

FEBRUARY 1, 2021

REGULAR SESSION

PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Pulaski County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, February 2, 2021 6:00PM at the Pulaski County Highway Department training room. Commissioners present were Charles Mellon, Maurice Loehmer, Mike McClure with County Auditor Laura Wheeler and County Attorney Kevin Tankersley.

Also present were Jeff Larrison, Brian Frederick, Gail Lambert, Connie Ehrlich, Larry Lambert, Jenny Knebel, Gary Kruger, John Masterson, Judge Mary Welker, Dave Olds, JoLynn Behny, Nathan Origer, and Jeff Richwine.

President Charles Mellon opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: HIGHWAY

Gary Kruger accompanied Jeff Larrison and Brian Frederick of United Consulting who presented the annual bridge report for Pulaski County. The 2018 bridge inspection contract was completed in September 2020 on the County's 73 bridges. Grants cover 80% of the cost with the county covering the remaining 20%. On an average, bridges last 50-75 years and the County does have some bridges around 50 years old. Bridges have condition ratings 0-9 (9 being excellent) and when the rating gets below four, they are inspected annually. Four bridges in Pulaski County require annual inspection. Statewide sufficiency rating for Pulaski County is 4.1% due to low traffic and good maintenance. Bridge #8 is set to be replaced this spring. Discussion pursued on the five County bridges over the Tippecanoe River.

IN RE: CLERK/ELECTION

A postage meter lease renewal agreement presented for review and approval. Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve and sign the lease as presented, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously. This is a five-year lease at \$1,814.88 per year.

The 2021 Infinity Voting System Annual Maintenance Agreement presented for approval. This is for maintenance of the County's voting system and cost \$12,000.00 per year. Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve the agreement as presented, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: CDC

President Mellon recessed the regular meeting and opened COVID-19 grant public hearing. Pulaski County received \$250,000.00 with \$243,750.00 disbursed to 31 small local businesses. Kankakee-Iroquois Regional Planning Commission (K-IRPC) received \$6,250.00 for administrative cost. There was no local match. With no public comment, the public hearing closed at 6:24 PM and the general meeting resumed.

Nathan Origer presented a Scope of Services agreement from K-IRPC. Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve the agreement as presented, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

An update on the Incident Management Team given. Pulaski County had over 1000 COVID19 cases with 38 deaths. The Numbers are declining locally and statewide but precautions still warranted. As of today, 1307 local residents have been vaccinated and the State has lowered the age requirement to 65.

Contract drafts received from Construction Manager as Constructor (CMc) Tonn and Blank Construction Company will be reviewed by County Attorney. Tonn and Blank have requested a steering committee.

IN RE: SHERIFF

Justice Center updates given. Security provided at the vaccine clinics but probably will not be needed much longer. Two new vehicles ordered for the Sheriff's department.

COVID19 FMLA pay for employees discussed briefly.

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS

Maurice Loehmer motioned to approve claims and payroll as presented, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Maurice Loehmer made a motion approved the January 19, 2021 regular session meeting minutes as presented, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2021-02 on CARES act Funding presented as follows:

Ordinance No. 2021-02
Resolution to Provide for Reimbursement of Public Health and Public Safety Payroll Costs
With CARES Act Funding

WHEREAS, the Board of Pulaski County Commissioners is seeking reimbursement of public health and public safety payroll costs as allowed through federal CARES Act funding, which has been received by Pulaski County from the Indiana Finance Authority; and

WHEREAS, there has been designated by Pulaski County Auditor a CARES Act grant fund through which such reimbursements are receipted; and

WHEREAS, the payroll expenditure activity for public health and public safety payroll costs shall be captured in the CARES Act grant fund by transferring the expenditures from the fund from which the expenditures were originally made; and

WHEREAS, in light of the Governor's public health emergency, an alternative process is being implemented to transfer all or a portion, as determined appropriate by the governing body of Pulaski County, of the reimbursed federal CARES Act monies that are specific to public health and/or public safety payroll costs into the general fund; and

