

NOVEMBER 16, 2020

REGULAR SESSION

PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Pulaski County Commissioners met in regular session Monday November 16, 2020, 8:30AM at the Pulaski County Highway Garage training room. Commissioners present were Ken Becker, Mike McClure, and Jerry Locke with County Auditor Laura Wheeler.

Also present were Nathan Origer, Jon Frain, Gary Kruger, Gene Timm, Michael Gallenberger, Fred Kasten, Vernon Gillum, Mike O'Connor, Terri Hansen, Connie Ehrlich, Gail Lambert, Dr. Rex Allman., Amber Tomlinson, Colleen Denham, and Brian Ledley.

President Ken Becker opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: FRIENDS OF THE PANHANDLE PATHWAY

Nathan Origer and Fred Kasten appeared before the commissioners to explain the availability of a grant program through INDOT and requesting a county contact appointed. The Grant will be used to extend the pathway from CR100N/US#35 to the entrance to Tippecanoe River State Park by 2026. Construction to be done by INDOT with no financial commitment from the County. The Panhandle Pathway Group intends to meet the required 20% match.

Jerry Locke made a motion to approve Panhandle Pathway grant application and having Highway Superintendent Gary Kruger as contact person, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: CORONER

Coroner Jon Frain provided updates from the Coroner's Office, discussed COVID-19 case status, and explained the possible need for assistance by the Health Care Center.

Jon also asked about having the Matrix guidelines updated to include the Coroner's office.

The Coroner's position as an elected official discussed briefly. Mike McClure made a motion to consider the Coroner a full-time employee, Ken Becker seconded and motion carried unanimously. As this is not a commissioner's decision, Council's approval is needed.

Brian Ledley of Pulaski Memorial Hospital and the Pulaski County Incident Management Team Public Relations Chair reported that Pulaski County has seen a dramatic increase in the number of positive cases as has the entire State. Pulaski County has been moved to orange and the Governor has issued new Executive Orders, effective yesterday (November 15, 2020).

Dr Rex Allman talked about upcoming vaccines that will be available in the future but believes 80% of the population will need vaccinated in order for it to be successful.

Terri Hansen with the local Health Department provided the Commissioners with a copy of the Governor's latest Executive Order. Because the County Health nurse is overwhelmed with immunizations and phone calls, the Health Department is asking to hire someone to do contact tracing part-time. Ken Becker made a motion, subject to Council approval, to allow the Health Department to contract someone to do contact tracing part-time, Jerry Locke seconded and motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: HIGHWAY

Superintendent Gary Kruger explained the need for a burning disc that cost about \$8,700.00. A decision tabled until next spring/summer to allow for a trial period.

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS

Ken Becker made a motion to allow the Chamber of Commerce to put a Christmas tree in the Courthouse lawn, Jerry Locke seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Mike McClure made a motion to approve and sign claims and payroll as presented, Jerry Locke seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Ken Becker made a motion to approve and sign the October 19, 2020 regular session meeting minutes as presented, Jerry Locke seconded and motion carried.

Ken Becker, on behalf of the Commissioners, Tankersley Law Office and Auditor Wheeler, wished everyone a happy and safe holiday.

Indiana Association of County Commissioners canceled their in-person conference on November 30, 2020 through December 2, 2020 in Indianapolis but will have a virtual conference with a fee. Ken Becker made a motion to approve attendance at the virtual conference for Mike McClure, Maurice Loehmer, Charles Mellon and Laura Wheeler, Jerry Locke seconded and motion carried unanimously.

With no other business to discuss, Mike McClure made a motion to adjourn at 9:12am, Jerry Locke seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Signed and approved this 7th day of December 2020 by the PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

KEN BECKER

JERRY LOCKE

MIKE MCCLURE

ATTEST: _____
LAURA WHEELER, AUDITOR, PULASKI COUNTY, INDIANA