

SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

REGULAR SESSION

PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Pulaski County Commissioners met in regular session Monday September 16, 2024 8:30AM at the Pulaski County Highway Garage training room. Commissioners present were Charles Mellon, Maurice Loehmer, Michael McClure with County Auditor Laura Wheeler and County Attorney Kevin Tankersley.

Also present were Nathan Origer, Larry Weaver, Leeann Wright, Connie Ehrlich, Jenny Knebel, Katie Surma, Joe Moyer, Stephen Tabler, Frank Stone, Gary Kruger, Kurt Dickey, and LeaAnne Jones.

President Mellon opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: CDC

Contingency balance is \$398,465.50. Steering committee made changes to restrooms, meeting room, tech space and break room on the upper floor for which County will incur additional design costs but could realize some cost savings from Tonn & Blank as some drywall, framing, one door and a bit of flooring eliminated. Five requests are outstanding, one for the flat-roof work that Commissioners approved for time and materials and is now complete. Roofing is back in the hands of that subcontractor. Caulk in areas around the roof and tower contains asbestos so Tonn & Blank will be using hazardous-materials-removal service, which will come at a cost but credit from the masonry subcontractor will offset some of the cost as this was in their original scope of work. The first slab test results are very good. Framing with vapor-barrier installation has begun on the lower level, excavation in front of the building is complete so they can pour footers for the walls on either side of the mini-plaza at the entrance and the masons have begun waterproofing the foundation and continue with grout grinding.

A formal approval needed to move forward with the application of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through KIRPC, including authorizing someone to sign a letter of intent if required. Commissioners asked to commit \$5-10,000.00 of ARPA funds as the local-match share of the costs. Charles Mellon made a motion to move forward on this matter, Maurice Loehmer seconded and motion carried unanimously. Also, \$15,000.00 of the allocated funds requested to be used to pay consultant Scott Rudd for his work over the last 20 months. Maurice Loehmer made this motion, Michael McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously. Commissioners asked to authorize Charles Mellon to sign a letter of support for Maintenance Fiber's Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program application for fiber-internet build-out in Pulaski County. While the letter does not bind the county to any financial obligation, it is highly likely Mainstream will ask the County to work with them to provide a substantial amount of local-match funds in addition to their own investment. Broadband Task Force chair Kurt Dickey further explained that they feel Mainstream Fiber Network (MSFN) is best suited to serve the remaining connectivity gaps in our community. MSFN has agreed to build 195 miles of fiber west of US#35, including 2,385 passings, meaning increased growth potential for our rural economy. Maurice Loehmer made a motion for President Mellon to sign letter of support, Michael McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Olson Auctions will be selling the real estate on 200 S at 6:30PM Thursday, September 26th. Current revolving loan fund balance now is just over \$200,000.00. All RLF borrowers are current except Mr. Voranoff (whom County has foreclosed) and one other who is down to her last payment and is late because of a miscommunication on Nathan's part. The amendments to the program's rules are sufficient to reactivate the program. He has recently spoken with 3 potential applicants who are currently operating small businesses and looking for opportunities to fund growth. Commissioners agreed for Nathan to move forward with Tankersley.

IN RE: MAINTENANCE

J&K HVAC Service, Inc estimated \$33,000.00 to replace AC unit in Justice Center. This includes dehumidification system mentioned at a recent meeting. \$16,500.00 needed from maintenance funds to make the down payment and get unit ordered. Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve the down payment, Michael McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF PULASKI COUNTY

Updates provided on the County’s Opioid Grants and Drug Free Council. A \$402,800.00 FSSA grant received and a Community action plan developed. There are 3 locations in Pulaski County for needle dumps which collected 240 pounds since September 2023. The Community Navigator has serviced 1100 individuals since March 2023. A family support group meets at Winamac’s Methodist Church. A yoga program has been started in the jail with 24 males and 4 females participating (they are not allowed to integrate sexes). These are 2-75 minute sessions per week. \$18,000.00 requested from the restricted opioid fund to continue this program. Recovery Café meets Friday nights and will expand to a second night in October. \$10,000.00 also requested from the restricted opioid funds for the Recovery Cafe. Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve both request, Michael McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS

Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve and sign claims and payroll #19, Michael McClure seconded, and motion carried unanimously.

Charles Melon made a motion to reappoint Michael McClure to NW Indiana Solid Waste District Board of Trustees, Maurice Loehmer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve all conference requests, Michael McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously. Conference requests as follows:

- TREASURER: Teresa Bryant, LOW Conference, Plainfield, 10/7
- TREASURER: Teresa Bryant, Indiana County Commissioners Conference as Auditor “elect”, Carmel, 12/2 to 12/5
- TREASURER: Teresa Bryant, Newly Elected Officials Training as Auditor “elect”, Plainfield, 12/10 to 12/13

Complaints made of water leaks and high humidity in Circuit Court for the last 2 years. Charles Mellon and Larry Weaver will be meeting with the contractors and John Allen, who was the supervisor on the Justice Center project.

Celinda Briney, Health Department, is retiring in October as Receptionist and Vital Records Clerk. Maggie Czech from Maintenance Department chosen to replace her. Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve this hire, Michael McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Teresa Anderson chosen to replace Maggie Czech. Teresa is currently the head cook at the jail. Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve this hire, Michael McClure seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Frank Stone, Tom Miller, and Jerry Tuley want some platted roads closed in WhippleCrest Subdivision and Tom has hired an attorney. Attorney Tankersley explained some of the steps they will need to follow.

Connie Ehrlich had some questions on recent amendment to the Economic Development Agreements passed on August 12, 2024 at joint session. The original agreements with Mammoth and Moss Creek Solar were signed January 10, 2022 but the amendment says October 10, 2022. Amendment says that Exhibit A is replaced but nothing attached and that all other terms of the original agreements stay in place. #4 states that Mammoth will pay \$120,000.00 and Moss Creek will pay \$105,000.00 to the County for reimbursements of professional fees. Attorney Tankersley said this has all been paid direct to the vendors—Barnes & Thornburg, Baker-Tilly, and himself. Why wasn’t it paid to the County per agreement? Connie questioned if we know that the vendors are not double dipping? There is no check and balance system in place. Is Kevin deducting from his retainer the time he is spending on the solar projects and reimbursed by the solar company?

At 9:30AM, Michael McClure made a motion to adjourn, Maurice Loehmer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Approved and signed this 7th day of October 2024 by the PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.