

MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
25 N BROADWAY  
PERU, IN 46970  
MAY 17, 2021

Commissioner Hunt called the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order. All Commissioners are present.

**EXTENSION OFFICE**

Josh Winrotte, Purdue Extension introduced Courtney Schmidt and Sara Badger, the new Extension Agents for Purdue. Ms. Schmidt stated that she moved back to Howard County in March and has previously worked for Purdue Extension Services prior to moving to Texas. Ms. Schmidt is excited to serve again as an Educator. Ms. Badger explained she was originally from Miami County and a 10-year 4H participant. Ms. Badger considers it an honor to serve and looking forward to being back in the community.

**RURAL TRANSIT**

Stacy McBride, YMCA Rural Transit brought paperwork for a grant through INDOT to apply for discretionary funds. Ms. McBride explained several rural transit programs, due to COVID, did not claim the funds for their programs last year. INDOT decided to pool the funds and offer them for discretionary purposes. Miami County Rural Transit intends to upgrade their garage and add a training/breakroom. Ms. McBride presented the following documents for review and approval.

- Categorical exclusion classification of capital projects checklist. This allows Rural Transit to apply for funding for replacement vans.
- Pass-through agreement. The agreement states Rural Transit will apply and do the work to meet the requirements for the grant, but the funds will come to the county.
- Notice of opportunity to hold a public meeting. This is notification required for an opportunity for the public to bring issues, questions or concerns regarding the grant to the board/Rural Transit during a public hearing.

Commissioner Weaver made a motion to approve the documents for Rural Transit to apply for discretionary grant funds. Commissioner Musselman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

**MCEDA**

Jim Tidd, MCEDA came before the board to discuss an email he sent regarding the proposed broadband project for the county through Miami-Cass REMC. Mr. Tidd stated that he initially recommended the county pursue other grant opportunities through ARP, however in speaking with Rob Schwartz at REMC, the timeline to apply for grant funding opportunities through ARP would delay the project at least another year. Mr. Tidd wanted to offer encouragement to the board to pursue the project as presented.

Mr. Tidd noted that Jackie Walorski's office contacted him last week to discuss the KC-46 relocation. Grissom Air Reserve Base was #2 on the list the last time the opportunity came up. Mr. Tidd hopes Grissom will be the pick this round, but other communities have had time to put together their packages to attract the relocation. Mr. Tidd explained the package includes what kinds of support the community can offer as far as schools, housing, childcare, etc. The decision will be made by September 2021. MCEDA is working to get their package updated and ready for submittal.

### **BROADBAND PROJECT**

Rob Schwartz, Matt Mavrack and Mike Barron REMC came before the board to present the proposed broadband project throughout Miami County, which initially will help the underserved students. Between North Miami and Maconaquah Schools, they have found approximately, 147 students who are considered underserved for internet services. This means these students cannot afford or have access to internet. Peru Schools have not provide their information at this time, but the numbers would likely increase. Mr. Mavrack stated that the fiber ring would cover 63.28 miles, with a project completion date of 12-18 months. Total cost of the project for the county would be \$1.4 million dollars and recommending paying from ARP funding. There are grant opportunities coming from the state, but it is undetermined the amount of time or the amount of money each unit might qualify for. Commissioner Hunt questions if this is a viable investment when the cost of the project would only reach about 20% of the population. Mr. Schwartz explained this would help all underserved in the community, not just students. Students are just one part of the project as there about 400 Miami-Cass REMC members signed up and waiting for the service. Commissioner Musselman stated he is in support of the project, as he understands the frustration of living in the county and trying to work via the internet with poor service. Commissioner Musselman feels this will help the majority of the taxpayers. Elaine Anderson, citizen, feels the county should have some interest in the project in exchange for the funding. Mr. Schwartz noted that the county could own some of the fiber, with Miami-Cass REMC responsible for repairs and upkeep. This would allow the county to be able to run lines to their buildings if necessary. Mr. Schwartz will forward a copy of the contract used in Cass County for review. Commissioner Musselman made a motion approve spending \$1.4 million dollars from ARP funds for the broadband project contingent upon Attorney Steve Downs review of the contract. Commissioner Weaver 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

