

**PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MARCH 17th, 2020
10:00 A.M.**

(The entire meeting is available to watch on the Porter County website.)

The Regular meeting of the Porter County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 17th, 2020 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Administration Center.

Those present were: Commissioners Laura Blaney, Jim Biggs, County Attorney Scott McClure; Administrative Assistant Melanie Massey and Recording Secretary Kathy Merle. Com. Jeff Good was not in attendance.

Call to Order/Pledge

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Payroll – February 21st and March 6th, 2020.

Approval of Claims – February 20th and February 26th, March 4th, March 11th, 2020.

Approval of Minutes – February 11th and February 18th, 2020.

Treasurer's Monthly Report Filed – February 29, 2020.

MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE – SCOT MACDONALD, DIRECTOR

ARTISTIC SERVICES AGREEMENTS

1. Adam Gustas
2. Chris Haddad – 2
3. Laura Gorski
4. Hannah Newman-Jacobs
5. Derek DeRoo
6. Madolyn Woodruff Hedin
7. Claire Hagan
8. Colleen Peluso
9. Angela Heid
10. Valerie Webdell
11. Don Parker
12. Jared Coller
13. Jordyn Romersberger - 3
14. Molly Vass - 2

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

HEALTH DEPT. – PORTER COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER DR. MARIA STAMP

Coronavirus Preparedness Presentation.

Com. Good, This Board over the last probably 5 days has been doing a lot of things behind the scenes trying to keep government moving. Keep the basic essential services of County government moving forward. We briefed all of the different departments separately with each department head. We outlined our program. Right now from our County's perspective I know the Health Dept. is going to be talking about things, but we're just talking about the day to day at the County. This is the business side of it. We're looking at an 8 week window here and then we're reassessing every week as to what happens. We really don't know where this thing is going to go. Some people think they do. I don't know but we're going into this with eyes wide opened and we are going to be looking at things every week based on new information and new data when it comes out, but right now you know we made our press release yesterday and at noon today this building will close but the employees will still be reporting to work. We have worked some things out with them that at risk people will not be coming to work. We have a mechanism right now so we will be able to help them, to pay them, to keep them coming to work or even if they have to stay home to take of someone. We think we've come up with a pretty good formula, but that is as of today. This thing could morph and may go in many different

directions. We're even planning for our next couple of moves that we would need to make if we have to make. We caught up to it from a County perspective and we have some plans in place and we will be monitoring it every week. Right now it's almost every hour that something comes out. I just thought I wanted to make that statement. Laura and Jim I didn't know if you wanted to add to that at all. It's been a lot of work. I think we caught up to it in a good fashion. We just want to make sure that everyone that works for County government and is involved in County government has a clear roadway of what our expectations are and what we want to do. Our main goal is we want to keep our employees safe, but in the same breath this government adds a lot of local money to the community. We have to make sure that we're paying the bills and we're doing things so that commerce can continue to happen in this community because there are a lot of businesses that are vendors of ours here too. We tried to think of everything in and outside the box but we're ready to pivot and turn if necessary. I want to thank my fellow Board members, Atty. McClure, Rhonda Young from H.R. who has been a key piece of this as well too. I look forward to working with you folks in the future as we all have our fingers crossed and hope that this starts trajectorying down before up. We'll just have to wait and see what happens.

Com. Blaney, I would like to thank our employees as you said we went around and met with everyone which took most of the day yesterday, but everyone was willing to work with us. They were positive and a "we're all in this together feel". So I appreciate that.

Com. Biggs, We wanted to send a signal to the general public that whatever decision we made we're ahead of the curve in here. We're in good hands. There is no need to worry. Everything is going to be fine as long as we keep a step ahead and we fully intend to do that.

Please refer to the County website for the presentation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW BUSINESS

COMMISSIONERS

An Ordinance Establishing a Non-Reverting Fund for the Porter County Circuit Court Adult Guardianship Grant Program – 2nd Reading.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve on 2nd Reading, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried

A Resolution of the Porter County Board of Commissioners Concerning the Assignment of Porter County Tax Sale Certificates to the City of Valparaiso and the Town of Porter.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Resolution, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

NIPSCO – An agreement for Extension of Facilities to provide electric service to 157 Franklin St., Valparaiso.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the NIPSCO extension, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

NORTH COUNTY ANNEX – ALLOWANCE AUTHORIZATIONS & PAY APPS.

State Line Fire Systems - Allowance Authorization #1 in the amount of \$2,364.00 to relocate FDC connection to front of Annex building per Fire Chief.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Stan's Painting & Decorating – Pay App. #7 in the amount of \$16,981.25 for painting. With a remaining balance of \$85,408.05.

