

# CASS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## November 15, 2021

The Cass County Commissioners met at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room. Present for the meeting were Ryan Browning, Mike Stajduhar, Ruth Baker, Attorney Jeff Stanton and Auditor Cheryl Alcorn.

Ryan Browning opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence in honor of the late Cass County Fire District Chief Chris Cover.

**MINUTES** – Ruth Baker made a motion to approve regular meeting minutes as presented, Mike Stajduhar seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**CLAIMS & PAYROLL**- Ruth Baker made a motion to approve the claims and payroll as presented, Mike Stajduhar seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT** – Richard Gundrum appeared before the Commissioners with monthly report for October. Physical inventory has begun with the tagging and recording of equipment for the Maintenance, Sheriff, and IT Departments. Hands free soap and hand sanitizer system will be installed in Government Building restrooms. Duct work repair completed and reinsulated roof top unit on Jail. Jail construction temporary electrical service was switched over, jail was on back up generator for three hours.

Work Release building small gas leak at the meter was repaired by NIPSCO. Heating and cooling unit installed in the Solid Waste Office and overhead door repaired. New entrance door was installed on the north side of Staffing Resources Building. Roof repair completed on Family Opportunity Center and Consolidated Union.

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS** – Dave Wegner appeared before the Commissioners with the monthly report for October. Department averaged 153 clients per day with 4 violators for the month. Department received 22 new clients and 16 clients completed the program.

CLIENTS SERVED	166
• HOME DETENTION	145
• WORK RELEASE	21

Dave reported seven clients participated in work crew completing 243 hours of community service. Plans are underway to begin the process of constructing isolation cells and renovate the probation classroom to expedite the reopening of the women's dorm. The first JRAC meeting was held to prepare collection goals for next year and create standardized metrics.

Dave requested approval to fill six part time positions and full time grant funded case manager position.

Commissioner Browning entertain a motion with the understanding if the grant is no longer available the case manager position is not guarantee to remain and fill the six part time positions.

Ruth Baker made a motion to approve request to fill six part time positions and full time grant funded case manager position, Mike Stajduhar seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CCED** – Christy Householder appeared before the Commissioners with the Economic Development monthly report for October. Christy visited five industrial and ten business retention expansion sites. Attended the following number of project meetings; fifteen local, three regional, three state, one national, and received four business leads.

**BROADBAND PROJECT** - Mike Barron presented report for the month of October. Sixty-seven aerial miles and 6.54 miles of underground fiber cable has been completed, all permits have been submitted and approved. Project timeline is still on track. Service connections for customers in Onward and New Waverly scheduled for next month. Next service connection will be offered in the Twelve Mile area.

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT** – Sheriff Schroder appeared before the Commissioners with the October monthly report. Present inmate count is 189 with 28 inmates housed to other facilities due to construction.

PRISONER BOOKINGS	129
PRISONERS RELEASED	127
MILES TRANSPORTING PRISONERS	3,705
MEALS SERVED TO PRISONERS	20,096
OFFICER PATROL MILES	35,191
TRAFFIC WARNINGS ISSUED	29
TRAFFIC ARRESTS/CITATIONS	66
DWI/OWI ARRESTS	7
CRIMINAL ARRESTS	50
ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS	42
PROPERTY DAMAGE	36
PERSONAL INJURY	6
FATALITES	0

RESERVE OFFICER HOURS	51
CIVIL PROCESS MILAGE	1,087
CIVIL PROCESS PAPERS SERVED	278

***SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS***

CALLS/CASE	13
PRESENTATIONS	0
TRANSPORTATION	1

***ANIMAL CONTROL:***

COUNTY CALLS	12
CITY CALLS	44
CONSULTS	30
WRITTEN WARNINGS	17
SHELTERED ANIMALS	11
BITE CASES	2

**I.T. DEPARTMENT** – Cj Gilsinger was not available to present the monthly report for October. The following monthly report was received and reviewed by Commissioners.

Physical inventory has begun with the tagging and identifying of IT equipment. A request for information has been prepared and will be sent to software vendors in search of a new public safety software system. The 2022 Jury Draw was completed, each court questionnaire will be mail merged with juror name and address for mailing by Clerk’s Office.

IT department is working to provide equipment needed for the new EMS department. All servers that run our virtual environment have been upgraded to 10 gig fiber. Laptops for the Sheriff’s Department are currently receiving an updated software. Computer backorders are coming in and equipment is being distributed.

**CLERK** – Destry Richey requested approval to fill vacant full-time and part-time office positions. Ruth Baker made a motion to approve request to fill full time position, Mike Stajduhar seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ruth Baker made a motion to take request to fill part-time position under advisement, Mike Stajduhar seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT** – Jeff Smith requested approval to fill two part-time driver positions for winter snow removal.

