

RECORD OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AT THE
MEETING ROOM, PAOLI, INDIANA
ON THE 22nd 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 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 October 8th were reviewed. Marshall Noble made the motion to accept the minutes without changes, Steve Hopper seconded, and the motion carried 3-0.

Sheriff Babcock reported that the Jail population is currently 93. Sheriff Babcock reported on ongoing repairs in the Sheriff Department and Jail to the Commissioners that was brought up in the last meeting.

Carl Anderson, Superintendent, Orange County Highway Department, reported on road work and that the bridge on 175 West (Hobson Bridge Road) will be closed for 1 month so the bridge can undergo repairs. The newspaper and School will be notified of this closure as well. This is the worst bridge in the county and the Highway Department is working down the list that is provided by the required bridge inspection. Carl also reported on the huge success of the county wide clean up day. It was the best attended so far.

Rick Emerick, Orange County EMA, reported on the salary reimbursement grant work. Rick also reported that he will be attending the state wide EMA conference in Indianapolis the rest of the week. The burn ban that the Commissioners enacted has been lifted. There was discussion on the difference types of burn bans and that Orange County did allow fires in fire rings to not be part of the ban. This was much better than other counties tried to do.

Billie Deel, Orange County Treasurer, reported on the web site that the County has hired to make tax information available to the public <http://orangecounty59.us/>

Cathy Wingler, Hoosier Uplands, requested permission from the Commissioners to apply on behalf of the county for the Community Development Block Grant that allows Owner Occupied Rehab. Motion to allow Hoosier Upland permission to act on behalf of the county and apply for this grant to help the residents of Orange County was made by Marshall Noble, seconded by Steve Hopper, and carried 3-0.

Valerie Moon, Orange County Transit, presented a Motor Vehicle Purchase Agreement for two vans from awarded INDOT grant money. Motion to approve the purchase agreement was made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble, and carried 3-0.

JC Tucker, Orange County Attorney, reported on the successful award of the Payment in Lieu of Taxes. The County was awarded \$1,849 that will be divided between the units with Federal Land located in them. JC reported that the litigation on the opioid lawsuit is still pending.

Auditor Stroud presented a request to change the open enrolment for the dental and vision policies for the county employees to be change to January to go with the other health benefits offered by the county. Motion to allow the open enrollment to be change to January 1st was made by Steve Hopper, seconded by Marshall Noble, and carried 3-0. Stroud also reported that 2020 will be the County's 27 pay year. This will mean that the county employees may see less on individual checks but will receive an additional check in the year compared to 2019. Stroud will remind the county employees that the check that is at the end of the year will be cut for January 2nd (Thursday after the holiday).

Steve Hopper reported that he has been following the County Highway Crews and has been impressed with the quality of work that has been accomplished this year.

Marshal Noble agreed with Steve Hopper on the quality of work performed. Marshal reported that he has even seen positive comments on social media to the fact that the county has been accomplishing a lot in the last couple years. Marshal concluded with congratulating the Lady Hawks on the sectional victor and the fact that all three school bands were advanced to Simi State.

Richard Dixon reported that there is ongoing planning for the parking lot at the Community Center. Richard also commented on the positive year of road work this year. It was a successful year and that was a reflection of the workers and Carl Anderson being placed in the position of Highway Superintendent. There was brief discussion on the needed plan revision to the parking lot plans at the Community Center and the funding possibilities.

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