

SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

REGULAR SESSION

PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Pulaski County Commissioners met in regular session at 6:00pm on Tuesday September 7, 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 Steve Batten, Stan Bennett, Josh Bowsher, Judge Mary Welker, Brent Gillum, Michael Gallenberger, Holly VanDerAa, Gail Lambert, Connie Ehrlich, Mary Seidel, Tom Seidel, Rick Haschel, Gary Kruger, Dave Olds, Alan Terrell, Jennifer Knebel, Dan Knebel, Brian Ledley, Chris Brucker, Joe Moyer, Connie Neining, Terri Hansen, Nathan Origer, and Sheriff Jeff Richwine.

President Mellon opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: INFRASTRUCTURE

Members of Lightstream, a telecommunications services company, presented an outline of their future plans in Pulaski County. Their current goals are to retire the cable network in Winamac, the DOCSIS Technology, and continue the fiber build. Lightstream currently provides free Wi-Fi throughout the Winamac Town Park. After further discussion and Mike McClure motioned to approve this project, Maurice Loehmer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: COUNTY HIGHWAY

A cottonwood tree located South on 200 E and North of 50 S considered dangerous because of its proximity to the road. Tom and Mary Seidel approached the commissioners asking that the tree remain standing. County Attorney Tankersley said that the law is very clear in giving the County authority to clean a right-of-way. The County has a 20' easement from the center of the road and has a responsibility to keep it clean. The Commissioners support the decision of the County Highway.

IN RE: CIRCUIT COURT

Judge Mary Welker explained the Thomas N Frederick Juvenile Justice Center in South Bend and the need for more funds to cover the cost. This is generally from the commissioners' budget, which does not have enough appropriated to cover the latest invoice of \$10,757.00. The commissioners agreed to the following transfer if Circuit Court would cover half of the next invoice.

1000-0068 County General/Commissioners		
From: 12300 Group Health	8,000.00	
To: 38201 Inmates in Institutions		8,000.00

County phone for new grant coordinator discussed. Charles Mellon motioned to approve a new phone and Maurice Loehmer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Pulaski County has had 1,466 positive COVID cases and averaging 12 new cases per day with 35 break-through cases of people already vaccinated. There are weekly clinics on Thursdays at the Health Department and the Indiana Department of Health is having a drive thru clinic for testing and vaccines on Friday and Saturday 8-Noon at the Knights of Columbus. Pulaski Memorial offering vaccinations at the Winamac and North Judson clinic.

IN RE: CDC:

Guest speaker Connie Neining of CN Consulting explained the Rural Economic Development Model (Regional Ag Strategy) Grant with participation from six counties. The project plans to develop a regional ag-based economic-development strategy based on the Rural Economic Development Model. The Project funded by a grant from the Economic Development Administration, with a small local match from each participant. Purdue has developed a 22-industry cluster with two focusing specifically on agriculture: Agribusiness, Food Processing, Technology and Forest/Wood Products. The six participating counties are Newton, Jasper, White, Newton, Pulaski, and Starke.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGULAR SESSION (continued)

Resolution #2021-07 Regarding Broadband Connectivity and Broadband-Ready Status presented for review and approval. This is an early step toward improving broadband connectivity in Pulaski County. Commissioners, Council and CDC expected to establish a broadband task force to set rules, procedures, etc. as outlined in the resolution and be involved in reviewing any future broadband project involving County government. Resolution 2021-07 reads as follows:

**PULASKI COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2020-07
BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PULASKI COUNTY, INDIANA
REGARDING BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY AND BROADBAND-READY STATUS.**

WHEREAS, Pulaski County ('County') seeks to promote private investment in broadband infrastructure, and
WHEREAS the County seeks to be designated as a Broadband Ready Community pursuant to *Indiana Code ("IC) 5-28-28.5*,
NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PULASKI COUNTY ("BOARD') RESOLVES THE FOLLOWING.

