

**May 13, 2019**

**SPECIAL JOINT SESSION**

**PULASKI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Pulaski County Board of Commissioners and the Pulaski County Council met for a Special Joint Session at 6:00pm EDT on May 13, 2019 at the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Court House in Winamac, IN. Present for the meeting were Commissioners Kenny Becker, Jerry Locke, Mike McClure and Auditor Laura Wheeler and Attorney Kevin Tankersley. Present for the Council were Michael T Tiede, Scott Hinkle, Jay Sullivan, Kathleen Thompson, Brian Young, Ken Boswell and Ron DeSabatine.

Also present were Cindy Hickle, Marcie Perry, Terry Young, Nathan Origer, Mia Salyers, Carol Lange, Joe Moyer, David Olds, Ron Fox, Terry Hansen, Michael Gallenberger of WKVI, Terry Ruff, Jeff Johnston, JoLynn Behny, Courtney Poor, Fred Rogers, Doug Denton, Jim Gould, Amber Tomlinson, Lynn Morrison, Rick and Becky Dilts, Jeff Richwine, Gary Kruger, John Simmermaker, Todd Zeiger, Courtney Poor, June Bridegroom and Judge Mary Welker.

**IN RE: COURTHOUSE**

Kenny Becker explained that some office holders have requested to move out of the Court House and Jerry Locke wanted to share a plan to accommodate the request and possibly resolve other courthouse issues. The Commissioners want to provide a better environment and workplace for the County employees.

A brief history of the courthouse issues and the steps taken to resolve them including an ADA compliant elevator and public accessible restrooms along with a list of the many problems such as security, inmate transfer, fire suppression, ADA requirements, interior and exterior repairs presented.

Moving the Recorder, Auditor, Treasurer, Assessor and Microfilm offices to the Highway Garage Community Room would resolve some of the issues and save money at the same time. Parking is plentiful.

The Courts and Clerk's Office should be together at the Justice Center with Probation and the Prosecutor and would solve most of the security and inmate traffic issues.

An alternative option to move the Assessor's office to the Commissioners' room and move the Surveyor's office to the Annex Building or Highway Garage was suggested. The Information Technology (IT) department could move to the Highway Garage or Masonic Lodge.

It was reported that a local contractor offered to build a new 5000 sq. ft. building and furnish all janitorial services to the County at the rate of \$20 per square foot per year rent (approximately \$100,000 annually).

Heating and cooling a hundred-year-old building is neither economical or feasible.

Todd Zieger, director of Indiana Landmarks northern region, has offered, at the expense of Indiana Landmarks, to undertake a study of the Court House, analyze all the issues, address life safety issues, security and maintenance backlog that has been accumulating. Kevin Tankersley has reviewed the proposed contract dated May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019. Indiana Landmarks wants an assurance that their proposal will be given its due respect and consideration before moving forward with the study.

After a great deal more discussion, Brian Young motioned to write a letter in support of Indiana landmarks' study and Mike Tiede seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Kenny Becker motioned to let Rowland conduct the study and Mike McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Nathan Origer volunteered to be the County contact person.

Lynn Morrison spoke on behalf of the Pulaski County Historical Society stating that the Historical Society has no interest in the building now or ever. The Commissioners and Council were commended for having the courage to address the issues.

Jerry Locke made a motion to move the Surveyor's office to the Annex building effective immediately and move the Assessor's Office to a location to be determined very soon. Mike McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mike McClure motioned for the Commissioners to adjourn at 7:01pm and Jerry Locke seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mike Tiede motioned for the Council to adjourn at 7:01pm and Brian Young seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved June 10, 2019

**PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL**

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Jerry G Sullivan

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Michael T Tiede

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Scott Hinkle

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Kenneth Boswell

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Ronald DeSabatine

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Brian Young

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Kathleen Thompson

Approved June 10, 2019

**PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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Kenny Becker

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Jerry Locke

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Mike McClure

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Laura M Wheeler, Auditor, Pulaski County

