

COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING- MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Brian Baird at 10:00 A.M. Kevin Walls and Ron West were present.

INVOCATION

Mr. West led the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Baird led the Pledge of Allegiance.

JOHNSON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY – UPDATE PRESENTATION

Lisa Lintner, Director, appeared before the Commissioners to provide the Johnson County Public Library (JCPL) 2021 year-end review. Mrs. Lintner stated Kirk Bixler, JCPL Board President, was in the audience. She provided 2022 Program Guides that included year-end review information and a list of upcoming programs available in the next couple of months at JCPL. Mrs. Lintner presented a slide show that showcased the new Clark Pleasant JCPL Branch; she stated this project came in on time and on budget. The Johnson County Public Library Foundation raised an additional \$300,000 in private money to be used for the special project funds. Mr. Bixler approached the podium and stated there are many things to be proud of at JCPL and he gave several examples. Mrs. Lintner then came back to the podium and read a list of programs currently available.

WHITE RIVER TOWNSHIP FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT – PETITION TO INCREASE MAXIMUM PROPERTY TAX LEVY

Jeremy Pell, White River Township Fire Chief, Ben Roeger, Accountant, and Mike Hoffman, Community Liaison, appeared before the Commissioners to request an increase in the maximum property tax levy. Mr. Pell stated Johnson County has experienced extraordinary growth and there are public safety challenges that come with that. Indiana Legislature passed a law that allows the maximum tax levy to be adjusted if there is a 6% growth in population within a ten year period. White River Township Fire Protection District has grown 24% with a ten year period. Mr. Pell asked the Commissioners to approve a resolution that would allow them to take the next step to establish the maximum tax levy. This would be reviewed by the Johnson County Council when the budget rate and levy are presented in the fall. Mr. West asked if there were any numbers associated with this increase that could be provided today, such as current balance in their Cumulative Fund and projected increase in additional revenue. Mr. Roeger stated if the maximum tax levy were approved it could amount to approximately two million dollars in additional annual revenue toward general operations. He said the current balance of the Cumulative Fund was \$1,062,000 at year-end. Mr. Hoffman approached the podium and said road volume went up 24% last year and they are up over 20% this year. Discussion was held and all questions were answered satisfactorily.

Mr. West made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

DISCOVER DOWNTOWN FRANKLIN – 2022 EVENTS

Holly Johnston, Franklin Parks & Recreation, appeared before the Commissioners to discuss road closures and Holiday Lighting on the Courthouse Lawn. Saturday, June 11, 2022 they would like to utilize the parking lot west of the Annex (south end) and ask that County vehicles be temporarily moved. This event is called Cruisn' the Amp." Jessica Giles, Executive Director, Discover Downtown Franklin, came to the podium and stated she would address the remaining requests. Fall and Spring Vintage Fests will be Saturday April 30th and Sunday October 1st, 2022; she stated this request is on behalf of the downtown merchants. They would like to utilize the parking lot west of the Annex (north end) and ask that County vehicles be temporarily moved Friday prior to each event. Next on the list of events was the Annual Strawberries on the Square, to be held Friday, May 27th on the Courthouse lawn. This event will begin at 7:00 a.m. and run throughout the day. The final event is the Holiday Lighting, Saturday, December 3rd to be held on the Courthouse lawn for spillover from the West Court Street stage placement. MS. Giles also stated they would like to ask permission to include the large trees on the Courthouse lawn in the tree

sponsor program and ask if they could put sponsorship signs on the trees. Discussion was held and all questions were answered satisfactorily. Mr. Baird stated they would not allow anything to be tacked into the trees. Mr. Baird requested Barb Davis and Jason Miller be contacted via email prior to the events as a reminder. Shena Johnson, County Attorney, stated she would be in touch with MS. Johnston and MS. Giles for required documentation.

Mr. Walls made a motion to approve the requests as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Steve Barnett, Franklin City Mayor, approached the podium and stated he wanted to make the Commissioners aware that Discover Downtown Franklin failed to send an invoice last year for a \$500 contribution toward Christmas lights. Discover Downtown Franklin and the Parks Department will return this year seeking a donation toward Christmas lights for a larger amount, possibly \$1,000.

