

RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE
ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AT THE
MEETING ROOM, PAOLI, INDIANA
ON THE 6th DAY OF APRIL, 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 from March 23rd meeting was made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble, and carried 3-0.

Sheriff Babcock reported March stats and that the Jail population was running 77. Sheriff also presented the Commissioners with a printed copy of the Jail Inspection Report.

Carl Anderson, Orange County Highway Superintendent, reported on road work in all 3 districts. The County is expecting a release of information on the Community Crossing Grant soon.

Rick Emerick, County EMA, reported on the County Readiness Assessment from Homeland Security. Richard Dixon reported that he would like to see Rick move his office to the Future County Jail Complex site. This would allow Rick to have access to a loading dock for unloading shipments in the event of a disaster.

Clint Deck, Orange County Purdue Extension Educator, reported on 4-H activities. The County 4-H Fair will be July 9-16 and the information on any site limitations will be forthcoming. Programs are being spread out to multiple venues and events. Clint requested input from the Community on possible events to be added to the fair. With the additional parking in the rear of the property the parking lot in front of the Community Center could be used. The Commissioner commented that they would like to see the fair get back to being a more robust event. The Commissioners informed the Purdue office manager Angie Chastain that the Community Center will be available for rent after May 3rd. There will be professional cleaning and sanitizing done after the Hospital and Health Department clinics are removed.

JC Tucker, County Attorney, requested action on the release of the mask mandate. Marshal Noble reported that it was the Commissioners intentions to follow the Governor’s guidance and release the mandate in the County. However, each business and government office will be allowed to require mask in their respective areas. Posting should be posted for these areas by the business or office holder. Motion to approve the release of the mandate and allow individual requirement of mask in only certain areas was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0. JC Tucker reported that the 1.9-million-dollar bond was issued, deposited into the county fund, and then redistributed at closing on the JSI building March 30th.

Steve Hopper reported that he was working on getting a tree planted in memorial of Steve Wells. It was the consensus of the Commissioners that it should be a native tree and that the state tree, Tulip Popular, would be a good possible choice. Steve Hopper requested that the public please report any activity around parked mowing equipment over the weekends. There should be no person near the parked equipment while it isn’t in use Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Richard Dixon, reported that the Vaccine Clinics will be moved to the Future Jail Complex after the Community Center. There is a plan in place to allow Inliner to rent up to 62,000 square feet of space at the Future Jail Complex at the rate of \$0.25 a square foot. The rent agreement will be forthcoming for the County Attorney to review and make adjustments to.

Marshall Noble reported that he and the County Auditor will meet with a financial planner to work on setting up a workshop for the county on the future jail project. This will help the County to lay the foundation to future plans of the funding of the County Jail Complex on the new site.

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

Orange County Commissioners

Richard Dixon

Steve Hopper

Marshall Noble

Attest: _____
Lonnie Stroud, Auditor – Orange County