

NOVEMBER 1, 2021

REGULAR SESSION

PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Pulaski County Commissioners met in regular session at 6:00pm on Monday November 1, 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 Joe Moyer, Mary Welker, Sara Kroft, Kent Kroft, Gail Lambert, Connie Ehrlich, Chris Brucker, Nathan Origer, Jeff Richwine and Chris Schramm.

President Mellon opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: CASA

The 2022 annual Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) State Grant Application presented for review and approval. This grant provides \$9,169.00 toward program operations and \$3,932.00 for capacity building with \$41,200.00 from the county as a grant match. Mike McClure made a motion to approve the grant application, Maurice Loehmer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: CDC

Justice-Center Updates:

Structure steel has begun going up with second-floor slab pour scheduled for next Tuesday, after welds have been reviewed. Sidewalk closest to Court House ramp was completed last week and hope to have entire sidewalk open by Wednesday. New skylights for jail roof have arrived and expected finished November 8. Roofing for the new addition should start in early December. Prosecutor's Office scheduled to move November 11 with an expected cost of \$1600.00 (around 10% of the total moving budget).

IMT Updates:

Pulaski County remains orange in State's COIVD 19 maps (moderate level of community spread) with 1883 positive total cases, 137 breakthrough cases.

Live Streaming:

Willie DeGroot, Brad Conn and Steve Ricketts at Roeing consulted about using YouTube as a backup to Facebook for live streaming. YouTube's security features are on par or probably even better than Facebooks in regards to controlling and limiting content. Commissioners gave consent to set up YouTube channel for the County. Discussed A/V improvements for livestream quality from the Highway building. Investigating free software that would allow County to livestream on multiple platforms simultaneously.

BARNES & THORNBURG/MAMMOTH SOLAR AGREEMENT

Letters of engagement from Barnes & Thornburg presented for approval. This addresses legal services provided in the Economic Development of the Starke Solar, LLC (Mammoth Solar) project and the possibility of getting developer to cover the costs. Mammoth agreed to front \$100,000.00 towards the agreement draft. Charles Mellon made a motion to accept the engagement letter as presented, Mike McClure seconded. There was further discussion about Mammoth's \$100,000.00 commitment. The commitment is verbal, but If Mammoth does not agree, the engagement is void. Motion carried unanimously.

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 October 4, 2021 & October 18, 2021 regular session minutes, the October 4, 2021 Special Public Hearing minutes, and the October 18, 2021 Executive Memorandum as presented, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

EMA Director lifetime appointment Ordinance 2002-01 discussed. Ordinance 2021-11 amends the earlier ordinance and reads as follows:

2021-11

ORDINANCE TO AMEND "ESTABLISHING THE PULASKI COUNTY,
INDIANA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY #2002-01"

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Pulaski County adopted Ordinance #2002-01 to establish an emergency management agency in January 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Pulaski County believe it is in the best interest of the county to clarify and amend a portion of the existing Ordinance in order to maintain consistency within the County structure of services and the role of appointed department heads:

WHEREAS, Under Section III, D. Director of Emergency Management Appointment Qualifications and Tenure, paragraph 1 shall remain unchanged. Subparagraphs 2 and 3, which currently read as follows, are eliminated from the Ordinance:

1. The appointment of the Director shall be permanent unless the Pulaski County Board of Commissioners determine the Director to be:

- a. Incapable of fulfilling his/her duties due to physical or mental disability, or:*
- b. Unwilling to perform his/her duties as mandated below.*

2. The Pulaski County Commissioners shall consult with the Executive Director of SEMA to obtain his/her opinion on the abilities and competence of the Director prior to the Board of Commissioner's termination of the Director. The SEMA Executive Director opinion shall be advisory only.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners that Subsection paragraphs 2, 2.a, 2.b and 3 of Section III D. are removed from the Ordinance

Effective Date: Passed and adopted by the Board of Pulaski County Commissioners the 1st Day of November 2021.

Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-11, which eliminates the lifetime appointment but retains the Pulaski County position, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously. The EMA director will now be appointed on an annual basis.

The following Bonds presented for approval as follows:

Karla Redweik, Building Inspector and Zoning Plan Administrator, \$15,000, 10/1/2021 to 12/31/2022
Daryn Wilder, Aviation Manager, \$30,000. 10/01/2021 to 12/31/2022

Mike McClure made a motion to approve the bonds as presented, Maurice Loehmer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

NiSource requested the release of the Northern Indiana Public Service Company, LLC. Bond on the Reynolds Topeka Electric System Improvement Project. Charles Mellon said the project has been completed and made a motion to release bond as requested, Maurice Loehmer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The following training conference requested for approval:

Auditor: Laura Wheeler, LOW Financial/Tax Year-End Training, Plainfield, IN, 11/18/2021

Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve the Conference Request as presented, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

The Public Employees Retirement Fund discussed at length specifically for the Pulaski County Coroner position. Council included PERF for the Coroner in the 2022 budget. Indiana code states elected officials are not eligible for PERF unless Commissioners approve otherwise. Pulaski County Handbook defines full-time as 30 hours per week while the State uses 1000 hours per year, but the Coroner does not meet either threshold. Other Counties found to pay Coroner a little over \$6000.00 annually **with** benefits while those paying Coroner over \$10,000.00 were **without** benefits. Council approved substantial raises for both Coroner and First Deputy in the 2022 budget, which makes their salaries on the high end of similar counties. Charles Mellon motioned to exclude the coroner, the coroner First Deputy in PERF benefits, Maurice Loehmer seconded, and motion carried unanimously.

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A petition received from west side citizens concerned about county roads used by trucks hauling to Liberty Landfill. Truckers are on notice to use the highways and not county roads.

Training classes offered by Bliss McKnight November 16, 2021 with Highway plow drivers.

Application presented from Medaryville/White Post Township for grant through Community and Rural Affairs as they want to build a new fire station.

Kent Kroft Tippecanoe County IT Director explained cybersecurity insurance issues and suggested the county accept a free risk assessment. Commissioners agreed to put Pulaski County on the risk assessment list.

With no other business to discuss, Maurice Loehmer made a motion to adjourn at 6:41pm, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED AND SIGNED THIS 15TH DAY OF NOVEMBER BY PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

CHARLES MELLON

MAURICE LOEHMER

MIKE MCCLURE

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