

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT, The Board of Commissioners of the County of St. Joseph met in a regular session in the County City Building on September 1, 2015 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. (EST) at which time in the following members were present: Andrew Kostielney, Dave Thomas, and Dr. Deborah Fleming D.M.D. were present.

Dr. Fleming asks for a moment of silence for the passing of our Madison Township Trustee for over 48 years, Richard Mochel. He faithfully served his church and community. He was the longest serving trustee in Indiana. He was instrumental in the purchase of land in 1970 to construct a new fire station for the townships volunteer fire department. In 2009 he was most proud of the townships accomplishment to save and invest money to buy a new fire truck without borrowing any money. He served the community very well and I would like to give a moment of silence for him and condolences to his family.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved.

Michael J. Hamann, County Auditor, was present and recorded the minutes of the meeting.

OPENING AND READING OF BIDS ON: None

REPORTS AND REQUESTS FROM:

COMMISSIONERS

**A)
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE DOCKETS**

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the Accounts Payable Docket as read and outlined.
Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

**B)
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

Permission was requested to approve the following consent agenda:

Settlement Requests	
Department	Description

Surplus Requests	
Department	Description
Maintenance	A broken floor buffer
Sheriff	Service weapon to a retiring County Police Officer

Travel Requests		
Department	Description	Cost Estimate
Adult Probation	Indianapolis, IN / October 1-2, 2015	\$3,702.75
County Assessor	Indianapolis, IN / September 13-16, 2015	\$1,516.20
County Assessor	Michigan City, IN / September 21-24, 2015	\$808.80
County Clerk	Ossian, IN / August 27, 2015	\$168.10
EMA	Indianapolis, IN / October 19-23, 2015	\$175.00
Health Department	Angola, IN / October 28-29, 2015	\$180.00
Maintenance	LaCrosse, WI / September 15-18, 2015	\$963.92
Parks Department	Carmel, IN / November 11-13, 2015	\$941.00
Prosecuting Attorney	Nashville, TN / October 5-9, 2015	\$1,420.00
Prosecuting Attorney	Ocala, FL / October 5-9, 2015	\$851.50

Prosecuting Attorney	South Bend, IN / October 5-9, 2015	\$900.00
Prosecuting Attorney	Savannah, GA / December 7-11, 2015	\$1,805.00
Public Defenders	Merrillville, IN / September 11-12, 2015	\$3,812.88

Motion was made by Dr. Fleming to accept the consent Agenda.
Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

C)
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
RESOLUTION R-16-C-2015,
FINAL DETERMINATION REGARDING
PROPERTIES TO NONPROFITS

The Near Northwest Neighborhood will have the following properties transferred to them:
1019 California
908-910 Portage Ave
906 Portage Ave
736 California

Motion was made by Dr. Fleming to accept the above request as read and outlined.
Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

D)
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
RESOLUTION NO. R-17-C-2015:
FINAL DETERMINATION REGARDING
PROPERTIES FOR PUBLIC GOOD

Armstrong Richmond Properties LLC will have the following property transferred to them:
1302 Industrial Dr., Mishawaka, IN.

Motion was made by Dr. Fleming to approve the above resolution as read and outlined.
Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

E)
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
A CLAIMS ADMINISTRATION
AGREEMENT WITH AUXIANT

Troy Scott, Risk Management R&R Benefits, 1251 N Eddy St.

Mr. Scott says we are here for a final approval of changing claims administration companies. Based on some issues we were having from HR to cost containment strategies. We feel this change will improve the claims analysis for the employees. We also feel we will be able to do better predictive analysis.

Motion was made by Dr. Fleming to approve the above request as read and outlined.
Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

F)
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
ENHANCED ACCESS TO PUBLIC
RECORDS FOR INFO-PRO
LENDER SERVICES

Mike Kruk, Treasurer, offices on the 2nd floor.

This is a request from Info-Pro Lender Services, Inc. out of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

G)

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
BID AWARDS FOR THE COUNTY
COURTS FACILITY FOR FURNITURE
AND AUDIO/VISUAL, SECURITY
AND PHONE/DATA SYSTEMS

John Werntz, Architect, 52075 Farmington Square Rd.

It is recommended that the following be awarded.

Furniture: ESP Business Furnishings \$379111.00

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

Audio/Visual, Security, Phones/data systems: Esco Communications, Inc. \$509950.00

The bid from Advanced Communication was rejected.

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

H)

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
AN ENERGY PROJECT-LETTERS
OF ENGAGEMENT

Counsel says for the Boards consideration today are the engagement of legal professionals to assist the county in ongoing negotiations and discussions with St. Joseph Energy Center regarding the potential construction of a power plant in one of our economic development areas. By the engagement you would be retaining counsel to assist the county by negotiating an economic development agreement with the developer. By working with the redevelopment commission in developing a formal economic development area for this specific use, as well as negotiating and handling the issuance of the TIF bonds if that is going to be an incentive that will be granted to the developer. We have received quotes on this it is my firm's recommendation that you engage the law firm of Hall Render Heath & Killian from Indianapolis to assist the County in two areas, negotiation of the economic development area and to assist with any potential TIF Bond issuance. It is our recommendation that you engage Barnes and Thornburg and their attorney Phil Faccenda as special counsel to the St. Joseph County Redevelopment Commission to assist in adopting the appropriate resolutions and carving out the appropriate economic development area for the project as well as other matters that would come before the redevelopment commission. There is also an engagement with Thorne Grodnik LLP to provide general services on behalf of the county on all of those matters as well as any and all other matters that would relate to the project.

