

CASS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 15, 2020

The Cass County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room. Present for the meeting were Jim Sailors, Ralph Anderson, Ryan Browning, and Auditor Cheryl Alcorn. Attorney Jeff Stanton was absent.

Ralph Anderson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES – Ryan Browning made a motion to approve the minutes of June 1, 2020, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

CLAIMS & PAYROLL- Jim Sailors made a motion to approve the claims and payroll as presented, Ryan Browning seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT – Richard Gundrum appeared before the Commissioners with maintenance monthly report. New camera has been installed in the main elevator, new plumbing fixtures and painting completed in restrooms in the Government Building. Memorial Wall on the corner of Fourth and Broadway was cleaned and sealed. Metal cap was installed and bricks cleaned and sealed on the Jail sign. Highway department installed parking signage in the jail parking lot.

Work Release new fire alarm system installed and building was treated for COVID-19. COVID -19 testing areas were set up in the Health Department. Annex Storage Building exterior east wall was cleaned and repaired in preparation for downtown art mural project. Security camera was installed on Annex Storage Building. New humidifier installed in the dispatch area at the 911 Center.

Richard attended Jail Expansion Project meetings and continues to work with architect and utilities regarding the new plat of area around jail.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT – Sheriff Ed Schroder appeared before the Commissioners with the monthly report for May.

PRISONER BOOKINGS	110
PRISONERS RELEASED	96
MILES TRANSPORTING PRISONERS	577
MEALS SERVED TO PRISONERS	13,165
OFFICER PATROL MILES	154,269
TRAFFIC WARNINGS ISSUED	46
TRAFFIC ARRESTS/CITATIONS	29
DWI/OWI ARRESTS	3
CRIMINAL ARRESTS	39

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS	36
PROPERTY DAMAGE	30
PERSONAL INJURY	6
FATALITES	0
RESERVE OFFICER HOURS	78
CIVIL PROCESS MILAGE	2,450
CIVIL PROCESS PAPERS SERVED	209
SRO CALLS/CASES	0

Sheriff Schroder requested permission to fill vacant full-time correctional officer position. Jim Sailors made a motion to approve the request to fill correctional officer position, Ryan Browning seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

I.T. DEPARTMENT – Cj Gilsinger appeared before the Commissioners with report update. Video conferencing was established in the Bicentennial Room for the courts to continue proceedings during the COVID-19 shut down. Technology equipment and phones were setup at the 4-H Community Building enabling Health Department to establish an onsite COVID-19 testing clinic. Security camera for recycling bins has been replaced at the Fair Grounds.

Equipment has been removed from the previous Family Opportunity Center and the network fiber transferred to the greenhouse.

Primary election went well, regardless of the COVID-19 regulations. Hardware modifications were made to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Video conferencing for the courts was moved to the juvenile probation office to allow early voting in the Bicentennial room.

CLERK – Beth Liming presented for approval Marriage License Policy. Policy requires a photo ID for verification of individuals applying for license. Ralph Anderson requested the policy to be tabled for further clarification of photo ID and state regulations.

Jim Sailors made a motion to table the policy request, Ryan Browning seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

TWELVE MILE FIREWORKS DISPLAY – ROAD CLOSURE REQUEST – Jeff Smith presented temporary road closure request for approval. County Road 800 East to County Road 800 North starting at 8:30 p.m. for approximately two hours on July 3rd.

Ryan Browning made a motion to approve road closure request, Jim Sailors seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CORONER OFFICE – GRANT REQUEST – Angie Zeck requested approval to apply for a federal grant in the amount of \$2,895. Sudden Unexplained Infant Death/Sudden Death in the Young Case Registry Grant will provide reimbursement of costs related to autopsies of SUID/SDY infants.

Ryan Browning made a motion to approve the grant application request, Jim Sailors seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ORD. 2020-09 RESCINDING ORDINANCE 2020-07 FACE MASK FOR RETAIL FOOD EMPLOYEES – Ryan Browning made a motion to rescind Ordinance 2020-07 Face Mask For Retail Food Employees, Jim Sailors seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

RES. 2020-09 FRANCE PARK LAND ACQUISITION – Jim Sailors presented Resolution to purchase 88.9 acres west of France Park to provide more services. Park non-reverting funds will be used to purchase land and pay title fees for a total of \$477,184.

Jim Sailors made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-09 France Park Land Acquisition, Ryan Browning seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

LOGAN'S LANDING – Becki Harris appeared before the Commissioners with summary update report. Annual events have been delayed or cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Green & Clean Day extended to a full week of residents posting their neighborhood cleaning activities on the. A contest to promote participation for the Green & Clean event awarded one resident a \$50 gift certificate to a downtown business of their choice. Celebrate Logansport annual Strawberry Shortcake Day activities were canceled, 300 orders were taken for strawberry shortcake by delivery only. Taste of Cass County has been canceled this August due to uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Logan's Landing received a QUIP Grant from IAC & OCRA for downtown art mural project. Interactive mural will be painted on exterior east wall of the county buildings on Sixth Street. Mural is a collaborate project of involving City and County, and Logansport High School Art Students. A dedication ceremony is being planned for last June. Becki extended appreciation to the county for their involvement and prompt attention to preparing the walls for the project.

