

**COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

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

**INVOCATION**

Mr. West led the Invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Baird led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OPENING OF SEALED BIDS FOR 2022 CONCRETE STREET OVERLAY PROJECT**

Shena Johnson, County Attorney, opened the bids and read them aloud. Harding Group submitted a bid in the amount of \$1,220,352.03. Baumgartner Company, Asphalt Services, submitted a bid in the amount of \$1,247,989.85. Milestone Contractors submitted a bid in the amount of \$1,618,212.85. All Star Paving submitted a bid in the amount of \$1,369,761.70.

Mr. Walls made a motion to give the bids to Luke Mastin, Highway Director, and Daniel Johnston, Highway Engineer, to review for recommendation at the next scheduled Commissioners' meeting. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**ASSIST INDIANA AND FRANKLIN COLLEGE – APPROVAL TO USE COUNTY PROPERTY FOR “TAKE BACK THE NIGHT” EVENT ON APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup>**

Sara Kinder, Director of Counseling, Assist Indiana, appeared before the Commissioners via zoom to request approval to use county property for an event called “Take Back the Night”. Ms. Kinder stated this event is to recognize sexual violence, specifically against women. It is traditionally held on college campuses across the nation. Assist Indiana has held the event two (2) of the last four (4) years. She said they plan to have a rally on campus at the student center atrium then walk to the Johnson County Courthouse where they will stay for approximately twenty minutes and then walk back to campus. Mr. Baird suggested the people marching stay on the public sidewalks; this would avoid the need for a waiver of liability and an insurance certificate. He stated these documents would be needed if they marched on private county property, which includes the courthouse steps. If you do not have these documents you would not be allowed on county property. Discussion was held and all questions were answered satisfactorily. Mrs. Johnson suggested since the Commissioners have generally agreed to allow the event, she would get with Ms. Kinder and work out the details once it was decided on how they would like to proceed.

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

**HENSLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

- A. Approval of Resolution 2022-R-3: Resolution Approving Increase to Maximum Ad Valorem Property Tax Levy by Hensley Fire Protection District and
- B. Approval of Resolution 2022-R-4: Resolution Approving Increase Establishing Cumulative Firefighting Building and Equipment Fund by Hensley Fire Protection District

Mr. Baird opened a public hearing and invited anyone present, or attending via zoom, to speak in regards to an increase to Maximum Ad Valorem Property Tax Levy by Hensley Fire Protection District and an increase establishing Cumulative Firefighting Building and Equipment Fund.

Larry Gesse, Attorney for the Hensley Fire Protection District Board, approached the podium and stated the President of the Hensley Fire Protection Board is in the audience along with their Financial Advisor and two members of the Trafalgar Fire Department. Mr. Gesse stated there was a public hearing held on both matters January 26, 2022; they published a notice of adoption of those resolutions thereafter. Mr. Gesse introduced Jeff Peters, Peters Municipal Consultants, and Financial Advisor for the Hensley Fire Protection District.

Mr. Peters came to the podium and stated he would be presenting a thumbnail version of this request. They have had historical issues of the cost of fire protection and EMS surpassing the growth of the maximum levy; every few years legislature puts forward an effort to help combat this. The legislative effort in 2020 was to raise tax rates based on growth and assessed value or growth and population beyond a certain amount. The calculations for Hensley is potentially a six and one half cent rate increase. This would increase their budget next year and the following year approximately \$330,000; they would like to do this for operation purposes.

Mr. Peters stated they would also like to increase their Cumulative Firefighting Building and Equipment Fund rate to the statutory maximum of three and one third cents. This would be an increase of just under one penny and yield approximately \$45,000 per year toward capital within the next couple of years. He said they also looked at the tax impact this would cause for a medium homestead in their taxing district. A medium homestead of \$141,773 would likely see an increase of \$44.03; they currently pay about \$785 in total property tax for the year, \$72 of that goes to the fire district. Looking at the overall impact to other units of government, these are non-debt levies and they will impact the income tax distribution in future years to the other units of government. They anticipate this impact will be approximately \$98,000 for the County as a whole; this is viewed as not material to the other units of government. Circuit Breaker impact for this taxing district will be less than a \$1,700 tax increase for the year, and should not cause problems for other units of government.

Andy Sichting, Trafalgar Fire Department, and Mark Dunn, Trafalgar Fire Department Chief, approached the podium and presented information regarding the need for the replacement of and/or repair of equipment and trucks as well as firefighting gear, the need for part-time staffing, radios, computer equipment, and air packs etc. Discussion was held and all questions were answered satisfactorily.

Mr. Baird asked if anyone from the public would like to speak. No one came forward and the public hearing was closed at 10:23 a.m.

Mr. West made a motion to approve items A and B as presented. Mr. Walls seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS**

### **A. Clerk**

#### **1. Approval of Consent to Digitize Records with FamilySearch**

John de Jong, and Rob Jackson, both employees of FamilySearch, and Chuck Bailey, a family search local volunteer, appeared before the Commissioners via zoom to give an overview of FamilySearch. Mr. de Jong stated FamilySearch is a family history organization, digitizing marriage records that are not currently available in digital format and not previously captured in past imaging projects. Other records of genealogical interest such as probate and death records will also be included. FamilySearch will maintain a master digital copy of the images and indexes in their vault, which will continue to be migrated to newer technology platforms as they change over time. IARA will have the same set of imaged records as FamilySearch, which can be used as a back-up. If, at any point in time in the future, you need to obtain an additional copy of the images and index it will be provided at the cost of copying the information. Mr. de Jong said copies of the images would be given to Johnson County; this information is free and available to the public. FamilySearch is an organization sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. David Pfeiffer, Director, Johnson County Museum, stated this project could be done safely and successfully at the Museum. Trena McLaughlin, Johnson County Clerk, stated this is a project she would support. Discussion was held and all questions were answered satisfactorily.

