (Economical Development Association) thinks there will be dollars at 80% to 20% if we can apply it to the pandemic.

Sent requests for proposals to six (6) different firms. January 11, 2021 was the cut off date for submitting the Statement for Qualifications. Gelhausen received one (1) statement of qualification out of six. Gelhausen reached out to the EDA and they want three (3) unless there is a compelling reason that we only received one firm. Gelhausen contacted the other firms most were busy, and the workload did not allow for submission. She has requested a waiver but has not received a response yet. Another option is to ask other firms to submit if they are interested. She will come back and give an update on cost and any other submissions.

#### **Auditor / Heather Gries for Melissa Bunner**

First item is the SRI Certificate Sale. The dates have been set.

Tuesday, March 9, 2021	10:00 am	Open Registration
Friday, April 23, 2021	2:00 pm	Registration closes

Monday, April 26, 2021	9:00 am	Sale begins
Tuesday April 27, 2021	12:00 pm	Sale ends
Wednesday, April 28, 2021	1:00 pm	Pay deadline

Gries motioned to approve the calendar. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Spencer County Employee Benefit Plan needs to be signed. Seiler motioned to approve. Greis seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Employee benefit question. If a non smoker failed to take the test at the end of the year, can they retake to get the lower rate or do they keep the benefit until next year? Nothing will be done at this point and they will pay the higher premium until next year.

SBS Portals needs a signature.

Health Department has submitted claims for Cares Act Reimbursement.

Affinity	\$ 19.99	Cable for door monitor
Hoffman	\$ 60.88	Labels for vaccine cards
Office Depot	\$ 28.90	Extension cords
Office Depot	\$221.45	Folders, Totes, Surge Protectors
Hoffman	\$ 56.05	Surge protectors
Hay	\$ 96.15	Rubber social distancing floor decals
Varble	\$ 73.32	Mileage
Verizon	\$147.08	Phones for contact tracers

Brown motioned to accept all claims with the exception of the mileage and phones. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion approved.

**Legal Report**

Lindsey provided information regarding Dubois Strong and the Mid-States Corridor Economic Impact Study.

Lindsey discussed a fraudulent unemployment claim. It is not resolved yet. He will keep us updated.

**Old Business**

Nothing to report.


**New Business**

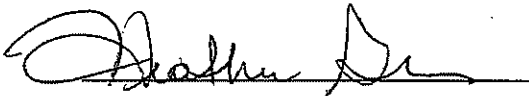
Gries wanted to make a motion to open the Courthouse back up to the public effective Monday, March 8, 2021. The east entrance will be the only one open. Masks and social distancing will still be in place. There will no longer be a door checker. Gries made the motion to open the Courthouse effective Monday, March 8, 2021. Seiler seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Seiler motioned to adjourn the meeting. Gries seconded the motion. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 2:51 P.M.

  
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 President

  
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Attest:  
  
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 Auditor, Melissa L. Bunner

  
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