

CASS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

November 20, 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 – Mike Deitrich made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting and Executive Session minutes, Ruth Baker seconded.

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

COUNTY ATTORNEY – Cass County Attorney employment contract was presented for approval. Three-year term contract for Attorney Jeff Stanton and one full time office staff member to serve county governmental entities including Commissioners and County Council. Agreement extends services to Logansport Memorial Hospital with 25% salary compensation provided by Logansport Memorial Hospital.

Michael Stajduhar made a motion to approve the employment contract for County Attorney as presented, Mike Deitrich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CCED CONTRACT RENEWAL – Cass County Economic Director renewal contract was presented for approval. Two-year renewal engagement contract for Economic Development Director Christy Householder.

Michael Stajduhar made a motion to approve contract renewal for Economic Development Director Christy Householder as presented, Mike Deitrich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BYRNE JAG GRANT – Tom Lupke present Byrne JAG Grant proposal for approval. Prosecutor's office has been awarded this grant in the past. Grant will fund 50% of one prosecutor's salary and supplement salaries of support staff.

Michael Stajduhar made a motion to approve grant application as presented, Mike Deitrich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

AUDITOR – Cheryl Alcorn requested approval to fill vacant full time claim deputy position.

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

HIGHWAY DEPT. – Jeff Smith requested approval to fill vacant full-time driver position.

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

ORD. 23-16 OPEN BURNING REGULATIONS – Rocky Buffum requested the ordinance to be tabled at this time to clarify the violation process of habitual offenders.

Mike Deitrich made a motion to table Ordinance 23-16 Open Burning Regulations, Michael Stajduhar seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

RFP ANIMAL CONTROL – Attorney Stanton presented for approval to advertise Request For Proposal (RFP) of animal shelter services. County is seeking anyone that has an interest in providing such a service to submit a proposal.

Michael Stajduhar made a motion to approve the RFP as presented for advertising, Mike Deitrich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

RES. 23-08 PARTICIPATION WABASH RIVER HERITAGE CORRIDOR COMMISSION – Ruth Baker entertained a motion to approve Resolution 23-08 by appointing Arin Shaver as member and Leah Walthery as alternate member to serve on the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission.

Michael Stajduhar made a motion to approve Resolution 23-08 Participation Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission, Mike Deitrich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY EMPLOYEE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON – Ruth Baker announced the Government Building will be closed on December 8th for the annual County Employee Christmas Luncheon, from 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Michael Stajduhar made a motion to approve the closure of the Government Building between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on December 8th for County Employee Christmas Luncheon, Mike Deitrich seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS – Dave Wegner presented monthly report for October. Department received 22 new clients and 18 clients completed the program. Seven clients were returned and fifteen clients were held in the jail on pending violations. Department currently has 22 males and 5 female residents in the work release program.

CLIENTS SERVED	184
• HOME DETENTION	120
• WORK RELEASE	46
• TRANSFERRED	18

Dave reported work release program received a passing score audit with no negative findings. Community Corrections received JPAR SIM Grants in the amount of \$100,000 for therapeutic program services.

JULIAN RIDLEN AIM HIGH PARK – Deb Waggoner presented report for the month of October. Approximately 285 youth from four local organizations participated in softball this season. Eight USSSA Tournaments were held, two of the tournaments were requested at the end of the season. Seasonal closing of the ball fields were postponed to accommodate the request.

Fence crown has been purchased and will be installed at all five fields. Small storage sheds will be placed at each lower field for field prep equipment. Motion lights have been placed on the garage. The buildings are secured, fields conditioned, waterlines have been winterized and the park is now closed for the winter.

Currently six tournaments are scheduled for next year. Park rules and guidelines have been modified to meet the increasing use of the park. Organizations and leagues have been positive and agreeable with the modifications. Marketing plan will be promoted this winter to local businesses to purchase advertising banners to be displayed on the field fences.

I.T. DEPARTMENT – Cj Gilsinger presented the monthly report for October. Metronet service issues at the Health Department have been resolved and account credit has been received for the downtime of service.

