

DECEMBER 9, 2024

JOINT SESSION

**PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Pulaski County Commissioners and Pulaski County Council met in joint session Monday December 9, 2024 6:00PM at the Pulaski County Highway Garage training room. Commissioners present were Charles Mellon, Maurice Loehmer and Councilmembers present were Kenneth Boswell, Michael Tiede, Jeffrey Richwine, Sheila Hazemi-Jimenez, Jerome Locke, Tim Overmyer, Bradley Bonnell with County Auditor Laura Wheeler and County Attorney Kevin Tankersley. Commissioner Mike McClure absent.

Also present were Mary Welker, Brent Gillum, Stan Bennett, Dave Olds, Chris Brucker, Brandi Larkin Joe Moyer, Bob Barger, Franna Barger, Dan Knebel, Gail Lambert, Jennifer Knebel, Mark Gourley, Nathan Origer, Teresa Bryant, Claude LeMere, Chris Schramm and Megan Galbreath.

President Mellon opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: TREASURER

Discussion held on the \$580,000.00 CD for Fund 1112 Lit-Economic Development at First Federal Savings bank. This CD renews the first part of January 2025. Interest rates and term discussed. Maurice Loehmer made a motion to reinvest the \$580,000.00 for 6 months, Charles Mellon seconded and motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: CDC

No change orders for consideration but there is still one outstanding on sidewalk construction that requires more discussion. Three changes to framing for accommodating an electrical panel, altering plans for powering B. P. units (the "brain boxes" that control communications between HVAC mini-splits and the units outside) and altering plans for powering electric duct heaters, totaling over \$13,000.00 approved by Nathan Origer. Forty-one change orders have added \$597,254.72 to the construction and design allocations within project budget.

Plaster repair/replacement is part of painters' work but scheduled on a time-and-materials basis with an allowance built into the bid. There will be new plaster, new drywall and new drywall laminate in some places with repairs in others. The allowance will cover most of the cost with a CO to cover costs in excess of the allowance. Plaster repairs were addressed this way in the bidding process as significant sections of the walls were covered in wallpaper and could not be assessed fully.

Owner's contingency is \$228,906.15 with approximately \$72,000.00 in future potential interest that can be added to the contingency after receipted.

Painters are almost done with taping and mudding and expect to start priming in the basement in a few days. A little priming has been completed on the upper levels as well as some plaster repairs and a little staining with the custom stain color. It is fairly close to old staining but has a hint of red. Some exterior priming has also been done.

Installation of grids for tile ceilings and framing for drywall ceilings has finished while MEP subcontractors continue their work. All of the masons' work on the tower completed except for caulking. Tonn & Blank project manager and/or superintendent will attend the next Commissioners' meeting for a year-end report.

A tentative project budget being prepared so as not to put our tentative \$1,000,000.00 READI 2.0 housing-project allocation at risk. Expecting Willow Creek Villas to have scheduled a groundbreaking for the Galbreath Drive project for next week but this has not been confirmed.

IN RE: LIGHTSTREAM

Lightstream requested permission to build fiber-optics internet on various Pulaski County right-of-ways. Commissioners received the project map and gave a "thumbs-up" to Lightstream.

IN RE: CLAUDE LEMERE

Claude Lemere, whose background is economic development, has written a \$5,000.00 Pul-Mac matching grant application for building exterior work only (no roofs). The boards asked to review and approve said matching grant. A \$25,000.00 donation is requested from the County, Town of Winamac, and the committee.

IN RE: OTHER BUSINESS

Charles Mellon made a motion on behalf of the Pulaski County Commissioners to approve and sign the October 14, 2024 joint session minutes, Maurice Loehmer seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Jeffrey Richwine made the same motion on behalf of Council, Jerome Locke seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Charles Mellon made a motion to approve and sign “Transfer of Ownership Release and Indemnification Agreement”, Maurice Loehmer seconded and motion carried unanimously. This agreement pertains to the retirement of K9 Bobby and releasing ownership to Cody Foust and reads as follows:

TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP RELEASE AND INDEMINIFICATION AGREEMENT

Comes now the Pulaski County Board of Commissioners, by the President, Charles Mellon (hereinafter referred to as “County”) and, Cody Foust (hereinafter referred to as “Foust”) and the Pulaski County Sheriff’s Department by the current Sheriff, Chris Schramm (hereinafter referred to as “Sheriff”) and enter into this agreement to transfer ownership of the canine known as Bobby that is owned by the Pulaski County Sheriff’s Department and entity of the County to Cody Foust and to transfer liability for any future behavior of Bobby or financial responsibility for the care of Bobby to Cody Foust and release and indemnify Pulaski County and the Pulaski County Sheriff’s Department from any liability for the care of or for the actions of Bobby after the signing of this agreement.

