

**Meeting Minutes
Board of Commissioners
2524 Corydon Pike Suite 104
New Albany IN 47150
January 3, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

Tim Kamer called the meeting to order and led the *Pledge of Allegiance*

Tim Kamer led the invocation

Present: President, Tim Kamer; Vice President, Al Knable; and John Schellenberger

Also Present: Attorney, Rick Fox; Auditor, Diana Topping; Councilman, Dale Bagshaw

New Business:

1. Operations & Public Works

a. FCR 2023-01 Community Crossings Designated Signer-Nick Creevy

Motion to approve FCR 2023-01. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Al Knable.

Motion passed unanimously.

b. Joint Agreement Regarding Disposition of Park Vehicles-Don Lopp

Don Lopp stated the Joint Agreement is between Floyd County and the City of New Albany.

Motion to approve. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Al Knable. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Request to Conduct Surplus Auction-Don Lopp

Motion to approve. Moved by Al Knable. Seconded by John Schellenberger. Motion passed unanimously.

d. American Rescue Plan Report-Don Lopp

Don Lopp stated, with the appointment of a new president, there is a need for a signator for quarterly reports and a process through the US Treasury.

Motion to approve. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Al Knable. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Commissioner-Tim Kamer

a. Highland Fire District

John Schellenberger would like to table the ordinance since the Commissioners received the supporting documents to the ordinance less than 48 hours before the meeting.

Motion to table. Moved by John Schellenberger. Motion failed for lack of second.

Mr. Schellenberger stated they are setting a precedent for adding items to the agenda at the last minute. He believes it is not good government to add items to the agenda without due diligence.

Call FCO 2023-01 as a motion to discuss. Called by Al Knable. Seconded by Tim Kamer.

Tim Kamer read the ordinance. FCO 2023-01 dissolves FCO 2022-41 Establishing Highlander Fire District. Mr. Kamer stated there was a request from the Reedy Group for financial impact analysis before the FCO 2022-41 was passed. If the financial asset is copasetic with the information that Mr. Cummings provided the second reading of FCO 2023-01 will not come

back up on the agenda. He stated the previous ordinance was rushed through because of an arbitrary deadline. Also, there has been a handful of people that have indicated that the tax assessment during the initial Greenville establishment was off by a large margin. Thus, he wants secondary data that verifies the tax assessment. By voting on the new ordinance at this meeting and not passing unanimously that it will require a second reading. FCO 2022-41 will not be dissolved until a second reading of FCO 2023-01. FCO 2023-01 will not be back on the agenda until the Reedy Group analysis is received and reviewed. If their findings are favorable FCO 2023-01 will not have a second reading and FCO 2022-41 will remain.

John Schellenberger questioned Mr. Kamer why he doesn't wait for the analysis to present this ordinance. He stated the board members did their due diligence and put this together. By approving FCO 2022-41 last year they would be able to move forward in 2024. By delaying it to 2023 they will not be able to move forward until 2025.

Mr. Kamer stated, according to State statute, they have 90 days to dissolve the Fire District. The strategy is it gives them the option, in a secondary meeting, if the numbers come back fine, they don't dissolve the Fire District. If they wait until the last minute they will be up against the 90 days deadline.

Mr. Schellenberger disagrees with this process because they have 5 meetings before the deadline.

Al Knable stated either process will get them to the same place but agrees with getting a second set of numbers. He was made aware of the Greenville Town Council concerns in the last 48 hours and was alarmed that their concerns were not addressed. This ordinance does not change the timeline.

A host of community members voiced opinions for and against the ordinance dissolving Highlander Fire District.

Mr. Kamer stated if the numbers that Mr. Lemon brought are factual to what Reedy comes back with by a margin of \$200.00 to \$300.00 that would be substantial enough to dissolve the ordinance. But, if it is only up to \$40.00 difference, he would be comfortable with merging the two fire districts.

Motion to approve FCO 2023-01. Moved by Al Knable. Seconded by Tim Kamer. Motion passed 2-1. John Schellenberger opposed.

FCR 2023-02

Tim Kamer read FCR 2023-02. The appointments to the Highlander Fire District Board of Trustees by The Board of Commissioners was done without notice to the potential freeholders that qualify and had an interest in the position. The Board believes it is in the best interest of the freeholders in the Highlander Fire District to advertise and evaluate potential candidates for the position of Trustee. The resolution states the Board of Commissioners will vacate the trustee appointments and will begin the process of appointing trustees to the Highlander Fire District Board of Trustees.

Mr. Kamer stated he had no knowledge of this being on the agenda on the meeting he was a unable to attend and he had citizens that had an interest in being on this board. He feels they need a larger net in searching for new chief, whether it is the current chief or someone else. They have 30 days from the time the original ordinance passed to promote screen, interview and select board members.

John Schellenberger stated he got the information concerning this resolution six and one half hours before the meeting.