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above letters of engagement as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

ADD ON:
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
A REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT

Counsel says that in relation to the above matter it is anticipated that the county will also incur expenses related to financial advisory services and engineering services to consider the use in the district. The developer has signed and agreed to reimburse the county for those professional services. Before you is the agreement outlining the conditions.

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.
Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT:
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
A REQUEST TO RE-APPLY FOR A
LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT
TRUST ACCOUNT GRANT, AND
RE-APPLY FOR A LOCAL HEALTH
MAINTENANCE FUND GRANT,
BOTH FROM THE INDIANA STATE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Nick Molchan, Administrator, offices on the 8th floor.

This is a request to re-apply for the \$95631.00 Local Health Department Trust Account Grant (LHDTA) and the \$72672.00 Local Health Maintenance Fund Grant (LHMF) from the Indiana State Department of Health.

The LHDTA grant funds one of our Emergency preparedness staff, some staff education and training costs and some equipment purchases, preventative maintenance and repairs. The LHMF Grant has been utilized for many years to pay for some of our Health Education staff and all of their programmatic costs. Without these funds the programs would be eliminated.

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.
Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
TO APPLY FOR TWO GRANTS
FOR THE NEW COOKING HEALTHY
PROGRAM. THE FIRST GRANT IS
THROUGH THE 1ST SOURCE
FOUNDATION AND THE SECOND
GRANT IS THROUGH THE
WAL-MART FOUNDATION

Nick Molchan, Administrator, offices on the 8th floor.

This program is a new offering as part of our Reducing Obesity Coalition which is coordinated through the St. Joseph County Health Department. We plan to apply for \$1750.00 from the Wal-Mart Foundation for a total of \$3000.00 in funding assistance. There is no matching requirement for either grant.

The Cooking Healthy Program will include 20 or more free live events and the production of a free video series, both demonstrating the creation of economical, simple, healthy meals for the family. The live demonstrations will travel throughout the county to churches, recreation and community centers, schools, parks, etc.

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.
Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS:

CONSENT AGENDA:

Development / Subdivision Requests
Description
Subdivision Bond #Q92 7770293 as Surety for Shire South Subdivision
Change Order No. 1, INDOT Contract 36489, Traffic Calming and Signal Flashers Project
Change Order No. 1 / Final Change Order, R&S 91401/1-2 Miscellaneous Road in Willowgate Trails
Change Order No. 10, INDOT Contract R-33572, Gumwood Phase II Reconstruction and Added Travel Lanes from North of Brick Road to the Indiana / Michigan State Line

Special Event Requests
Description

Traffic Regulatory Requests
Description

Project Completion Affidavit Requests
Description

Motion made by Dr. Fleming to accept the recommendation of the Department of Public Works in reference to the above consent agenda as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

A)
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL
OF A STREET LIGHTING
AGREEMENT WITH THE
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
DU LAC FOR THREE EXISTING
LOCATIONS AND SIX PROPOSED
LOCATIONS

There is a listing of the recommendations submitted attached to the request. In addition to the new locations, the University is requesting to transfer financial responsibility of three existing County street light accounts from the County to the University.

Motion made by Dr. Fleming to accept the recommendation of the Department of Public Works in reference to the above request as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Thomas makes a motion to untable the issue of appointing the Madison Township Trustee.

Motions fails for lack of a second.

Mr. Kostielney says we are still trying to see if there are any other individuals who have letters of intent for that position and this will be addressed at our next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Darlene Garrett, 64600 State Rd 331, Madison Township.

Jill Wilson, Madison Township.

Ms. Garrett discusses her father, Richard Mochels illness. His utmost concern was for the township and to get someone appointed to fill that position. I understand there has been some issue on getting that resolved. He wanted to have Clyde James appointed to that position. He spoke to Clyde about this on numerous occasions. He was confident and comfortable hoping that you would see fit to appoint him to that position. I understand that he is a democrat, not a republican but out in Madison Township that does not matter. We are a community out there and what matters is the person to represent the community. Again my father felt strongly that he could do this. He saw himself in Clyde. I would ask that you respectfully fulfil his dying request and appoint Clyde James.

Ms. Wilson says she remembers sitting in the living room with dad and telling him I would fit for him to get who he wanted and that is Clyde James.

Dr. Fleming again expresses her condolences and gives thanks for their father's commitment to the community.

