

APRIL 19, 2021

REGULAR SESSION

PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Pulaski County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30am on Monday April 19, 2021 at the Pulaski County Highway Garage training room. Commissioners present were Charles Mellon, Maurice Loehmer, Mike McClure with County Auditor Laura Wheeler and County Attorney Kevin Tankersley.

Also present were Dr Carrie Cadwell, Idris Bridgeforth, Brandon DeLorenzo, Nicole Hiatt Drang, Terri Hansen, Gary Kruger, Nathan Origer, and Jeff Richwine.

President Mellon opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: EMS

EMS Director Brandon DeLorenzo again brought waiving service charges for County employees and County fire department members. Insurance pays a portion of this cost, so this would just eliminate what is not covered. The commissioners expressed concern about managing these benefits for family members and the effect on other departments. No decision made.

The paramedic education program discussed with concerns over contract fulfillment and the issue tabled for further discussion at a joint meeting.

IN RE: IDRIS BRIDGEFORTH

Bridgeforth owns property at 6071 E 790 N, Monterey and has maintained Pennsylvania Avenue for several years. The County Highway no longer plows it and the Assessor does not have record of it; therefore, he asks the County to vacate the road. Bridgeforth advised to seek legal counsel, as there is a legal process to follow for this.

IN RE: FOUR COUNTY

Dr. Carrie Cadwell, CEO of Four County Counseling presented the annual report of their services. They were able to go to remote/virtual overnight at the beginning of the pandemic and keep 98% of their programs intact. There has been an increase in the number of people using their services with 5.7% increase in Pulaski County, which has 479 active consumers.

Nicole Hiatt-Drang, Four County Chief Clinical Officer, works with local law enforcement dispatch on calls that are more mental health issues than legal. Since September, when the crisis team was formed, they have had 90 deployments in Pulaski County and will respond for anyone, not just clients of Four County. Student support is available at both Eastern Pulaski and West Central schools and they are working on expansion of programs in the jails.

County funding of approximately \$118,000.00 is used for operating cost and is pooled with State funding and Four County funding.

IN RE: COUNTY HIGHWAY

Superintendent Gary Kruger recommended Town & Country Paving out of the following asphalt paving bids:

TOWN & COUNTRY PAVING	\$348,702.00
CENTRAL PAVING	\$412,963.60
E&B PAVING	\$521,070.00

Mike McClure motioned to approve Town & Country Paving's proposal for asphalt work on CR450W in Salem Township as recommended, Maurice Loehmer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: CDC

Pulaski County's COVID status reported as level yellow. The County's cumulative total of positive cases is just above 1,130 with 45 deaths. Per capita, Pulaski County is doing excellent in the district for getting people vaccinated. An alternative site to the Star City testing location discussed with the suggestion of the EMS building.

On the Courthouse/Justice Center project environmental testing revealed asbestos in pipe insulation above the ceiling in two rooms in the former Assessor's Office suite. Due to the age of the Courthouse, it is likely there are additional asbestos-containing pipe insulations within sealed wall/ceiling cavities and other inaccessible areas.

A strategic-plan-update process established by the CDC discussed and intended to be ready for review by Commissioners and Council no later than their November 2021 meeting.

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS

Mike McClure motioned to approve, pending review by County Attorney, Ordinance to Establish a Capital Project Fund and Debt Service Fund #2021-06, and Maurice Loehmer seconded and motion carried unanimously. The Ordinance reads as follows:

2021-06**ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH****A CAPITAL PROJECT FUND and A DEBT SERVICE FUND**

WHEREAS, Ind code & 36-1-3-1 et seq. permits any County in the State of Indiana to exercise any power to perform any function necessary for the public interest in the context of its county or internal affairs, which is not prohibited by the Constitution of the United States or the State of Indiana, or denied or pre-empted by any other law, or is not expressly granted by any other to another governmental entity;

WHEREAS, The Board of Commissioners of Pulaski County is the County executive body and is by law authorized to adopt ordinances and resolutions for the administration of its governmental affairs:

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Pulaski County desire to establish a Capital Project Fund, Justice Center Renovation Bond #4800 for the receipt of the potential bond issue amount of \$5,575,000.00.

