

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 15, 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.

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.

**ADD ON
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY
CORRECTIONS ADVISORY BOARD**

Mr. Kostielney asks if there are any nominations.
Dr. Fleming nominates: Mr. Francois Bayingana, Ms. Maria Kaczmarek, Ms. Nancy Bryant, and Ms. Jeannine Curtis.
Mr. Kostielney asks if there are any other nominations. Seeing none.
Motion seconded by Mr. Kostielney.
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
County Clerk	Two obsolete stools, a broken monitor and three obsolete chairs
Maintenance	A broken vacuum sweeper

Travel Requests		
Department	Description	Cost Estimate
County Assessor	Fort Wayne, IN / October 5 & 6, 2015	\$304.88
County Assessor	Indianapolis, IN / October 6, 2015	\$794.11
County Treasurer	LaPorte County, IN / September 22, 2015	\$193.49

Dept. of Public Works	Prior attendance to South Bend IN / August 24, 2015	\$135.00
Dept. of Public Works	Prior attendance to Angola, IN / September 9-11, 2015	\$305.00
Dept. of Public Works	Prior attendance to LaPorte, IN / September 10, 2015	\$1,045.00
EMA	Indianapolis, IN / October 19-23, 2015	\$716.04
Health Department	Fishers, IN / October 14, 2015	\$55.00
Prosecuting Attorney	Hammond, IN / September 17, 2015	\$435.56
Prosecuting Attorney	San Diego, CA / October 5-8, 2015	\$3,624.00
Sheriff	Elkhart, IN / November 23 & 24, 2015	\$885.00
Sheriff	London, OH / December 10-11, 2015	\$1,276.00

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
 THE HOLIDAYS FOR 2016

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
 MEDICAL INSURANCE APPEALS
 15-6 AND 15-7

Troy Scott, 1251 Eddy St., South Bend.

Mr. Scott says medical appeal 15-6 it is recommended to approve the denial.

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

Mr. Scott says medical appeal 15-7 it is recommended to approve the denial.

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

E)
 IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
 CONSULTING SERVICES
 AGREEMENT ON THE ST. JOSEPH
 ENERGY PROJECT WITH CENDER
 & COMPANY, LLC

This is an agreement that we have entered into to help us navigate through some of the economic incentives issues by representing itself to the St. Joseph Energy project. This is taking place while the project is being discussed and also if we move forward it will be ongoing.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
FOR ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

The Board of Commissioners is pleased to announce that William Schalliol has been named as the Executive Director of Economic Development for St. Joseph County.

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
BILLS PASSED BY THE ST.
JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL

<u>BILL NO.</u>	<u>ORDINANCE NO.</u>
66-15	43-15
49-15	44-15
61-15	45-15

*as amended

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

H)
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
PRECINCT CONSOLIDATION
PURSUANT TO INDIANA
STATE LAW IC 3-11-1.5-3

Recently the State of Indiana changed the law to allow for a larger number of voters per precinct. So through much deliberation with the Election Board and Voter Registration we have the following proposal which will consolidate 54 to 27 precincts. If there were two precincts that shared the same polling place those were combined. There will not be any change where any voter will go to vote. This will also decrease the number of poll workers needed and that will also be a savings for the taxpayers.

Joseph Carbone, 56523 Eastview, Osceola.
Mr. Carbone says that he believes closing any polling site would be a mistake. Hearing what I heard today is a little different from what I heard at the press conference. It still closes from 54 to 27 precincts and eliminates some polling places. I am just quoting what Mr. Kostielney said. We have a representative government. I live in an area where ours resigned and a new one appointed by Ms. Fleming. I believe the intention of the law has to do with the expansion of the Indianapolis area. I don't believe there problem is the same as St. Joseph County. I have worked the polls for the last ten years. It is not that we don't have enough people the voting is crazy. Mr. Kostielney was quoted as saying 9% of people voted in our last election. If you look at the last election they were all noncontestant. There are very few primary challenges and that was the case in this last

election. I believe that the board presented something previously that there would be no closing of any polling locations by removing the sheriff. If there is a problem they call the County Police. If we were so worried about cost then the Memorial Hospital healthcare system that was dropped for the Indianapolis firm, which is going to cost us more money but was quoted as saving us money in the long run.

