

RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE  
ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AT THE  
MEETING ROOM, PAOLI, INDIANA  
ON THE 23TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021 at 9:00 am

Officials present: Commissioners Richard Dixon, Steve Hopper, and Marshal Noble. Also present, County Attorney JC Tucker, Sheriff Josh Babcock, and Auditor Lonnie Stroud.

Richard Dixon led in the pledge to the Flag and Auditor Stroud gave prayer.

Sheriff Babcock called meeting to order.

Motion to approve the minutes with a name correction from February 9th was made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble, and carried 3-0.

Sheriff Babcock reported Jail population was 79 with one inmate being held in Crawford County Jail. Sheriff reported that there was good cooperation from the public on the past snow event. Sheriff also reported that the County Highway done an exceptional job having the roads cleared promptly.

Rick Emerick, EMA, reported on the new year county readiness assessment work, reported in assisting the fire departments, EMS, Hospital, and Law Enforcement on change over from analog to digital for County fire dispatch, assisted Orange County Transit during snow event, and continued support with Covid-19 support and PPE.

Carl Anderson, Orange County Highway Superintendent, reported on the snow event, the county has distributed 3078 tons of rock during snow events this year so far. Carl reported that the department was transitioning from snow removal to road repair. Carl requested permission to approach County Council for the appropriation for additional cameras at the Highway Garage. The quoted amount of \$6,692 would cover the total cost. Motion to approve Carl to approach Council for that additional appropriation was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0. Carl concluded by reporting that the Crossroads Grant award information should be available late March.

Frank Lynd, Building Maintenance Superintendent, reported on having the HVAC controls at the Complex quoted to replace the pneumatic controls with an electric controlled system (bids to be read later in meeting). Frank reported that the heat at the Community Center was still being worked on. The unit at the Community Center was found to be defective from the factory and information was being gathered to make a complaint to the manufacturer. Mehringers Mechanical will provide an affidavit describing what was found so the County can look at its options with going forward with legal action (the one-year warranty expired only months before the unit went out). Frank reported that he has talked to a representative for the lighted sign at the Community Center and it was suggested that the breaker be reset and if that doesn't work, they will schedule an appointment for service. In conclusion, Frank reported that he was having Hometown Carpet come to replace the tiles at the entrance of the Community Center.

JC Tucker, County Attorney, opened sealed bids for the replacement of the pneumatic HVAC controls to an electric control system. Johnson Control submitted a total bid of \$247,139 and A&B Inc. Mehringers presented a bid for \$182,355. Bids were taken under advisement. Richard Dixon will present the information to the County Council for funding options.

Elizabeth Jones, Orange County Clerk, presented information on electronic poll books. Elizabeth reported that the initial cost will be covered but future service fees will not be. It was brought up that many of the election sites do not have internet access as well. Motion to allow Elizabeth to move forward with finding out more information on the future cost and what would happen if the site does not have connection to the internet was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0.

Dan Zerner, Garmon Engineering, was called into the meeting by phone by Richard Dixon to discuss the Phase 2 environmental report of the JSI property. After description of his experience Dan had with reviewing such reports Dan explained that he was not under contract with the County to do the review and only gave an opinion on the evaluation. It was Dan's opinion that there were no outstanding findings reported. The arsenic level that was noted was not high enough to be of any concern to the County. It was noted that there was no report of the asbestos that may or may not be present. Motion to proceed with purchase after phase 2 environmental study was made by Richard Dixon, seconded by Marshall Noble, and carried 3-0. JC reported that the bond issuance ordinance will be considered at this evening meeting with the County Council. It was projected to be a \$150,000 bond payment for no more than 15.5 years at less than 4% interest. There has been a projected \$10,000 monthly rental income to offset most of the cost to the taxpayers.

Linda Reynolds, Orange County Assessor, requested to dispose of 4 old computer monitors. Motion to deem the 4 monitors of no value was made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble, and carried 3-0.

The public meeting for the Phase 3 COVID-19 relief funding was opened. Orange County will be applying for \$250,000 for 60/40 economic development and non profit uses. The floor was open for public comment. Katarina Kock representing Southern Indiana Community Health Care spoke in favor of the application. Jason Lindsey, Love Never Fails, spoke in favor as well as Abby Hardin, business owner. There was a sign-up sheet passed around for those that were present for the hearing. The public meeting was closed. Motion to approve the Resolution 2021-01 to approve the application was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0.

Korina Moore, Purdue Extension Educator, presented activities that are being provided by the 3 full time educators. Richard Dixon asked how enrolment was in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. Angie Chastain, Purdue Extension Office Manager reported that there was a 25% reduction in enrollment.

JC Tucker presented the Home Rule Resolution 2021-02 for the local control of land use expressly in the area of wind and solar planning decisions and direct the future of their own communities. Motion to approve the resolution to limit outside control of wind and solar development without local consent was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0.

With no further business to discuss the motion to sign claims and adjourn was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0.

Orange County Commissioners

Richard Dixon

Steve Hopper

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lonnie Stroud, Auditor – Orange County

Marshall Noble