

RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE
ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AT THE
MEETING ROOM, PAOLI, INDIANA
ON THE 5th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2021 at 9:00 am

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

Richard Dixon led the pledge to the flag and Auditor Stroud offered the prayer.

Sheriff Babcock called the meeting to order.

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2021, meeting was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and passed 3-0.

Sheriff presented the monthly stats for September and reported that there were currently 83 inmates at the time of the meeting. Sheriff reported on receiving a concern on the intersection of 500N and 100E. After evaluating the intersection with the Highway Superintendent Carl Anderson, he recommends that the intersection be made a 4 way stop. Motion to approve the 4-way stop was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0. County Attorney Lyn Fullen Tucker will prepare the ordinance for signatures at the next meeting.

Carl Anderson, County Highway Superintendent, reported on work in all three districts. Community Crossing work will be completed by the end of the month. Carl is now working on ratings on the county roads in preparation for the 2022 Community Crossing Grant cycle. Carl requested permission to approach Council for an appropriation to address a large culvert on County Road 700S that was destroyed in the last flood event. The request will be \$22,807 plus material to bed the culvert. Motion to approve Carl to make the appropriation request was made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble, and carried 3-0. Carl reported that the county clean-up received 160 yard of junk and 80 tires.

EMA, Rick Emerick, reported on the exercise at Tucker Lake planned for October 6th, 2021. Rick also reported on working with Washington County EMA to revise the respective county’s vision and mission statement. This would address todays needs as well as 2-3 years out. Richard Dixon requested that Rick put together a plan for property addressing, building permitting, and onsite septic approval process for the future.

Frank Lynd, Maintenance Director, reported on the Complex HVAC boiler system being regulated for the months between warm and cold temps. Frank reported on work at the Courthouse on the fire monitor system as well. It was discussed putting off the seal coating of the parking lots and the additional landscaping at the Courthouse till next spring. Frank will enquire about holding the quotes till next spring. Frank reported that the tree marker for Steve Wells is complete.

Elizabeth Jones, Orange County Clerk, presented information on having documents scanned for online access. There were quotes from Fidlar Technology for \$63,744.86 and IRA Information for \$44,427.93. Marshall asked if fees could be collected for access to the information. Elizabeth reported that they do collect \$3 for certified copies but that it can’t be done on line as of yet. This information being scanned would be a step in that direction. There was discussion on the possibility of part of the cost coming from the Clerks Record Perpetuation Fund. Motion to approve Elizabeth to sign IRA Information agreement pending Council appropriation was made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble, and carried 3-0.

Meliah Hammes presented a complaint about speed, hump, and drainage on Sandy Hook Road. She stated that road drainage has damaged her property and wants it more than looked at this time since she has made a complaint before. Carl reported that there is run off from the road that does go onto the property identified but the road has not had any reconstruction that has contributed to any change of drainage in the last 17 years. Lyn Tucker Fullen cautioned the Commissioners about doing anything off the county road easement right of way. Carl will contact a road engineer to assist with possible solutions the county can take on the county easement.

Brittany Stout, SICHC and Safe Haven, presented a grant opportunity that they were made aware of that they didn’t know how to pursue because it had to be applied for through a county or municipality. Brittany stated that the presented OCRA grant had a deadline that was probably unachievable but she was looking for future support in accessing these possibilities. Auditor Stroud and Commissioner Marshall Noble will email Brittany with organizations that can assist Safe Haven with getting grants and the County would be willing to be the passthrough for them in the future.

County Attorney, Lyn Tucker Fullen, presented an affidavit for camper self-contained holding tanks that do not have water connections for the County Sanitarian Kim Anderson. The need for a physical address is needed for an electric connection. The County does not issue addresses without an onsite septic permit but this affidavit would allow the address for this type of situation. Motion to approve the affidavit was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0. Lyn presented a Memorandum of Agreement with Tammie Johnson to be the County Preparedness Coordinator. Motion to approve the Memorandum was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0.

Auditor Stroud reported that the County did receive the lease payment for the space leased at the OCJGC for July, August, September, and October from Inliner. Stroud presented a recommendation and request that a deputy in the Auditor’s office be allowed the 3-week maternity leave afforded in the County Employee Handbook. Motion to approve the recommendation request was made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble, and carried 3-0. Stroud presented a request to deem a third desk in the Circuit Court office (there were two deemed no value at last meeting) to be deemed no value for disposal. Motion to approve the Judges request to have the desk discarded no value was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0. Stroud requested that the County offices be allowed to close for up to 30 minutes to be able to observe the placement of the memorial plaque for Steve Wells near a tree planted on the Courthouse green. It will be allowed for each elected official to determine if that office participate in the closure. Stroud reported that he has received a few complaints over the years on pets in the government buildings. Without a policy the County has had no response. Stroud requested that the County address the issue with either restricting or setting parameters for pets to be allowed. Per the Commissioners request Lyn Tucker Fullen will draft a no pets policy that only allows service animals.

Steve Hopper requested that the front and back entrances be cleaned and painted. Frank will have it looked into and he is currently working on the handicap door openers as well.

Marshall Noble reported that he is looking at getting quotes for the county employee 457 deferred comp plan options with the lowering of the fixed interest rate of 4% to 1.5%. Marshall also questioned the warning from SBOA (State Board of Accounts) at the AIC Conference that the county should hold back 10% of the ARP money for audit cost. Stroud reported that the County should not experience the same amount of audit scrutiny as some counties because Orange County will be using the grant to replace loss revenue (only the calculation for the loss revenue should be the focus of the audit). However, Stroud requested that the Commissioners have Tucker draft a letter of protest to this outrageous request by the SBOA. The audit should NOT cost the county \$380,000 over the next 4 years.

Richard Dixon reported that the County had a kickoff meeting for the panning of the Future Orange County Justice and Government Center on October 1st. The County met with the construction manager Garmong and RQAW engineers.

Carl Anderson reported that he was just made aware of another stop sign was stolen. This brings the total to 15 in the recent history and represents a loss of over \$1,000. Sheriff Babcock will contact the school resource officers to do education in schools. If a stollen sign was the cause of an accident the person that was found to be responsible for the theft could be charged with murder if an accidental death resulted from the missing sign.

Upon motion made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble, and passed 3-0, the claims were approved to be signed and the meeting adjourned after signatures.

Orange County Commissioners

Richard Dixon

Steve Hopper

Marshall Noble

Attest: _____
Lonnie Stroud, Auditor – Orange County