WHEREAS, The Board of Commissioners of Pulaski County desire to establish a Debt Service Fund, Justice Center Lease Bond #4400 for re-payment of the potential bond issue amount of \$5,575,000.00.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED AND ESTABLISHED by the Board of Commissioners of Pulaski County:

1. That a Capital Project Fund #4800 is hereby to be established by the County Auditor.
2. That a Debt Service Fund #4400 is hereby to be established by the County Auditor.
3. That all Bond issue monies shall be deposited into the Capital Project Fund #4800.
4. That all Bond Debt payments will be paid out of the Debt Service Fund #4400.

Effective Date. Passed and adopted by the Board of Pulaski County Commissioners the 3rd day of May 2021.

Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve April 5, 2021 regular session minutes and April 8, 2021 executive session memorandum, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve and pay claims and payroll as presented, Mike McClure seconded. After discussion of Economic Development claim for \$81,000.00 for courthouse project costs for past work, motion carried unanimously.

The following Ordinance for the American Rescue Plan funding presented for review and approval.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-05**CREATING A NEW FUND FOR THE RECEIPT OF FUNDING FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN AS ADOPTED BY CONGRESS IN 2021**

WHEREAS, the federal government has adopted the American Rescue Plan (ARP) which has been signed into law by the President; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to establish a new fund in the Auditor's Office into which the proceeds of the ARP are to be deposited;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PULASKI COUNTY, INDIANA THAT:

1. A new fund is created with the Auditor's Office that shall be entitled "ARP Grant Fund", and the

Auditor has issued a fund number 8950 with respect to these funds and such funds shall be non-reverting.

2. The purpose of the funds is to be used for only the following reasons as set forth in &603(C) of the ARP in accordance with the US Treasury Guidance:

- A. To respond to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or to aid the impacted industries such as tourism, travel and hospitality;
- B. To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible works of the metropolitan city, nonentitlement unit of local government or county that are performing such essential, or by providing grants to eligible employers that eligible workers who perform essential work;
- C. For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such metropolitan city, nonentitlement unit of local government, or county due to COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most full fiscal year of the metropolitan city, nonentitlement unit of local government or county prior to the emergency; or
- D. To make necessary investments in water, sewer or broadband infrastructures as approved by the U. S. treasury.

- 3. The funds shall be appropriated by the County’s fiscal body before use.
- 4. All expenditure of funds shall be approved by the Board of Commissioners with any and all claims to be paid from the County’s APR fund.
- 5. The Board of Commissioners will establish the plan, conditions and rules upon which the funds are to be requested and used.
- 6. Any unused funds shall be paid back to the United States treasury when required.
- 7. The Auditor shall keep accurate and complete financial record of the receipt and expenditure of any and all funds deposited and paid from this new fund.
- 8. No money received in the ARP fund shall be used for any type of deposit into any pension fund.

Mike McClure motioned to approve Ordinance 2021-05 as presented, Maurice Loehmer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

The following bids received for Lawn care, which would be for spraying and fertilizing (3 times).

Down to Earth	\$850.00
Proscapes	\$1,140.00

Maurice Loehmer made a motion to accept Down to Earth’s proposal, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Pulaski County Human Services requested approval of a proclamation to designate May 2021 Older Americans Month. Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve the Proclamation as presented, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

There are proposed changes to the Personnel Policy Handbook that reflect changes for restructuring the maintenance and custodial department by increasing work hours from 35 to 40 per week with 1 hour unpaid lunch. Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve the change, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously. The will become effective when the new Maintenance and Custodial Director positions are filled.

Public safety concerns mentioned again for County roads surrounded by cornfields. Pulaski County does not have an ordinance at this time, but state laws requires the Right of way not to exceed 20’ from the center of the road.

The Pulaski County Airport discussed. Commissioners advised by Kevin Tankersley that decisions for selling or leasing the airport is the responsibility of the Aviation Board Commissioners. The consensus is that the airport issues need discussed at a special session with all parties in attendance.

With no other business to discuss, Mike McClure made a motion to adjourn at 9:41am, Maurice Loehmer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

CHARLES MELLON, PRESIDENT

MAURICE LOEHMER, VICE-PRESIDENT

MIKE MCCLURE

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