

RECORD OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AT THE  
MEETING ROOM, PAOLI, INDIANA  
ON THE 25th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2020 at 9:00 am

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

Auditor Stroud gave prayer and lead in the Pledge to the US Flag.

Sheriff Babcock called the meeting to order.

The minutes from February 11th were reviewed. Marshall Noble made the motion to accept the minutes without changes, Steve Hopper seconded, and the motion carried 3-0.

Richard Dixon presented the Board of Commissioners with the Orange County Constitutional Resolution affirming County support of the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment rights of the citizens of Orange County. Motion to approve the Resolution was made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble, and carried 3-0. The Sheriff also affirmed his support with the Commissioners by raising his hand in support with the Commissioners vote.

Sheriff Babcock presented Commissioners with internal inspection report and that the current population of the jail was 93.

Matt Deaton and Mike Roberts, REMC, presented a request to disturb a county road that had buried service that was part of the road bed along South County Road 525 W. Marshall Noble reported that he has reviewed the site with the County Superintendent Carl Anderson and had no concerns with REMC disturbing the gravel road to provide service for a customer near that site. Motion to approve the request was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0. Matt concluded by thanking the County Officials for their support in allowing them to provide high speed internet to the rural areas of Orange County. Matt reported that phase 2 was almost complete and phase 3 and 4 will take about 18 months to complete. REMC is in favor of future providing the fiber service to town areas if those doors opened.

Carl Anderson, Superintendent Orange County Highway Department, reported on work being done in District 1, 2, and 3. Weather has been a hinderance in these efforts in recent weeks and it is their hopes that this pattern will break in favor of more favorable conditions. Carl requested permission to approach Council for an additional appropriation for Bridge #96 in Southeast TWP on Co Rd 675 South. Motion to allow Carl to request an appropriation for this was made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble, and carried 3-0. Carl gave brief report on replacing a dump site building that will be considered at the next Solid Waste Meeting (building shell for \$2,845 delivered). Commissioners requested that Carl have a total cost of the building with insulation and wiring for consideration.

Rick Emerick, EMA, reported on the bids he obtained for the new vehicle for EMA. The lowest bid was from Bedford Ford with lights and markings for 40,642.01. Richard requested that Rick look into the possibility of an extended warranty as well. Stroud reported that there will be \$16,900 advertised to be appropriated from the totaled sheriff vehicle, sale of a sheriff vehicle, and the sale of the old EMA vehicle. With the estimated cost of the extended warranty the Commissioners approved the Casino request of \$27,000 to be considered by the Council with a motion by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0. Rick reported on the 2019 award letter for the 2019 EMPG Salary Grant. Requested permission to sign. Motion for Rick to sign and proceed with the application was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0. Rick concluded by reporting that March 15<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup> was Severer Weather Awareness week.

Billy Vincent, Electric Com, presented a request for the County to support a project of providing a community playground located at the Paoli Park. The playground will be a community build project and will be an estimated \$250,000 with wood chip surface or \$350,000 with poured rubber surface. The playground will be all ability accessible, be located near the shelter house near the entry of the park, and have a Courthouse feature that cost \$11,225. Richard Dixon reported that they will need to review this further but was apprehensive due to the fact that if the county supports this they will also be obligated to support like projects in other communities. No action taken at this point.

Rick Anderson, Johnson Melloh Solutions, presented a proposal for the County to consider that would be a budget neutral project to install solar and LED lighting in the county buildings. The project would cost \$1,100,000 but would net \$850,000 positive cash flow over 20 years. There would also be a guarantee that the savings would be accounted for of Johnson Melloh would make up the difference. Carl Anderson reported that the Orleans School Board was very satisfied with the service Johnson Melloh preformed for the school system. Auditor Stroud shared the next Council meeting with Rick so he could share the same information with Council. Rick will also provide County Attorney JC Tucker with documentation to review.

JC Tucker reported that the lease agreement with IU Health has not been completed yet. The County has presented the documentation for signatures from IU Heath but has not received approval from IU Health legal. JC also reported that the parcels that were not in the original lease were identified by Assessor Linda Reynolds and County Surveyor Matt Cooper and will be added to the new agreement at the same compensation rate as the other parcels.

Auditor Stroud presented the change of premium of Air Evac insurance for county employees from \$55 to \$65. Stroud also reported that the Council has directed him to appropriate for the elevator modernization project out of Cumulative Capital Development (\$68,588) that the Commissioners approved in their last meeting.

Steve Hopper reported that they will be meeting with Clark Diez at the Community Center to review the engineering of the parking lot, that they were the low bidder on. The meeting will take place on Friday at 1pm. Steve also reported that the work on the HVAC has continued regardless of the weather.

Marshall Noble reported that the Airport Road was awarded to E and B Construction for 7.8 million. This is under the estimated state projected cost of 12.6 million. More information will be provided as it comes available.

Richard Dixon reported on the mid-state corridor project. The Commissioners have no authority in if the corridor goes through the county or not. However, if the route goes near French Lick, it was proposed to be an expressway much like HWY 37. This will have access along the way. If a citizen wishes to voice their concern, they should contact their State or Federal Representative. Richard reported that Senator Mike Braun was scheduled to be at the Community Center on Friday 10-11am (this was later corrected to 9:15-10:15 Southern Indiana Community Healthcare, 10:20-10:55am Orange County Government, 11:00-12:00pm Mobile Office Paoli Public Library).

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

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Richard Dixon

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Steve Hopper

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

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Marshall Noble