Ziolkowski Construction – Pay App. #15 in the amount of \$21,888.00 for Bid Package 1. With a remaining balance of \$289,796.00.

Pangere Corp. – Pay App. #9 in the amount of \$128,381.10 for material and labor. With a remaining balance of \$529,140.31.

Kleckner Interior Systems – Pay App. #9 in the amount of 49,048.50 for Bid Package 2. With a remaining balance of \$345,981.66.

Mechanical Concepts – Pay App. #10 in the amount of \$38,855.00 for HVAC. With a remaining balance of \$240,794.00.

Circle "R" Electric – Pay App. #10 in the amount of \$43,817.13 for electrical. With a remaining balance of \$142,744.15.

Midwest Tile & Interiors – Pay App. #6 in the amount of \$18,796.70 for flooring. With a remaining balance of \$109,077.30.

State Line Fire Systems – Pay App. #6 in the amount of \$1,242.60 for fire suppression. With a remaining balance of \$20,366.15.

Arctic Engineering – Pay App. #8 in the amount of \$23,020.89 for plumbing. With a remaining balance of \$57,432.00.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve all of the above Pay Apps., Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

157 FRANKLIN ST. – ALLOWANCE AUTHORIZATIONS, CHANGE ORDERS & PAY APPS.

Pangere Corp. – Allowance Authorization #2 in the amount of \$8,569.00 to repair broken glass in existing window, Category 5 test on elevators, additional hardware and 7' tall generator fence.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Allowance Authorization, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Midwest Tile & Interiors – Change Order #1 a credit in the amount of \$35,300.00. Delete rubber stair treads, risers and landings.

Com. Good, If you recall in the building the stair towers were in pretty good shape. When then specked this out they put somethings in there they just don't feel that we're going to need so we are going to take the money back.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Change Order, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Pangere Corp. - Pay App. #8 in the amount of \$77,413.45 for material and labor. With a remaining balance of \$114,177.67.

Stan's Painting & Decorating – Pay App. #6 in the amount of \$21,338.90 for painting. With a remaining balance of \$31,200.55.

Midwest Tile & Interiors – Pay App. #7 in the amount of \$48,735.00 for flooring. With a remaining balance of \$24,093.00.

State Line Fire Systems – Pay App. #4 in the amount of \$18,886.00 for fire suppression. With a remaining balance of \$14,820.10.

Circle "R" Mechanical – Pay App. #7 in the amount of \$13,323.75 for plumbing. With a remaining balance of \$25,503.10.

Stevens Engineers & Constructors – Pay App. #8 in the amount of \$45,586.70 for labor and materials. With a remaining balance of \$137,077.60.

Continental Electric – Pay App. #9 in the amount of \$167,110.06 for electrical. With a remaining balance of \$301,565.22.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve all of the above Pay Apps., Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER – ALISON COX, DIRECTOR & JUDGE MARY HARPER

An Ordinance Creating a Non-Reverting Fund for the Receipt of Fees Associated with the Porter County Truancy Court – 1st Reading.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Com. Good, Is there anyone wishing to speak against this ordinance please come forward? Second call anyone wishing to speak against this ordinance please come forward? Third and final call is there anyone wishing to speak against this ordinance please come forward?

Is there anyone wishing to speak in favor of this ordinance? Second call anyone wish to speak in favor of this ordinance? Third and final call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this ordinance?

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the Ordinance on 1st Reading, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

SHERIFF DAVE REYNOLDS

Harley Davidson of Valpo – Motorcycle Lease Agreement for 1 year in the amount of \$2,000.00.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve Harley Davidson, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, I'm assuming this is coming out of one of the Sheriff's funds?

Atty. McClure, It is.

Com. Good, Okay, I just want to make sure that when it goes to the Council that they are aware of it.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Porter County Substance Abuse Council and the Porter County Sheriff's Office for the Porter County Community Harm Reduction Initiative.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the MOU, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

NorthShore Health Centers – An agreement to provide substance abuse treatment at the Porter County Jail in the amount of \$106,000.00 for 1 year.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve NorthShore Health Centers, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, The Sheriff will also be paying for this as well?

Atty. McClure, Yes they have identified the line items for this along with the Harley Davidson agreement.

EMA – LANCE BELLA, DIRECTOR

Porter County Disaster Emergency Declaration & Travel Restriction.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Emergency Declaration, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Com. Blaney, We should point out that this goes back to the Lake front and not the Coronavirus.