CHILDREN'S BUREAU, INC. – PREVENT CHILD ABUSE BANNER & PINWHEEL GARDEN

Linda Hershman, Assistant Director, appeared before the Commissioners via zoom requesting permission to put a banner on the Courthouse lawn for one or two weeks with a pinwheel garden in front; the banner will be approximately 6' x 3' and there will be approximately 20 pinwheels in the garden. She stated April is Prevent Child Abuse month and the Prevent Child Abuse Council in Johnson County is planning for awareness in April. Mrs. Johnson, stated she would be in touch with MS. Hershman for required documentation.

Mr. Walls made a motion to approve the requests as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

MIDSTATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – SEPTEMBER 10TH EVENT

Jim Williams, Public Information Officer, appeared before the Commissioners to request approval for a public event on County property. The location is the parking lot area behind the Prosecutor's Office. This event is an Amateur Radio Tailgate Hamfest. Commissioners have approved this event in the past and it was a success. Discussion was held and all questions were answered satisfactorily. Mrs. Johnson stated she would be in touch with Mr. Williams for required documentation.

Mr. West made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2022-O-2: AN ORDINANCE VACATING CERTAIN ALLEYWAY IN NEEDHAM TOWNSHIP – PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Baird convened a public hearing at 10:33 a.m. to receive comment on Johnson County Ordinance 2022-O-2: An Ordinance Vacating an Alleyway in Needham Township. This alley is located north of lot 15 and south of lot 16 in Needham, Indiana. Mr. Baird ask if there was anyone present or via zoom who would like to be heard. Dallas Diech, Taxpayer spoke via zoom. Mr. Diech stated this alley has not been in use for a while and he has plans to build a house on the lots and include the alley. Mr. Baird asked if there were any other public comments; no one came forward. Mr. Baird closed the public hearing at 10:36 a.m.

Mr. West made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

DRUG FREE JOHNSON COUNTY – APPROVAL OF GRANT AGREEMENTS

Michelle McMahon, Program Coordinator, Drug Free Johnson County, appeared before the Commissioners via zoom to request approval for the following Grant Agreements:

Treatment/Intervention - \$31,525.13

George Junior Republic in Indiana - Alternative IOP Program

HeavenEarth Church - Recovery Church
Reach for Youth - Alcohol, Tobacco, & Drugs Counseling Services
Tara Treatment Center, Inc. - (2) Prescription Assistance Fund and TR Program
Turning Point Domestic Violence Services - Substance Abuse Support Program

Prevention/Education - \$32,525.13

Boys & Girls Clubs of Johnson County - SMART Moves
Girls Inc. of Johnson County - Smart Girls Change the World
Recover Out Loud, Inc. - Turn the Town Purple Overdose Awareness Event
Turning Point Domestic Violence Services - Primary Prevention Education Programming
Upstream Prevention, Inc. - Assisting Through Loss After Suicide (ATLAS)

Justice/Law Enforcement - \$31,525.13

Clark Pleasant Police Department - Substance Abuse Prevention Programming
Johnson County Adult Probation - Drug Screening
Johnson County Community Corrections - Drug Screening
Johnson County Juvenile Probation - Substance Abuse Urine Screening
Franklin Police Department - Narcotics Division Equipment
Greenwood Police Department - Narcotics Division Equipment
Greenwood Probation Department - Drug Testing Program

Mr. Walls made a motion to approve the requests as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

A. Recorder

1. Approval of Imaging Office Systems, Inc. – Hardware Maintenance Support for ScanPro

Teresa Petro, Treasurer, appeared before the Commissioners to request approval of a contract with Imaging Office Systems, Inc. This is an annual agreement.

Mr. Walls made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

B. VASIA

1. Approval of Agreement for Legal Services with J. Andrew Woods

Lauren Rynerson, Director, appeared before the Commissioners to request approval of a renewal Agreement with J. Andrew Woods for legal services.

Mr. Walls made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

C. Court Administrator

1. Approval to Attend the Spring Judicial College, April 26th thru 28th Indianapolis, Indiana

Brandi Kirkendall Foster, Court Administrator, appeared before the Commissioners to request approval to attend the Spring Judicial College in Indianapolis. Mr. Baird stated the only item that needs to be considered is overnight lodging.