Sensaphone temperature monitoring equipment has been replaced at the jail. Ricoh copier service program will exchange old units for new later this month. Next month, Cj will present a list of old copiers to deem as surplus. Security cameras have been installed at the probation office and new camera system installation for the jail is being scheduled. The new storage array network for the jail will be delivered this month. Fiber has been connected to the new LPD building and will be installed to the server room for better connection to our dispatch center.

Website host is going out of business, Tyler Technologies is partnering with the state to provide websites to towns, cities, and counties. Process has begun to create new website.

SHERIFF DEPARTMENT – Sheriff Schroder presented monthly report for October.

PRISONER BOOKINGS	131
PRISONERS RELEASED	133
MILES TRANSPORTING PRISONERS	6,187
MEALS SERVED TO PRISONERS	25,503
OFFICER PATROL MILES	39,029
TRAFFIC WARNINGS ISSUED	114
TRAFFIC ARRESTS/CITATIONS	64
DWI/OWI ARRESTS	9
CRIMINAL ARRESTS	43
ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS	48
PROPERTY DAMAGE	37

PERSONAL INJURY	11
FATALITIES	0
CIVIL PROCESS MILEAGE	858
CIVIL PROCESS PAPERS SERVED	240

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS:

CALLS/CASE	16
PRESENTATIONS	2
TRANSPORTATION	0

ANIMAL CONTROL:	<u>County</u>	<u>City</u>
TOTAL CALLS	24	31
UNFOUND CALLS	3	9
CONSULTS	11	14
WRITTEN WARNINGS	6	6
SHELTERED ANIMALS	8	2
ANIMALS REFUSED AT SHELTER	0	0
K-9 RELEASED TO OWNER	0	0
REHOMED	0	0
EUTHANIZED	1 Cat	1
BITE CASES	0	0
Local Ordinances Violations	1	3
State Statute Violations	0	0

Sheriff Schroder reported current Jail population is 197 includes 22 inmates from Wabash County and 27 waiting for transfer to Department of Corrections. Department received four new portable radios through the School Safety Plan. Radios provide a seamless connectivity to Wi-Fi.

EMS – Brady Wiles presented the monthly report for October. EMS responded to 337 calls and provided 262 transports. Average response time of 5.53 minutes.

Brady reported 1426 billable miles consisting of 165 ALS calls plus 12 Level II ALS calls and 85 BLS calls. Total billed for the month was \$315,073. Department is fully staffed with one temporary position covering for employee on workman’s compensation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT– Christy Householder presented monthly report for October. Christy made three industry visits, thirteen business retention and expansion visits, attended twenty-two local, one state, and four regional projects meetings with five business leads.

Christy attended the READI 2.0 Steering Committee meetings to prepare cost plans of ten projects to submit to the state for grant funding opportunity.

APPLESEED SOLAR EDA AMENDMENT – Christy introduced Stephen Eastridge with Nextera Energy to present amendment to Appleseed Solar EDA. Amendment provides an extension of completion on-line date to the year 2025 with tax abatement to start the following year. Economic payments to the county will remain as scheduled with first payout to begin in 2024. Amendment was presented and approved by the County Council at last meeting.

Michael Stajduhar made a motion to approve EDA amendment as presented, Mike Deitrich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BROADBAND – Matt Mavrack presented monthly report for October. Norfolk Southern scheduled the final railroad crossing access at Clymers for December 1st. Matt reported 95% of the project has been completed with 21 new hook ups for a total of 311 customers. One hundred forty-one miles of fiber completed with 7 miles remaining and 141 miles of strand completed with 0 miles remaining.

Matt gave an update on the READI broadband project. Field mapping has been prepared showing locations of utility poles, rivers, and railroads. Local and state permits are being prepared for submittal. There are five phases to the project, providing 206 miles of fiber and strand installation.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS & RECOGNITION – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – Sunny Miller, Lafayette resident – Tippecanoe County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution this morning to pump hundred million gallons of water per day to Lebanon for economic LEAP project. Public spoke at the meeting concerning the water contaminants and preserving water resources.


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



Ruth Baker, President

Abstain

Michael W. Stajduhar, Vice President



Mike Deitrich

ATTEST: 

Cheryl Alcorn, Auditor