Main Street Revitalization Program Grant is currently underway eight downtown businesses. The \$600,000 grant funds combined with local matching funds will provide approximately one million dollars to the downtown area.

Logan's Landing appreciates the continued support of their programs and projects to improve and preserve Logansport's downtown district.

PHOENIX AMBULANCE – Ambulance Service transporting new vehicles and was not available to attend meeting. Quarterly Report will be presented at the July 6th meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Ralph Anderson stated public comments will be limited to three minutes each. Residents shall state their name and address.

Maximo Gutierrez, 2716 CR 375 W, Logansport – Construction of WSP is violating his family's privacy, children cannot sleep because of the equipment noise. People are stopping to take pictures of his house and intimidating his children.

James Conn, 913 Plum Street, Logansport – Concerned what effect the WSP will have on cost of property taxes, length of loan, and how much per person will taxes need to be paid.

Dave Price, 220 Cotswald Court, Logansport – Concerned WSP construction has started without all proper permits, per Economic Development Agreement. Requested a public hearing date regarding the WSP project.

Kyle Burrow, Wheatland Ave, Logansport – Has family in Muncie, where WSP was turned away. Cass County needs to do what is right and turn away the project.

Erika Gutierrez, 2716 CR 375 W, Logansport - Suggested the county conduct an independent research on WSP recycling facility.

Susan Jarrell, 2405 Hastye Hyll, Logansport - Suggested independent toxicologist research of the WSP project.

Michelle Balderas, 617 Bartlett, Logansport – Concerned the new marriage policy will discriminate against foreign born residents.

Flor Hernandez, 122 Western Ave., Logansport – Concerned the new marriage license policy is requiring State or US identification. This violates the Indiana Code 31-11-4-6.

Ms. Lopez, 727 Wilkinson Street, Logansport – Concerned the new marriage license policy is unfair to those that cannot obtain a State or US identification.

Mercedes Brugh, 1315 E. Market Street, Logansport – Support of previous comments regarding the new marriage license policy.

Jim Brugh, 1315 E. Market Street, Logansport – Appreciated Commissioners decision to table the new marriage license policy and asked they do the same for the WSP project for more research.

Maritza Camarena, 1313 Chicago Street. Logansport – Concerns of WSP recycling project. Respect all residents, do not bring toxins to our community.

County Council President, Mike Stajduhar, 2606 High Street, Logansport – Support of all previous comments and table the WSP matter.

Don Strasser, 37 Lux Street, Logansport – Government for the people by the people – not for corporations. Concerns of toxins emissions from WSP recycling facility.

Commissioner Ryan Browning – Verified with Clerk Beth Liming the State Statute is currently being followed for marriage licenses. Agreed with Council President Mike Stajduhar further actions on WSP project needs to be tabled until a public hearing. Independent report is coming from ADM. Accusations need to stop.

Collin Spanier, 3303 Maplewood Drive, Logansport - Commissioners need to listen to doctors and city of Muncie that are against the WSP facility.

Ali Alavi, Senior Vice-President of regulatory affairs and general counsel for Heritage Environmental Services representing Waelz Sustainable Products. Factual information is provided on the public domain that supports that there is no adverse impact to human health and environmental expected from the operation of the WSP facility, notwithstanding the misinformation offered on Facebook.

Mr. Alavi added with respect to Mr. and Mrs. Gutierrez the company has been in constant discussion with them. Construction start time is 7:00 a.m., arrival times may start earlier depending on the activities of the day. Mr. Alavi was unaware of issues regarding privacy or pictures being taken.

Mr. Alavi explained TIF property taxes will be assessed after the construction of the facility is complete. Estimated a 6.6 million dollar of return over the first 20 twenty years, which is the full length of the TIF, after that the full amount of property taxes will come to the county.

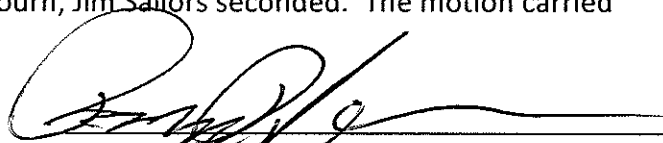
Mr. Alavi stated all permits for construction have been received, current construction is within compliance with the law.

Mr. Alavi informed a public hearing is being planned before the end of June. A conference call was held with local physicians regarding their concerns and two virtual Town Hall meetings were held withstanding the COVID-19 situation. Mr. Alavi reported he has had numerous one-on-one discussions with interested county citizens.

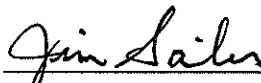
Mr. Alavi added the company disagrees to tabling the project at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Ryan Browning made a motion to adjourn, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion carried unanimously.



Ralph Anderson, President



Jim Sailors, Vice President



Ryan Browning, Member

ATTEST:


Cheryl Alcorn, Auditor