

RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE
ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AT THE
MEETING ROOM, PAOLI, INDIANA
ON THE 4TH DAY OF MAY, 2021 at 9:00 am

Officials present: Commissioners Richard Dixon, Steve Hopper, and Marshal Noble. Also present, County Attorney JC Tucker and Deputy Auditor Chelsea Smith.

Richard Dixon led in the pledge to the Flag and Emergency Management Director Emerick gave prayer.

Richard Dixon called meeting to order.

Motion to approve the minutes from April 20th meeting was made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble, and carried 3-0.

Sheriff Josh Babcock gave his report. The Sheriff's Department was busy in April. The high count in the jail was 81 and the low count 60. At present, there are 78 incarcerated. 7,489 meals were served at a rate of \$1.10 per meal.

Marshall Noble reported that Orange County received a 2021 Community Crossing grant in the amount of \$999,057.90. This is a 75-25 match with the County providing \$333,019.00. Therefore, there is \$1,332,077.20 allocated for county roads. Carl Anderson and Tara Damin of Clark-Dietz are to be complimented for their success. Carl Anderson also thanked the County Council for the approval of the matching funds in support of better infrastructure. There will be a great deal of construction on county roads this year with some road closures. The public is asked to be patient. The county is in the process of consultant selection for bridge inspection for 2022-25. Three quotes have been received and will be considered. Mr. Anderson reported that the side mowers are going out and other work is being performed.

Marshall Noble reported that INDOT concerning the construction of the Airport Road is having bi-weekly meetings attended by Carl Anderson and him. The road is to be completed by the end of 2021 or early 2022. INDOT will do all the construction and the County will maintain the road.

Carl Anderson reported on the history of Community Crossing grants with the County being very successful in five of the six years grants have been available. These are highly competitive grants. The main focus for Orange County is to improve highly traveled roads.

Emergency Management Director Rick Emerick reported that the culvert under Highway 145 has been revamped by INDOT by pouring concrete. Other repairs have been made just north of the Airport Road intersection. Mr. Emerick is set up in the Government Center (formerly JSI building). Internet is an issue. Mr. Emerick reported that Troy Riley from Greenfield Township and C.J. Fleenor from Stampers Creek Township have agreed to serve on the Orange County Fire District Board. Richard Dixon requested a roster with expiration dates of all members. Upon motion made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble and carried 3-0, the appointments of Troy Riley and C.J. Fleenor were approved.

Mr. Emerick reported that the Community Center is designated as a Red Cross Center. It has showers and the Government Center does not. The EOC is the County Council Room. Mr. Emerick will look into an amendment to the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan to see how the Government Center can be utilized.

Maintenance Director Frank Lynd provided quotes for lawn care of the flowers on the Courthouse lawn. He also reported that the Community Center floors have been cleaned and that replacement of flooring is not necessary. The HVAC upgrade begins today.

The Commissioners viewed the quotes on the flower care at the Courthouse lawn. Upon motion made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper and carried 3-0, the proposal of A+ Outdoor Services, LLC, of Brownstown, Indiana, was approved. The price was \$2,880.00 for 6 months maintenance; \$1,620.00 to mulch the flower beds; and, \$480.00 to divide the lilies. The other quote was from Wright Lawn Care of Milltown.

Mr. Lynd presented a proposal from Jasper Seating, Inc. to sell to Orange County a Toyota forklift for \$2,500.00. Upon motion made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble and carried 3-0, the purchase of the forklift was approved by the Commissioners, subject to County Council approval.

Richard Dixon inquired as to who had keys to the Government Center.

A quote from Patoka Propane to establish an industrial gas account for the Government Center was considered. Upon motion made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble and carried 3-0, the proposal from Patoka Propane for an industrial gas account for the County for the Government Center was approved.

Jeff Busing of Weddle Brothers Highway Group, LLC presented a letter concerning a proposal to close a county road in conjunction with INDOT bridge work on Highway 150 and county roads. The proposal was to close West County Road 240 North from June 1 to June 15, 2021. Upon motion made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0, West County Road 240 North is to be closed from June 1 to June 15, 2021.

Pam Phillips appeared to ask the policy of the County on spray painting messages on county roads. Attorney Tucker explained that any spray painting of messages without the Commissioners' approval was considered vandalism and should be reported to the Sheriff and to the County Highway Department as a safety issue. Sheriff Babcock and Highway Superintendent Anderson will follow through with Ms. Phillips.

Richard Drake of Orange County Fire District 1 appeared to state that the volunteer firemen were up from 9 to 24 who are state certified with 9 of the 24 now in emergency management training. Mr. Drake stated that the firemen often spend extended time at the scene of incidents prior to ambulance arrival. The Fire District wishes to go back sometime in the future as a transporting agency. Mr. Drake requested supplemental funding in order to purchase a reconditioned ambulance unit. Mr. Drake stated that USDA grant funding of 33% of the cost was available and that the remaining cost would be approximately \$125,000.00 for a 4-wheel drive reconditioned unit. The Fire District desired financial support. Marshall Noble and Richard Dixon commented on the request. The Commissioners asked for details on the proposal which Mr. Drake said he would supply for future consideration.

Abby Heidenreich, Purdue Extension, appeared to give her quarterly report, including an update for each area. There will be a timber management workshop on June 4 at Patoka Lake. The Harvest of the Month program continues. There should be a normal County Fair this year between July 9 and July 16. CDC guidelines will be followed; however, it will be an in-person fair. The 4-H Camp will occur in June. Budgeting lessons are being given to third graders and there is a parenting support class in the works. There is also training to making businesses dementia friendly.

Catherine Strother of Orange County Rehabilitative & Developmental Services, Inc., d/b/a First Chance Center, presented a Cares grant request for approval of \$67,143.00. Upon motion made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble, the request was approved 3-0.

Catherine Strother reported on Orange County Transit, emphasizing how difficult it is to keep and add to the workforce. Steve Hopper stated that it was good to see the transit miles were up.

Attorney James C. Tucker gave his report. Mr. Tucker inquired concerning the Garmong Construction Management proposal for the Government Center and the RQAW proposal also concerning the Government Center. These matters were tabled to receive additional information on financing and other options. Mr. Tucker inquired about the lease with Liner Products. Richard Dixon explained that the lease was being considered by Liner Products who should respond shortly. Liner Products will have to put in a larger door at the Government Center in order to utilize this space.

Chelsea Smith, on behalf of the Auditor's Department, stated that the clean-out of the vault continues and requested for Commissioners to look at the vault. A few items were left. Upon motion made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Richard Dixon and carried 3-0, Commissioner Steve Hopper was made the coordinator of the project with full authority to clean up and throw out unneeded and unused, valueless items.

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Richard Dixon brought up the monitoring, sprinklers, and fire riser proposals for the Community Center and the Government Center. Frank Lynd recommended monitoring at both buildings be done by Smithville and that the sprinklers, fire extinguishers, and risers, proposal of Koorsen be approved. Upon motion made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper and carried 3-0, the Smithville proposal for monitoring and the Koorsen proposal for sprinklers, fire extinguishers and risers for both buildings were approved, subject to approval by Attorney Tucker of final contract documents. Upon motion made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble, and carried 3-0, the claims were approved and to be signed and the meeting adjourned after signatures.

Orange County Commissioners

Richard Dixon

Steve Hopper

Marshall Noble

Attest: _____
Lonnie Stroud, Auditor – Orange County
Submitted by James C. Tucker, Orange County Attorney