

**Meeting Minutes
Board of Commissioners
2524 Corydon Pike Suite 104
New Albany IN 47150**

**December 15, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

Shawn Carruthers called the meeting to order and led the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Present – President Shawn Carruthers, Vice President John Schellenberger and Tim Kamer

Also Present - Attorney Rick Fox, Assessor James Sinks, Auditor Jacqueline Wenning, HR Director Michelle Portwood and Council Member Dale Bagshaw.

Shawn Carruthers led a moment of silence for all that have been affected by COVID throughout the year and for Tim Kamer's family for the passing of his father.

New Business:

1. Annual Bid Openings

The Commissioners opened the Annual bids and will take under advisement.

2. FCO 2020-15 Establishing Vaccination Clinic Vaccinators Fund #8902

Charlotte Bass requested to establish the fund, assign a fund number and accept the funds of \$80,640.00.

Motion to pass with unanimous consent FCO 2020-15 Establishing Vaccination Clinic Vaccinators Fund #8902 and accept the money into the fund. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Tim Kamer. Motion passed unanimously.

3. FCO 2020-17 Authorizing an Additional Transfer of Hospital Sale Proceeds to The Floyd County Legacy Foundation and Use for Other Purposes, Approving Certain Policies Related to The Floyd County Legacy Foundation, And Taking Certain Other Actions in Connection Therewith

Motion to pass with unanimous consent FCO 2020-17 Authorizing an Additional Transfer of Hospital Sale Proceeds to The Floyd County Legacy Foundation and Use for Other Purposes, Approving Certain Policies Related to The Floyd County Legacy Foundation, And Taking Certain Other Actions in Connection Therewith. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Tim Kamer. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Director of Operations & Planning-Don Lopp
 - a. Village at Autumn Hills Plat

The Commissioners signed the plat for the Village at Autumn Hills.

b. Bridge 51 – ROW Acquisition and CE RFP Award

Motion to accept Jacobi, Toombs and Lanz for Bridge 51 Right of Way acquisition and construction. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Tim Kamer. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Salt Facility

Don Lopp stated they have bids for asphalt for the salt pad from C&R for \$20,000.00, Striegel for \$21,000.00 and Libs for \$22,600.00.

Motion to approve C&R. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Tim Kamer. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Certifying Appointment for Floyd County Health Officer

Shawn Carruthers and John Schellenberger made the following statement.

“Two weeks ago, the Commissioners voted 2-1 to not certify the Health Officer. Rick Fox provided to the Board of Health Directors the state statute outlining the process to follow for a replacement.

Last Tuesday, Commissioners were contacted with the Board of Health’s decision: the board would not be looking for a replacement but would be resubmitting Dr. Harris for certification. Last Friday, Commissioners Carruthers and Schellenberger along with Floyd County Human Resource Director, Michelle Portwood met in Executive Session with the Health Department Board of Directors. It was a very productive meeting. The Commissioners again presented their concerns regarding lack of accountability and transparency. Commissioners offered a plan to address these shortcomings and provide an avenue for direct public access to the Health Department Board of Directors

1. *Improve communications, accountability and increase community transparency:*

Commissioners have instructed our IT department to establish an email address and phone number to allow the public an opportunity to voice concerns regarding the Health Department.

Email address and phone number can be found on the Floyd County website under Health Department -<https://www.floydcounty.in.gov/index.php/contact-health-department>

Emails and voice messages will be forwarded directly to the Board of Health Directors, Director of the Health Dept. and Board of Commissioners.

2. *Establish quarterly public board of health meetings:*

Commissioners have offered the Health Board the resources available at the Pine View Government Assembly Room. This is the same technology the Board of Commissioners, County Council, the Planning Commission, Floyd County Parks Board and others use for their public meetings.

These resources include the ability to “televisе” meetings. Meetings will be advertised at least 48 hours in advance and the public is welcome to attend as well as public comment; CDC guidelines will be enforced.

During health emergencies, Commissioners recommend meeting frequency increase to monthly.

3. Increase Public Availability and Inform via Podcasts

Commissioners recommend during a health emergency, Health Officer hosts weekly or bi-weekly podcasts to update the community on COVID-19, vaccination plan and progress, provide reasoning behind business operation changes, school closings. PPE distribution, etc.

4. Internal Controls

Floyd County Government seeks to maintain a positive and productive work environment for all employees. Employees are encouraged to first report work-related concerns to their immediate supervisor. If their issue is not resolved it will be elevated to the Floyd County Human Resources Department. Employee concerns will remain confidential and only be shared on a need-to-know basis.

5. Improve Communication, Collaboration and Partnership within County Offices

Health Officer collaborates with county officials and adjacent counties and communities to ensure consistent community messaging.

Health Officer will work with county officials to be fiscally responsible and safeguard all county resources.

The role of each County Official will be clearly defined to maintain consistency when delivering information to the community.