Mr. Kostielney reiterate that there are no polling places being closed. There may be two precincts at one polling place now those precincts will be combined and no polling locations will be closed.

Gladys Muhammad, 808 N. Ironwood, South Bend.

Mr. Muhammad says she is so, so glad that you did not do what we thought you were going to do. I was very worried about the closings. They said South Bend was a dying city but we are revitalizing and doing pretty good and I don't want it to go back there. I have worded the polls for 40 years. I want people to vote and have every opportunity to do that so thank you.

Cheryl Ash, 3830 Langley, South Bend.

Ms. Ash says she is also glad that there will only be consolidations. I do have one concern and I hope that the larger precinct will be staffed properly. I have voted on my lunch hour in the past and have cut it close time wise.

Pam Claeys, 1106 Bellevue.

Ms. Claeys states that she went to the Election Board meeting yesterday and I just want you to know how they went through each precinct and discussed the pros and cons and really came up with efficient common sense solutions. This was a very thoughtful recommendation and I hope that you approve it as submitted.

August Baetsle, 224 Grove St., Mishawaka.

Mr. Baetsle says the newspaper was sketchy about this. I haven't seen a map. There hasn't been an open debate about this and being rushed through. This was done in relative secrecy and someone at the end of the day will probably be hurt. I don't who that is going to be but I doubt it will be the Republican Party, if anybody. I would suggest we think about doing this and not rush it through.

Kathy Liggett, 1113 Climbing Rose Ln., Mishawaka, IN.

Mr. Liggett says this sounds like a good idea just like voter id. It sounded good on paper but in reality for those of us who have experienced people without the proper id it's not a good idea for democracy. To save a few bucks by cutting down on precincts or consolidating precincts it is the wrong emphasis. Long lines change the outcome of an election. I don't think this is a good idea let's take some more time.

Suzanne Bullock, 843 Forrest, South Bend, IN.

Ms. Bullock says she is learning as she listens and agrees with most of what has been said. I agree that by eliminating the Sheriff position money can be saved. I do ask that you listen to the people. My other suggestion would be about the stacks of ballots downtown it just seems that there are a lot of them. I don't understand the consolidation of the precincts and I would like to see something on that.

Gerri Pawelski, 16402 Barryknoll Way, Granger, IN.

Ms. Pawelski comments on the process. I know this came into effect July 1st. I know the governor signed it I believe in May. We have had four months to talk about changes. I have not been to all the meetings or read the minutes. I think that should have the public's involvement and the impact on voters taken into consideration.

Roy Saenz, 921 Colfax, South Bend, IN.

Mr. Saenz says he would like to commend the Commissioners for taking initiative and doing something that is efficient. This was actually started by Terri Rethlake in an election board meeting. The Commissioners then stepped forward and encouraged that. Commissioner Fleming was then able to reach out to the election board during the commissioner's last meeting. Yesterday there was an election board meeting that was open to the public. There was representation from both parties and the party chairman's. All representatives were in agreement with this proposal and I recommend that we move forward with this.

Dr. Fleming says that as your County Commissioner I am committed to improving customer service, encouraging fiscal responsibility, and promoting transparency in county government. This is why I support the idea of Terri Rethlake that emerged from the recent budget meetings to consolidate St. Joseph County precincts. As a business owner customer service is something I value and work to promote. Because of the property tax caps that will be coming into play, the county will be receiving less money