WHEREAS Foust served as the Sheriff’s handler for the department-owned canine, Bobby during Bobby’s tenure as a canine officer; and

WHEREAS Bobby is eight years old, and a decision has been made between the handler and the Pulaski County Sheriff, Chris Schramm, that the canine is of the age that he needs to be retired as of December 4, 2024; and

WHEREAS the Sheriff purchased the canine and the canine was used in law enforcement and is under the ownership of the Pulaski County Sheriff’s Department as an entity of the County and the Sheriff and the County have determined that Bobby has exhausted his useful life as a canine officer and has no monetary value to the Sheriff or County and could not be effectively sold on a secondary market so the value of the transfer of ownership of Bobby is zero dollars;

WHEREAS, the Sheriff and the County now agree to release ownership of Bobby to Foust to be his own personal pet; and

WHEREAS Foust agrees that the Sheriff and the County will have no future liability for the actions of Bobby and the Sheriff, and the County will no longer be responsible for any financial contribution to the care of maintenance of Bobby;

WHEREAS Foust agrees that Bobby will be his own personal pet after the signing of this agreement and Foust holds the Sheriff and the County harmless from any future actions of Bobby and indemnifies the Sheriff and County for any future actions and further agrees that he alone will be responsible for the financial cost of caring and maintaining Bobby from the date of this agreement onward.

NOW THEREFORE, Foust agrees to accept ownership of the canine Bobby and Foust hereby acknowledges, for himself and his heirs, executors and administrators, release and forever discharge the Sheriff and County from all manner of claims, demands, damages, causes of action or claims for payment from for any incidents of liability or claims for expenses regarding events that transpire after the signing of this agreement.

Charles Mellon will sign agreement when returned by Cody Foust.

“Agreement for Payment of Third-Party Compliance Monitoring Services” agreement was on agenda to be approved and signed. Charles Mellon made a motion to table this in order to gather more information, Maurice Loehmer seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Maurice Loehmer motion to appoint Michael McClure to the Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District Board of Directors, Charles Mellon seconded and motion carried unanimously. Michael Tiede said Council had approved him several months ago.

The 12 amendments to the County’s personnel policy discussed briefly. Charles Mellon made a motion to add the 12 amendments to the county employee handbook, Maurice Loehmer seconded and motion carried unanimously. Sheila Hazemi-Jimenez made the same motion for Council, Michael Tiede seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Pulaski County received almost \$2,400,000.00 in ARPA funds that need to be committed by the end of 2024. New time clocks have already been approved. Commissioners plan to commit the following:

Computer replacement schedule 12 remaining	\$22,315.00
New Stryker power load system for the 4 th EMS ambulance	\$30,214.00
Replacement of Fiber optics from Justice Center to the Courthouse	\$50,250.00

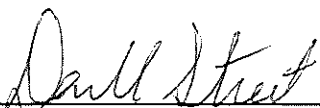
This leaves approximately \$167,000.00 to be committed. Discussion pursued on donating \$30,000.00 to each of the 5 County Fire Departments. Final decision will be made at next Commissioners meeting.

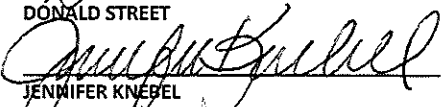
Michael Tiede wanted the record to show appreciation to Kenneth Boswell, Charles Mellon, Maurice Loehmer, Kevin Tankersley and Laura Wheeler for their years of service.

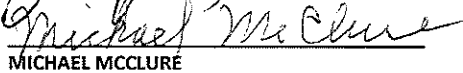
With no other business to discuss nor any community comments, Maurice Loehmer made a motion on behalf of the Commissioners to adjourn at 6:35pm, Charles Mellon seconded and motion carried unanimously. Kenneth Boswell closed the meeting on behalf of Council.

Approved and signed this 10th day of February 2025 by the PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS and PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL.

PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

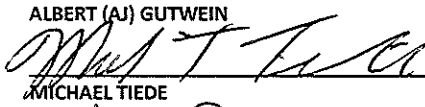

DONALD STREET

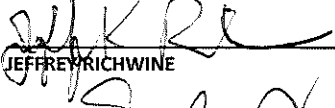

JENNIFER KNEBEL

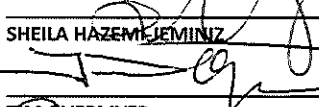

MICHAEL MCCLURE

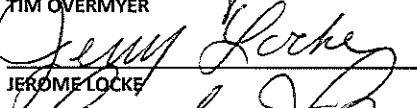
PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL


ALBERT (AJ) GUTWEIN


MICHAEL TIEDE


JEFFREY RICHWINE


SHEILA HAZEM JEMINIZ


TIM OVERMYER


JEROME LOCKE


BRADLEY BONNELL

ATTEST: 
TERESA BRYANT, AUDITOR, PULASKI COUNTY, IN