

RECORD OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AT THE
MEETING ROOM, PAOLI, INDIANA
ON THE 2nd DAY OF JANUARY 2020 at 9:00 am

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

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

The minutes from December 17th were reviewed. Steve Hopper made the motion to accept the minutes without changes, Marshall Noble seconded, and the motion carried 3-0.

Sheriff Babcock gave report that New Year holiday went well for the county citizens. There is currently 71 in the county jail being held. Sheriff also presented the Auditor with the yearend Commissary report.

Carl Anderson, Superintendent Orange County Highway Department, reported that District 1 completed the dome pipe repair project near Melton Road in Greenfield TWP, all three districts worked to complete this project. This repair will help during flooding events. Carl reported on work for the Community Crossing Grant that opens on January 15th and that road and road sign inventory work as well.

Rick Emerick, EMA, reported on the County Readiness Assessment. Rick reported that there is a push for the counties to take over responsibility of the cyber security preparation.

Beth Jones, County Clerk, reported on election changes for 2020 election. It will be required to have a print out on the ballots for voters in the 2020 election (view only). The Federal Government is paying for the required 3 percent of the printers/view screens but it is believed the County must store them in a secure area as they do with the voting machines. There is currently no room for these 20 printers to be stored with the equipment. There was discussion on possible areas that could be utilized. Beth also reported that the new requirement was that all equipment must be delivered by the election board to each precinct the day before the election. Each precinct must have a person present to receive and sign off on receiving the equipment.

Earl Loren Galloway commented on the French Lick Planning Commission. Mr. Galloway wanted to know who wanted the number reduced and said that he was part of the citizens that got the original appointments made. Marshall Noble commented that the County would not be reducing the number below the allowed amount and that appointments would be made to replace those that do not attend. Mr. Galloway suggested that the county appointments be given a stipend to encourage attendance. Mr. Galloway also questioned about the proposed interstate route that may go through Orange County. Richard Dixon reported that there was no information available at this time. Mr. Galloway stated that he felt it would be beneficial to the county because grain and stone were the county’s largest export. Marshall Noble stated that he was aware that the French Lick Casino would also benefit from the route being near the hotel.

Eugene Pinnick questioned on LIT tax being collected on people that live in the county but work in another county. Auditor Stroud reported that the tax is reported/collercted by the employer and the state sends the tax dollars collected to the county of residency.

County Attorney JC Tucker reported that the contract with Purdue for the space in the Community Center was for 3 years not 4. Correction was made to the type error. JC also presented the contract for the Purdue Extension services. Motion to approve the contract with the approved budgeted amount was made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble, and carried 3-0.

Richard Dixon reported that the Commissioners are in favor of just continuing the amount paid by IU Health for the property owned by the county that the new proposed after-hours care facility will be located on (about \$2000 annually bases on the tax rate for the unimproved property). Motion to approve the current rate of compensation for the property that the facility will set on was made by Richard Dixon, seconded by Marshall Noble, and carried 3-0. JC will prepare the agreement for signatures.

Auditor Stroud presented the Commissioners with a request to participate in the Purdue Orange County Community Leadership Program on January 15th. If more than 1 Commissioners is present it must be advertised as a public meeting.

The annual reorganization of the Commissioners Board was opened by Marshall Noble nominating Richard Dixon as President, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0. Motion to appoint Steve Hopper as Vice President was made by Richard Dixon, seconded by Marshall Noble, and carried 3-0. Auditor Stroud presented the Commissioners with the list of appointments. Commissioners appointed as follows: County Extension Board will remain Steve Hopper, Community Building will remain Steve Hopper, CVB Board will remain Carrie Shinkle, EMA Council will remain Richard Dixon, Marshal Noble will replace Richard Dixon on the County Health Care Advisory Committee, Orange County Economic Development Partnership will remain Richard Dixon, Region 15 Planning will remain Carl Anderson and Marshall Noble, Tourism Commission will remain Steve Hopper, Jeff Cunningham, Eugene Pinnick, and Mark Jones. There was discussion on the French Lick appointments and it was unclear who the Commissioners have appointed and the town did not provide any information. Marshall made the motion to go ahead and appoint Mark Jones to replace Donovan Crews, and reappoint Eugene Pinnick, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0. Further appointments will be considered once more information is available.

The amount that was approved for the Economic Development Partnership that was approved to be 10 percent of the annual amount received was \$52,510. This will be divided and paid out monthly per the approved agreement from the last meeting.

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