

CASS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AUGUST 3, 2009

NOTATION

The recording system was not functioning the first 9 minutes of this meeting.

The Cass County Commissioners met at 1:00 p.m. In attendance were Dave Arnold, Jim Sailors, Gene Powlen and Auditor Vaneen Ide. Dave Arnold opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES & EXPENSE CLAIMS/PAYROLL

Gene Powlen made a motion to accept the minutes, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Jim Sailors made a motion to accept the payroll and expense claims. A question was addressed as to minimum age of a deputy coroner. The answer was eighteen. Gene Powlen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

HIGHWAY

Steve Easley appeared before the Commissioners with his bi-weekly report. The "Travel at your own risk" still remains for CR 800 N between CR 600 E and CR 700 E and 800 E just north of its intersection with CR 800 N. The 2009 Road Remediation Plan is approximately 65% complete. There have been two confirmed reports of damage to recently remediated county roads, CR 900 E/CR 900 S and CR 300 E, south of CR 800 S. The damage at CR 900 E was investigated by the CCSD and they were able to follow the path of whatever caused the damage. We will attempt to repair these roads once we have completed our original remediation plan.

Due to the detour of local traffic resulting from the repairs being made to State Road 25 South near the State Hospital, an Ordinance to temporarily reduce the speed limit on CR 300 S and CR 400 S from State road 29 to State Road 25 to 45 miles per hour was proposed. Jim Sailors made a motion, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously. This Ordinance will remain in effect until the road work is completed. This will be Ordinance 2009-09.

Jeff Smith appeared and gave the Commissioners an overview of Cass County Highway Projects. The ARRA (stimulus) contracts for Logansport Rd, 700 E and 400 S were let on 7/29/09. The County is still waiting for the specifics on who was awarded the contracts, but we have unofficially been told the work should start within the next 30 days. Group 4 funding presentation was made on 7/21/09 in Laporte for the CR 300 S project. We requested 1.7 million dollars for the remainder of the federal funding. On Thursday 7/30/09 we were advised we have been awarded \$1,665,000. This amount, in addition to the \$446,000 awarded in 2008, brings the total federal dollars allocated for this project to 42,111,000. Plans are underway to begin moving this project to construction letting which is planned for March 2010.

State Road 25 detour is underway. Please be patient for the 45 day detour. Design work continues on culverts DC-110 and DC-113. These projects, initiated last summer, should be ready for bids by late this year. Jeff presented the

Commissioners with the documentation to review and sign the final acceptance form for Cr 600 E received from United Consulting. This document was signed by the Commissioners on this date, 8-3-2009.

Mr. Arnold took this time to personally thank Jeff Smith and Susan Al-Abbas for their hard work on securing federal funding of stimulus monies. He also introduced Cindy Howard the new secretary for the Cass County Commissioners.

BRIDGE BIDS

At this time the sealed bids for Bidges 13 & 23 were opened.

Jack Isom Construction Co., Inc. 6225 State Road 43 Reynolds, IN 47980

Bidge 13 \$259,109.25

Bidge 23 \$274,803.18

Tonn & Black Construction Corp. Hqts. 1623 Greenwood Ave, Michigan City, IN 46360

Bidge 13 \$314,027.30

Bidge 23 \$349,857.59

LaPorte Construction Co. Inc. P.O. Box 577 LaPorte, IN 46352

Bidge 13 \$265,810.89

Bidge 23 \$287,358.41

Pioneer Associate, Inc. P.O. Box 145 Leo, IN 46765

Bidge 13 \$265,991.09

Bidge 23 \$290,418.22

Witz/Yates Constuction Inc. P.O. Box 41 104 N. Lutz, Kentland, IN 47951

Bidge 13 \$289,582.35

Bidge 23 \$305,172.87

Jim Sailors made the motion to take the bridge bids under advisement, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PERSONNEL REQUESTS

Vaneen Ide, Auditor appeared and requested permission to fill a vacancy in her office staff. Gene Powlen made a motion to approve, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Kim Kessler from the Animal Shelter appeared and requested permission to fill a part-time vacancy in her staff. Jim Sailors made a motion to approve, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING

Ain Shaver from the Planning Department appeared to present the Dedication of Right of Way to the Commissioners. The location is CR 50 N. and CR 400 W. Jim Sailors made a motion to accept the Right of Way, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

CASS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Dave Arnold announced that the County Commissioners will hold a public auction to sell the former Cass County Children's Home. The Commissioners have retained SRI to hold the sale. This will take place September 8th at 2:00 PM. after the regular Commissioners meeting.

CASS COUNTY FAMILY Y

Ellen Kiker from the Cass County Y appeared to inform the Commissioners and the Cass County Highway Department of the upcoming bicycle ride September 19th. The 2 Rivers On 2 Wheels Bike Tour begins at 7:00 a.m. and offers 10, 32, 62 mile courses. The routes chosen will not block traffic. Steve Easley CCHD and Gene Isaacs Sheriff will make their employees aware of the routes and try to monitor the day of the bike ride. Jim Sailors made a motion to allow the bike routes, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CASS COUNTY AREA TRANSIT

Sue Hoehler appeared before the Commissioners for signatures of the 5311 Grant. County Attorney John Hillis has reviewed the grant and it is ready for signatures. Sue informed the Commissioners that they have applied for another grant that will allow them to increase their services to include week-ends and evenings. A plan for the new garage has been submitted for the Commissioners to review. Gene Powlen made a motion to accept the grant as presented, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dick Fife the Board of Zoning Appeals President, appeared before the Commissioners to express his concern for the integrity of the Board. There were some issues at the last meeting concerning the vote taken in regards to the Rodeo. Mr. Fife had been informed that there would be an alternate member for a vote that would be taken on a controversial issue that had already ended in a tie vote. Dave Arnold and Jim Sailors informed Dick Fife that there was no need for alternates. That there are lots of issues that end in tie votes and the Commissioners could not support alternates on any Board. One of the board members resigned over this issue. Dick Fife felt that the reputation of the BZA would be questioned. He thanked the Commissioners for their time.

Skip Kiker appeared to update the Commissioners that he was working on the Conner Sawmill project and was to attend a meeting on Thursday July 6 in regards to the project.

Gene Powlen made a motion to adjourn, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dave Arnold, President

Jim Sailors, Vice President

Gene Powlen, Member

ATTEST: _____
Vaneen M. Ide, Auditor