6. Continuous Improvement,

In the same manner any organization that intends to perform at its best to advance a culture of continuous improvement; it’s recommended the Health Department Board of Directors:

Develop a 3- and 5-year plan to include goals with input from the Health Officer, Health Dept staff, Hospitals, Schools, businesses, etc.

Key to this approach is identifying primary issues, resources required to address and the steps needed to build a consensus in the community.

Finally, the idea of continuous improvement in how our government functions is not limited to the Health Department. It applies to every county department and every board for which the Commissioners have an appointment. Everyone in a leadership position must take seriously their responsibility to continuously improve the operations under their watch in order to provide the best quality service at a good value that every taxpayer deserves.

7. Health Board Appointments

The Health Board has seven board positions: three appointed by the City and four appointed by the Commissioners.

New Albany just recently filled a position that was vacant for quite some time just last week; Mr. Tom Jones was appointed to that position.

The Commissioners have a vacancy to fill at the end of this year.

We are requesting resumes from individuals with a medical background and will conduct interviews via zoom.

As future Commissioner board positions are up for appointment, Commissioner's will prioritize appointments of individuals in other areas of the Health Department responsibilities, specifically restaurant/food services and environmental according to the state statute guidelines.

This will provide a solid cross section of resources and expertise for the board of directors, Health Dept staff and above all for the residents of our county."

Tim Kamer explained that they have to retract their original 2-1 vote as part of the process.

Motion to set aside our original decision to not certify Dr. Tom Harris. Moved by Tim Kamer. Seconded by John Schellenberger. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to certify Dr. Tom Harris as Floyd County Health Officer. Moved by Tim Kamer. Seconded by John Schellenberger. Motion passed unanimously.

Shawn Carruthers stated that this was a hard vote, for him, to go back on. The reasoning is there is a lot of misinformation across several boards in our community. COVID brought this board to the forefront and revealed the inefficiencies, lack of transparency and problems with the current processes. He thanked the City for a full Board of Health. It is difficult when you do not have a full board present to make improvements and take the responsibility seriously.

Shawn Carruthers stated that the Commissioners make appointments to a lot of boards. He has noticed there are reappointments to many boards over the years and that tends to lead to

complacency which causes a lack of forward thinking. He feels that the Health Board is aware now that they have been in the spotlight and now know their role in the community. They need to lead and not follow.

Shawn Carruthers stated that the Commissioners will look for leaders in their board appointments. They want leaders that will take the county into the future.

John Schellenberger stated that the Commissioners take their board appointments very seriously. There has a lot of miscommunication over the past weeks.

EMA hosts a weekly conference call to receive input from the health officer on the pandemic. positivity rates, vaccines and requests for PPE and equipment is discussed. Commissioners Carruthers and Schellenberger attend the meeting weekly along with first responders, Red Cross, Baptist Floyd and other organizations.

John Schellenberger stated that over the past 6 years he has attended the quarterly Health Department meeting and has yet to see anyone from the City or Council and would welcome their attendance.

John Schellenberger stated that the county is eligible for up to \$2.5 million in reimbursement for COVID related expenses from the CARES Act. The Commissioners have submitted reimbursement for PPE, COVID-19 related deep cleaning, virtual access approved for courts, temperature scanners and COVID-19 testing. They also established an emergency fund to pay for Health Department and EMA overtime. They have been reimbursed over \$400,000.00. The Commissioners have been frugal but have met the requests of related expenses. There have been no expenses denied. They send all requests to the IFA for review and approval. He stated that as we enter the next phase, vaccinations, they have funds available to support that effort. They have ordered equipment, iPads and scanners, with the CARES Act funding.

6. CASA Director – Scott Stewart

Scott Stewart gave an overview of CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates. The advocates serve as guardians for the children who enter the child welfare system.

Cheryl Shive a CASA volunteer and now Operations Director, stated there are 384 Floyd County children in the CASA program. Fifty-seven percent are served by a CASA advocate, 73 are served by a volunteer and 145 are served by a staff advocate. Forty-three percent are in need of a CASA. She stated there will be a training class in January for new CASA volunteers. CASA is the eyes and ears for the children and speak on their behalf before the judge. She thanked the Commissioners for their support.

Mr. Shireman thanked the Commissioners, County Council and Judge Cody for their support.

7. Board & Committee Reports

John Schellenberger stated he and Shawn Carruthers attended the EMA meeting and will be attending another meeting on December 17. He also stated they had their initial meeting with the Fire District.

Tim Kamer stated he also attended the Fire District meeting as well as the quarterly Legacy Foundation meeting and went over the performance review.

Shawn Carruthers stated the Caesar Board has a new Executive Director, Josh Kornberg. He will be replacing Jerry Finn.

- Approval of the December 1, 2020 Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Tim Kamer. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approval of the November 10, 2020 Joint Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the November 10 Joint Meeting Minutes. Moved by Tim Kamer. Seconded by John Schellenberger. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approval of the December 7, 2020 Joint Parks Board Meeting Minutes

John Schellenberger stated they met with the Parks Board. They put together a 3 year and 5-year plan.

