

## **CASS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**JUNE 15, 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.

### **MINUTES & EXPENSE CLAIMS/PAYROLL**

Jim Sailors made a motion to accept the minutes, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Gene Powlen made a motion to accept the expense claims and payroll, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### **HIGHWAY**

Steve Easley appeared before the Commissioners with his report. County roads with high water CR 800 North between CR 600 East and CR 700 East and CR 800 East just north of its intersection with CR 800 North. Both are just north of Twelve Mile. A plan is in place for repairs when the water goes down. The sink hole at the intersection of Northern Ave. and Clifton Ave. was completed on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

The 6000 gallon emulsion tank has been installed. This is used in conjunction with the "Total Patcher". Once again Steve expressed thanks to Carroll County Highway Dept. for all of their time and helpful hints for the "Total Patcher".

There are currently two (2) work crews filling holes and patching road edges where needed. Actual chipping and sealing of roads is expected to begin in late July, early August. The CCHD is currently helping various agencies with summer projects as time and resources permit.

Melanee Howard was hired to fill the vacancy left by Malinda Knebel's retirement. Welcome Melanee. Currently the CCHD is reviewing driver applications for one, possibly two openings. Would like to have drivers hired by early July. Work has started on the 2010 budget due by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The CCHD is preparing for a voluntary IDEM site visit on Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup>. An update on the Panhandle Pathway (Trail from Pulaski County to Cass County) will take place on June 15<sup>th</sup> with County officials and others.

Jeff Smith provided the Commissioners with an update of Highway Projects. So far 51 tons of hot/cold mix have already been put down. Year to date over 367 tons of hot/cold mix at a cost of nearly \$25,000.00 has been applied. The final punch list for CR 600 East has now been completed.

The intersection work at CR 400 South and CR 150 East related to the airport runway expansion project is underway. The intersection will become a "T" intersection, with CR 400 South having the right-of-way and traffic on CR 150 East stopping. Airport construction is expected to begin on or after July 6<sup>th</sup>. This will result in Cass County Road 50 East (KokomoPike), between CR 350 South and CR 400 South being permanently closed. Permanent barricades will be placed to prevent any type of future unauthorized motorized travel in this area.

There has been an unusual spike in sign damage this spring. It was suggested that perhaps the fine for damaged signs could be waived. This might increase the report of damaged signs to the highway department, so they could be replaced before an accident could happen.

## **BRIDGE BIDS**

At this time the sealed bids for Bridge 13 and Bridge 23 were opened by Attorney John Hillis.

### **Bridge#13**

Isom Construction Co.Inc. 625 South SR43, Reynolds, IN 47680

\$264,109.25

### **Bridge#23**

Isom Construction Co. Inc. 625 South SR43, Reynolds, IN 47680

\$279,652.68

These were the only bids received. Gene Powlen made a motion that the bids be taken under advisement, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

## **CASS COUNTY PROSECUTOR**

Lisa Swaim from the Prosecutor's office appeared before the Commissioners to request the replacement of a Deputy Prosecutor. The Commissioners granted the replacement, but the position must begin at the bottom of the pay scale. Jim Sailors made a motion to replace employee, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Lisa Swaim also brought to the attention of the Commissioners how the interns pay was working. The Prosecutors office had two full-time interns, and one that was working just for school credit. One of the full-time was actually working part-time hours. This made it possible for the one working for school

credit (which has now been completed) to earn a part-time rate. The Prosecutor's office is still within the allowed budget for 2009. Gene Powlen made a motion to accept the pay proposal as presented, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### **SHERIFF**

Sheriff Gene Isaacs appeared before the Commissioners along with Elaine Beaty from Mc Cready and Keene and Kris Callaway from Morgan Stanley to present Ordinance 457-B. This would secure additional investments to Sheriff employees and related positions. The Sheriff's Association backs this program. This would allow law enforcement to plan for a better retirement. There is no cost to the County for this program. This is an added service from Mc Cready and Keene. Jim Sailors made the motion to take this under advisement and address in 30 days, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Gene Isaacs then requested that two full time Correction Officer positions be filled. These are already included in the budget for 2009. Jim Sailors made a motion to fill the positions, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The request from the Sheriff to fill a part time Process Server position also in the 2009 budget was also addressed. Jim Sailors made a motion to fill the position, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### **ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL**

Judge Leo Burns appeared before the Commissioners to address the Alternative School issue. Since the State of Indiana has taken over the programs of Child Services the monies normally used for this program have become less. Judge Burns and Brian Brown the director of Cass County Child Services wanted the Commissioners to be aware that the money that was left over for Child Services was being returned to the County. That sum was \$834,944.52 and has been placed in the County's excess levy fund until the budget for 2010 is

approved by the DLGF. At that time the money will be transferred to the County's General Fund.

