

Board of Commissioners

May 3, 2010 – 8:45 am

Meeting called to order by President Rininger. Commissioners Rininger, Logsdon, Gogel, and Board Attorney Lueken were present.

Claims

Gogel made a motion to approve claims. Logsdon seconded. All in favor.

Minutes

04/06/2010 minutes; Logsdon requested a change.

04/19/2010 minutes; Logsdon requested a change. Logsdon made a motion to approve both sets of minutes with the corrections. Gogel seconded. All in favor.

SRI Agreement

Logsdon made a motion to sign the agreement to have SRI administer the tax sale and allow SRI to raise the tax sale fee to \$70 per parcel. Gogel seconded. All in favor.

Server Replacement

Shelton explained the need for a new server to be used by the Auditor's office, Assessor's office and the Treasurer's office. The server is needed if the county is going to pass the Phase II Certification required by the state. Shelton stated she received two bids and the lowest was \$15,660. After a brief discussion it was decided to request the funding from the Cumulative Capital Fund. Gogel made a motion to request the additional from the Cumulative Capital Fund. Logsdon seconded. All in favor.

Holiday World Buses

Lueken discussed the letter the commissioners asked him to draft addressing Holiday World's use of buses on county roads. A portion of the letter stated: *After considering the condition of those county roads and the limited duration of use (May thru September in 2010 and 2011), the Board of Commissioners has decided to allow Holiday World to travel with its four former school buses back and forth on County Road 1600N from its intersection with State Road 162 east to its intersection with the Fulda Shortcut Road and then south on the Fulda Shortcut Road to its intersection with State Road 545.*

Emergency Preparedness

Donna Etienne presented the updated Antiviral Distribution plan for the Health Department for approval by the commissioners. Logsdon made a motion to approve. Gogel seconded. All in favor.

Health Insurance Recommendation

Logsdon and Christine Zimmerman discussed the recommendations of the Health Insurance Committee. The committee recommended the county increase the life insurance given to full-time employees to \$25,000 and increase the life insurance offered to their dependents to \$10,000. The committee further recommended that the

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individual and family deductibles be raised from \$300 and \$600 to \$350 and \$750. Logsdon made a motion to approve both changes to take effect at the next insurance renewal. Gogel seconded. All in favor.

Discussion was also had on changing rehabilitation to a pre-certification instead of a \$1,000 limit, raising the deductible on biotech pharmaceuticals, and covering prescriptions to help quit smoking.

Rickelman Property

Mike Rickelman asked to address the board regarding a Property Maintenance Ordinance complaint filed on his property. Lueken stated that the discussion should be held off until the June 1 meeting because that is when a hearing is set, per the violation letter. Rickelman asked for clarification on how to get his property in compliance. Logsdon said Debbie Steinkamp at Solid Waste would be able to answer any question regarding compliance. Rininger encouraged Rickelman to work with Steinkamp. Lueken stated he will be in contact with Rickelman and along with Steinkamp can discuss how to bring the property in compliance.

EMA Grant

EMA Deputy Singleton requested the commissioners approve a 100% reimbursable Hoosier Safety Grant for \$3,950. Gogel made a motion to accept the grant. Logsdon seconded. All in favor.

Condition of School Funds

Shelton asked for approval of the Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The report is a statement of the condition of School Funds of the county. Logsdon made a motion to approve. Gogel seconded. All in favor.

Common Wage Committee Appointment

A Common Wage Committee meeting will be held on May 6 at 9:00 am. The prior appointments to the committee were: Anthony Bender as Owner Representative, Larry Ziegler as Awarding Agency Taxpayer Representative, Jerry Wilson as Legislative Body Taxpayer Representative, and Tom Litkenhus as alternate. Logsdon made a motion to re-appoint all members. Gogel seconded. All in favor.

Proclamation

The Spencer County Visitors' Bureau requested the issuance of the following Proclamation:

To all Persons To Whom These Presents Shall Come, Greetings:

WHEREAS, Robert Ripley, one of the most famous persons in the world in the first half of the Twentieth century, was born on Christmas Day, 1890; and,

WHEREAS, Ripley's "Believe It Or Not" cartoon highlighted the Santa Claus, Indiana, Post Office on January 7, 1930, just two months after the start of the series, which continues in print worldwide to this day; and,

WHEREAS, That "Believe It Or Not" cartoon, and two subsequent cartoons about the Town of Santa Claus, are widely credited with sparking interest in the first tourism development in the Town, which has grown to be a nationally-beloved destination.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Spencer County, that May 11, 2010 be, and hereby is, DECLARED and PROCLAIMED to be "RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT DAY" in the Spencer County, Indiana: the premier tourism destination for families in all of the Midwest.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Board of Commissioners of Spencer County have hereunto set their hands, this 3rd day of May, 2010.

Logsdon made a motion to pass the Proclamation. Gogel seconded. All in favor.

Highway Report

CR 1600N – Superintendent Painter said CR 1600N could be closed due to high water.

Troy Refinery – Painter stated testing has begun at the Troy Refinery site. The Indiana Region 15 received a grant to determine if the site can be re-claimed.

Tanks – Painter reported the storage tanks were removed from the ground, but more testing will be done around the area around the pumps.

New SR 231 Intersection – Logsdon expressed his concern over the dangerous intersection created where the new SR 231 crosses the old SR 231. He called INDOT and asked for increased signage.

Grant – Luce Sewer

Indiana Region 15 Director Lisa Gehlhausen discussed the Disaster Recovery Grant Award letter. The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs approved the county's application for Community Development Block Grant Funds under the Disaster Recovery Fund. A total of \$9,147,000 has been approved for the Wastewater Collection System in Luce Township and Grant Administration.

