

CASS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
June 1, 2020

The Cass County Commissioners met at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room. Present for the meeting were Jim Sailors, Ralph Anderson, Ryan Browning, Attorney Jeff Stanton, and Auditor Cheryl Alcorn.

Ralph Anderson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES – Ryan Browning made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 16, 2020, Jim Sailors seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

CLAIMS & PAYROLL - Jim Sailors made a motion to ratify all previously processed claims and payroll occurring during the COVID -19 shut down and approve current claims and payroll as presented, Ryan Browning seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – Commissioner Browning informed residents of grant funds available for reimbursement of costs relating to COVID – 19 testing. Cass County applied for the maximum amount allowed of \$250,000.

North Central Indiana Regional Planning Council, Executive Director Steven Ray presented COVID-19 Immediate Response Program Grant for approval. COVID-19 Grant is through the Community Development Block Grant Program and administered by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. Cass County has been awarded \$150,000 reimbursable federal grant for the cost of testing, diagnosis, or other services related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Steven Ray presented sub recipient agreement between Cass County and Logansport Memorial Hospital for approval. Cass County will offer testing, diagnosis or other services and Logansport Memorial Hospital will serve as the service provider of the COVID-19 Testing Program.

Resolution 20-08 Authorizing COVID-19 Grant Application Submission – Steven Ray presented Resolution 20-08 for approval to submit grant application.

Ralph Anderson added, per stipulation of the grant process, public hearing notification was published in English and Spanish. Public notice included the provision of translators during the public hearings. No requests for translators were received.

Ralph Anderson opened the meeting for public comment. No public comments were received.

Jim Sailors made a motion to approve the Grant Agreement and Resolution 20-08 Grant Application Submission, Ryan Browning seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ryan Browning made a motion to adjourn public hearing, Jim Sailors seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

COVID – 19 GRANT SERVICE CONTRACT – Ralph Anderson present for approval grant administration service contract with North Central Indiana Regional Planning Council in the amount not to exceed \$1,000. Administration fee will be funded through COVID-19 Grant.

Ryan Browning made a motion to approve grant administration service contract as presented, Jim Sailors seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ORD. 2020-08 FAIR HOUSING ORDINANCE - In compliance with Indiana Office of Rural Affairs a fair housing policy shall be established when receiving Community Block Grant Funds. Ordinance establishing the policy shall include the following provisions as necessary and appropriate to prevent discrimination in the area of housing because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin.

Ryan Browning made a motion to approve Fair Housing Ordinance, Jim Sailors seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PARK DEPARTMENT – Dana Hildebrand presented Park Report for the month of May. Park opened on May 1st offering disc golf, fishing, walking and bicycle trails, picnic areas all within social distancing requirements. Estimated revenue to date \$132,825 an increase of \$640 compared to last year at this time.

CASS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Christy Householder appeared before the Commissioners with the economic development report for the months of April and May. Tax abatement due May 15th has been extended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fire suppression project is progressing at the Ag Park, bids have been received for the water tower.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT – Serenity Alter appeared before the Commissioners with the Health Department report for the past three months. The Health Department held 12 routine immunization clinics. Shot clinics were postponed during the COVID-19 pandemic and resumed on May 12th. Prior to the pandemic, nurses traveled to Fairview, Franklin, Columbia and Lewis Cass Elementary Schools to administer required 6th grade vaccines to 5th graders. All school-based clinics were completed prior to the start of the COVID pandemic with the exception of the 2nd Meningitis B vaccine clinic that was planned in April for Juniors. This vaccine is only a recommendation and not a school requirement. These students will be able to receive this vaccine at the health department by appointment.

Extra vaccination days have already been added to catch up from the postponed clinics and will continue to be added throughout the summer to accommodate those needing routine and required vaccines. During this report period **264** patients were seen for immunizations with **636** vaccines given.

During the past several months the nurses submitted ISDH reports on all COVID cases reported to the Cass County Health Department. Follow up on every case was conducted on the local and state level.

Vital Records department received \$6,824 in document fees during the past three months. Department printed 238 certified birth certificates and 97 free certified birth certificates, 444 certified death certificates, 0 paternity affidavit, and 0 genealogy searches.

