

MAY 3, 2021

REGULAR SESSION

PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Pulaski County Commissioners met in regular session Monday, May 3, 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 Nathan Origer, Megan Galbreath from the Pulaski County Journal & Independent, Brandon DeLorenzo, Autumn Bailor, Connie Ehrlich, Gail Lambert, Judge Mary Welker, Chris Schramm and Jeff Richwine.

President Mellon opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: CDC

The Imminent Disaster Management Team reports that COVID cases continue to rise slowly but Pulaski County's advisory level has returned from yellow to blue. Pulaski Memorial Hospital (PMH) is still testing Monday-Wednesday-Fridays. The Health Department is still looking for Optum's testing site.

The COVID-Relief Small Business Grant Program has received to Grant administration quotes: KIRPC for \$6,250.00 and NCIRPC for \$7,500.00. Maurice Loehmer made a motion to use KIRPC as grant administrator of the COVID-Relief Small Business Grant Program, Charles Mellon seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Testing results from the justice center and courthouse found Asbestos used as pipe insulation above the former Assessor's Office ceiling. The vapor-intrusion tests revealed no volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the justice center. Of the 10 samples taken in courthouse basement, one revealed VOCs, which was from an air sample taken near elevator. None of the soil samples revealed any evidence of intrusion and Ameresco states that there is no vapor intrusion occurring and likely no indoor air-quality hazard present, but waiting on additional information on the positive sample. Since no vapor intrusion is occurring, there should be no need to core sampling under the courthouse slab. 48 spots in justice center were tested for lead paint with none detected. Lead paint was detected in 83 of 266 samples in the Court House, on all 3 floors. Any work done in these spaces will have to be done in compliance with OSHA standards. Mold testing was only conducted in the former Assessor/Surveyor's Offices. There was no evidence of current moisture intrusion of mold growth but high quantities of mold were found in the wall cavities in both offices that is problematic. Special area-containment steps and disinfecting process should be implemented.

IN RE: SHERIFF

Sheriff Jeff Richwine presented video from inside jail and from officer's body cameras, which reflect several issues. There has been a turnover of 8 deputies and 56 jailers since he came to office (6+ years). Some discussion followed

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS

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

Maurice Loehmer motioned to approve and sign the April 19, 2021 regular session minutes and the April 16 and April 20, 2021 Executive memorandums as presented, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Mike McClure motioned to approve the following conference requests, Maurice Loehmer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

LAURA WHEELER, AUDITOR—BUDGET AND FINANCE 5/4/2021, INDIANAPOLIS
LAURA WHEELER, AUDITOR—AUDITOR'S STATE CALL CONFERENCE 5/19/2021, PLYMOUTH

After two Executive Sessions to interview Maintenance Director and Head Custodian positions, the commissioners came to a decision. Maurice Loehmer made a motion to appoint Larry Weaver as

Maintenance Director and Tammy Pack as Head Custodian. Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously. Once Council determines a salary, Charles Mellon will have a contract drawn.

Another executive session met to discuss disciplinary actions following allegations from last Thursday of wrongdoing by a County employee. Maurice Loehmer made a motion to discharge Doug Hoover as Building Inspector, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously. Charles Mellon read the following press release regarding this action:

Press Release of the President of Pulaski County Commissioners

This statement is being made in the interest of giving the information required by the Indiana statutes about the discharge of the Pulaski County Building Inspector, Douglas Hoover. We realize this issue may draw some interest from the public and we want to be as forthcoming as possible without compromising the privacy of any individual involved.

A County Sheriff's Deputy conducted a traffic stop on Thursday, April 29, 2021 pulling over Mr. Hoover. Mr. Hoover was driving a Pulaski County owned vehicle at the time. The stop was at 1:00 p.m. EST which is during regular work hours for the Building Department. Mr. Hoover was found to have an alcohol level in his blood. His level was below the legal limit to operate a vehicle. He did not commit any criminal act. He did, however, violate county employee policy by operating a county vehicle with any level of alcohol in his system. This conduct can result in immediate discharge from employment under the policy.

Immediate intervention was taken on Thursday and the county vehicle was towed from the scene. Mr. Hoover was compliant and submitted to all testing required of him as an employee. Mr. Hoover was placed on a suspension and asked to leave the County facilities until further action could be taken. Given the fact that Mr. Hoover is the head of the department, his direct supervisor is the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners had to advertise an executive session to discuss this matter and the soonest they could meet was May 3, 2021. An executive session was conducted to discuss the employee's conduct.

Based on the vote tonight, we have chosen to discharge Mr. Douglas Hoover from his employment with Pulaski County.

Coroner Jon Frain requested that his part-time Deputy Joe Williams be able to keep track of his hours manually due to the nature of his job. Joe Williams is full-time with the Sheriff's department and he has agreed that there would be no response to coroner's calls while he is working at the jail.

Continuous employment discussed for longevity purposes. Maurice Loehmer read from the Matrix guidelines "if an employee is reduced to part-time status, it will be considered to be a break in employment for longevity purposes". This is determined to be a Council issue.

Charles Mellon made a motion to suspend any hiring within the building inspector department and to appoint Karla Pemberton as the temporary building inspector until they can advertise and conduct interviews; Maurice Loehmer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

With no other business to discuss, Mike McClure made a motion to adjourn at 6:58PM, Maurice seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Approved and signed this 17th day of May 2021 by the PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

CHARLES MELLON

MAURICE LOEHMER

MIKE MCCLURE

ATTEST:

LAURA WHEELER, PULASKI COUNTY AUDITOR