Ruth Baker made a motion to approve the request to fill two part-time driver positions, Mike Stajduhar seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**PROJECT QUOTES – DAVIS ROAD BRIDGE** – project includes sidewalk and curb concrete repair. Attorney Jeff Stanton opened and read aloud the following quotes received:

**Primco, Inc.**

**PO Box 9782, Fort Wayne, Indiana                      \$83,660.00**

**Northern Indiana Construction Company, Inc.**

**PO Box 1333, Mishawaka, Indiana                      \$94,810.00**

Ruth Baker made a motion to take quotes under advisement and award project quote pending review of Highway Department Superintendent, Mike Stajduhar seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**SUPERIOR COURT II** – Judge Swaim requested approval to fill vacant court reporter position.

Ruth Baker made a motion to approve request to fill court report position, Mike Stajduhar seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**WEIGHTS & MEASURE** – Weights and Measure inspector has submitted notice of retirement.

Ruth Baker made a motion to approve the request to fill part-time position of weights & measure inspector, Mike Stajduhar seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**CIRCUIT COURT** – Judge Kitts requested approval to surplus old transportation van for scrap value.

Ruth Baker made a motion to approve request to surplus transportation van for scrap value, Mike Stajduhar seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**JAIL EXPANSION** – John Painter presented the following change orders for approval:

- Showers size reduced masonry wall infill \$3,012

Ruth Baker made a motion to approve change order presented, Mike Stajduhar seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Aluminum trim installation deleted (- \$36,864.43)

Ruth Baker made a motion to approve change order presented, Mike Stajduhar seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Canopy Column Footings excavated to limestone \$7,286.30

Ruth Baker made a motion to approve the change order presented, Mike Stajduhar seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **EDA PRESENTATION – APPLESEED SOLAR PROJECT –**

NextEra Energy, Project Manager Matt Johnson provided power point presentation outlining Appleseed Solar Project. Project lifespan estimated over 30 years providing approximately 200 megawatts equivalent to powering 65,000 homes. Project includes 1,600 acres of which only 1,200 would be consider in the fence located north of Walton. Benefiting the county in \$30 million in tax revenue increasing capital investment and assessed value of land. Construction of the project requires up to 300 workers. Upon project approval the construction will begin in the fall of 2022. Materials are largely purchased from the U.S. some are purchased from South East Asia. Decommission of the project will be reassessed every five years by third party engineer and is bonded to insure no burden is placed on the taxpayers. All the land is from landowners that have volunteered for this project.

Bakertilly Advisor, Greg Balsano distributed financial spreadsheets showing the economic impact of the project. Project will provide investment of \$232.4 million in additional assessed value to the county. Increase in assessed value provides more tax levy.

Christy Householder added the county has done their due diligence in the negotiations of the Economic Development Agreement. County Attorney Stanton agreed the negotiations between county and the company had very favorable results.

Ruth Baker made a motion to take the Economic Development Agreement under advisement, Mike Stajduhar seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**COUNTY EMPLOYEE INSURANCE RENEWAL** – Commissioner Browning requested approval of annual employee insurance benefit program renewal. Insurance costs will increase slightly for the county with employee cost remaining the same. Life insurance benefit will increase \$10,000.

Ruth Baker made a motion to approve renewal of employee insurance program, Mike Stajduhar seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**BUILDING RENOVATION PROJECTS** – Commissioner Browning entertain a motion to approve proposal from RQAW International Innovation for the renovations of the COVID Clinic located on Smith Street to accommodate Health Department, renovate the old Health Department on High Street to accommodate Adult Probation, and renovate Community Corrections on High Street with additional isolation cells.

Ruth Baker made a motion to approve RQAW International Innovation proposal for renovations as presented, Mike Stajduhar seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS & RECOGNITION –**

Commissioner Browning recognized the late Chris Cover for his many years of service to the county. Chris was a retired Logansport Firefighter, worked for County EMA, and served as Fire Chief for Fire District # 1.

**PUBLIC COMMENT –**

Drew Miller, 4208 E CR 350 S, Logansport – Concerns the Solar Project uses our prime farm land, with zero return of energy for county. Solar Company should pay compensation if and when property values go down. Does this effect Commissioners back yards?

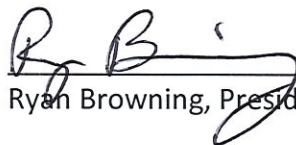
Matthew Johnson, NEXtera Energy Resources - Power Purchase Agreement is currently under negotiations with several local utilities within Indiana. The power will be available for purchase on the grid. Project will use 6 tenths of 1 percent of prime farm land in Cass County.


Bridget Davis, 909 S Cicott Street, Logansport – Why choose Indiana for a solar project? The state has a lot of grey days without sunshine. Why would you want to destroy farm ground? We have a lot of people to feed?

Lora Redweik, 5524 N CR 600 E, Twelve Mile – Concerned this one solar project will lead to more.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ruth Baker made a motion to adjourn, Mike Stajduhar seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

  
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Ryan Browning, President

  
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Mike Stajduhar, Vice President

  
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Ruth Baker, Member

ATTEST:   
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Cheryl Alcorn, Auditor