

DECEMBER 2, 2024

REGULAR SESSION

PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Pulaski County Commissioners met in regular session Monday December 2, 2024 6:00PM at the Pulaski County Highway Garage training room. Commissioners present were Charles Mellon, Maurice Loehmer with County Auditor Laura Wheeler and County Attorney Kevin Tankersley. Commissioner Michael McClure absent.

Also present were Megan Galbreath, Nathan Origer, Gary Kruger, Chris Schramm, Brent Gillum, Natasha Daugherty, Connie Ehrlich, Joe Moyer, Mary Welker, Franna Barger, Bob Barger, Chris Brucker, Rich Knebel, Tina Knebel, Brandi Larkin and Gail Lambert.

President Mellon opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: EMS

EMS will receive a \$5,000.00 grant from NIPSCO which will be used for EMR classes. It will pay for student and instructor books plus uniforms. To help with the presentation of these classes, the purchase of a Smart Board is requested which cost \$4,346.00 without shipping and includes 5-year support. Two of their Stryker cots are no longer under service plan and permission is requested to purchase a 3-year Stryker service plan on three cots plus a new power load system at \$4,196.95 annually. This will pay for parts, labor, travel, and preventative maintenance. Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve both purchases, Charles Mellon seconded and motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: HIGHWAY

A 2024 recap of activities: 25 miles of blade mix, 3 miles of seal only, 7 miles of new hot mix, from the Community Crossing Grant; Bridge #249 replaced also from the Community Crossing Grant, new heating and cooling unit for office rooms, new siding on front of building, multiple new culverts and brush mowed on County right-of-ways. A new generator is coming January 2025.

Lightstream fiber optics project discussed. The plan is to run fiber optics starting on SR#119 (south of Tim Alexander residence), north to 100S, west to 75W, north to 60S, west to 100 W, north to SR#14, west to 200W, north to 200N, west ending around 500W. Lightstream claims this will service about 150 residences. Grants expected to be available in 2026 to provide fiber optics but the fiber providers need to apply, at a 25% match. Brent Gillum of Lightstream said that Indiana received \$868,000,000.00 for grants but the money is not yet available. After some discussion, commissioners asked to see something in writing first. Multiple companies running fiber in the same locations is a concern. The 2021 Broadband Ready resolution that the County passed states that a permit can be required but County cannot charge a fee and bonds, insurance, may be required.

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS

Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve and sign claims and payroll #24, Charles Mellon seconded, and motion carried unanimously.

Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve and sign minutes from November 4, 2024 and November 18, 2024 regular session plus November 12, 2024 special session, Charles Mellon seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Maurice Loehmer made a motion to approve and sign Memorandum of Executive Session from November 25, 2024 in which they interviewed potential County attorneys. Charles Mellon seconded and motion carried unanimously.

The Bottlebrush Decommissioning Agreement was on agenda for approval and signatures. This was tabled until December 16, 2024 meeting as Building Department is waiting on additional information.

The Veteran's Service Officer submitted a letter of resignation but will remain to train new officer. The position was advertised but there have been no applicants.

Following the November 25, 2024 Executive Session, which included Commissioner-elect Street and Commissioner-elect Knebel, it was recommended that County offer the County Attorney position to Jacob Ahler. Ahler lives in Rensselaer and is the Attorney for Benton County, Rensselaer, Brook, Wolcott and several boards. Maurice Loehmer made a motion to hire Jacob Ahler for County Attorney, Charles Mellon seconded and motion carried unanimously.

The Lightstream fiber optics project discussed further but tabled for further review. This project will also provide internet service to several of the proposed solar fields.

The fiber optics project was not put out for bids and there is no ordinance that would apply; however, other businesses do know about this project. Flags have not been set for the fiber path but maps laying out the fiber path will be provided to the Commissioners. The County is not financially responsible for this project.

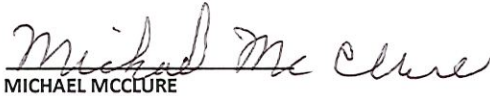
Retirement of K-9 Bobbie discussed. Bobbie is approximately 8 years old and not as effective as needed. Charles Mellon made a motion to retire K-9 Bobbie and give to handler Cody Foust, Maurice Loehmer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

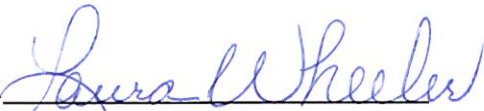
With no other business to discuss, meeting adjourned at 6:35PM.

Approved and signed this 16th day of **December 2024** by the Pulaski County Commissioners.


CHARLES MELLON


MAURICE LOEHMER


MICHAEL MCCLURE

ATTEST: 
LAURA WHEELER, AUDITOR, PULASKI COUNTY, IN