

Hancock County Board of Commissioners
Regularly Scheduled Meeting
January 31, 2023

Commissioner President Spalding called to order the January 31, 2023, Hancock County Commissioners Board meeting at 5:00 PM. Those present were Board of Commissioners Bill Spalding, John Jessup, and Gary McDaniel, Auditor Debra Carnes, Executive Liaison Administrator Chyan Gilaspy, and County Attorney Scott Benkie.

Approve and Accept Dedicated ROW

Mike Gibson, of MJ Gibson Surveying, presented the Low Minor Sub and Hunt Minor Sub dedicated ROWs for approval.

Commissioner Jessup motioned to accept the 35' dedicated ½ ROW for the 900 N Low Minor Subdivision, as presented. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Jessup motioned to accept the 40' dedicated ½ ROW for the 300 N Hunt Minor Subdivision, as presented. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Superior Court I – Employee Vacation Carryover

Judge Davis requested to carry over two vacation days for Mica Knapp in addition to five he could approve, for a total of seven days.

Commissioner Jessup motioned to allow Mica Knapp to carry over two vacation days from 2022. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Discuss Neighbor Sewage Problem

Attorney Joel Nagle and property owner Kristie Upton discussed issues with her neighbors, the White's, pumping raw sewage onto her property and requested the assistance of the Commissioners. County attorney Scott Benkie and attorney Nagle discussed the current litigation status and that the Court mandated a septic system be installed. Environmental Health Specialist Brent Wakeland and Attorney Gregg Morelock discussed the County Health Department's response to the situation. White's attorney Silvia Miller discussed her clients were unaware they were doing anything wrong. Discussion had. Commissioner President Spalding requested Mrs. Upton and her attorney return for the February 21st meeting to provide an update on the situation.

Green Township Trustee Firetruck Request

Green Township Trustee Stephanie Jones requested \$130,000 from the County for a down payment on a new firetruck to replace a 1999 truck with constant repair bills. Discussion had.

Commissioner McDaniel motioned to make a favorable recommendation to County Council for \$130,000 for the down payment on a new firetruck. Commissioner Jessup seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Claims & Payroll

Commissioner Jessup motioned to approve claims and payroll as presented. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Agenda Discussion

Commissioners discussed electronic versus paper agenda and packets and decided to continue with paper copies.

Pioneer Cemetery Board Appointments

Commissioner McDaniel motioned to reappoint Nancy Leach to the Pioneer Cemetery Board, with a five year term ending January 31, 2027. Commissioner Jessup seconded and clarified they were reappointing Leach to the Board and not as President of the Board. **Motion carried 3-0.**

County Ninestar Agreement

Commissioner McDaniel motioned to renew the Ninestar T1 lines contract and to continue to pay it from the line it has historically been paid from. Commissioner Jessup seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

BW Invoice

Commissioners and Auditor Carnes discussed the \$20,000 BW invoice for preconstruction services and possible payment locations.

McDaniel motioned to pay the BW invoice in the amount of \$20,000 with the remaining funds from the 2019 GO Bond and the remainder from the 2021 GO Bond. Commissioner Jessup seconded. **Motion carried 2-0, Commissioner Jessup abstained.**

Duke Energy Tree Cutting

Commissioner Jessup motioned to give permission to Duke Energy to cut trees east of the shooting range. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Sheriff Update

Sheriff Burkhardt updated the Commissioners on lending vehicles to other County departments.

Public Comments

“We the People” (Cassandra Shelton and Jill Jones) discussed the Indiana Constitution, the rights of the people, and roles of the government.

Community member George Langston discussed the 14th Amendment and appreciated the Board allowing him to speak at many meetings.

Commissioner Business

The Commissioners discussed creating a decorum for meetings, the RFP for the CMA for the old jail and Community Corrections remodel, a roundabout MOU, and the Grounds Control invoice received after service was stopped.

County Farm Bids

Commissioner Jessup read the following bids received for the Hancock County Farm:

- Lloyd Arthur \$311.12/acre for 113.78 acres totaling \$35,399.23
- Russell Walker \$320/acre for 113.78 acres totaling \$36,409.60
- Crossroad Family Farm \$353/acre for 113.78 acres totaling \$40,164.34

Commissioner Jessup motioned to accept the three County Farm bids and table the discussion for legal review until the next scheduled Commissioners meeting on February 7, 2023. Commissioner McDaniel seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

The Hancock County Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Commissioner Bill Spalding, President

Commissioner Gary McDaniel, Vice-President

Commissioner John Jessup

Attest: _____
Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor