

CASS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MARCH 2, 2009

The Cass County Commissioners met in regular session at 1:00 P.M. in the government building hearing room, Logansport. In attendance were Dave Arnold, Jim Sailors, Gene Powlen, John Hillis, Attorney and Vaneen Ide, Auditor. Dave Arnold opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES & UTILITY CLAIMS

Gene Powlen motioned to approve the minutes, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Jim Sailors motioned to approve claims, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

STAFFING REQUESTS

Lois Robinson appeared on behalf of Clerk Beth Liming to request a part-time position already in her budget. Jim Sailors motioned to approve, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Lori Forrer appeared to request filling a vacant full-time position. Jim Sailors motioned to approve, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments were made to:

Indiana Homeland Security Dave Arnold

Gene Powlen motioned, Jim Sailors seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Transportation Advisory Committee Gene Powlen

Jim Sailors motioned, Dave Arnold seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Walton/Tipton Library Board Marlene Remley

Jim Sailors motioned, Gene Powlen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

It was discussed to limit the terms to eight years.

HIGHWAY

Steve Easley recommended the Commissioner's approve 600E/Logansport Road. Salt supply still in good shape. Jim Eisan and Bob Draper publicly commended for going beyond the expectations of their jobs and taking on additional work load. A meeting is set for March 3rd concerning stimulus monies. The highway department has started work on smaller projects like trimming trees and removing debris from the ditches. The question of road berm maintenance was mentioned and Steve will get a plan together.

Jeff Smith requested the Commissioner's give the council favorable recommendations for the additional appropriations for Bridge #13 and Bridge #23. Jim Sailors motioned, Gene Powlen seconded. Motion carried unanimously. A meeting was held with landowners affected by The Anderson's and right of way issues. Things are going smoothly and no issues have been encountered that would prevent contract letting later this year. Traffic count for Chase and Davis roads complete and forwarded to Crossroad Engineering.

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL REPORT

Max Metzger, Chairman of Trustees of Memorial Hospital made an informational presentation about the hospital. The hospital had a net income last year of 2,476,323. Charity care has increased almost 252% over the last 7 years. Bad debt is at 39%. With the opening of Express Med emergency visits have decreased. Memorial Hospital now has a hospitalist in place, and is operating a clinic in

Carroll County. The Hospital employees 535 and paid 108,621.00 in property taxes. The River Bluff trail is shared by all in the community and Memorial Hospital is very proud of the trail. Starting in May a program is being launched for a physician and nurse practitioner to visit a local company. This could branch out to more businesses if this is a success.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Arin Shaver appeared for the Planning department to explain to the Commissioners the Safe School project and the request for 50,000.00. These monies will be reimbursed by the State back to the county 100%. This project is for students to have safe sidewalks to and from school. Jim Sailors made a motion, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion passed with a favorable recommendation to the Cass County Council.

INdigital Phone System

Eric Hartman appeared for INdigital to request a proposal to evaluate the county's phone system. This system would allow people in one county building to call others without using a 7 digit number. The initial fee would be \$2500.00 and if the county chooses this company the money would go toward services. Gene Powlen motioned, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

BIDS

The county had 10 bids submitted for the Cass County Community Corrections, Work Release Renovation. The low bid belonged to Crosby, INC. of Fort Wayne, IN at 565,405.00. Motion was made by Gene Powlen, seconded by Jim Sailors to accept the bid. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT & ADJOURN

Dave Arnold took the opportunity to report that since the prescription drug card service started eight months ago; many Cass county residents have taken advantage of this service. There were no

Other comments. Gene Powlen motioned, Jim Sailors seconded, meeting was adjourned. Motion carried unanimously.

Dave Arnold, President

Jim Sailors, Vice President

Gene Powlen, Member

ATTEST:

Vaneen M. Ide, Auditor