

CASS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JULY 20, 2009

The Cass County Commissioners met at 10:00 a.m. In attendance were Dave Arnold, Jim Sailors, Gene Powlen, Attorney John Hillis and Auditor Vaneen Ide. Dave Arnold opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

AMEND AGENDA

The motion was made to amend the agenda. Pat Hann, Building Superintendent was added between item 4 and 5. Bob Deter was added between item 8 and 9. Gene Powlen made the motion to accept the additions to the agenda, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES & EXPENSE CLAIMS/PAYROLL

Gene Powlen made a motion to accept the minutes, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Gene Powlen made a motion to reject the overtime payroll claim from the Prosecutor's office for a former employee, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Jim Sailors made a motion to accept the expense and payroll as presented, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

HIGHWAY

Steve Easley appeared before the Commissioners with his report. Work continues on CR 800 North between CR 600 East and 700 East and CR 800 East just north of its intersection with CR 800 North both in Twelve Mile area. Jeff Smith, Susan Al-Abbas and Steve Easley attended the Group IV "Call for Projects" presentations on Tuesday, July 21st in Laporte. The Highway is requesting additional funding for the CR 300 S. reconstruction. There are ten (10) other district projects being considered. A decision on who will receive funding is expected around July 29th.

The Highway has received work from the State that Cargill received the Indiana treated road salt contract for the winter season 2009-2010. It appears that our cost per ton will be in the \$72-75 range versus \$116 paid per ton last year. The Highway Department will continue to explore "tagging along" with INDOT on other purchasing opportunities that might develop.

The Highway received notice from Angela Fegaras on July 13th that our RE 25 relinquishment letter had been received at INDOT-Laporte. Future meetings will be planned once INDOT and the Hoosier Heartland project team have had a chance to review the information that was provided. In the next few weeks we will be contacting the local school corporations requesting information on their bus routes and bus turnaround areas throughout the County. We are hoping to check these areas prior to the start of school. The Highway Department wants to be sure there are no problems with brush, low hanging limbs, etc.

Jeff Smith appeared with an update on Highway projects. A detour on SR 25 South is expected to begin no later than July 20th. Bids for Bridges #13 and #23 have been re- advertised. Bids are scheduled to be opened at the August 3rd meeting of the Commissioners. A study was conducted on CR 600 N/ CR 100 E in response to a concern by a citizen. The citizen requested a review of the current yield sign should be changed to a stop. Based on observations made and MUTCD standards, the change appears to be warranted.

Gene Powlen made a motion to change the yield to a stop sign at 600 N/ CR 100 E. This would become Ordinance 2009-6. Jim Sailors seconded with the approval of the County Attorney John Hillis. The motion carried unanimously.

The CCHD is working with NIPSCO to prepare appropriate documents regarding the work they do in and around the County roads and County right –of –ways. NIPSCO has requested permission to pay an annual fee for this type of activity, which is allowable by current ordinance. This does not eliminate the need to review their planned work activities prior to starting. It does however help to streamline the payment process.

BUILDING SUPERVISOR

Pat Hann appeared with a request to hire an employee to replace one that has left his employ. The person hired will begin at entry level pay. Gene Powlen made a motion to approve the request, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Pat complimented the CCHD on the great job they are doing maintaining the roads in Cass County.

SHERIFF

Gene Isaacs appeared before the Commissioners with a request to replace a full time Corrections Officer, this is a position already approved and in the current budget. Jim Sailors made a motion to approve the request, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Gene Isaacs also requested that Pension 457 be approved by the Commissioners. This was presented to the Commissioners at the June 15th meeting. This would become Ordinance 2009-8. Establishing a Deferred Compensation Plan. Gene Powlen made a motion to approve the plan, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

E-911

Lori Forrer appeared before the Commissioners to request replacement of an employee. This would be an entry level position and is already a budgeted item. Jim Sailors made a motion to approve the request, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

CASS AREA TRANSIT

Sue Hoeler, the director of Cass Area Transit, appeared before the Commissioners to present a grant for renewal. This would be an operational grant totaling close to \$890,000. They could possibly receive another grant for an additional \$60,000. This money would be used to increase the availability for Saturday transportation and for people who work after 5 P.M. In 1997 the Area Transport transported 28,000 people. The number of individuals transported in 2009 increased to 188,000. Jim Sailors made a motion to approve the Grant after County Attorney John Hillis reviews. Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Sue Hoeler is to be placed on the August 6th Commissioners agenda.

ADULT PROBATION

Terry Haney appeared before the Commissioners as requested in the Cass County Council meeting held on July 17th. The Commissioners have formed a committee consisting of:

Chairman Gene Powlen
Brent Kelley
Judge Richard Maughmer
Terry Haney
Beth Liming
Lori Forrer
Gene Isaacs
Dave Patty

This Committee will address the issue of hand guns being issued and used by the Probation staff. They will return to the Commissioners when they have established a policy.

VACATED ALLEY

Bob Deeter of 6355 S. 700 E. of Walton appeared before the Commissioners about vacating the alley adjacent to his property. Mr. Deeter presented Attorney John Hillis with all of the appropriate paper work that would allow the alley to be vacated. Jim Sailors made a motion to vacate the alley Gene Powlen, seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

CONNER SAWMILL

Tim Middlekauff appeared before the Commissioners to request assistance to upgrade the entrance into the Conner Sawmill. Toby Seiler appeared with Mr. Middlekauff with visual aids, showing the available routes into the Conner Sawmill. Conner Sawmill would like to expand its business, but the only viable route that is available will need upgrading. They may have to request a change in zoning in order to expand. The area is currently zoned residential/agriculture. Stan Williams from the planning department has been working with Mr. Middlekauff. Skip Kuker, who works for LEDF, thought there might be grant monies available to accomplish the road improvements for the Conner Sawmill. He will continue to pursue this and work with Stan Williams in the Planning Department. The Commissioners would like to do whatever they can to help accomplish this goal.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Stan Williams, Planning Department, Tina Henderson and Rose Scovel, LSL Planning, Inc. appeared before the Commissioners to highlight the new Comprehensive Plan. This was a public meeting and proper notice was given. Tina Henderson was the Grant Administrator for the plan. Rose Scovel gave the power point presentation. At this time the floor was open for public comments, no public comments were made. Jim Sailors made a motion that the Plan be accepted as presented, Gene Powlen, seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Tina Henderson presented the final claim for the project to the Commissioners. Gene Powlen made a motion to accept the claim as presented, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Jim Sailors to adjourn the public hearing, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & ADJOURN

Dave Arnold asked if there were any public comments concerning the regular meeting. Mr. Mac Martin of 6331 S. 700 E., Walton, IN appeared and spoke in favor of improvements for the Connor Sawmill. Mr. Gordon Southern of 7555 S. 800 E., Walton, IN also spoke in favor of making the necessary improvements to Conner Sawmill.

Dave Arnold updated the public on the use of the County Prescription Card. The cards have been used and saved \$22,382.55 within our county. Remember to promote this card. Gene Powlen made a motion to adjourn, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Dave Arnold, President

Jim Sailors, Vice President

Gene Powlen, Member

ATTEST: _____

Vaneen M. Ide, Auditor