

## **CASS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**AUGUST 2, 2010**

The Cass County Commissioners met at 1:00 p.m. In attendance were Jim Sailors, Dave Arnold, Gene Powlen, Attorney John Hillis and Auditor Vaneen Ide.

### **AMEND AGENDA**

The following items were added to the agenda. Item XI Sheriff- Antenna, XII Bonding, and XIII Recommendation to Council for 2011 employee salaries. Jim Sailors made a motion to accept the additional items, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### **MINUTES**

Gene Powlen made a motion to approve minutes as presented, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### **CLAIMS & PAYROLL**

Jim Sailors made a motion to approve the payroll and claims as presented, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

The Health Department was not available for their report.

### **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Steve Easley appeared before the Commissioners with his monthly report. 2010 Road Remediation Plan is progressing slowly. Due to unforeseen delays work continues. All work is expected to be completed no later than the end of August. Steve Easley, Jeff Smith and Susan Al-Abbas attended a Call for Group IV projects meeting at INDOT on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Two projects were presented for consideration. \$250,000 for the CR 300 S. project to cover costs related to the inclusion of improvements to the railroad crossing. The second was for \$2,549,800 for improvements on High Street starting at Longtree Lane and working east. Notification was received on July 29<sup>th</sup> that we were awarded \$250,000 for the CR 300 S. project. The High Street project received no funding. The CCHD can re-submit the request for funding for the High Street Project.

Steve made the Commissioners aware that Gary Pachen was still recovering from injuries resulting in a vehicle accident in early July. He has a long road to a full recovery. Keep Gary and family in thoughts and prayers.

Jeff Smith presented the Commissioners with an update on CCHD projects. The CR 300 S. project has experienced a few minor delays. A recent discovery of a phone line not previously located and the need to extend the driveway pipe for the temporary drive into the Anderson's has been attributed to the delays. We are meeting weekly and expect to further define our actual timeline in the next couple of weeks. The Chase Road project is currently on a schedule to have the County's right-of-way portion completed by this fall and possibly let for bid in early 2011.

The removal of the stop sign for westbound traffic located at the intersection of CR 350 S/CR 50 E. A request is due to the closure of the road for the airport expansion the intersection is now a 90 degree turn, instead of a "T" intersection. The Commissioners requested the Sheriff monitor this area and report to the CCHD their findings. The Commissioners noted that they were not happy with the work done on Logansport Road. There is a five year contract with E&B Paving should further issues develop in the future.

Culvert BE-110 located on 500E just north of 425 N has issues. The Commissioners and the CCHD are looking at options to make this culvert safe. Relinquishment discussions are underway with INDOT regarding SR 25 road segments. INDOT-Laporte has provided an initial relinquishment proposal which is currently being reviewed for content as well as financial considerations related to items relinquished. The preliminary proposal could result in a net increase of about three miles of roadway, two to three bridges and one culvert to the County's inventory. The City of Logansport is reviewing a similar proposal for areas impacted within the city limits. County and City may jointly employ the use of a third party to assist with this project.

### **COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

Dave Wegner appeared with a request to replace a full time corrections officer. Commissioner Dave Arnold reminded Dave Wegner that all of the normal steps for hiring a new person need to be followed. The new employee would also start at the base pay for that position. Gene Powlen made a motion to allow the replacement of a full time corrections officer, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### **CASS COUNTY TOURISM**

Toni Savini presented the Cass County Commissioners with a financial report of the Cass County Tourism and the Cass County Visitors Bureau. The Tourism/Visitor Bureau will present a budget to the Cass County Council at their August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Commissioners had no questions.

### **DEER CREEK TRUSTEE-POOR RELIEF**

Bob Peters appeared before the Cass County Commissioners in regards to an ongoing claim from Ms. Rebecca Buris. Ms. Buris has completed the proper paper work and Mr. Peters and his board have denied the claim. Mr. Peters made his statement to the Commissioners and reasoning why he and the board denied Mr. Buris' claim.

Attorney John Hillis swore Ms. Buris in, before she stated her facts to the Cass County Commissioners. The Commissioners were unable to consider Ms. Buris's case due to lack of paperwork that Mr. Peters should have submitted to them prior to this meeting. The Commissioners tabled the decision and apologized to Ms. Buris for dragging this out. They felt they needed to review all of the facts before rendering a decision. This will continue to the August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **VACATE ALLEY**

Attorney Jeff Stanton appeared before the Commissioners on behalf of his client Brian Sparks. Mr. Stanton provided all of the proper paper work for review to county attorney John Hillis for review. Everett and Willade Monroe were present and represented by their attorney Lisa Traylor-Wolf. The Monroe's had no objection to the vacation of the alley. Jim Sailors made a motion to allow the vacation of the alley in Lewisburg, Gene Powlen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### **EASEMENT/RIGHT OF WAY**

Mr. Hettmansperger appears before the Commissioners with paper work for the vacation of the easement/right of way in Lincoln. Mr. Baird the attorney for Mr. Hettmansperger is also present. County attorney John Hillis reviewed the paperwork provided. Gene Powlen made a motion to allow the vacation of the easement/right of way, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**SHERIFF**

Cass County Sheriff Gene Isaacs appeared before the Commissioners. Sheriff Isaacs is requesting a positive recommendation from the Commissioners to send on to the Council for the purchase of a back up antenna for communication purposes. The Commissioners had numerous questions in regards to the use of the antenna; where it was to be placed, why it was needed, were there any other alternatives. The Commissioners gave a conditional recommendation; they felt they needed more information to base their decision. Gene Powlen made a motion for a conditional recommendation, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**BOND**

A Recovery Zone Facility Bond was presented to the Commissioners. Attorney John Hillis wanted more time to review the documentation. Gene Powlen made a motion to table the issue until the next meeting August 16<sup>th</sup>, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**SALARY RECOMMENDATION FOR 2011**

The Cass County Commissioners are passing their recommendation on to the Cass County Council that there be no pay increases for employees for the year 2011. Gene Powlen commented it is not that the employees don't deserve a raise; it is a matter of funding. Gene Powlen made a motion to send the recommendation of no pay increase for 2011 to the Cass County Council, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT & ADJOURN**

There was no public comment. Gene Powlen made a motion to adjourn, Jim Sailors 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

