

Owen County Commissioners
Emergency Meeting Regarding the Flood
Courthouse 60 S. Main Street Spencer, IN 47460
Tuesday June 17, 2008 6:00 p.m.

Present: Wiley Truesdel, Steve Williamson

Guests: Karen Weaver, Jerry Rhude, Jessica Kincaid, Darrell Russell, Maria Carrasquillo, Kristin Szczerbik, John Reeves, Sheila Reeves, Jack White

MEETING WAS OPENED WITH THE PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

IN THE MATTER OF THE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

Ms. Lawson explained that on June 13 the Emergency Declaration was put at Level 1 (stay off the roads unless a personal emergency occurs) which expires Sunday June 20th. The Commissioners decided to lower it to Level 2 per the request of EMA Director Jack White. Mr. White stated that it is Level 2 which helps enforce weight limits, control traffic, etc.

IN THE MATTER OF DEBRIS ISSUES

Ms. Lawson informed the Commissioners concerning debris that FEMA and Mr. White discussed the issue. FEMA explained that the Commissioners need to state whether the County will assist in removal and disposal of flood damaged items. Mr. White stated that it had been pretty much stated that we would assist publicly. Ms. Lawson asked Mr. White what the plans were to assist. Mr. White stated it would be an overwhelming task to do curbside removal as the Town had done.

Mr. Wood stated there is really no “up front” money. FEMA will only reimburse up to 75% and the County will have to pay 25% of the costs.

Mr. Williamson asked who would be hauling it and Ms. Lawson commented that FEMA would reimburse if someone is contracted to do the removal. He stated he was 100 % for helping get the debris cleaned up.

Mr. John Reeves, County Environmentalist, explained that the former Landfill could be re-opened but the question was would semis be hauling trash or would it be local people. He continued that he prepared an estimate that debris removal would cost around one million dollars.

Mr. Reeves continued that he has informal permission to open the landfill for flood debris removal if the Commissioners give permission for him to follow through with the appropriate chain of command. The estimate he provided FEMA was for opening the Landfill was an operator for 8 hours a day for thirty days.

Mr. White believed that there should be quotes obtained because everything he has heard from and about FEMA is “do the paperwork”.

Mr. Williamson moved to have Mr. Reeves move forward with the procedure to re-open the Landfill near Patricksburg for people to take flood related debris especially on Saturdays and Sundays. Mr. Truesdel seconded the motion. Motion passed. (Motion # 74)

IN THE MATTER OF THE DUMPSTER ISSUE

Ms. Lawson stated that the County Highway had a least one dumpster that was scheduled to be dumped today. There is also one and possibly 2 at Scott Mader’s that may be full. Spencer is planning to take away the dumpsters Thursday.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COUNTYWIDE CLEAN UP

Mr. White announced that there would be a major clean up on Saturday the 21st and local volunteers would be very welcome.

The worst place at this time is Chardin Road and Fish Creek Delta.

Mr. White was concerned about the roads and if the Commissioners wanted him to contact anyone at INDOT to bring in equipment. Mr. Darrell Russell, Highway Department representative stated that if equipment was brought in there would also have to be operators. At this time all Owen County Highway Department employees are fully engaged in their respective projects so the question becomes would the request come with or without operators.

There was discussion about how volunteers would be used on Clean up Day and Mr. White suggested that the Fire Frequency could be used on Saturday so there would be communication among the groups of volunteers as to where to go and what to do.

IN THE MATTER OF A REQUEST FOR A SPECIAL EVENT TO USE THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE COURTHOUSE ON SATURDAY JUNE 21ST.

The group was originally going to hold the event in Cooper’s Park but due to the flooding, a change was requested.

Mr. Williamson moved to allow the group to use the south side of the Courthouse on Saturday June 21st from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mr. Truesdel seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0. (Motion # 75)

IN THE MATTER OF RED CROSS COMMENTS—Maria Carrasquillo

Ms. Carrasquillo informed the Commissioners that the Red Cross had been conducting assessments as flood victims came into the Center for support and as of today, several state agencies are also located at the Spencer Elementary School to help victims in need of assistance with such items as birth certificates, drivers’ licenses, food stamps, etc.

Mr. Truesdel complimented Ms. Carrasquillo on the good job she had done and thanked her for all the work she and the Red Cross volunteers had done.

IN THE MATTER OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT REMARKS—Speaking Sheila Reeves

Ms. Reeves reported that a letter was sent to the Lake Hollybrook Association President stating that the 24 lab test results came back today and they are not to eat, drink, bathe, or wash in their water until after their wells have been treated and the Health Department receives 3 more consecutive satisfactory water reports.

Ms. Reeves stated that all orders to remove people from condemned housing will be given 5 days at which time they are to stop living in the condemned housing.

IN THE MATTER OF THE 4-H FAIR GROUNDS—Speaking Sheila Reeves and Jack White

Without the 4-H Fairgrounds being cleaned up and being approved by the Health Officer, the Fair will not be able to go forward. However, as bleak as that statement, Jack went on to explain that there a possibility the Fair may be held. The Fair Board and Volunteer Fire Departments will do what they can to make the fair happen.

Mr. Truesdel asked the Health Nurse how many Tetanus Shots had been given and she reported 350 with more scheduled in the next couple of days.

Commissioners' Comments

There were no additional comments.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT

Steve Williamson moved to adjourn. Wiley Truesdel seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

Wiley Truesdel

Steve Williamson

Attest: _____
Angie Lawson, Auditor

Steve Redenbaugh