

RECORD OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AT THE
MEETING ROOM, PAOLI, INDIANA
ON THE 18TH DAY OF JUNE 2019 at 9:00 am

Officials present: Commissioners Steve Hopper, Richard Dixon, and Marshall Noble. Also present, Chief Deputy Sheriff Denis Lanham, County Attorney JC Tucker, and Auditor Lonnie Stroud.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Denis Lanham called the meeting to order. The pledge to the Flag was given and Auditor Stroud opened with prayer.

The minutes from the June 4th meeting were reviewed. Marshall Noble made the motion to accept the minutes, Steve Hopper seconded, and the motion carried 3-0.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Denis Lanham gave May stats and reported that the population in the jail is 91 at the time of the meeting.

April Lynd, Sheriff Department Bookkeeper, reported that they have had equipment failures of the air condition unit in the kitchen and the walk-in cooler/freezer has failed and not repairable. Motion to approve Cumulative Capital funds for low bid once 3 bids were solicited for the walk-in replacement not to exceed \$13,000 was made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble, and carried 3-0. The air condition unit will be evaluated by Johnson Control to see if repair or replacement is necessary. The Jail purchased temporary units for freezing and refrigeration from the Commissary Fund.

Carl Anderson, Orange County Highway Superintendent, gave report on work being done in districts 1, 2, and 3 for preparation for the Community Crossing grant work. Carl reported on the high-water events that have affected travel in the county. Carl requested public cooperation in leaving the signs in place and not risking driving through high water. Carl requested Commissioners approval to get bids on 4 new trucks for Highway Department. Motion to allow Carl to solicit bids was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0. Carl concluded by reporting on the repair of Bridge 102 located on 175 East.

Rick Emerick, Orange County EMA, reported on county flooding. Rick reported that the threshold for FEMA assistance is \$75,000 if the state threshold is met. The flooding is statewide and the state is likely to meet the threshold. The county, at this point, is nowhere near the \$75,000 but tracking is being done to ensure we are able to collect in the event we do. Rick reported that the Patoka Lake is near 2011 all time high. The emergency spill release is eminent. The dam was reported to be in good repair and no danger is identified of failure. Rick reported that he has been working on the fire evacuation documentation for the Community Center. There was no information put together in regards the meeting with the Orange County Rural Fire Board in July at the time of this meeting.

Billie Deel, Orange County Treasurer, reported on the tax sale scheduled for September 20th. Billie presented the contract for SRI to perform the sale for the county. The rate changed from \$75 per parcel to \$100. Motion to sign contract was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0. The Commissioners were presented a letter from Lewis Maudlin to increase fees for search and examination records. The Commissioners were advised to defer to the Judge for the rate change. Motion to defer to Judge Steve Owen for any increases to the search and examination of records for properties that were sold in tax sale was made by Richard Dixon, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0.

Abby Heidenreich, County Extension Director, reported on the fair date being July 5-12. Abby also requested the Commissioners to approve the creation of a 3rd Educator position in place of a resigning Assistant position. Abby reported that services provided would increase and the retention of educators would also be positively impacted. Lesley Lobnell, Lawrence County Extension, Barbara Bowling, Orange County Extension Board, and Tammie Johnson, Orange County Health Department, all spoke in favor of the creation of the new position. Richard Dixon spoke of positive impact 4-H had on his life and that 4-H was an alternative that reached kids outside sports. Marshall Noble brought the concern if funding in the Casino was reduced then positions that were added would be evaluated. Abby reported that Purdue will be providing an impact report to show the effectiveness of the third educator. Stroud reported that the funding would come from the County General fund. The proposed increase of \$26,287 also included \$13,108 for the part time after the Assistant position was removed. Motion to approve the proposed position if Council will fund was made by Marshall, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0.

Tammie Johnson, Orange County Health Department, presented a request to reappoint Pam Bond and Rick Emerick to the County Health Board. Motion to reappoint both was made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble, and carried 3-0.

County Attorney JC Tucker introduced Noah Wagner as assisting. JC presented the Commissioners with the Ordinance 2019-2 to increase the parcel transfer fees by the Auditor’s Office from \$5 to \$10. This was new legislation that will be in affect July 1st. It was Indiana Code SHALL and not a MAY. Motion to approve the increase per state code was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0. The ordinance will go to Council for their approval as well. JC reported on the completion of the Resolution 2019-5 Notice of Nondiscrimination Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Grievance. This resolution is part of the requirement from INDOT to participate in grant programs such as the Community Crossing. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0. JC reported that after review of the right-of-way request by property owner Levi Smoot and REMC representative he was satisfied with what County Highway Superintendent Carl Anderson reported on the 20 feet request. If the service was to be buried the request would be amended to be 10 feet. Motion to approve the easement was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0.

Auditor Stroud presented the Commissioners with a certification of number of cover bridges on county property. The county has zero covered bridges that we maintain. Motion to sign certification was made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble, and carried 3-0.

Steve Hopper reported on the road work in his district and requested that the public not drive in high water and leave the signs in place.

Marshall Noble requested an update on the appraisals of the County Park land that is being considered to be sold. JC reported that the request has been made but none have been submitted yet.

Richard Dixon asked if the directed deposit requirement was going well. Stroud reported that he has received most of the forms from those employees that were not on direct deposit.

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

Marshall Noble

Steve Hopper

Attest: _____
Lonnie Stroud, Auditor – Orange County

Richard Dixon