Mr. Walls made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

D. Health Department

1. Approval to Apply for IDOH 2022-2023 BP4 PHEP Grant

Betsy Swearingen, Director, appeared before the Commissioners to request approval to apply for the IDOH 2022-2023 BP4 PHEP Grant.

Mr. West made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

E. Emergency Management

1. Approval to Apply for IDHS Grants

Stephanie Sighting, Director, appeared before the Commissioners via zoom to request annual approval of the following grants: 2022 SHSP Grant; 2022 EMPG Competitive Grant; 2022 EMPG Salary Reimbursement Grant, and the 2022 HMEP Grant.

Mr. Walls made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Ms. Sighting stated that tomorrow is the State Tornado Drill. Johnson County will be setting off their Tornado Warning Drill at 10:00 a.m.

F. Animal Control

1. Approval to Apply for Wal-Mart Community Grant Program

Emily Conwell, Grant Coordinator, appeared before the Commissioners to request permission to apply for a Wal-Mart Community Grant Program. The \$5,000 Grant request is for funding to support spay/neuter costs.

Mr. Walls made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2. Approval of C.R. Stafford and Associates AIA Contract

Mr. Baird stated this request is for an AIA contract with C.R. Stafford and Associates. He stated this is for the building addition to the Animal Shelter that was approved using ARPA Funds.

Mr. Walls made a motion to approve the request pending legal review and Council Appropriation. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

G. Prosecutor

1. Approval to Apply for Victims of Crime Act Grant

Ms. Conwell appeared before the Commissioners to request approval for the bi-annual Victims of Crime Act Grant. She stated this Grant would continue to support salary costs for two Victim Advocate positions as well as travel and training costs. The grant will also cover 100% of the purchase of cell phones and the cost of the cell phone service, this was confirmed with ICJI.

Mr. Walls made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2. Approval to Attend the Eastern Regional Interstate Child Support Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana

Mr. Baird stated he had reviewed the request to attend the Eastern Regional Interstate Child Support Conference and it appeared to be acceptable.

Mr. Walls made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

H. Highway

1. Approval and Execution of Clark School Road PE and R/W Services Contract with GAI Consultants

This request was removed from the agenda.

2. Road Funding Discussion

Luke Mastin, Director, appeared before the Commissioners for discussion on various road funding matters, regarding both the status of road improvement projects related to I-69 as well as other needs throughout the County. Mr. Mastin stated he had provided a comprehensive memo to each of the Commissioners giving information outlining several capital needs for County Bridge and Road Infrastructure. He said historically they have used available saving balances within the five Highway Funds to assist with funding local matches on large capital projects. Typically these funds are used to match Federal Aid Grants; eventually the balance of these savings accounts will be spent. Johnson County has been awarded a significant amount of Federal Aid Projects. The remaining balance in the five Highway Funds are now committed to local costs for projects currently on the books. If they continue to use Highway Funds in this manner they will need to reduce the size of the annual maintenance program and build those capital projects costs into their budget each year. Mr. Mastin said, looking at the cash balances of those funds they appear to be flush, and they are, until you factor in the commitments of current projects underway. The report focuses on capital needs of four categories facing the County. (1) High priority road projects on the local road network related to I69 and the traffic flow changes that are associated with it. (2) Aging concrete streets in many neighborhoods and the need for reconstruction. (3) Growth in the County has not been limited to the northern part of the County; there are high classification roads in the southern part of the County that does not need additional travel lanes, but do need to be widened and reconstructed as well as the need for added shoulders. (4) Bridge Projects need to be funded in order to keep up with replacement schedules that are outlined in the Bridge Inspection Reports. This will insure those bridges stay safe until they can be replaced. Discussion was held and all questions were answered satisfactorily. Mr. Mastin stated the intent today was to identify both short and long term needs and prioritize those needs.

3. Approval of Agreement with Williams Tree Company for Tree Clearing Services

Mr. Mastin stated he appreciated this item being added to the agenda. They requested four quotes from tree companies for removal of trees at Stones Crossing and Saddle Club Road Round-about Project. They received one response from Williams Tree Company for \$16,420. Mr. Mastin requested Commissioners approval to enter into agreement with Williams Tree Company for tree clearing services. Mrs. Johnson asked Mr. Mastin the names of the other three companies that had been solicited for services; they were Save-A-Tree, N&S, and Brown's Tree Service.