Mike Collins completed 42 restaurant inspections; 0 pre-operational, 3 complaints, and issued 2 food permits. Three lead inspection were completed. Dan Musselman completed 27 environmental calls, 24 soil reports, 2 residential inspection, 41 septic searches and 18 OSS permits.

Serenity reported the past three months the department worked closely with Dr. Ditty, Ryan Browning, ISDH and other community leaders to implement prevention precautions during the COVID – 19 pandemic. The Health Department worked with Logansport Memorial Hospital to open the first drive-thru testing site on March 25th at the Penman Building several days prior to the first positive COVID-19 case. Dr. Ditty recommended relocating the clinic to the 4-H Fairgrounds Community Building with staff available at all times.

Due to a COVID-19 outbreak, Tyson Foods closed for 14 days. On April 23-24, mass testing was completed on all employees by the CCHD and ISDH. At this time over 50% of Tyson employees tested positive for COVID-19. On May 7th, the Health Department returned to Tyson to test the remainder of the employees as well as the employees that needed to be re-retested. During the closure, Dr. Ditty, Ryan Browning and I were in frequent contact with Tyson plant managers as well as corporate directors.

Cass County currently has 1589 reported positive COVID-19 cases, 7 deaths, over 6000 tests completed (by CCHD, LHD, ISDH). Serenity stated the seven deaths had pre-existing health issues.

Serenity continues to work with businesses as well as area schools to develop a safe plan for the community as we begin to reopen.

Commissioners and those attending the meeting gave a round of applause in appreciation to Serenity and Health Department staff for all they have done and continue to provide during this pandemic.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT – Jeff Smith appeared before the Commissioners with the Highway Department report for the past three months. Crews have implemented social distancing and safety during the pandemic without disruption to normal work activity. Pug mix paving to begin mid-June and chip seal in July.

Jeff gave recognition to long-term employees; forty years or more Pat Brown, Max Long, Jeff Weaver, and Ron Reeser. John Kobe and Jim Buettner were recognized for 33 years with the department.

Jeff requested the following equipment to be deemed surplus and included in the next city auction:

2003 International 7400

2004 International 7400

1990 International Bucket Truck

1996 Nomanco flatbed trailer

Ryan Browning made a motion to deem equipment presented as surplus, Jim Sailors seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeff presented for approval engineering consultant contract with USI Consultant, Inc. Agreement to provide consultant services for the demolition of Cass Station Bridge located at County Road 600 E across the Wabash River. Contract is not to exceed \$94,300 and will be funded through the Cumulative Bridge Budget.

County Attorney, Jeff Stanton, reviewed the agreement and found it to be in order for the project.

Ryan Browning made a motion to approve USI Consultant Contract Agreement, Jim Sailors seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SUPERIOR COURT II – Request approval for Summer Intern Position.

Jim Sailors made a motion to approve request for summer intern position, Ryan Browning seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ASSESSOR – Cathy Isaacs requested approval to fill full time vacant position.

Jim Sailors made a motion to approve request to fill vacant full-time position, Ryan Browning seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF DEPT – Sheriff Schroder requested approval to fill one full time and two part time vacant correction officer positions.

Ryan Browning made a motion to approve request to fill vacant correction officer positions, Jim Sailors seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheriff Schroder extended appreciation to Serenity Alter and the Health Department for diligently working with the Sheriff's Department during this COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, there are no positive cases of the Coronavirus in our correctional facility.

IT DEPT – Request approval to fill vacant part time position.

Ryan Browning made a motion to approve request to fill part time position, Jim Sailors seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT – Jim Sailors made a motion to appoint Scott Peattie to the Economic Development Commission per City Council recommendation, Ryan Browning seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Peattie will serve remaining term of resigning member, Dave Morris. Appointment is effective immediately, term ending January 31, 2021.

JAIL EXPANSION PROJECT – Joe Hoffman presented three changes orders for approval. Two changes refer to handrails for sidewalk and one change refer to demolition of northwest drive parking area.

