

**PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

The Pulaski County Commissioners met in regular session January 18, 2022 08:30am at the Pulaski County Highway Department training room. Commissioners present were Charles Mellon, Maurice Loehmer, and Mike McClure with County Auditor Laura Wheeler.

Also present were Teresa Bryant, Brandon DeLorenzo, Nathan Origer, Colleen Denham, Todd Schmicker, Gary Kruger, Kathi Thompson, Wendy Rose, Chris Schramm, and Jeff Richwine.

President Mellon opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IN RE: BOARD OF FINANCE**

Regular meeting was paused and Board of Finance meeting opened by Maurice Loehmer as current president of the Board of Finance. County Treasurer Teresa Bryant requested nominations for election of officers (President and Secretary). Charles Mellon motioned for Maurice Loehmer as President, Mike McClure as Secretary, Mike McClure seconded, and motion carried unanimously.

Interest earnings for 2020 and 2021 presented for review as follows:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Fund 1112 LIT Economic Development	\$14,410.47	\$3,763.04
1125 Congressional School	621.15	.00
1135 Cumulative Bridge	24,845.64	4,509.29
1138 Cumulative Capital Development	12,422.82	3,244.01
1142 Cumulative Jail	4,893.21	578.90
1158 General Drain Improvements	21,562.14	7,534.48
1169 Local Road & Street	1,242.27	225.48
1176 Motor Vehicle Highway	8,504.77	1,803.73
2700 Drainage Maintenance	17,009.55	3,607.41
8950 American Rescue Plan	.00	.00
<b>Total Interest Earned on Investments</b>	<b>115,542.73</b>	<b>25,266.34</b>
<b>Interest Earned on Bank Accounts</b>	<b>313,164.73</b>	<b>183,388.94</b>
<b>TOTAL INTEREST EARNED FOR YEAR</b>	<b>418,676.75</b>	<b>208,655.28</b>

Interest has not yet accrued on the American Rescue Plan CD. Mike McClure motioned to accept the report as presented, Charles Mellon seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Current investments, all with First National Bank of Monterey, receiving .4% interest rate presented as follows:

Matures		Purchased		
01/24/2022		07/26/2021	8950 American Rescue Plan	\$1,999,712.50
05/31/2022		11/30/2021	1142 Cumulative Jail	200,000.00
06/01/2022		06/02/2021	1158 General Drain Improvements	750,000.00
07/01/2022		07/01/2021	1169 Local Road & Street	50,000.00
07/01/2022		07/01/2021	1135 Cumulative Bridge	1,000,000.00
07/05/2022		01/04/2022	1138 Cumulative Capital Dev	500,000.00
07/05/2022		01/04/2022	1112 LIT – Economic Development	580,000.00
08/19/2022		08/20/2021	2700 Drainage Maintenance	800,000.00
08/19/2022		08/20/2021	1176 Motor Vehicle Highway	400,000.00
			<b>9 Investment Total</b>	<b>TOTAL PRINCIPAL</b>
				<b>\$5,479,712.50</b>

The County would not receive any interest for the month that any CD is cashed in early, but would not affect any prior interest earned.

The County’s Investment policy presented for review with no changes from last year. Charles Mellon motioned to approve the policy as presented, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Mike McClure motioned to renew the American Rescue plan CD for 6 months when it becomes due on January 24, 2022, Charles Mellon seconded and motion carried unanimously.

With no other board business to discuss, Charles Mellon motioned to adjourned Board of Finance meeting, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

The regular session resumed.

**IN RE: EMS**

The Matrix was revised in 2021 to allow rehires, under certain circumstances, to retain their seniority but PTO time was not addressed. Retention of PTO time under the same rehire circumstance discussed. Maurice Loehmer made a motion to table this discussion until Joint Session February 14, 2022, Charles Mellon seconded and motion carried unanimously.

**IN RE: CDC**

*Justice-Center updates:*

**Construction Updates:** Starting installation work on drywall, stairway, roofing, exterior veneer with limestone going up at main entrance soon. Coordinating with Dispatch to get Motorola on site to move their equipment so space should be ready for construction by the end of the month.

Change order request #17 for \$4,100.55 is for installing an addition of 50' of ¼" steel bent plate to shorten the gap between existing structure and the addition. Maurice Loehmer motioned to approve change order #17 as presented, Mike McClure seconded. This was not an error by our construction company but by the architect. After further discussion on the change order process, Charles Mellon made a motion to authorize Maurice Loehmer to sign change orders that are within 5% of the remaining balance of the contingency fund. Mike McClure seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The balance of the construction fund is \$3,306,267.07 with an outstanding Luminaut/Rowland invoice of \$5,586.00 and the Contingency balance is \$139,705.72.

**IMT UPDATES:**

As of yesterday, 2669 cumulative COVID19 cases in Pulaski County, up 254 from last report (15 days ago). Vaccinations offered by Health Department at annex. Indiana Department of Health will have a strike team at the Knights of Columbus Hall from 12-8 pm Thursday-Saturday and will offer both testing and vaccinations. EMA has substantial supply of masks and wipes for departments.

Charles Mellon the County's policy for COVID19.

"In an attempt to curb the outbreak of COVID-19, the Pulaski County Commissioners expect each department to implement its own policies and practices of social distancing and use of masks for employees and patrons. Even though the Commissioners do not want to implement a mandatory vaccination policy they still strongly encourage all employees to get fully vaccinated"

**SOLAR PROJECT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS:**

Last week Council resumed discussion of the Mammoth Solar requests for ERA designation, tax abatement approval and execution of an economic-development agreement and approved all. Council also conducted a public hearing regarding Moss Creek Solar ERA designation, tax abatement and development agreement requests, voting after the hearing to approve all. Nathan presented Resolution 2022-03 for approval, authorizing the Board to execute the Moss Creek Solar economic-development agreement.

