

CASS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MAY 18TH, 2009

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

MINUTES & UTILITY/PAYROLL

Gene Powlen made a motion to accept the minutes, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Gene Powlen made a motion to accept the Utility and Payroll claim, Jim Sailors, seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

HIGHWAY

Steve Easley appeared before the Commissioners with the Highway report. There were numerous washouts due the heavy rains on Friday the 15th and early Saturday the 16th. High water still remains on 800 N. between 600 E. and 700 E. There is a sink hole at the intersection of Northern Ave. and Clifton Ave. Local agencies are working on the problem. The highway department had a demonstration of the "Total Patcher". This machine was in the budget for purchase and after the demonstration the decision was made to acquire this piece of equipment. Employee training is required before the unit will be used.

Steve Easley and Jeff Smith attended a required INDOT LPA Development training in Plymouth on May 19th. This was an all day training event now required with INDOT'S adoption of the LPA Guidance Document in February of this year. If a person is not LPA certified we would not be eligible for new or additional federal funds after July 1, 2009.

The Highway has received over 95 applications for it clerical position and are still accepting applications for a driver with CDL until May 22nd. The CCHD has reviewed its 2009 Road Plan and hopes to remediate 65-70 miles of road this year. That is about 20 miles less than last year. The rising cost of oil products is having a negative impact on the amount of miles they can do year to year. A break down is 50 miles of chip and seal, 1.5 miles of triple seal, and 16 miles of hot mix, 7 miles of pug. All is subject to change. The final list should be available after the June 1st Commissioners meeting.

A meeting will take place on June 15th after the Commissioners meeting with the Panhandle Pathway. The purpose of the meeting is to bring the County Commissioners, Sheriff Dept, E911, and the CCHD up to date with where they are at and further discuss open issues we might have. Jeff Smith and Susan Al-Abbas with the Troyer Group are to be commended for the work they have done on getting our stimulus package submitted. We are hearing that Cass County is one of the first in the Laporte district to have our requests sent to INDOT's central office.

Jeff Smith gave an update of projects. Hoosier Heartland is moving along and may see dirt move soon in the Clymers area. Part of 25 will be relinquished to the City and County. Work on Morgan Hill is progressing. The heavy rain was a small setback. County road 300 S. project is proceeding as planned. A common wage hearing is set for Bridges #13 and #23. Bid packages have been prepared. Efforts are continuing to patch potholes on County roads as quickly as possible. 265 tons of cold/hot mix at a cost of just over \$19,000.00 has been used.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Gene Isaacs appeared before the Commissioners to request replacement of a part-time Corrections officer. Gene Powlen made a motion, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Sheriff Isaacs also requested a part-time cook, Jim Sailors made a motion, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Isaacs is applying for the Byrne Grant; it can be used for equipment or supplies. With this Grant the recording equipment in the interview rooms would be updated. Gene Powlen made a motion, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion passed unanimously. At this time there are 172 inmates in the Cass County Jail.

COMMISSIONERS

Dave Arnold presented the new phone system bid to the Commissioners for approval. The total cost will be \$103,000.00 and the phones have a 5 year warranty. The County could see as much as a \$40,000.00 reduction in phone bills. A motion was made by Jim Sailors to accept the New Paris bid, Gene Powlen

seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The Commissioners will give this a positive recommendation to the Council.

Health Department

Rob McLaughlin appeared for Stephanie Frank in regards to the request for a summer intern. Jim Sailors made a motion to allow, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Rob McLaughlin presented the Commissioners with an updated Wastewater Ordinance. The Commissioners raised some questions as to wording in certain sections of the ordinance. The ordinance was taken under advisement and tabled until the wording was changed. Gene Powlen made a motion to table, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments. Dave Arnold moved to adjourn. Gene Powlen made a motion, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Dave Arnold, President

Jim Sailors, Vice President

Gene Powlen, Member

ATTEST:

Vaneen M. Ide, Auditor