Al Knable asked Mr. Fox if the ordinance states they have 30 days to appoint a board from the time the ordinance was passed. Mr. Fox confirmed the information. He suggested amending the original ordinance to 90 days to give them time to vet candidates. Mr. Fox stated they would need an ordinance to change the ordinance.

John Schellenberger stated he would like to keep the current Board members that were appointed on Dec 30 and some would roll off at starting at 1 year terms. He would approve an ordinance with changing it from 30 days to 90 days with the current board.

Mr. Knable stated tabling this Resolution and passing an ordinance to change the number of days for forming a board gives him time to review the appointed board.

Motion to table FCR 2023-02. Moved by Al Knable. Seconded by John Schellenberger. Motion passed 2-1. Tim Kamer opposed.

b. EMS Advisory Board

Tim Kamer read FCO 2023-02 dissolving FCO 2020-02 establishing EMS Advisory Board.

Tim Kamer stated that since February of 2020, when the EMS Advisory Board was formed, there has been 14 meetings in three years with zero meetings in 2020. In 2021 there were 8 meeting minutes with no agendas posted and in 2022 there were six agendas and minutes posted. The outcomes of these meetings consist of one attempt to contract with Baptist Floyd Health for EMS services that came to a dead-end. They had one RFP to find an alternative provider that came to a dead-end. There has been zero attempts to capture, report and improve on the existing services even when asked at the contract renewal period. He did receive a recommendation from the board on January 2. He proposed they dissolve the EMS Advisory Board and move the duties to the Health Department.

John Schellenberger stated Mr. Kamer was not at the meeting when the EMS Advisory Board was approved or at the meeting in December when the Commissioners took a second vote. He has been on the board for the last three years. He stated the current board has qualified members from the medical profession, including representatives from EMS. He stated the reports provided do not give the total story.

Mr. Kamer stated he has been asking how many ambulances they need to get the response times down from the Advisory Board but got no response.

Former Sheriff, Frank Loop, stated he was on the Advisory Board but quit because of lack of transparency. He stated they need four ambulances to cover the Community.

Dr. Nathan Berger, a member of the EMS Advisory Board, spoke of his concerns about the current EMS provider. He is stepping down from the Board but ask they all come together to find a solution.

Gary Kleeman, a member of the Advisory Board, said he wants the best care for everyone but has concerns about dissolving the board and has reservations about moving the advisory board's duties to the health department.

Motion to approve FCO 2023-02. Moved by Al Knable. Seconded by Tim Kamer. Motion passed 2-1. John Schellenberger opposed.

Board & Committee Reports

John Schellenberger he will be meeting with surrounding Commissioners.

- Approval of the December 19, 2022 & December 20, 2022 Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Tim Kamer. Motion passed. Al Knable abstained.

- Approval of Payroll and Claims

Motion to approve. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Knable. Motion passed unanimously.

Today's Meetings

Stormwater Organizational Meeting & Stormwater Meeting-4:30 p.m.

Organizational Meeting-5:45 p.m.

Next Commissioners Meeting:

January 17, 2023-6:00 p.m.

John Schellenberger thanked everyone for coming and stated a lot was discussed tonight about two of the three important pillars in the community, Fire and EMS. He hopes this Board of Commissioners will support the Highlander Fire District and the EMS Advisory Board.

Al Knable thanked everyone for coming and speaking for or against the subjects. He asked to not get discouraged. The fault lies not with the people but with the process sometimes.

Dale Bagshaw, Floyd County Council, ask how much people are willing to pay for the services they want.

Sheriff, Steve Bush, stated he is willing to work with them on the reporting.

Joseph Moore, Georgetown Township, stated every ordinance they pass could have potential penalties and would like to post them in the newspaper after passing. He stated Baylor Wisman Road is blocked, at times, at the railroad crossing. He suggested posting a sign at the other end of Baylor Wisman at Corydon Ridge Road that the road may be blocked. He suggested a sub-committee for EMS with the health department.

Dale Mann, Georgetown, stated everything he heard tonight was tax increases. He thinks they need an efficiency study.

Ryan Houchin, New Albany, stated they have been kicking the can on EMS for 20 years. He stated the Commissioners look at times but they are not looking at the human element. He stated they need to require more ambulances with at least two paramedics and have accountability with quality control.

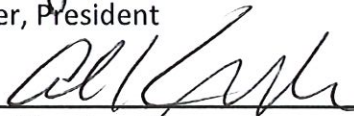
Captain Gimm, Lafayette Fire EMT, stated he can tell them when and why they transport. Quality of care matters a lot and having a paramedic is important. He thinks EMS should be in the hands of the Commissioners.

Motion to adjourn. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Al Knable. Motion passed unanimously.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Tim Kamer, President



Al Knable, Vice President



John Schellenberger, Commissioner



Attest: Diana M. Topping, Auditor