WHEREAS, the process contemplated herein is intended to allow for maximum usage of these funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pulaski County Board of Commissioners hereby establishes the following process in order to utilize CARES Act funding to properly pay public health and public safety payroll costs:

The CARES Act reimbursement for public health and public safety payroll shall be receipted into Pulaski County CARES Act Fund; and thereafter a claim shall be created against the CARES Act Fund for the amount, up to the payroll reimbursement amount, that Pulaski County determines shall be receipted into the general fund. This claim must be supported by the public health and/or public safety payroll costs that have been expensed from the general fund or other appropriate funds and clearly documented in the records of Pulaski County; and the money claimed shall be receipted into the general fund.

After the payroll reimbursement amount has been receipted into the general fund, the normal appropriation procedures shall apply to the expenditure of the reimbursement amount.

This ordinance shall retroactively apply to the effective date of Ordinance 2020-08, October 12, 2020 and Ordinance 2020-08 is superseded by this Ordinance and hereby rescinded.

Mike McClure motioned to approve as presented, Maurice Loehmer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

An Executive Session to conduct performance evaluations of all non-elected department heads discussed.

A Non-Disclosure Agreement with Roeing Corporation presented for review and approval. Maurice Loehmer motioned to approve as presented and Mike McClure seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A Safety Awareness Coronavirus Relief Fund Grant request form for \$40,455.00 presented for review and approval. Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve the grant request as presented, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Maurice Loehmer made a motion to appoint Mike Tiede and Alvin Parish to the Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District Board of Directors, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Tax certificate sale on June 30, 2021 discussed with emphasis on legal descriptions for railroad properties. Buyers need to be aware of that surveys are required at their expense in order to get a deed. Mike McClure made a motion to keep the minimum bid at \$50.00, Maurice Loehmer seconded and motion carried.

The following resolution presented for review and approval.

RESOLUTION 2021-01

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE INTENT TO CONDUCT A COMMISSIONER' SALE TO SELL TAX SALE CERTIFICATES FOR PROPERTIES THAT ARE SEVERLY DELINQUENT IN PAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES.

**WHEREAS, there are several properties in Pulaski County that are severely delinquent in the payment of property taxes, having been offered for tax sales and which received no bids equal to or in excess of minimum sale price. The parcel numbers of those properties being attached to this resolution as "Exhibit A", and
WHEREAS, there is an assessed value associated with these properties for taxation purposes, but no taxes are being collected, therefore causing a lower than expected tax distribution to those taxing units and taxing districts within which the properties are located, and
WHEREAS, the Pulaski County Commissioners desire to have these properties back on the tax rolls with taxes being collected, and
WHEREAS, IC 6-1.1-24-6, *et seq.* allows for the Pulaski County Commissioners to acquire a lien on those delinquent properties and receive issuance of the tax sale certificates for those properties, without taking title to the properties, therefore limiting the liability and cost normally associated with taking title,
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Pulaski County Board of Commissioners that the County Executive shall acquire liens and receive tax sale certificates of the properties listed on Exhibit A that are severely delinquent and sell said certificates at a properly advertised Commissioners Tax Certificate sale.**

Mike McClure made a motion to approve and sign resolution 2021-01, Maurice Loehmer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

There is a proposed public hearing schedule for March 1, 2021 with a deed sale on March 17, 2021. Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve a minimum bid of \$50.00 and the public hearing on March 1, 2021 at Commissioners regular session meeting, Charles Mellon seconded and motion carried unanimously.

A Roeing Corporation quote for a core switch costing \$7,250.00 presented for approval. Maurice Loehmer motioned to approve as presented, Charles Mellon seconded and motion carried with all in favor.

With no other business to discuss, Maurice Loehmer made a motion to adjourn at 6:56 PM, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED AND SIGNED THIS 16TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2021 by Pulaski County Commissioners.

CHARLES MELLON

MAURICE LOEHMER

MIKE MCCLURE

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