

**FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Meeting – February 20, 2024**

**BE IT REMEMBERED:**

That the Fayette County Commissioners of Fayette County, State of Indiana, met in regular scheduled session on the above date at 2:00 P.M. with the following present: Commissioners Dale Strong, Dale Munson, and Tracie Bever and Auditor Jane Downard and County Attorney Geoff Wesling of said County and State.

Commissioner Strong called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**MINUTES:**

Commissioner Bever moved to approve the minutes of February 6<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, Commissioner Munson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

**ANIMAL SHELTER:**

Dave Ryckman presented three quotes for the HVAC system. JD Mechanical was \$14,350, Hirt Elco was \$17,284.03, and Lanham's was \$17,921.50. Dave said that the bids are apples to apples comparisons, and there is enough money in the donations fund to cover the cost. Commissioner Munson moved to accept the bid from JD Mechanical for \$14,350 for a complete heating and air circulation system for the new animal shelter building, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0. Dave said he would notify them today that their bid was accepted, and it shouldn't take too long for the work to be done.

**AREA PLAN COMMISSION:**

Bill MacDaniel asked if commissioners had a chance to go over the proposed parking ordinance in more detail. Commissioner Strong said he had not read every word of it yet. Bill asked if commissioners had comments that they write them in the margins or between the lines so he would have a record of the comments. This new ordinance would not change existing conformity, and our county attorney said the restrictions in the proposed ordinance are actually less stringent than those in the prior ordinance. Bill asked if they could have comments ready by the first meeting in March, and commissioners agreed.

Bill presented a list of fee comparisons using the upcoming Reid project as an example. He recommended adopting a maximum fee of \$20,000. He also recommended we increase the penalty for building without a permit to the equivalent of permit costs for that project, which would result in double the fees for that project. He said if commissioners agree, he will draft an ordinance for their approval at the first March meeting. Our county attorney asked if we set a maximum fee what about something like the proposed solar project because it would use considerably more than \$20,000 of his time. He said that setting a maximum makes him nervous and that he would be more comfortable with commissioners having discretion to waive fees at Bill's recommendation. He recommended we do not set a max fee but put a clause in that the applicant may petition the waiver of certain fees that are not proportionate to the amount of time required. Commissioner Munson recommended that we have Bill put together a side by side comparison to a square footage rate versus a cost per project rate for the next meeting, and the other commissioners agreed.

**911:**

Kelly VanMeter presented a 144 to hire Angel Ragan as a part-time dispatcher. Commissioner Munson moved to approve the 144 as presented, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

Kelly also presented quotes for dispatcher chairs and presented a proposed lease agreement. The 3-year lease for three chairs comes to a total of \$6,221.04. Commissioners will have the county attorney review the proposed lease.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Wade Walling said he has a Stop the Bleed training scheduled for county staff on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10 a.m. He will be scheduling a CPR training soon. He asked if commissioners had a chance to consider his request for a line item for emergency supplies and commissioners said they had not discussed his request yet.

## **HIGHWAY**

Jay Halveland said they are keeping trucks ready and keeping an eye on the weather. He has Michael Marsh and Dave Bibler from Stoops Freightliner here today and they can explain their lease program. Mr. Nibbler said they have a \$1 buyout type of lease and at the end of the lease period we would own the equipment. They typically do annual payments for municipalities. Payments are tax exempt and the finance company gets a tax benefit that results in a cheaper rate for us. Once he gets the information he can get approval in a week or two. He cannot lock rates in right now but they are anticipating rates dropping by year end anyway. Trucks would probably not be available until third or fourth quarter. He guesstimated the current rate is in the 4s up to 5. There is no minimum dollar amount for trucks. They are quoting Freightliners. Commissioner Bever asked if they could build a distributor truck, and they said they could. Commissioners asked the gentlemen from Stoops to put together some paperwork regarding the cost of vehicles and an estimate of what lease payments would be.

## **SURVEYOR:**

Bill Macke recommended commissioners accept the bid from Milestone Contractors for the 2023-2 Community Crossings Road Resurfacing Project at a cost of \$900,850. The engineer's estimate for the bid was \$1,132,950 so the bid is a very good bid in their opinion. Commissioner Munson moved to accept the bid from Milestone Contractors, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

## **VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER:**

Ron Stevens shared that he has been able to help several veterans who had been previously denied benefits get approved for those benefits. He put in roughly 35 claims and is starting to see the end results on those. He said he has had probably 15 veterans come in and say they had gotten approvals and an increase in their benefits. One of the things on there is hypertension for Vietnam Veterans and it is changing over time.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY:**

Geoff Wesling did not have anything at this time.

## **COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:**

No council member was present.

## **MAIL:**

None

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Proposed Amended Resolution 24 R 1 Travel Expenses was presented for approval. Commissioner Munson moved to approve the resolution as presented, Commissioner Bever seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Eric Hopkins on behalf of the Fayette County Ministerial Association requested permission to use the courthouse lawn on May 2<sup>nd</sup> for a National Day of Prayer program. Commissioner Bever moved to approve the request, Commissioner Munson seconded the motion, motion carried 3-0.

## **PATRON CONCERNS:**

David Smith of 13208 Little Duck Creek Road, Laurel, is looking to purchase some property in Pleasant View and had previously approached commissioners regarding an existing easement. He has discussed options with Bill MacDaniel, Bill Macke, and Jay Halveland. Jeremy Grimm of 3737 Serenity Drive, Connersville, Indiana was present. He is an adjoining homeowner to the easement in question and does not like the idea of a gravel road beside his house. He said he has taken care of the easement for the last ten years and does not want to see any changes to the easement. Discussion was held regarding creating a county road and then allowing the resident to connect to it for his driveway. Mr. Grimm questioned who would be responsible for maintaining

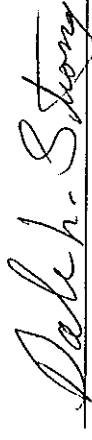
the road once it was put in, and discussion was held regarding that. Mr. Grimm said his two concerns were a drop in property value and a loss of privacy. Mr. Smith said he would maintain the roadway. Our county attorney suggested that the three affected persons, the two adjoining property owners and the proposed property owner, get together and try to reach agreement on where the best place for the roadway would be within the existing easement. He also suggested our county highway director review and confirm that a road can be established, and Jay Halveland said he would need to know where the existing property lines are. Bill Macke said the property owners would need to have a survey done. Commissioner Bever moved to develop the easement as a county road. Discussion was held and a suggestion made to amend the motion to be a feasible road. Commissioner Bever amended her motion and moved to develop the easement as a county road if our highway director determines it is feasible to do so, Commissioner Munson seconded the amended motion. Additional discussion was held and it was agreed that the road should be 10-12 feet wide and 150 feet long. Motion carried 3-0.

**PAYROLL AND CLAIMS:**

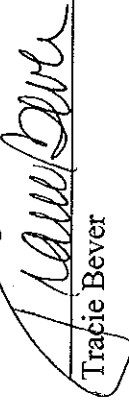
Commissioner Munson moved to approve claims as presented, seconded by Commissioner Bever, motion carried 3-0. Commissioners then signed all paperwork on camera.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Munson moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bever, motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.



Dale Strong, President



Tracie Bever



Dale Munson, Vice-President



Attest: Jane Downard, Auditor