

## **CASS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

### **July 17, 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.

**AMEND AGENDA** - Commissioner Baker requested approval to add contract for Animal Shelter Services to the agenda after Claims and Payroll.

Michael Stajduhar made a motion to amend the agenda as requested, Mike Deitrich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**MINUTES** – Michael Stajduhar made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting and Executive Session minutes, Mike Deitrich seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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

**ANIMAL SHELTER CONTRACT – VOHNE LICKE** – Ruth Baker presented contract agreement with Vohne Licke Kennels to provide animal shelter services for the remainder of current year.

Attorney Stanton explained the contract is for a limited time, until the end of the year. Services will be evaluated at the end of the year to determine if the county wishes to continue services with the company.

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

**NIPSCO PROJECT UPDATE** – Project Manager Greg Harper presented power point presentation of Project Fusion Update. The installation of pipeline is 100% installed and soft and hard restoration has begun with back fill and grass seed. Gage bite testing of the pipeline will begin today and field process will follow by filling the pipeline with water to check for leaks. Once both phases of the testing is successful the crews will begin the process of conditioning the pipeline. Testing and conditioning process should be finished by the end of September.

**BID OPENING – COMMUNITY CROSSINGS RESURFACING PROJECTS** – Attorney Jeff Stanton opened and read aloud the following bids received:

	<b>BASE BID (CCMG)</b>	<b>BASE BID (Local Funding)</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
<b>Reith-Riley Construction Co., Inc</b> 3425 O'Farrell Road Lafayette, IN 47905	\$1,587,311.10	\$378,189.60	CR 300 S
<b>Deichman Excavating Co., Inc</b> 2245 S CR 150 E Logansport, IN 46947	\$1,532,709.25	\$402,703.25	CR 300 S
<b>F &amp; K Construction, Inc</b> 2055 W 150 S Flora, IN 46929	\$1,503,045.00	\$335,921.00	CR 300 S

Michael Stajduhar made a motion to take bids under advisement, Mike Deitrich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**ROAD CONVERSION** – Jeff Smith presented road conversion request tabled from last meeting to change segment of CR 500 E between CR 225 N and CR 325 N from gravel to hard surface.

Michael Stajduhar made a motion to deny the request, Mike Deitrich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Smith will contact petitioners of Commissioners decision.

**EMS – WALTON FIRE SERVICE CONTRACT** – Brady Wiles presented for approval a contract with the Walton Fire Department to house one county ambulance. Vehicle is currently housed in Logansport at the Spear Street EMS location. Covering ambulance service at this location will better serve the residents in the southern portion of the county. Contract is prepared on a trial run basis until determined to be beneficial to the county.

Mike Deitrich made a motion to take the request under advisement at this time, Michael Stajduhar seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**TREASURER** – Daphne Slusher requested approval to fill vacate full time position. Current employee requested reduction from full time to part time hours. Position will begin September 25<sup>th</sup>.

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

**I.T. DEPARTMENT** – Cj Gilsinger presented the monthly report for June. Roll out of new computers were finished for; Sheriff Deputies, all three courtrooms, and work release areas. Electronic door locks are on order for the new probation office and key box for the Sheriff’s Department has been repaired.

Phone connectivity issues at the Health Department will have some relief with installation of internet circuit, until Metronet has the issue resolved. New network cable was installed at France Park to move a credit card terminal outside at the entrance gate to improve traffic flow into the park.

Cj is searching for a new website company to design a user-friendly page that will be more functional and ADA compliant.

**MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT** – Richard Gundrum presented monthly report for June. Second floor hallway flooring is finished and parking lots have been sealed and re-striped at the Government Building. LMU is scheduled to begin installing new storm sewer drains on High Street in front of the Jail. Kane safety screens to cell blocks A, B, C, and D have been installed and deep cleaning of the cell blocks A, B, C, D, G, and H have been completed.

Relocation of Probation Department into the old Health Department building at 520 High Street is finished. Parking lot for that location has been sealed and re-striped.

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENT** – Sgt. Major Kevin Pruiett presented monthly report for June.

PRISONER BOOKINGS	137
PRISONERS RELEASED	139
MILES TRANSPORTING PRISONERS	4,496
MEALS SERVED TO PRISONERS	25,325
OFFICER PATROL MILES	40,342
TRAFFIC WARNINGS ISSUED	171
TRAFFIC ARRESTS/CITATIONS	87
DWI/OWI ARRESTS	6
CRIMINAL ARRESTS	44
ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS	20
PROPERTY DAMAGE	14
PERSONAL INJURY	5
FATALITES	1
CIVIL PROCESS MILAGE	984
CIVIL PROCESS PAPERS SERVED	467

**SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS: No report – schools out for summer**

<b>ANIMAL CONTROL:</b>	<b><u>County</u></b>	<b><u>City</u></b>
TOTAL CALLS	18	38
UNFOUND CALLS	4	8
CONSULTS	6	20
WRITTEN WARNINGS	3	8
SHELTERED ANIMALS	0	4
ANIMALS REFUSED AT SHELTER	7	4
BITE CASES	1	2
Local Ordinances Violations	2	6
State Statute Violations	1	1

Sgt. Major Pruiett added the new body cameras have been very beneficial to the department. Current Jail population is 212 with possibility of addition 15 inmates to house from Wabash County.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**– Christy Householder was unavailable to present monthly report for June. The following report was submitted and reviewed. Christy made ten industry visits, eight business retention and expansion visits, attended sixteen local, five state, and two regional projects meetings with eleven business leads.