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

### **B. Maintenance**

#### **1. Approval of Primary Grounds Contract**

Jason Miller, Director, appeared before the Commissioners to request approval of Primary Grounds 2022 Contract. Primary Grounds' tree & shrub services will continue on a per service/application basis from year to year. Mr. Miller stated the cost will be \$877.50 per year.

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

### **C. Highway**

#### **1. Request to Attend Etnyre Equipment Training Seminar**

Luke Mastin, Director, appeared before the Commissioners to request approval for up to two employees to attend the Etnyre Customer Operation and Trouble Shooting Seminar in Oregon, Illinois on March 23 & 24, 2022. The attendees will be staff from the Highway Department Mechanics. The seminar provides hands-on manufacturer training specific to the Asphalt Distributor and the Chip Spreader. Mr. Mastin stated there are no other training options available locally.

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

- 2. Approval of Rock the Block Special Event Permit and**
- 3. Approval of Wine at the Line Special Event Permit**

Mr. Walls stated these are both annual events that have been good for the community and have done a good job; they have always met all requirements put forth by the Commissioners. Mr. Mastin stated there has not been any complaints in the past years regarding these events.

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

#### **D. Board of Commissioners**

- 1. Appointment of Assistant County Attorney**

Mr. Baird stated Adam Gadberry would be appointed as Assistant Johnson County Attorney effective March 7, 2022.

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

- 2. Appointment of Interim Community Corrections Director**

Mr. Baird stated Steve Kermode would be appointed as Interim Community Corrections Director.

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

- 3. Approval of an Agreement between Owner and Architect with Lancer + Beebe, LLC – Drake Road Project and**
- 4. Approval of Crossroad Engineers, PC Fee Proposal for Environmental Services – Drake Road Project**

Mr. Baird stated this project will be funded by ARPA.

Mr. Walls made a motion to approve both requests pending legal review. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- 5. Approval of Use of Virtual Primary Care**

Pamela Burton, Auditor, stated this is a new product being offered through Anthem; it is called Virtual Primary Care. Research has been completed by LHD and they have given a favorable recommendation. There will be no additional fees other than claim processing fees as any other claim. Mrs. Burton will validate this information and advise the Commissioners if this information is not accurate.

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

#### **NEW & OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Baird noted for the record that Bob Golinski's effective date as Fleet Director was 02/25/2022 not 02/24/2022 as previously stated.

### **Claims**

Mr. Baird noted the Coroner's Office had purchased fleece pullovers, and stated he did not understand the need for fleece pullovers. He stated a jacket and identification tag would suffice.

Mr. Baird asked about the purchase of a space heater by the Health Department, noting that policy does not allow for this type of purchase. Betsy Swearingen, Health Department Director approached the podium and explained this purchase was for the Covid Testing Site and was used outdoors. She also stated the Compass Park Covid Testing Site would be closing at the end of the month.

Mr. Walls stated he would like to point out the increase in Defense Attorney Fees. He said there was nothing that could be done about this, but wanted to point it out.

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

### **Commissioners' Minutes**

**02/14/22 - Regular Meeting were removed from the Agenda**

### **Public Comment - (limited to 5 minutes per person)**

Kimberly Harris, Attorney General Outreach Representative, came to the podium and stated she is a resident of Johnson County and is excited to be present on behalf of Attorney General Todd Rokita's Office. She stated she would be leaving cards with her contact information and extended an invitation to contact her if ever needed. She left literature for the Commissioners to review.

Kathleen Ratcliff, Executive Director, Upstream Prevention, Inc. came to the podium to request a letter of support for an upcoming Grant Application. Upstream Prevention is coordinating a multi-partner grant application for Indiana Family & Social Services Administration's Division of Mental Health and Addiction Community Catalyst Grant Program. This Grant Application is due March 1, 2022. She stated today's request is for a general letter of support by the Johnson County Commissioners. Discussion was held and all questions were answered satisfactorily.

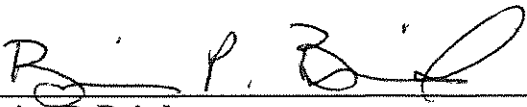
Mr. Walls made a motion to provide a general letter of support for the Upstream Prevention Grant Application. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

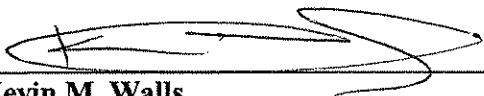
Mr. Walls stated he would like to thank the Johnson County Council members who were present at today's meeting.

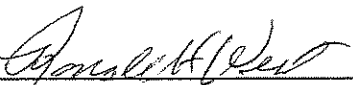
### **ADJOURNMENT**

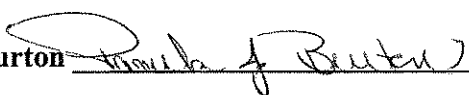
There being no further business, Mr. Walls moved to adjourn. Mr. West seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

**COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

  
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**Brian P. Baird**

  
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**Kevin M. Walls**

  
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**Ron H. West**

**Attest:**  
**Pamela J. Burton**   
**Auditor**