

RECORD OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AT THE
MEETING ROOM, PAOLI, INDIANA
ON THE 8th DAY OF OCTOBER 2019 at 9:00 am

Officials present: Commissioners Richard Dixon, Steve Hopper, and Marshall Noble. Also present, Sheriff Josh Babcock, Attorney J.C. Tucker and Deputy Auditor Karie Becht.

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

The minutes from September 24th were reviewed. Marshall Noble made the motion to accept the minutes without changes, Steve Hopper seconded, and the motion carried 3-0.

Sheriff Babcock gave the September stats for the Sheriff Department. 105 court papers were served, 14,156 patrol miles logged, and 7,545 meals were served at an average cost of \$1.20/meal. Jail population is currently 92. Sheriff Babcock also informed the Commissioners that 2 sally port doors are in need of repair/possible replacement. There are also plumbing issues due to deteriorating lines that will eventually need to be addressed.

Carl Anderson, Superintendent, Orange County Highway Department, stated chip & seal is completed and they are working on the last of the paving this week. He also stated that the Community Crossings Grant is 100% closed.

Anderson also informed the Commissioners that the Orange County Cleanup Day is October 19th from 8am-Noon at the Orange County Highway Garage. This year, tires will be accepted with a limit of 8 tires (per household ONLY).

EMA Director Rick Emerick presented a Disaster Emergency Proclamation Burn Ban. Motion to approve the proclamation was made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble and the motion carried 3-0. Emerick made a request for permission to submit a grant application for salary reimbursement. Motion was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper and carried 3-0. Emerick also requested permission to apply for a grant thru Hoosier Uplands that would cover software expenses. Richard Dixon made the motion for permission, Steve Hopper seconded, and the motion carried 3-0.

The Honorable Steven Owen, Orange Circuit Court, made a request of an application for additional appropriation of \$125,000 from casino funds to cover pauper counsel claims thru the end of 2019. Owen confirmed with Karie Becht that there is also \$53,000+ available in the Supplemental Pauper Counsel Fund. Owen confirmed that criminal cases are down in numbers but CHINS (child in need of services) cases are increased and appeals on CHINS cases are also increased. Motion to approve application for Casino Funds was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and the motion carried 3-0.

Billie Deel, Treasurer and Linda Reynolds, Assessor, approached the board with the contract from XSoft for approval. County Attorney J.C. Tucker informed the Commissioners the contract had been reviewed by his office and Marshall Noble made a motion to approve the contract, Steve Hopper seconded, and the motion carried 3-0.

Beth Jones, Clerk, presented the commissioners with a Designation of Polling Site to approve the French Lick Precincts to vote at the new Senior Citizens Bldg. (Formerly T.L. Pinnick Mortuary) located at 785 South Bears Bend Road in French Lick. The Motion approve was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Richard Dixon, and the motion passed 3-0.

Robin Stackhouse, Council Member, reported that she, along with many others, attended the Association of Indiana Counties 61st Annual Conference held at the French Lick Resort last week. She stated that the workshops were educational and enjoyable. Dixon and Stackhouse confirmed that the Council and Commissioners will share their minutes with each other to add to the benefit of discussions and communications. Stackhouse also shared that they are prepared to finalize Budgets this month.

County Attorney, J.C. Tucker, reviewed the Disability Leave as stated in the policy handbook with the Commissioners, stating an additional 120 hours may be requested for an employee. However, privacy laws do not allow name disclosure. Anderson recommended the additional 120 hours be granted for the unnamed employee. Steve Hopper made a motion for the approval, Marshall Noble seconded, and the motion carried 3-0.

Marshall Noble said he and Carl Anderson met with INDOT, along with French Lick Airport, French Lick Resort, and Engineers, regarding Airport Road. INDOT informed them that bid letting is anticipated to be open January 2020, a 2-season project, with completion expected- not confirmed - in Fall 2021. This is all contingent on permits and an environmental impact study.

Marshall Noble stated that French Lick Resort secured a grant for housing development in Orange County. He is eager to see the benefits Orange County will gain.

Steve Hopper discussed installation of lighting in the parking lot of the Orange County Community Center. Dixon suggested looking at the proposed plans made by Midwestern Engineers, Inc. in October 2007 for the parking lot as it included lighting. However, it was decided that Carl Anderson would contact Midwestern Engineers, Inc. about a review/revision of those plans.

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