### **EMPLOYEE LOSS**

The Commissioners made note in the meeting that Ed Beheler the head of the I.T. department was no longer working for the County. CJ Gilsinger will be assuming the responsibility. Recommendation for a new salary ordinance. CJ will appear at the Cass County Council meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup> to present new salaries to the Council.

### **BZA APPOINTMENT**

The Cass County Commissioners at this time nominated David Popejoy of 6959 N. State Road 17, Lucerne, Indiana to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Jim Sailors made a motion to accept the nomination, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### **TREASURER SERVICE AGREEMENT**

Dawn Conner appeared before the Commissioners to request approval of her service agreement with The AME Group. Jim Sailors made a motion to accept the contract for services, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### **MEMORIAL HOME**

Stan Williams Planning Director appeared before the Commissioners to present a contract for Consultant Agreement for Professional Services. This is an agreement for the consultant to write a Planning Grant, assist with the required initial public hearing for the grant application, administer the grant including preparing required reports, assisting with the second public hearing, and facilitating the draw requests and financial reporting. Prepare the Environmental Review for the proposed project. Prepare the Section 106 Historic Review for the

proposed project. The County would provide compensation for the Consultants services in the amounts of \$3,000.00 when the Planning Grant is approved and \$2,000.00 when the Environmental Review and the Section 106 Review is completed. Anne Mannix from the Neighborhood Development Associates, LLC, addressed the Commissioners with a brief overview of the process involved to obtain a grant for the Memorial Home. The Cass County Art Alliance is the party interested in developing the Memorial Home and eventually taking over the responsibility and upkeep of the Memorial Home from the County. Sue Ann Schwering appeared on behalf of the Art Alliance and explained to the Commissioners some of the things the Art Alliance would be doing with the Memorial Home building.

Jim Sailors made a motion to accept the contract, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### **ZONING ADMINISTRATOR POSITION**

Stan Williams appeared before the Commissioners with the request to fill the zoning position that is to be vacated by the retirement of Gary Scagnoli. The Planning department received over 60 applications for this position. They interviewed 12 by phone and had 6 face to face interviews. A candidate has been selected. Salary has not been approved the Commissioners recommended a starting salary of \$34,000.00 for this position. Jim Sailors made a motion to give a positive recommendation to the Council to fill the position and the salary discussed, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### **UNITED STATES CENSUS BUREAU**

Mr. Dallas Wilson appeared to present information concerning the upcoming census. Mr. Wilson requested the assistance of the Commissioners to help promote the April 1, 2010 census. The census is so important to each county as the number of people affect the outcome of Grant and Government money

that can be acquired. Mr. Wilson requested that the Commissioners form a committee and appoint a chairperson to promote and get the information out to the community. There is only a short 10 question form that is to be completed. You do not have to be a citizen to be counted. A site is needed so that people can be available to assist in individuals with the questions. Mr. Wilson presented the County with a Census 2010 Proclamation. Mr. Dave Arnold, President of the Commissioners signed the Proclamation.

### **VACATED PLATED STREET**

Mr. Deeter appeared before the Commissioners in regards to a 50x150 area located in Tipton Township, adjacent to his property that he would like to have vacated. The land has had no owner since 1955. Mr. Deeter had the proper signatures of the adjacent land owners. The Commissioners told Mr. Deeter that it had to be published in the newspaper and proper notification given. There will be a public hearing at the July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting to address this mater after all the proper paperwork is completed.

### **CASS COUNTY CHILDRENS HOME**

The Commissioners held an executive session on June 12, 2009 and met with interested parties regarding the old structure of the Children's Home. The request for money to stabilize the building was denied. There are still two other parties interested in the building.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS & ADJOURN**

Lynn Korniak appeared before the Commissioners to introduce Kelsey Schlegelmilch a second year intern with the Cass County Extension Office. Kelsey is a junior at IUPUI. Lynn requested that Kelsey be retained as a summer intern. Jim Sailors made a motion to retain Kelsey, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. William Finks 999 N. CR 300 E., Logansport, IN appeared before the Commissioners. Mr. Finks would like to see the Children's Home back on the tax roles of Cass County. The Commissioners agreed and reiterated that there were still some interested parties in the home.

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

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Dave Arnold, President

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Jim Sailors, Vice President

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Gene Powlen, Member

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Vaneen M. Ide, Auditor