

## **CASS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

### **August 7, 2023**

The Cass County Commissioners met at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Hearing Room. Present for the meeting were Ruth Baker, Michael Stajduhar, Mike Deitrich, Attorney Jeff Stanton, and Auditor Cheryl Alcorn.

Ruth Baker opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed with a moment of silence.

**MINUTES** – Michael Stajduhar made a motion to approve Regular Meeting and Executive Session minutes as presented, Mike Deitrich seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**CLAIMS & PAYROLL**- Michael Stajduhar made a motion to approve the claims and payroll as presented, Mike Deitrich seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT – LANDMARK DAYCARE** – Christy Householder presented EDA incentive to Landmark Daycare to provide funding for building renovations needed to open the facility. Agreement includes county employee discount for up to twenty children. A survey was taken of county employees interested in daycare services. Results show 40% of county employees taking the survey currently have daycare or need services. Some of those are relying on relatives for daycare and would be interested in affordable services

Christy noted, this property has been off the tax roll for many years, revitalizing the building will place the property back on the tax roll providing revenue for the county. Currently the daycare has twelve employees.

Michael Stajduhar made a motion to approve Economic Development Agreement as presented, Mike Deitrich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**MAINTENANCE** – Jeremy Hall requested approval to fill vacant full-time maintenance position. Position will become vacant upon employee retirement.

Michael Stajduhar made a motion to approve request to fill full time maintenance position, Mike Deitrich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**VETERAN’S OFFICE** – Tamara Derrick requested approval to fill vacant part time office position. Position became vacant due to employee health reasons.

Michael Stajduhar made a motion to approve request to fill part time office position, Mike Deitrich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT** – Serenity Alter presented the monthly report for July. Mike Collins completed 47 restaurant inspections and issued 20 food permits. Two environmental follow up visits, two lead inspections, two pool inspections, and nine tattoo salon inspections. Dan

Musselman completed 16 environmental calls, 7 soil reports, 17 residential searches and 2 residential repairs, 4 new construction permits, 40 EPA lead removals, and 6 OSS permits.

Vital Records department received \$2,785 in document fees. The department printed 182 birth certificates, 133 certified death certificates, 3 paternity affidavits, and 1 genealogy search.

The Health Department held fourteen routine immunization clinics. During this report period 210 patients were seen with 495 vaccines given. Fourteen latent TB patients and thirty lead cases received care and medications if needed. TB medication is provided free of charge through Purdue Pharmacy.

Health education presented "Let's just talk about it" associated with mental health and medication management at the Cass County Senior Center and Area V Senior Center. Summer Safety Series presentation covering water safety, healthy habits & good hygiene, insects that sting, and tobacco vaping were provided to students attending Logan Learning Academy and Kidz Connection.

Serenity reported a back-to-school immunization clinic was held on July 12<sup>th</sup> for Logansport Community Schools. Over one-hundred children received vaccines. Health Department is working with other county school corporations to schedule back-to-school immunization clinics.

Health Department participated in the Cass County 4-H Fair offering information on water testing, septic information, and educational programs offered through the health department. Reading glasses and Clorox wipes were given away to fair goers.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT** – Jeff Smith appeared before the Commissioners with the Highway Department monthly report for July. Chip seal program including 84 centerline miles and 100 seal-equivalent miles is finished at a cost of approximately \$1.15 million. Crews have begun applying pug mix paving with several roads to grind and level to finish this season.

Jeff reported the NIPSCO Project Fusion restorations are finishing up asphalt paving on the five-mile pipeline route. Repair to a few non-project roads in the vicinity are being planned.

County will receive INDOT reimbursement for three county roads damaged by construction detour on portions of 800W, 50N, and 600W paving to begin in September or October.

**HIGHWAY BID AWARDS – COMMUNITY CROSSING PROJECTS** - Jeff Smith explained the bids received for Community Crossing Projects is a local grant match funding for reconstruction of CR 300S. Lowest bid was received from F&K Construction at \$1,838,966.

County applied for two funding sources and both sources have approved grant funding of the project. Unfortunately, it is not possible to have both funding sources. Jeff introduced Tim Carson, Community Development Coordinator for NCIRPC to explain options.

Tim Carson explained the Federal EDA funding applied for will cover the same area as Community Crossing and includes more roadway plus reconstruction of curbing connecting north south road.

EDA funding amount is \$1.7 million compared to Community Crossings of \$1 million. Community Crossings was applied for as a backup incase the EDA funding was not Federally approved.

Tim recommended rejecting the Community Crossings Grant at this time and re-apply for Community Crossing towards the end of the project for additional finish work.

Michael Stajduhar made a motion upon recommendation to reject the Community Crossings Grant funding, Mike Deitrich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**EMS** – Brady Wiles presented the monthly report for July. EMS responded to 323 calls and provided 177 transports. Average response time of 5:59.

Brady reported 1076 billable miles consisting of 138 ALS calls plus 9 Level II ALS calls and 61 BLS calls. Total billed for month of June \$252,610. Five EMT’s were hired upon completion of the recent EMT training course. Department staffed three local events; Squeal on the Eel, 4-H County Fair, and 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration.

Brady offered thoughts and prayers to Starke County of recent ambulance accident resulting in the death of EMT Mike Wilcox and leaving one Paramedic in critical condition. Brady extended assistance to Starke County if needed.

**INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT – WALTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT & CASS COUNTY EMS -**

Brady Wiles presented for approval Inter-Local Agreement that was tabled from last Commissioners’ Meeting. In efforts to improve services to the southern portion of county the agreement allows one staffed ambulance to be staged at Walton Fire Department for a 12-hour daytime shift. Ambulance and staff will return each evening to the EMS Spear Street location. Volunteer units in Walton and Galveston are more readily available during the night hours due to daytime work. Agreement is on a trial basis beginning the day of Commissioners’ approval through September 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mike Deitrich made a motion to approve Inter-Local Agreement as presented, Michael Stajduhar seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**FRANCE PARK**– Dana Hildebrand presented monthly report for July. Estimated revenue received for the month was \$156,413. Approximately 4153 campers and visitors attended the park during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday weekend that included a thirty-minute fireworks display. Park is at full capacity on the weekends.

**CORONER** – George Franklin was unavailable to attend. Monthly report was submitted for review.

**CAUSE OF DEATH**

NATURAL	5	
DRUG RELATED	2	
ACCIDENT	1	
<b>TOTAL DEATHS FOR JULY:</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>AUTOPSIES PERFORMED: 3</b>

**DISPATCH E-911** – Tara Grigsby presented monthly report for July.

911 Calls	1582
Admin Calls	5763
CAD Screens	3467
Overtime	49 shifts

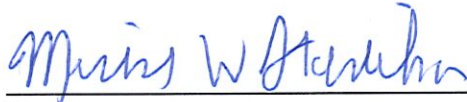
Tara reported one employee finished training and is working independently and one new hire in training. Dispatchers continue course training for State Mandated Certifications.

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT & RECOGNITION** – Commissioner Baker presented a recognition certificate to Butch DuSchene for his 43 years and 11 months of county employment in the maintenance department and wished him well in his retirement.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**ADJOURNMENT** – Michael Stajduhar made a motion to adjourn, Mike Deitrich seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

  
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Ruth Baker, President

  
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Michael W. Stajduhar, Vice President

  
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Mike Deitrich

ATTEST:   
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Cheryl Alcorn, Auditor