Gehlhausen discussed the scope of the project and stated the estimated total cost is \$16,330,797.90. The balance of the project is being funded through COIT funds and an Indiana Revolving Fund loan.

Gehlhausen stated this is the largest grant the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs has ever awarded.

Discussion was had on who is responsible for the review of bills and the payment of sub-contractors.

Rininger asked for comments from the public.

Steve Buse stated a lawsuit is being filed to stop construction. He said lies have been told and illegal things done. Buse said he is not against having a system in Luce Township but the current system is too expensive and he was concerned about the balloon payment that will be due. He said people would not move into the area because of the high cost. Rininger said this has been discussed many times.

Logsdon asked Gehlhausen about the balloon payment. Gehlhausen and Lindsey stated Umbaugh ran the numbers and there will be a balloon payment because the financing can only be done for 20 years, but the payment can then be re-financed.

Larry Blair stated he had three requests of the commissioners. One, he said the commissioners should revise the grant wording so that other sewer designs can be considered. Two, he said the commissioners should mandate a detailed and itemized audit of the Luce Township Sewer District. Three, he said the commissioners should mandate a referendum on at least three different sewer designs to be voted on in November.

Gehlhausen said the county has a time limit by which the funds must be used and there would be no way to meet the time schedule if the project was changed.

Addressing the audit, Gogel said the council required an audit of the sewer district and no problems were found. Blair said another audit needs to be done. John Wood said the books for the district are available for anyone to see.

With regard to the referendum, Rininger said if the district waits until November to begin the funds would no longer be available.

Blair said grants are available for "green" projects and at least three projects have been identified that could be done for half the cost of the current project. Buse asked if it was right to keep doing something wrong.

Wood said Commonwealth engineers analyzed 17 different scenarios and the C-3 project was the best alternative. He said it was also the one recommended by the USDA. Blair said he cannot find any documents showing other systems were researched. Buse said the engineer was quoted as saying he was told not to consider any other systems. Wood said that is not true. Nora Yeager said she is aware of different engineer plans and what this project requires and the C3 project is the only one for which the district can get the \$9 million.

Susan Young said she has been a resident of Luce Township since 1976 and thought the C3 plan would have died years ago because the survey done in 2006 only found eight septic systems that could not be repaired in Richland. She wanted to make it clear that the project's total cost is \$16 million not \$9 million. She said there is a project that can be done for \$9 million and the monthly payment would only be \$20 per month, but these things have not been considered. She said she will not hook on to this system because she does not need it and she will not pay \$65 to haul her sewage to Rockport. She said this system is not serving Luce Township. She said developments can be done with septic systems.

Young also questioned Gehlhausen's motivation, saying she will not be paid unless the project goes through. Logsdon corrected Young by saying Gehlhausen works for Indiana Region 15, is paid a salary, and is not on commission. Spencer County pays a fee to be part of Indiana Region 15 and they will administer the grant. He said Indiana Region 15 is an open book operation and two county elected officials serve on the board (Logsdon and Councilman Ebert).

Blair asked if there was latitude within the grant to change the system. Gehlhausen said the time line is based on this particular project.

Chris Middleton thanked Gehlhausen, Indiana Region 15, and the commissioners for their commitment and the work they did to receive this grant. She said the grant was very competitive and will not be available down the road. Gehlhausen stated the maximum grant will return to a \$600,000 maximum.

Jeaneda Middleton stated Indiana Region 15 is fortunate to have Gehlhausen. Middleton also thanked the commissioners for their granting of easements and the use of county rights-of-way. She said the county stepped in at the right time for the 400-plus families who are in favor of the project.

Rininger stated in 1997 he sat through his first presentation on the project. It is essentially the same except now the county has \$9 million to go toward it. He encouraged the sewer board to keep the numbers down and work to make it affordable.

Lueken discussed the grant agreement and the environmental testing. Lueken questioned who would be held responsible. Lindsey and Gehlhausen said the responsibilities are set out in the sub-recipient agreement.

Wood said he met with the Commonwealth engineers and all preliminary indications are that there will be no problems with the permits.

Rininger requested a motion from the board. Gogel made a motion to accept the grant. Logsdon seconded. All in favor.

The commissioners agreed to appoint Rininger and Shelton as authorized signers for payment requests.

Engineer Report

Bid Opening May 18th – Lloyd stated a bid opening is scheduled for May 18 for CR 1450 from CR 475E to CR 600E and CR 475E from CR 1450N to the Santa Claus Town limits. She said she is stating it must be an immediate start.

District Asphalt Roads – Lloyd gave a list of all asphalt roads by district to the commissioners. The commissioners will discuss with Lloyd roads that may be temporarily added to the CEDIT plan.

Huffman Mill Grant – Lloyd said the Huffman Mill Bridge grant the county was awarded is an 80 / 20 grant. The county portion of \$48,000 will be split between Spencer and Perry Counties. The Spencer County portion will be paid from the Cumulative Bridge Fund.

Lighting Grant

Michael Cummings presented the commissioners with the award letter for the EECBG Lighting grant awarded to the county for \$36,000. Lueken will review the grant documents.

Communication Committee

Ed Hagadorn addressed the commissioners and stated the committee decided the county would have a better chance of receiving the grant if they requested the full amount for the project rather than a partial amount. Discussion was had on the hiring of a professional grant writer. Logsdon made a motion to request \$66,000 for the county communication system grant match and for the hiring of a professional grant writer from COIT funds. Gogel seconded. All in favor.

Gogel made a motion to adjourn. Logsdon seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 am.

Board of Commissioners,

President
Attest:

Cindy Shelton, Auditor