1. As used in this resolution, 'permit' means any local permit, license, certificate, approval, registration, or similar form of approval required by policy, administrative rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution with respect to a project.
2. As used in this resolution, 'project' means the construction or deployment of wireline or wireless communications facilities to provide communication services (as defined in *IC 8-1-32.5-3*) in a unit.
3. Notwithstanding any other provision of this resolution, the Board shall:
 - (a) appoint the Pulaski County Community Development Commission ('CDC') as the single point of contact for all matters related to the project;
 - (b) establish procedures to allow all forms, applications, and documentation related to a project to be filed or submitted and signed by electronic means;
 - (c) review and approve or reject all applications for a permit related to a project within ten (10) business days after an application is filed or submitted; and
 - (d) assure that, after an application is approved, any inspections, including any additional necessary approvals, related to a project will occur in a timely and expeditious manner.
4. The County, the CDC, and any other County Department or body deemed relevant and appropriate by the Board shall adopt adequate processes and procedures to implement the provisions of section 3 of this resolution, above. Processes and procedures established hereunder may not do the following:
 - (a) require an applicant to designate a final contractor to complete a project.
 - (b) impose a fee to review an application or issue a permit for the project;
 - (c) impose a seasonal moratorium on the issuance of permits for a project;
 - (d) discriminate among communications service providers or utilities with respect to any action described in this section or otherwise related to a project, including granting access to public rights-of-way, infrastructure and poles, river and bridge crossings, and any other physical assets owned or controlled by the County.

Charles Mellon made a motion to approve and sign Resolution #2021-07 as presented, Maurice Loehmer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Foundation waterproofing, underground plumbing/electrical installation, interior slab pouring, and slab-on-grade happening this week or next. Repair of Air Conditioning unit discussed. If not corrected, the water-flow impact could create problems on the roof warranty. Commissioners recommended that repairs be done and paid out of Maintenance. If Maintenance does not have enough, then it will have to be paid from the project contingency.

Change Order #02 for \$5,420.31, to replace all of the damaged roof drains presented. Maurice Loehmer motioned to approve Change Order #02 as presented, Mike McClure and motion carried unanimously.

Change Order #05 for \$398.14 for rebar from new foundation to new concrete slab presented. The rebar was not included in the originally blue prints. Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve Change Order #5, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Multivista for Exact-Built photography service for Justice-Center project presented a quote for \$1,800.00. This service will provide detail interior photographs of all mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems before insulation and drywall installed. This supplements architectural plans for future repair/change needs. Mike McClure made a motion to approve the proposal as presented, Maurice Loehmer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

The Prosecutor's Office will relocate off-site for several months with an approximate cost of \$18,000.00 plus renter's insurance and snow removal. Looking to the East Annex building as an option to save on rent.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGULAR SESSION (continued)

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS

Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve and sign claims and payroll (#17 & 18) as presented, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve the July 19 and August 2, 2021 regular session meeting minutes as presented, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Charles Mellon made a motion to sign Public Employees Blanket Bond application for renewal, Maurice Loehmer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve the following conference request, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

EMA: Sheri Gaillard, EMA of Indiana annual conference, October 19-22, Indianapolis, IN

Dave Zahrt will be petitioning the County to abandon a road with public hearing scheduled for October 4, 2021 at 5:30pm before Commissioners' regularly scheduled meeting.

Two estimates to repair 2013 Chevy ambulance, which has 218,600 miles presented for review and approval. Head gasket repair is \$12,633.00 and engine replacement is \$20,661.00. Decision tabled until next meeting.

Internal department policy discussed briefly.

With no other business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

APPROVED AND SIGNED THIS 20TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2021 by the **PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.**

CHARLES MELLON

MAURICE LOEHMER

MIKE MCCLURE

ATTESTED BY: _____
LAURA WHEELER, AUDITOR, PULASKI COUNTY, IN