**PULASKI COUNTY RESOLUTION 2022-03**

**BY**

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONER OF PULASKI COUNTY, INDIANA.**

**APPROVING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH MOSS CREEK SOLAR, LLC, AND CERTAIN OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH**

Whereas THE Board of Commissioners of Pulaski County, Indiana (the "Board") desires to benefit the health and general welfare of the citizens of Pulaski County, Indiana (the "County") and create opportunities for gainful employment and business opportunities within the County;

WHEREAS Moss Creek Solar, LLC (the "Company") is contemplating the development of a solar energy generation facility, which will consist of approximately 200 hundred megawatts of nameplate capacity (the "Project");

WHEREAS THE Company has requested assistance with the completion of certain road improvements, assistance with land use and other permits, the approval of tax abatement, and other assistance from the County with respect to the Project; and

WHEREAS to induce the Company to complete the Project, the Board desires to approve the execution of an Agreement for Economic Development between the County and the Company, a form of which has been presented to the Board on the date hereof (the "Economic Development Agreement"), pursuant to which certain incentives will be provided to Company in exchange for its commitment to complete the Project, to make certain economic development payments, and to take certain other actions with respect to the Project, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Pulaski County, Indiana, that:

1. The Board hereby finds the execution and delivery of the Economic Development Agreement are in the best interests of the County and its citizens. The Board is authorized to execute the Economic Development Agreement, in the name and on behalf of the County, and the Auditor of the County is hereby authorized to attest the execution of such agreement, with such changes and modifications as such persons deem necessary or appropriate to effectuate this resolution, said persons' execution thereof to be conclusive evidence of the approval of such changes.

- 2. The members of the County Council, The Board, The Auditor of the County, the legal Counsel of the County, and other appropriate officers of the County are hereby authorized to take all such actions and execute all such instruments as are necessary or desirable to effectuate this Resolution.
- 3. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption.

Mike McClure made a motion to approve and sign resolution 2022-03 as presented, Maurice Loehmer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

*BROADBAND LETTERS OF SUPPORT AND ASPIRATIONS-IN-ACTION UPDATE:*

Rochester Telephone Company is applying to the State’s Next Level Connections program for a grant to bring fiber internet to 387 existing addresses in northeast Pulaski County. Mercury Broadband is applying for same along the US Highway 421 corridor. A letter of support from the Commissioners presented for signatures as follows:

Our community is excited to provide high speed internet to every acre of Pulaski County. To that end, we welcome the opportunity to support Rochester Telephone Company (Mercury Broadband) in its bid to request funds for the Next Level Connections Grant Program. We support their efforts to construct a fiber optic network. With the amount of unserved and underserved broadband users across the state and our county, we recognize RTC’s (Mercury Broadband) commitment to our community’s continued economic growth and success. We further recognize that without this grant, RTC (Mercury Broadband) will not have the access to the resources necessary to address the broadband needs that are restricting development, especially in our most rural communities. The increased availability of fast, reliable, and unlimited broadband will help boost economic growth, particularly for businesses, residences, and educational institutions. It will increase access to telehealth opportunities as well, which is critical in today’s environment. Pulaski County’s continued agricultural sustainability and growth will depend on this current technology to keep pace. Fiber technology is poised to provide a solution capable of connecting our community to broadband internet for years to come. Therefore, in the spirit of bridging the digital divide for these communities we fully support RTC’s (Mercury Broadband) Grant Application. These funds are critical to the continued efforts to increase the quality of life within our state.

Neither company is asking the County for financial support. Charles Mellon made a motion to approve and sign both letters of support, Maurice Loehmer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

**IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS**

Charles read his personal statement on the solar projects;

We need to realize that these projects have created a challenge for the commissioners and the council, not just now , not just during the construction, but for the life of the contracts. We will involve any new board members. This challenge is to assure that all contents of these signed documents are adhered to until the very end. I hope and pray that any dissension among family members, neighbors, and the community in general that these projects have caused can mellow over time and all residents of Pulaski County can move forward as one.

Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve and sign claims and payroll #1 as presented, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve and sign the January 3, 2022 regular session meeting minutes as presented, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

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

Clerk	JoLynn Behny	\$60,000.
Sheriff	Jeff Richwine	\$30,000.

Disposal of the old telephones discussed briefly, but tabled for the next regular meeting.

Grantee’s Acknowledgements & Certifications for Monitoring and Audit plus Certification of Accessibility were presented from K-IRPC for approval and signature by President. Maurice Loehmer motioned to approve as presented, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

The Economic Development Agreement with Mass Creek Solar, LLC presented for approval. Charles Mellon motioned to approve and sign the agreement as presented, Mike McClure seconded and Motion carried unanimously.

The Sale of County property near old County Home discussed briefly. Further discussion tabled until next meeting.

Animal Control appointment missed at last meeting. Mike McClure motioned to appoint Stephanie Schultze as Animal Control Officer, Mike McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

With no other business to discuss, Charles Mellon made a motion to adjourn at 9:21am, Maurice Loehmer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

**PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHARLES MELLON

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAURICE LOEHMER

\_\_\_\_\_  
MIKE MCCLURE

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

LAURA WHEELER, AUDITOR, PULASKI COUNTY, IN