Com. Good, We can only declare an emergency every 30 days. Our last meeting we did going forward fort this meeting and this will go forward to the next meeting.

Enterprise Fleet Management – A lease rate quote for a 2020 Chevy Silverado in the amount of \$712.97 per month.

Com. Good, Just for the record we have been slowly changing out vehicles in that department. All of their vehicles were well over 200,000 miles.

Atty. McClure, This is the second time we approved it. The first time it was missing a few items such as bed liners so this price is slightly higher because the lighting package and other things got put in the price.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve Enterprise Fleet Management, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

E-911 – TONY STUA, DIRECTOR

A Memorandum of Understanding between LaPorte County Remote Dispatch Center and Porter County Remote Dispatch Center.

Atty. McClure, This is for us to be back up to each other.

Com. Blaney, With the Coronavirus.

Atty. McClure, And this takes us out for another 10 years.

Com. Good, We finally got that in writing. We always talked about it but we never formalized it so that is good.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the MOU with LaPorte County Dispatch, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

A Resolution for the Disposition of Property.

Atty. McClure, Well because we're government and we want to get rid of things sometimes we have to take an extra step. We have basically used outdated CPR equipment at 911 that we used to use for CPR training. It includes 10 adult CPR mannequins, 10 adult CPR heads, and 1 basic mannequin. All of this equipment falls outside the current guidelines for training. Then this resolution would allow us to give it away or dispose of it.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the Resolution, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

An Ordinance Repealing Chapter 8.16.060 "Creation of an E-911 Policy Board"; Repealing Chapter 8.16.070 "Creation of an E-911 Advisory Board"; and Adopting new Chapter 8.16.060 "Creation of an E-911 Advisory Board".

Atty. McClure, This has been in the makings for quite a long time and this has been vetted out by our 911 leadership and then also all of the agencies it affects including EMA, The City of Valparaiso, fire, police, Portage fire and police, also dealing with the volunteer fire department. We had an E-911 Policy Board and an Advisory Board and just by the slight different names it got a bit confusing. This gets rid of those 2 boards and brings it down to the new creation of the new E-911 Advisory Board and re-does the board membership to 11 members on that board to include county and city designees. This is to get that board reequipped with a little bit different direction as far as the duties of this Advisory Board. This is a cleanup of that that has probably been in the making for about a year and a half.

Com. Good, Any questions?

Com. Biggs, No it was a good project. It needed to be done and brought up to date and made more relative.

Com. Biggs, moved to approve the Ordinance, Com. Blaney, second, motion carried.

MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE – SCOT MACDONALD, DIRECTOR

Boyce Systems – Maintenance agreement for accounting system in the amount of \$940.00.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve Boyce Systems, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

EXPO CENTER – LORI DALY, DIRECTOR

Boyce Systems – Maintenance agreement for accounting system in the amount of \$2,000.00.

Com. Good, I'm sure this includes the cash registers too or is it just the account piece?

Com. Blaney, I believe it is just the accounting system.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve Boyce Systems, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Expo Emergency Operations Plan.

Com. Good, I know Lance Bella has assisted the Expo Center into putting that together. I think we even asked the Fair Board to be involved in some of the operation planning. This has been in existence we've just updated it and upgraded it.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the Expo Emergency Operations Plan, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

IT DEPT. – DON WELLSAND, DIRECTOR

NITCO – A contract to purchase 100 new telephone numbers in the amount of \$49.95.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve NITCO, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Adams Remco – A copier purchase agreement for the Prosecutor’s office in the amount of \$11,105.00.

Adams Remco – A 3 year copier maintenance agreement for the Prosecutor’s office.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the purchase and maintenance agreements for a copier for the Prosecutor’s office. Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Adams Remco – A copier purchase agreement for the H.R. office in the amount of \$6,195.00.

Adams Remco – A 3 year copier maintenance agreement for the H.R. office.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the purchase and maintenance agreements for a copier for the H. R. Dept. Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

NITCO – A service agreement to provide a fiber line between 157 Franklin St. and the Porter County Jail in the amount of \$1,289.95 per month.

Com. Good Over the last 3 years we have spent some pretty good money up here creating an IT loop for all of our buildings. I think this is the last piece.

Atty. McClure, I think this loops in everything out on 49 that we have.