Jim Sailors made a motion to approve change orders as presented, Ryan Browning seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

EXTERIOR PAINTING CONTRACT – Ralph Anderson presented for approval contractual service of exterior wall preparation for art mural project.

Mural will be painted on the east side of county structures at 520 & 518 High Street. Project is a collaborate effort of Planning Department and City of Logansport. Logan’s Landing received grant funds for the art work. County will contribute the preparation costs of the project using Economic Development Funds.

Ryan Browning made a motion to approve Exterior Painting Contract as presented, Jim Sailors seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS RATIFICATION – Previously approved ordinances and resolutions, during the COVID-19 shut down, were presented for ratifying purposes.

- Res. 2020-06 Declaring Public Health Emergency
- Res. 2020-07 Cass Area Transit Grant
- Ord. 2020-06 Exercising Emergency Powers
- Ord. 2020-07 Face Mask for Retail Food Employees

Jim Sailors made a motion to ratify the approval of resolutions and ordinances present, Ryan Browning seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Ralph Anderson instructed residents to state their name and address and comments will be limited to three minutes. Commissioners request if a point has been made do not repeat the same point. This is public comment, not question and answer.

Jim Brugh, 1315 E Market, Logansport – Public should be permitted to speak and allowed repetition. Request the consideration of the citizens opposing the economic development agreement with WSP. Thank you for the opportunity for public comments.

Erika Gutierrez, 2716 CR 375 W, Logansport – Concerned for the potential health risks to her children from the incoming company building a facility next to her home.

Maximo Gutierrez, 2716 CR 375 W, Logansport - Concerned he will need to move his family to insure their safety due to health risks from WSP company.

James Conn, 913 Plum Street, Logansport – Concerned for city residents and how it will affect property tax rates to provide additional fire protection for the WSP plant.

Dave Price, 220 Cotswald Court, Logansport – WSP company cannot be trusted, do not be desperate for economic growth at the risk of endangering our health. City of Muncie did not allow this company into their county. For the small amount of jobs this company will bring it can cause a lot of damage. Coalition is strong and growing, you were elected and that may not happen again.

Don Nickel, 1127 Pleasant Hill, Logansport - As a resident with existing health issues, requested commissioners to look at the bigger picture not just economic development growth. Requested 100% assurance that not one ounce of lead or mercury will be released into our environment. Don't sell our health out for something that looks good now.

Lora Redweik, 5524 N 600 E, Twelve Mile – Concerned public is not being informed when WSP representatives are attending public meetings. Requested the economic impact the WSP will bring to the county.

Collin Spanier, 3303 Maplewood Dr. Apt. 66, Logansport – We don't need WSP company here, we have enough air pollution.

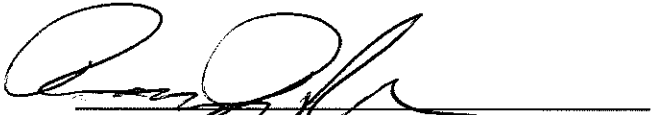
Larry Stevens, 504 Yorktown Road, Logansport - Concerned for the health and wellbeing of next two generations. Auditable audio undistinguishable

Patricia Rozzi, 519 N CR 300 E, Logansport – Commented twenty-five local physicians published a letter stating WSP will not benefit this county.

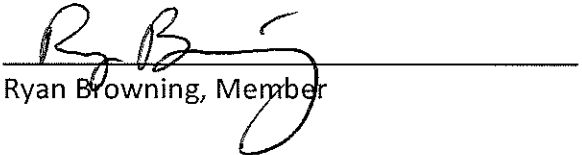
Susan Jarrell, 2405 Hastye Hyll, Logansport - WSP doesn't have good management skills for this type of process. There are more people against this project than is for it. Commissioners need to reconsider moving forward with this economic development project.

Carley Curts, 1257 E Broadway, Logansport - Concerned for her children's health and her in-home preschool. Please reconsider this project.

ADJOURNMENT – Jim Sailors made a motion to adjourn, Ryan Browning seconded. The motion carried unanimously.


Ralph Anderson, President


Jim Sailors, Vice President


Ryan Browning, Member

ATTEST: 
Cheryl Alcorn, Auditor