### **HIGHWAY**

Kerry Worl, Highway Superintendent presented a request from BSM Group for QC Communications to install 400 feet of 2-1 1/4" ducts and coax cable at a minimum of 48" for service at 2609 W 300 S. Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve the request from BSM Group for QC Communications to install 400 feet of 2-1 1/4" ducts and coax cable at a minimum of 48" for service at 2609 W 300 S. Commissioner Weaver 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0

Sean Yoon, Highway Engineer reviewed the closure of Bridge #63. Engineer Yoon explained the bridge was found to have a critical structure deficiency during the county bridge inspection. The bridge is now closed due to a critical finding reported by the

consultant bridge inspector. The steel stringers on the truss bridge have advanced section loss of 25-75% and rust thru of the webs at the bridge abutments. One of the stringers (stringer 4) at the south abutments appears to have failed and is sagging and not in contact with the deck, which poses a safety issue to the traveling public. The bridge will be closed to traffic to begin 5/14/2021 until further investigation and repair are performed. This may lead to the need for bridge replacement.

Engineer Yoon reviewed the issue regarding settling over the dam. Engineer Yoon received an email from The US Army Corp of Engineers stating are aware of the settlement in the road. That dam is still functioning as it should, the settlement we are seeing is compaction of disturbed areas within the embankment. The compaction will continue at a decreasing rate until an equilibrium is met. Engineer Yoon noted the road is technically Miami County's responsibility but, the US Army Corp of Engineers understand the settlement is due to repairs within the dam and they plan to submit a budget package for repairs in 2024. If the road becomes hazardous before then the US Army Corp of Engineers will have to revisit if funding is available.

Engineer Yoon noted that he spoke to INDOT regarding the 4-way stops on 500 S. INDOT stated they do not recommend changing from a 4-way to a 2-way stop.

Engineer Yoon noted that there is a minor repair that will be fixed on the Kelly Avenue Bridge.

Janice Hughes, Highway Bookkeeper presented the 2020 Highway Annual Report. Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve the 2020 Highway Annual Report as presented. Commissioner Weaver 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

The board received Ordinance 5/17/21 Amending Ordinance 12/21/20 prohibiting the cutting of the surface of a county highway without a permit. The ordinance would increase the cost of the permit fees to \$450.00 per permit. Commissioner Weaver made a motion to approve Ordinance 5/17/21 Amending Ordinance 12/21/20 prohibiting the cutting of the surface of a county highway without a permit. Commissioner Musselman 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

## **PROBATION**

Mandy Mavrick, Chief Probation Officer came before the board with concerns over the windows in the Probation Office. Chief Probation Officer Mavrick stated that in the summer it is 8 plus degrees and in the winter never gets above 60. Peru Glass and Screen looked at the windows and recommended they be replaced due to the age and quality of glass. Commissioner Hunt will speak to Peru Glass and Screen and discuss the matter.

## **MINUTES**

Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve the 5/3/21 minutes. Commissioner Weaver 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

**PAYROLL**

Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve payroll. Commissioner Weaver 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

**CLAIMS**

Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve claims. Commissioner Weaver 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

**VPN REQUEST**

The board received a VPN request Jessica Arnold, E 9-1-1 for training purposes. Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve the VPN request for Jessica Arnold. Commissioner Weaver 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

**5<sup>th</sup> STREET PARKING LOT**

Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve Resolution 5/17/21 B Transferring title to real property to the City of Peru located at 28 & 30 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street (Count Employee Parking Lot). Commissioner Weaver 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

Commissioner Musselman made a motion to approve the quitclaim deed to transfer ownership of 28 & 30 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street to the City of Peru. Commissioner Weaver 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

**HIDDEN HILLS DAMS**

Attorney Steve Downs advised the board that a status conference was held last week for the Hidden Hills Dam Litigation. The Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the county, but the attorney for the DNR continues to ask for a continuance because he claims the homeowners and DNR are working on an agreement.

**MEETING REMINDER**

Commissioner Hunt noted the next meeting on June 7, 2021 will be held at 6 pm to accommodate a request from Circuit Court for jury selection.

**ADJOURN**

Commissioner Musselman made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Weaver 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it passed 3-0.

**Adjourned**

**MIAMI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

\_\_\_\_\_, **Chairman**  
**Alan Hunt**

\_\_\_\_\_, **Vice Chairman**  
**Keith Musselman**

\_\_\_\_\_, Member  
**Brenda Weaver**

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_, Chief Deputy Auditor  
**Mary Betzner**