County employee survey is being conducted for the need of child care services.

**BROADBAND** – Matt Mavrck presented update report of Broadband Project. East and South portion of the fiber ring is completed and customers are being served. Upgrading power service through Duke Energy in Young America and connecting power by LMU to cabinets at Airport and Ag Park. Underground sections are completed in northern portion heading west to Royal Center. Additional 22 miles of fiber backbone has been constructed north of Logansport towards Hoover. Two fiber cuts were repaired, one at France Park and one at the NIPSCO Fusion Project.

Matt reported 19 new hook ups for a total of 242 customers as of June 19<sup>th</sup>. One hundred-one miles of fiber completed with 40 miles remaining and 122 miles of strand completed with 19 miles remaining.

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS** – Dave Wegner presented monthly report for June. Department received 17 new clients and 10 clients completed the program. Eight clients were returned and fifteen clients were held in the jail on pending violations. Department currently has 31 males and 6 female residents in the work release program.

CLIENTS SERVED	169
• HOME DETENTION	118
• WORK RELEASE	51

Dave reported the Work Release Facility Audit scheduled for July 18<sup>th</sup> has been postponed for this fall due to building renovations. Review of mid-year data shows an 84% program completion rate for the time frame of January through June.

**JULIAN RIDLEN AIM HIGH PARK** – Deb Waggoner presented spring activity report on Julian Ridlen AIM High Park. The park contains four softball fields with concession stand and club house with restrooms. Much needed improvements have been made to the park including; two sets of aluminum bleachers, ramp to sidewalk, handicap parking, field marker signs, and large playset donated by Logansport Girls Softball Group with mulch donated by McCord’s Do-It Best.

Fields are play ready in April with tournaments schedule through first weekend of October. This season we have 21 teams with approximately 268 players. Northern Indiana USSSA scheduled five tournaments and State Tournament scheduled in October. Currently, six tournaments are scheduled for next season with anticipate that will increase due to improvements and future developments of the park.

Deb will continue to provide a monthly report to Commissioners.

**COURT & PRETRIAL SERVICES** – Hillary Hartoin presented 2nd Quarterly Report for 2023.

Department currently has 102 active clients, a 51% increase from last year at this time. Caseload is 40% felony charged with 5 clients supervised with electronic monitoring. Mid-year cost savings for the county is approximately \$634,000. Without Pretrial Services the Jail would be approximately 1% overcapacity.

Court Services has written and been awarded \$3,703,764 in grant funding over the past four years, with additional \$1,051,33 in grant applications pending. Cass County Local JRAC continues to meet on a monthly basis and has approved the first round of Opioid Settlement proposals.

**ORD. 23-11 OPIOID SETTLEMENT** – Hillary Hartoin presented for approve ordinance setting the guidelines for disbursement of funds received from opioid litigation settlement.

Michael Stajduhar made a motion to approved Ordinance 23-11 as presented, Mike Deitrich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**ORD. 23-12 PRETRIAL SERVICES CASE MANAGER** – Hillary Hartoin presented for approval ordinance creating one additional full time Case Manager position for the department of Pretrial and Court Services.

Michael Stajduhar made a motion to approved Ordinance 23-12 as presented, Mike Deitrich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT** – Arin Shaver presented 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Report for 2023.

Planning Department received 126 permit applications for residential, commercial, and demolition projects. Receiving \$10,181 in permit fees.

**COUNCIL ON AGING** – Fiscal Officer Brandon presented 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Report for 2023.

Cass Area Transit has provided 23,702 passengers transportation covering 136,014 miles consuming 12,000 gallons of fuel. Passengers of all ages, including children, are provided rides to school, medical appointments, work, grocery stores, and other social service appointments. Passenger count is lower this quarter due to children out of school for summer break.

**WEIGHTS & MEASURES** – Inspector Rich Brewer presented 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Report for 2023.

<u>INSPECTIONS</u>	<u>PASSED</u>	<u>FAILED</u>
Scales	138	18
Measuring	64	9
Other	98	115
TOTAL:	300	142

Rich attended several state and regional professional training courses, receiving 14 hours of training. Rich requested consideration for the need of office space with handicapped accessible restroom, storage space for equipment, and garage for department vehicle.

**EMA** – Rocky Buffum presented 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Report for 2023.

Department offered training courses for Anhydrous Ammonia and Radio Training Workshops, and Grain Bin Rescue Training for are fire departments. Cass County Fire and EMS Agencies are now operating on the Indiana Integrated Public Safety Commission 800 MHz radio system. Project included deployment of more than 270 radios/pagers and installation of mobile radios in more than 80 public safety vehicles.

Indiana Department of Health offered over stocked supplies from pandemic response to counties. Cass County secured three shipments including; Tyvek suits, gloves, gowns, goggles, and items for training, estimated value over \$50,000. The much-needed supplies helped to restock what COVID pandemic depleted and are stored at the EMA Facility.


Rocky reported EMA responded to multiple weather-related incidents and a spill of thousands of pounds of Urea on 18<sup>th</sup> Street closing the street for an extended period of time. Cass County Amateur Radio Club participated in the annual field day, simulating 24-hour operations in situations where normal communications are disrupted.

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS & RECOGNITION** – Commissioner Baker recognized County Department Heads for their time and efforts in providing professional quality reports. Thank you to county departments that helped with the 4-H Fair. Thank you to the public that attended today’s meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

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

  
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Ruth Baker, President

  
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Michael W. Stajduhar, Vice President

  
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Mike Deitrich

ATTEST:   
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Cheryl Acorn, Auditor