Motion to approve. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Tim Kamer. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approval of Payroll and Claims

Motion to approve. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Tim Kamer. Motion passed unanimously

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Today's Meetings

Solidwaste-4:30

Next Commissioners Meeting:

January 5, 2021-5:45 p.m. Organizational Meeting

January 5, 2021-6:00 p.m.

John Schellenberger stated that anyone interested in a Health Board position with medical experience to forward their resume to Suzanna Worrall. They will do zoom interviews the following week.

PUBLIC

Dale Bagshaw, County Council, commended the Commissioners for doing their due diligence for the Health Board appointment and take them at their word for their due diligence in their other

board appointments. He would like to take the challenge with the Council to take the same due diligence with their board appointments.

Charlie Moon, 5466 Highway 11 Franklin Township, stated he is disturbed by the Commissioners in the Fire District meeting. He feels they have a problem by the Fire and EMS service in the county. He encouraged them to ride the ambulance and see what the first responders experience. He stated it appears that several of the Fire District Board appointments and the Commissioners do not know what is going on with the money. As he has discussed with the Franklin Township people maybe the reason Georgetown Township did not want to incorporate with them is because Georgetown does have a high tax rate with a lot of money setting in the bank. He stated it should not be a political game. They have one gentleman that comes into the county associated with New Chapel EMS and Fire that should not have a say so. He said this is the communities' watch and hopes they take this into consideration because the next two meetings are going to be worse.

Joseph Moore, Georgetown Township, wanted to commend whoever is doing the mural work at the entrance, it looks nice. He is glad they resolved the issue with Dr. Harris but the issues that some of the Commissioners gave in the paper and mentioned here is homelessness and opioid. In all the meetings he has attended he never heard either of them mentioned and wants to know when these issues were brought to their attention and by whom.

Shawn Carruthers stated that these studies were done by the Community Foundation and Baptist Floyd and can be found on their websites. He stated that under the pandemic that the Health Department has been in the spotlight and showed weaknesses in our community. There is a lot of state money that is available if they have a plan on how to tackle these issues. Floyd County misses out on the grants that come into our community. It takes a Health Board and a Health Officer that's engaged with the community in order to put together a plan and collaborate with agencies in our communities to come up with a plan.

Shawn Carruthers stated when COVID came they reduced the number of people that were locked up due to mental issues, alcohol abuse and all the low priority crimes. He questioned if we can do this because of COVID why can't they put together a plan to help these people so they are not going to jail and not have to revamp the jail - spending \$15 million dollars. We could instead spend \$5 million helping these people. How much better off would Floyd County be?

Mr. Moore asked how these issues were brought to their attention.

Shawn Carruthers stated that the process with the Health Department, as a whole, brought this to light. They saw what other Health Departments were doing and wondered how much better our Health Department could do if just a little bit of effort went into it and where we could be in 3-5 years. These are problems that have been in our community for a long time and no one has ever done anything about it so why not start now. They felt it would have been a good

time for changes since it was at the end of Dr. Harris' appointment. If we continue to do the same thing, we will get the same results.

Mr. Moore asked why these issues were not discussed with Dr. Harris. He feels it could have been handled better without the disrespect with the Health Officer if there was better communication.

Mr. Carruthers stated that he and Mr. Schellenberger have worked closely with the Health Board since COVID started and have expressed their concerns. They feel that Dr. Harris knew what his job was and should not wait for someone that's not in his field to tell him what he should be doing.

Dale Mann, Georgetown, asked what did Dr. Harris do to make you certify him today when you wouldn't certify him 2 weeks ago.

Shawn Carruthers stated that the Commissioners do not hire or fire Dr. Harris. They deal with the Health Board. The board agreed to step up to do what the Commissioners have asked them to do which was mentioned earlier in the meeting.

Mr. Mann asked why they compared our Parks Department to City Parks Departments.


John Schellenberger stated that there are no County Parks in Clark County to compare it to. Floyd County Parks' amount of land far exceeds the parks in Jeffersonville, yet our budget is way below theirs.

Dr. Bill Garner, President of Floyd County Health Board, stated the Board is in charge of the Health Officer. They decide who is best for the job. No one anticipated that this pandemic would take over almost all of the resources of the Health Department and be able to access those other areas, such as homelessness, we have done so in the past and will in the future but right now they are dealing with the pandemic. As far as their choices are concerned, the meetings are open to the public and are advertised 2 weeks in advance. The public is welcome to come by and give their opinion on it. He appreciates everyone's concern about this and appreciates the Commissioners activity in terms of their due diligence. There have been problems but they are working through the deficiencies of the department that people see and to work with those people that have problems with the board.

Shawn Carruthers thanked Dr. Garner. He stated that the Commissioners and the Board of Health are working together and are on the same team.

Motion to adjourn. Moved by John Schellenberg. Seconded by Tim Kamer. Motion passed unanimously.


Board of Commissioners



Shawn Carruthers, President



John Schellenberger, Vice President



Tim Kamer, Commissioner



Attest: Jacqueline Wenning, Auditor