Mr. Thomas expresses his condolences for their father and the community. I understand that today is the viewing for your father and that this is so important to you and your family that you have taken the time to come here before the viewing. When he put in his resignation earlier the political party could have filled the vacancy then but apparently didn't that is why it has come down to the Board of Commissioners to fill the vacancy. It is supposed to be regardless of party affiliation at this point. I strongly hope that your family and your fathers request is fulfilled.

Renee Putman, 3828 Clydesdale Dr., South Bend, IN.

Mr. Putman says she is a dispatcher for the 911 facility and has been for about 5 years and 10 months. I take pride in my job. It has been stated that you can train anyone to do 911 dispatching this is not for everyone. Only 2% can do the job. Since the consolidation the community has lost 9 dispatchers and this is hard to replace. With this lose it leaves the rest of us to fill the vacant positions threw overtime. Although overtime is expected the 911 dispatchers have put in anywhere from 90 to 300 hours. Totaling combined over 7651 hours. This is on top of their regular 80 hours. The overtime currently exceeds the budget. The moral has spiraled downward. The community has dispatchers that care about their jobs. They are becoming tired, burnt out and overworked. Despite this they still come in to work. We have to be on top of our game for the community and the safety of our officers, medical responders, and firefighters. Our job is stressful and now we have to also add the lack of family time. Our cell phones are being used and mandated even on our days off. We have been addressed about this and responded. Only one change has been made and that is for overtime. There is currently talk of moving us to 12 hour shifts. If we go to 12 hour shifts there is a loss of benefits and asking us to give up 26 hours of pay in exchange for giving us every other weekend off and being mandated on our days off. Our voices have been heard and not taken seriously. It is time for us dispatchers to stand together and fight for quality of work life and environment by unionizing with AFSCME.

Mr. Thomas asks about the mandated cell phones.

Ms. Putman says they use our cell phones to call us in for overtime. We can sign up for overtime but if those positions are not filled they can call us. So we are virtually attached to the cell phone.

Mr. Thomas asks if there is any reimbursement for the phones.

Ms. Putman says no.

Mr. Kostielney says as we are consolidating that scheduling is an issue but hopefully as we get into the one location that will less of an issue.

Ms. Putman explains about call takers and the issues with them.

Jennifer Wildrick, 3014 Princeton Dr., Mishawaka.

Ms. Wildrick says she has been a dispatcher here for three years. Our director Todd Gears has stated that he can train anyone to dispatch. That is not true. You can teach anybody to answer a phone but it takes a special kind of person to answer the phone when the person on the other end of the line is having the worst day of their lives. The dispatchers send help in any situation. We provide soothing words when needed. Various complaints are taken. Aid is also given with childbirth, CPR, and other emergencies. Not just anyone can do this but we do because we care. Most of the dispatchers here are working more hours with less experience then before because our director thinks he can train anyone to be a dispatcher. The Mishawaka dispatch center lost five dispatchers alone with nearly 50 years of dispatch experience combined. When people call they may reach a dispatcher who is in their eleventh hour or you may reach one who is brand new and not ready. Overtime has been in the hundreds of hours. We would like to be heard and we are doing that with AFSCME.

Dr. Fleming gives thanks for all of the dispatcher's hard work and the situations that they handle.

Ron Richmond, AFSCME Representative, Indianapolis.

Mr. Richmond says that they had received word from Pete Agostino that we appreciate your acknowledgment of recognition and we are prepared to move forward. We have the cards and are prepared to check the cards in whatever means you guys would like to. We would like to have the election as soon as possible.

Mr. Kostielney says Attorney Agostino will have to advise on the protocol for this.

Mr. Richmond says they have the numbers needed and the percentage keeps growing.

Dr. Fleming says during current budget process, the Election Board proposed two ideas in order to reduce costs in running elections and increase poll worker pay. One eliminating precinct sheriffs as has been done in other counties and two reducing the total number of precincts from 1200 to 2000. I would like to voice my support for both of these ideas as not only does it make common sense, it also meets my goals for the county which is to increase efficiency and save tax payer money while improving customer service. Last month, the Election Board asked John Carlson, the GIS coordinator, to submit a map of new precinct outlines under the new model. It was shared to the Board of Commissioners because the Commissioners have to approve any changes to precinct boundaries. I reviewed the proposed maps and was concerned the initial proposal changed the established boundaries of the County Council and County Commissioners' districts. As this was never a stated goal, and I certainly do not want this to be confused as political gerrymandering, I discussed with John Carlson to provide a map that would achieve the goals, but maintain district integrity. Every year it becomes increasingly difficult to find qualified poll workers. With a decrease in the number of precincts and by eliminating the precinct sheriffs, we have the potential to save tax payer money and decrease the number of workers necessary. I propose that the Board of Commissioners take action on this at our next meeting. I am mentioning this today to ensure transparency in the process so all interested parties can be aware as we move forward. Please take note that this would take place for the 2016 elections and these changes need to be approved by the state.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Mr. Kostielney asked for a motion to recess, Dr. Fleming so moved, seconded by Mr. Thomas. Meeting recessed by a 3-0 vote.