

RECORD OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AT THE
MEETING ROOM, PAOLI, INDIANA
ON THE 23rd DAY OF MARCH, 2020 at 9:00 am

Officials present: Commissioners Richard Dixon, Marshall Noble, and Steve Hopper. Also present, Sheriff Josh Babcock, Attorney Lyn Tucker Fullen 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 March 9th were reviewed. Steve Hopper made the motion to accept the minutes, Richard Dixon seconded, and the motion carried 2-0-1. Marshall Noble abstained.

Sheriff Babcock reported to the Commissioners on COVID-19 precautions in the Jail and Dispatch. With the Governor's order limiting non-essential travel he has made restrictions to the visitation after today.

Carl Anderson, Orange County Highway Superintendent, reported on COVID-19 precautions that the Highway Department has taken. Carl offered his district report in by email to the Commissioners upon request. Carl presented the annual highway financial report to the Commissioners for review and signing. Motion to approve and sign the report was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0. Carl presented a request from Frontier Communications to disturb 7 county roads for the installation of fiber cable. Motion to allow Carl to review, approve, or deny those individually was made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble, and carried 3-0.

Rick Emerick, EMA, gave report on COVID-19 actions by the Department of Homeland Security, National Guard, and State Police. The National Guard along with the State Police will be delivering medical supplies and working with the Health Departments.

Lyn Tucker Fullen presented the Commissioners with the Declaration of Local Disaster and Emergency. Motion to approve the declaration with changes was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0. This declaration will close all government buildings to non-essential persons. Lyn reported on the personnel policy for out of state travel for the Sheriff department. Motion by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble, and carried 3-0 to extend this to all county employees. This would exempt employees from receiving the proposed extra leave if they choose to travel out of state and require them to take personal accumulated time if they are required to miss work. Richard Dixon questioned Lyn about hospital request to use the Community Center for daycare. Lyn stated that she would advise no. Marshall Noble will look into the insurance coverage for the Community Building with this declaration of emergency. Lyn presented the executive order allowing remote public meetings during this event. Only one official would need to be present and the remainder may attend remotely. Motion to approve the policy (by Resolution 2020-3) of remote meeting attendance during this event was made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble, and carried 3-0. Stroud presented Lyn with the question of Title Searchers being essential under the Governor's executive order and the County allowing them in the building. It was approved that Title Searchers will be permitted in the building (with restriction by elected officials). Lyn concluded by presenting Resolution 2020-2 COVID-19 Leave. The Commissioners will be granting a total of 10 days of leave for each employee during the pandemic event. To comply with the order of the Governor, this allows giving half-staff requirement for every office other than Sheriff, Jail, Dispatch, and the Courts. The exempted offices will be at the discretion of the elected official of how these days are to be used if necessary. This Resolution will include the approved language for out of state travel limitation approved by the Commissioners. Motion to approve the Resolution 2020-2 was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0.

Dan McDonald, Kinetic IT services, presented the Commissioners with a brief update on the final completion of the Counties backup IT security. This solution will be a Cloud solution for the servers that hold the sensitive documents of the county in the event of cyber attack.

Steve Hopper stated that it be clear, that the Community Center upstairs is closed for public rental until further notice. This will be the center for disaster plan execution and needs to remain clear for immediate use by the appropriate officials.

There was a discussion on essential services going forward and Lyn will work with Auditor Stroud in identifying what is and isn't for the County.

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

Marshall Noble

Attest: _____
Lonnie Stroud, Auditor – Orange County