Com. Good, So what we’re doing as a County is we want to have redundancy in our internet capabilities. It’s the right way to go. It’s the right way to do it. This is more of that.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve NITCO, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

NCI – Provide communication cabling for Building B at the North County Annex in the amount of \$6,841.00.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve NCI, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Videotec – A quote to install reception door release buttons on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors at 157 Franklin St., Valpo in the amount of \$2,543.72.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve Videotec, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

FACILITIES – RAY CLOYD, DIRECTOR

Gertzen Water Management Co., dba Utility Services – An agreement to provide sewage screening at the Jail in the amount of \$400.00 per month.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve Gertzen Water Management, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

Homewood Disposal Service – A service agreement to provide the Animal Shelter with trash and recycle pickup at a rate of \$288.00 per month for 1 year.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve Homewood Disposal Service, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

DEVELOPMENT & STORM WATER MNGMNT. – BOB THOMPSON, DIRECTOR

INDOT – Supplemental Agreement for Bridge 62, 625 West over the Kankakee River.

Mr. Thompson, This is essentially a renewal of our INDOT agreement that we have for federal funding for Bridge 62. As you know from the emails the Bridge was let at the beginning of March and it was \$1 million over the Engineer's estimate. I contacted INDOT to say please reject. INDOT was going to reject because of that size anyway. We're going to have a conference call just to (Inaudible) soon with the Engineer and INDOT to try and figure out what change we have to make to the plans. The rule is we have to make a substantial change to the plans and then we can get it back on to a September letting schedule. They are carrying over the federal funding over for us on that. The INDOT Project Manager told me substantial change is rather subjective.

Com. Good, How did they miss the quote by so much?

Mr. Thompson, Good question. We were speaking with our consultant at United Consulting John Kleinfelter. He told us that 50% of the bids either were way over the estimate or they did not receive any bids at all on those. 50% that were let that week. In this particular case United had a bridge in Indianapolis that was sort of historical and they got absolutely no bidders on it. And everything I've been hearing and what Mike has been hearing also is that there is so much work out there that contractors are picking and choosing and they are going high. We just hope that come September the contract would be written and may be sent in November after they do a September letting. Then it will be a winter type project and hopefully we will get lower bids. The INDOT Project Manager was just shaking his head. He said I had a project just like this over in LaPorte County last year at half the price.

Mr. Novotney, And we're unable to really examine this further. They won't give us the unit price breakdown but they did share some information with us that show it's not one particular line item which reports with what Bob is saying. It just goes across the board through this latest letting that INDOT has had that the prices are coming in quite significantly higher than the engineer's estimates.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve the INDOT Supplemental Agreement, Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

A Unified Development Ordinance with regards to Solar Energy Systems – 1st Reading.

Mr. Thompson, This was heard at the Planning Commission at their February meeting. It was a public hearing and we did not have anyone speak on this at that meeting. The Plan Commission forwarded it to you by an 8-0 vote. What this does it breaks down standards for someone that would want to have as it is referred to as an accessory solar system. Someone out in the unincorporated area that has 5 acres and wants to put in solar to assist with their electricity. It has regulations on how they can go about where to set it, the size and everything. Then it gives into the principal systems. The very large solar farms. All of the regulations that we were looking at to put on them going forward within the County. One of the things I want to note I worked with Mike on is regarding the water quality aspect on it. There is a lot of water quality features looking as far as the plantings they need to do with the systems once construction has been completed. It's something we don't have. We have a wind energy system on the books for 5 or 6 years now. It has been something I've been meaning to get to. We've been having companies talk to us about this because NIPSCO has put out an RFP. They're reviewing RFP's right now for companies to come in and provide them with alternative forms of energy since they are closing down some of their coal fire plants.

Com. Blaney, AT the Plan Commission pretty much every question that the board came up with was from what happens when they're done with it to (Inaudible). It's pretty all encompassing. I'm sure (Inaudible).

Com. Good, And this is bubbling up from the agricultural community, the solar farms. So this is sort of mission driven to a certain extent.

Mr. Thompson, It is and we've had people come in and put solar systems on their property that really didn't have a good mechanism to work with them. Now we do.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED

Com. Good, Is there anyone wishing to speak against this ordinance? Second call anyone wishing to speak against this ordinance? Third and final call anyone wishing to speak against this ordinance? Anyone wishing to speak in favor of this ordinance? Second call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this ordinance? Third and final call anyone wishing to speak in favor of this ordinance?

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Com. Blaney, moved to approve on 1st Reading when it was approved at the Plan Commission meeting and we had the public hearing there was no one in attendance and this was pre-Coronavirus scare. Com. Biggs, second, motion carried.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

Jeffrey J. Good

Laura M. Blaney

Jim Biggs

Attest: _____
Vicki Urbanik, Auditor