Mr. Walls made a motion to approve the request pending legal review. Mr. Walls also stated this was a time sensitive request because this project needed to move forward. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Daniel Johnston, Highway Engineer, approached the podium to formally introduce himself to the Commissioners.

I. Board of Commissioners

1. Appointment of a Johnson County Public Library Board Member

Mr. Baird stated Dan Mitchell would be appointed to the Johnson County Public Library Board.

Mr. West made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**2. Acceptance of the Lowest Quote and Award of Contract Pursuant to IC 36-1-12-5
For a New Ceiling in the Highway Garage**

Mrs. Johnson read the bids aloud; Duke Commercial \$23,208.00, An Extra Hand \$22,000.00, and the lowest quote was from C.W. Sneed \$19,496.00.

Mr. Walls made a motion to give the C.W. Sneed bid to Mr. Baird, Jason Miller, Maintenance Director and Bob Golinski, Fleet Director, for final review Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously

3. Ordinance 2022-O-4: An Ordinance Authorizing Distribution and/or Expenditure of the Proceeds of Johnson County's Grant from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("ACT") (ARPA)

Mr. Baird stated they were authorizing funds for the following expenditures: Professional Services related to the Watersheds Project (#4100002) in the amount of One Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$166,000); Professional Services related to the initiation of Animal Shelter Improvements (#4100003) in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000); and Professional Services related to the initiation of Drake Road Project (#4100004) in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000).

Mr. Walls made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Walls asked if anyone knew when the remainder of the requests from the ARPA Committee would be brought to the Commissioners. Mrs. Johnson stated she would suggest another meeting of the ARPA Committee and then move forward from there.

4. Approval of Johnson County Court Services Agreement

Mrs. Kirkendall approached the podium and stated each of the Commissioners had been provided a copy of the proposal to unify a new department which is being called Court Services; she noted this has been in the works for several months. Mr. Walls and Mr. Baird stated they were both familiar with this project and recognize the time and effort that had been put into it by many people. Mr. West stated he had met with Judge Nugent and Mrs. Kirkendall and they answered all questions he had pertaining to the project. Mr. West stated he would like to publically say he has reservations on the second or third command in the Probation Department being the Director of Community Corrections. He said he felt like the Community Corrections Director needed exceptional talents in various areas of money raising etc. and he is not sure a second or third in command there would have the necessary skill levels to meet the needs of that position. He stated his intent was not to disparage anyone, but he did have some reservations. Mrs. Kirkendall stated at the last Community Corrections Advisory Board Meeting it was decided to start the selection process by accepting resumes. She said that position is not going to be currently filled by an existing Probation employee; this was a standalone request for applicants. The Judges and the Committee met to interview candidates based on similar concerns expressed. Discussion was held and all questions were answered satisfactorily.

Mr. Walls made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

NEW & OLD BUSINESS

Claims

Mr. West had several questions regarding claims. They were all answered satisfactorily. Mr. West expressed his thoughts on the unnecessary spending of tax payer dollars on clothing, particularly T-Shirt Express. Detailed discussion was held.

Mr. West made a motion to approve claims as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Commissioners' Minutes

02/14/2022 - Regular Meeting

02/16/2022 - Special Meeting – ARPA Committee

02/22/2022 - Special Meeting

03/03/2022 - Special Meeting

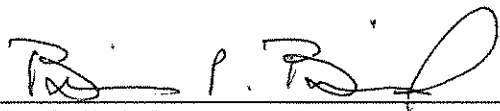
Mr. Walls made a motion to approve the Commissioners' Minutes as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Public Comment - (limited to 5 minutes per person)

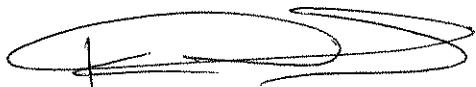
Mrs. Swearingen approached the podium and stated today is the first day the COVID testing site and vaccination clinic was held at the Health Department. She stated they are no longer at Compass Park; Friday was their last day.

ADJOURNMENT

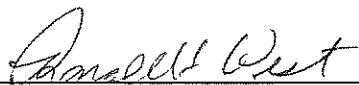
There being no further business, Mr. Walls moved to adjourn. Mr. West seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.



Brian P. Baird



Kevin M. Walls



Ron H. West

Attest:

Pamela J. Burton

Auditor

