

Owen County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Courthouse 60 S. Main Street Spencer, IN 47460
Monday, December 5th, 2011 9:00 a.m.

Present: Rich Foutch, Donnie Minnick, George Jennings & Richard Lorenz

Guests: James Baughn, Joe Pettijohn, Barron Barnett, JC Larsen, Lisa Wyeth, Bill Stockwell, Tami Snodgrass, Jay Fulmer, David Lanham, Jack White, Cris Lunsford, Sam Hobbs, Wiley Truesdel, & Bill Bryan

MEETING WAS OPENED WITH THE PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

IN THE MATTER OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21st, 2011 MEETING

Mr. Foutch moved to approve the minutes of November 21st, 2011. Mr. Minnick seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

IN THE MATTER OF CLAIMS ADVERTISED FOR PAYMENT DATED DECEMBER 5TH, 2011

Mr. Foutch moved to approve claims as presented. Mr. Minnick seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0

IN THE MATTER OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE –Speaking Joe Pettijohn

Mr. Pettijohn reported that he has spoken to David Meier the County Surveyor and he is in the process of doing a survey to determine the roadway on Kieffaber Road. Mr. Pettijohn stated that he wishes to move the south gates on County Line Road to the south end of the bridge, this will allow more turn around area and hopefully stop some of the issues he continues to have with that particular gate when it floods across County Line Road. Issues on Mitten Road as well as Keith Road due to drainage, he is working to reshape ditches and also putting in pipe. Mr. Pettijohn also reported back that he had spoken to Bobby Chandler from Clark Dietz and found out that the 3 bridges he stated previously were not in the bridge book were renumbered when they were rebuilt. He was not aware that they renumbered them but they are indeed in the Bridge book under the new numbers.

Ms. Lawson reported that there is an application and a requirement for a payment of an application fee of \$9000 in order for the plans for Bridge 174 to be reviewed by the Railroad.

Mr. Minnick moved to approve the payment of \$9,000 to RailAmerica Inc. for the review of plans on Bridge 174. Mr. Foutch seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0

Commissioners discussed the cash balance in the bridge fund and concerns over starting more projects since Bridge 174 is not underway at this time. Mr. Minnick raised concerns over the condition of Patricksburg Road Bridge and the consequences of not doing something with that bridge. Bridge 52 which is on Rattlesnake has been awarded funding through the Federal Highway fund to be done in 2013.

IN THE MATTER OF DAVID LANHAM

Mr. Jennings's asked that Mr. Foutch conduct the meeting at this time due to his personal issue with Mr. Lanham. Mr. Lanham made accusations against both Mr. Jennings and Mr. Pettijohn for the Owen County Highway Department. Mr. Foutch requested that Mr. Pettijohn go out and check on the culvert pipe; Mr. Lanham referred to as being obstructed and make sure it is clear of any blockage. Mr. Pettijohn stated he would have a report at the next meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF EMA DIRECTOR JACK WHITE

Siren service contract which has been approved by the Council needs Commissioner Signature.

Mr. Foutch moved to approve the Service Contract with Owen's Communication Inc. as presented for 2012 at \$4800. Mr. Minnick seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0

Mr. White also reported that he needs signatures on the Performance Grant for him to purchase additional equipment for a total of \$3,623.18 – this is only given due to the high performance of the EMA director for use in Emergency Management.

Mr. Foutch moved to sign the Performance Grant for EMA Director. Mr. Minnick seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0

Mr. Foutch also asked Mr. White to check on grant availability for Code Red which is the reverse 911 system. Mr. White said he would check on those grants.

IN THE MATTER OF HEALTH INSURANCE

Mr. Stockwell reported that there was a need to sign the renewal with Anthem at this time due to the renewal date being January 1st. He stated it would take longer than 30 days to get quotes and information on other insurance options. He stated we could go on a month by month until such time as we have made a decision on the Health Insurance for the employees. There was discussion related to the increase and to keep the current plan as is today it will be around 17% for the months that we do actually pay for. Ms. Lawson reported that she had done some checking and there are other options out there that the County could possibly check into to help reduce the health care costs including offering some sort of wellness program. This issue will continue to be investigated to find the best fit for our employee's.

Mr. Foutch moved to extend the Anthem contract on a month by month basis and to pursue other option for Health Insurance. Mr. Minnick seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0

IN THE MATTER OF EMS UPDATE

Mr. Lunsford reported that the plaques would be ready by the meeting of the Commissioners on December 19th at 4:00 p.m. He also suggested that maybe we could change the renewal date for Health Insurance to somewhere around August so that we would know when doing budgets what the increase would be.

IN THE MATTER OF ATTORNEY UPDATE

Mr. Lorenz requested signature on the Application for the Railroad so the check can be sent today.

Mr. Foutch moved to sign the Application for the RailAmerica Inc. Mr. Minnick seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0

Mr. Lorenz also brought some property tax sale properties that had deeds and sales disclosures that Mr. Jennings needed to sign after the meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Lawson stated she had a request from the Soil and Water office to have the County Highway plow the parking lot at the office this winter so that they do not have to pay for someone to contract to perform that duty. Mr. Pettijohn stated that he would be able to do that for the Soil and Water office this winter.

Mr. Foutch stated that he would have paperwork for the listing of the property on Weeping Willow Lane. Mr. Hobbs reported that he is not turning the heat on at the Armory; it is too expensive to heat that whole building for a couple offices. He recommended space heaters in the offices and in the downstairs restroom. The Farmers Market has expressed concerns about the parking lot on the north side of the Courthouse being closed due to construction next spring. There are other options that need to be explored with them to relocate for the duration of the construction at the Courthouse. The Recorder and Clerk are still requesting that new carpet be installed in their offices. Due to the costs of the move of computers and phones it would have to be determined at a later date if there was funding for carpet that Mr. Hobbs estimated at approximately \$5100. Mr. Hobbs also asked for clarification regarding a possible leak at the Courthouse that drove the water bill very high. He has not been contacted about where the leak was and who fixed it. He would like to see something in writing from the water company in regard to this issue.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Foutch makes a motion to adjourn. Mr. Minnick seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 at 10:15 a.m.

George Jennings

Donnie Minnick

Attest: _____
Angie Lawson, Auditor

Rich Foutch