and still be expected to provide excellent customer service to its residents. That is why I believe it is important to find areas where we can save taxpayer money. What was voted on by the election board in a bipartisan manner represents a step in the right direction towards improving our counties' fiscal responsibility. And to provide clarity to a popular misunderstanding, combining precincts does not necessarily mean eliminating polling locations as was confirmed by the election board's recommendation which consolidates without eliminating. For example, my church is a polling location for two precincts. If we combine the precincts into one, we could reduce the number of poll workers by half, yet not change the polling location for the citizens that have voted there their whole lives. This is something I am keenly interested in preserving in combination with pursuing this common sense reform. Furthermore, in recent years, it has been more and more difficult to find enough qualified poll workers to fill all the precincts. Consolidation of precincts would also reduce the number of required poll workers and therefore enable better poll worker training to provide better customer service. Making sure the poll workers are well trained would decrease any questionable issues on Election Day and help ensure the integrity of our local democratic process. Finally, the structure of our local government gives the County Commissioners the ultimate responsibility of moving forward with this proposal without being required to seek outside input or recommendations. However, because of my desire to ensure transparency, I presented a statement in agreement with this idea at our previous commissioner meeting. I also went to the Election Board meeting to ask for their input in creating a bipartisan plan. To set the record straight, I am responsible, honored and committed to serving all the citizens of St. Joseph County and believe this is a positive idea for our community.

Mr. Thomas says that it appears the proposal that was in the news the last few weeks is off the table. That's good, as that proposal would have disenfranchised many voters. Government should never place obstacles in the way of our voters. The current proposal before us today was just derived by the Election Board yesterday and I thank them for it. Their proposal is sound and efficient with common sense. No one is moving their polling location but they may have a slightly different precinct number. There will be savings and efficiencies. I thank the election board for their common sense proposal.

Mr. Kostielney says he would like to address some points that were made. This did go into effect about four months ago and we found out about it about two months ago. We typically like more time but there was a proposal we took it to both parties and they came up with a solution that was an effective improvement for our taxpayers. It has been said that no one will be displaced. Everyone can vote in their current location and this will cut down on confusion.

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

Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

ADD ON:

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
A SUPPLEMENTAL NO. 2 OF
STATE-LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY
PROJECT COORDINATION
CONTRACT FOR THE ST. JOSEPH
COUNTY BRIDGE INSPECTION
PROGRAM 2012-2014

The agreement outlines the revisions to the approved contract dated July 16, 2012. The supplemental is necessary to increase the federal aid allocation and county's share for the additional work approved by the Board on July 12, 2015, involving additional inspections for component condition ratings.

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

Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
AN APPOINTMENT OF THE
MADISON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

Dr. Fleming makes a motion to untable the issue of appointing the Madison Township Trustee.

Motions seconded by Mr. Thomas

Mr. Thomas reads a letter from Margery Baumgardner, the Madison Township Secretary. Mr. Thomas says that when this letter was written Mr. Mochel was alive but has since passed away. The citizens have been struggling without a trustee. I am happy this is untabled and something positive hopefully will happen.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

Mr. Thomas nominates Clyde James.

Motion fails for lack of a second.

Dr. Fleming nominates Scott Laidig.

Motion seconded by Mr. Kostielney.

Tina Schlarb, 16031 New Rd., South Bend, IN.

Ms. Schlarb expresses her concerns to have this position filled and all of Mr. Mochel's efforts to help his township. We are asking you to fulfill Mr. Mochel's dying wish.

Jill Wilson, 64520 St. Road 331, Bremen, In.

Ms. Wilson says his family is still hoping you will give my dad his dying wish and appoint Clyde James.

Motion adopted by a 2-1 vote.

Mr. Kostielney says he expresses his deepest condolences to the family. I would have liked to grant his wish but keeping with the wishes of the voters of Madison Township and typically speaking when someone leaves office while in office they are replaced with a member from that party. That is what heavily influenced my decision.

Mr. Thomas says that Madison Township is in his district. The people have not been properly served for the last three months due to the failure of the Republican Party to fill the vacancy as would have normally been done in a special election. Then the failure of the Board of Commissioners to appoint a replacement in previous meetings. If there was going to be a vote strictly along party lines or if it had to be a Republican the party could have done that months ago. As we heard Ms. Wilson and her sister at the last meeting this township does not care about political parties. They care about the community. It was with their full support that they wanted Clyde James.

Dr. Fleming says that she is sure that Scott Laidig cares very much about Madison Township and he will do a fabulous job.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

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.