

RECORD OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AT THE
MEETING ROOM, PAOLI, INDIANA
ON THE 2ND DAY OF JULY 2019 at 9:00 am

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

Sheriff Babcock called the meeting to order. The pledge to the Flag was given and Auditor Stroud opened with prayer.

The minutes from the June 18th meeting were reviewed. Steve Hopper made the motion to accept the minutes as written, Marshall Noble seconded, and the motion carried 3-0.

Sheriff Babcock reported that the population in the jail is 84 at the time of the meeting. Sheriff Babcock reported that his staff was able to handle several significant events in his absence over the past few weeks. He thanked everyone for their cooperation and hard work.

Carl Anderson, Orange County Highway Superintendent, gave report on Community Crossing grant work to Mt Horeb. Carl reported that Abydel Road (that is also a Community Crossing Grant Road this year) had major damage from the detour of Highway 150/56. At least 15 areas will need repair. Carl reported that work on the 4-H grounds paving and parking lot gravel delivery went well. Carl concluded by reporting on the repair of Bridge 102 located on 175 East has been delayed due to high water. Richard Dixon commented on how good the 4-H grounds improvements are looking.

Rick Emerick, Orange County EMA, reported on EMA Salary Grant completion. Rick reported that he has been able to complete the fire evacuation plan with the Indiana Fire Marshal for the Community Center. This plan will need to be supplied to any person renting the space. Rick reported that he is still putting together information for the Commissioners for their meeting with the County Fire Board.

Ken Fahn, IU Health Ambulance Service, gave 6-month report. It was reported that there were 1202 runs by the service in that 6-month period. There have been protocols established to keep those ambulances in or close to the county by focusing those transports to IU Health Paoli or Bedford if possible. Run time average arrival is 7.8 minutes. Richard Dixon ask if there have been times that both ambulances have been out of county. The answer was yes but those cases did involve 911 calls that had the unit delivering the patient out of county and there were ambulances from neighboring county's placed on standby. With the contract the providers are aware and cooperating with using the service with the county. Richard Dixon requested the financial information that was identified in the agreement when it becomes available.

Tammie Johnson, Orange County Health Department, reported on the Preparedness Grant for the county. The State has changed the way the grant is awarding the money and it's focus. The grant is to focus on contractual service or hiring a position to do the reportable. Reportable expenses will be supplies, personnel, travel, computers, training, and maintenance. Tammie reported that the state will track deliverables that are required. Auditor Stroud requested that Tammie provide the Commissioners with a quarterly report of reportable and deliverable items for them to review and sign off on. Rick Emerick is also on the Health Board and reported that the board is in favor as well as his office. It is beneficial to keep the preparedness plan up to date in the event of a disaster. Motion to approve the contract concept was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hoper, and carried 3-0. Tucker Law Office to complete the contract.

Meliah Hammes, resident 200W, reported on water damage to her property because of water that is diverted to her property from clogged culverts and ditches that are incorrectly drained. Meliah reported that the water is damaging her house foundation and pool. The problem is a new problem that she requests be addressed. The traffic on the road is very high. Carl Anderson reported that he is aware of the problem and will work on a solution for the county to implement.

Angie Chastain, Purdue Extension, presented a Casino request for 30,000 to pave part of the fairgrounds. Motion to approve the request and forward to Council for appropriation consideration was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0. Angie presented the information on the Community Center rental contract. The Community Center Board recommended raising the rent from \$225 to \$375 for the full area. Marshall questioned if that was enough of an increase. There has been a great deal of work done to the building and the cost should reflect what it cost the county to maintain it he feels. Discussion on the day before rent was discussed. The Commissioner approved the new contract with the daily rate of \$500- and two-day rate of \$750. Motion to approve the rate increases to take effect July 2, 2019 was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0. In final business for the Community Center the Commissioners approved getting quotes to have the HVAC in the Community Center replaced. Motion to get quotes was made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble, and carried 3-0.

Zack Brown, Orange County Economic Development Partnership, reported on Quality of Place and Workforce Attraction Plan that they are working to create. OCEDP is receiving a grant from Regional Opportunity Initiative out of Bloomington to create the plan. The plan brings light the needs and wants of Orange County citizens for projects that would improve the quality of place and workforce attraction of Orange County. There will be a round of implementation grants available to apply for in which the deadline for that application will be in February 2020. The plan that OCEDP is creating must be complete before applying for a grant. Grants are no less than \$100,000 and no more than \$250,000 per project. OCEPD would encourage the Commissioners to think about projects that could benefit the County as a whole. OCEPD is an advocate for everyone in the county.

JC Tucker, County Attorney, presented the third draft of the MOU between the County Commissioners, French Lick Town, and the French Lick Airport Authority. This third draft eliminates the airport from any responsibility of the failure to the Airport Road. Marshall Noble made the motion to accept the changes, seconded by Richard Dixon, and carried 3-0. JC presented a right-of-way waver for the property of J Davis for a one-foot encroachment. Motion to approve the right of way was made by Richard Dixon, seconded by Marshall Noble, and carried 3-0. JC reported that the appraisals for the County Park were received in the amount of \$225,000 and \$228,000. This makes the minimum bid would need to be no less than \$203,850. The bids would be opened on August 13th with an additional 14 days for counter bids for interested parties to increase bids. Richard Dixon questioned if the county should have a timber appraiser look at the timber for select cutting. Discussion on how timbering would reduce interest in the property. Motion to publish for bids (minimum \$203,850) and move forward with the sale was made by Richard Dixon, after several seconds of consideration Steve Hopper made the seconded, and the motion carried 3-0.

Auditor Stroud presented a request from Linda Reynolds, County Assessor, to appoint Sharron Johnson to the PTABOA Board (Tax Review). Motion to appoint Sharron Johnson to the Board was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Richard Dixon, and carried 3-0. Auditor Stroud reported that the county received \$81,654 for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) for Federal Government ground in the county. That money will be divided between the units that have that ground located in them by this year's rate. This money does not reflect the lawsuit that the county was part of. That money will be paid later to the county. Stroud concluded with the claim from French Lick American Legion to be reimbursed for flags that were placed. The county has appropriated \$250 for this in the budget. Motion to allow French Lick American Legion to claim the appropriated amount of \$250 was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0.

Garland Eubank, 911, reported that the county does have text 911 services. This service will allow people to text 911 and make reports even if they are not able to speak. If the device that is being used has GPS the location of the text can also be identified. Garland reported that the county is also working on assigning road names to the numbered roads to eliminate confusion.

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

Marshall Noble

Steve Hopper

Attest: _____
Lonnie Stroud, Auditor – Orange County

Richard Dixon