

Meeting Minutes
Board of Commissioners
2524 Corydon Pike Suite 104
New Albany IN 47150
May 21, 2024
6:00 P.M.

Al Knable called the meeting to order and led the *Pledge of Allegiance*

Present: President, Al Knable; Vice President, John Schellenberger and Jason Sharp

Also Present: Attorney, Kristi Fox; Auditor, Diana Topping, Councilman, Dale Bagshaw and Sheriff, Steve Bush

Al Knable led a moment of silence for prayer, meditation or reflection

New Business:

1. County Engineer-Horacio Urieta

- a. Bid Openings Altawood and Buffalo Trail Subdivision Paving
CNR Construction - \$177,427.30
Louisville Paving - \$177,600.00
Mac Construction - \$130,451.28
E&B Paving - \$175,000.00
Temple & Temple - \$170,788.97
Libs Paving - \$129,330.60

Motion to take under advisement. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Jason Sharp. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Old Vincennes Road-Appraisals for County Review & Approval
The appraisals consist of \$925.00, \$625.00 and \$300.00

Motion to sign and approve the three appraisals for property acquisition for parcel 1, parcel 2 and parcel 3 on the Old Vincennes Road. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Jason Sharp. Motion passed unanimously.

- c. Bid Approval
 - o Local Paving Spring 2024

Motion to award Mac Construction the Spring 2024 paving for the amount of \$275,720.00. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Jason Sharp. Motion passed unanimously.

- o Bridge 27 Foundation Repair

Motion to approve RL Vuckson Excavating for \$97,347.00 for Bridge 27. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Jason Sharp. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Director of Operations and Planning-Don Lopp

- a. Contract – Building – Stanley Schultz

Don Lopp stated the contract is for the Reisz and Pineview Buildings for repairs and improvements. It was awarded in April for \$90,000.00 for security upgrades.

Motion to approve Stanley Schultz maintenance contract in the amount of \$90,000.00.

Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Jason Sharp. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Contract – Southern Indiana Works

Don Lopp stated the contract is for 10 part time student workers for the Department of Public Works and Maintenance for the summer at no cost to the County.

Motion to approve. Moved by Jason Sharp. Seconded by John Schellenberger. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Amendment – Town of Greenville – Water Project ARP – Meters

Don Lopp stated the Town of Greenville requested the modification to add \$16,689.00 which was remaining in their projects to go toward additional meters.

Motion to approve the Floyd County Commissioners ARP funding agreement with Greenville Water. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Jason Sharp. Motion passed unanimously.

d. Amendment – Ramsey Water – Water Project ARP – Line Improvement

Don Lopp stated Ramsey Water had two projects, one for water line improvements and one for water connection to the Town of Greenville. The Town of Greenville project is now dormant. They asked \$60,00.00 moved to water main improvements.

Motion to approve the Board of Commissioners ARP Funding agreement with Ramsey Water. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Jason Sharp. Motion passed unanimously.

e. Paoli Pike Study Update

Don Lopp said the RFPs have been submitted to KIPDA and approved. They will be advertised. Mid-June they'll come back for scoring from the Commissioners. Once the high score for the RFPs is accumulated, they will start in the contract negotiations with firm to do the study for Paoli Pike sidewalks.

f. SR 62 Change Order

Don Lopp stated the change order is for \$28,926.40. When they started to dig on Carolyn Avenue additional asphalt was needed and also some concrete that was breaking away that was underneath the asphalt along State Road 62.

Motion to approve the Amendment #1 to task order 2023-03 in the amount of \$28,926.40. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Jason Sharp. Motion passed unanimously.

g. Novaparke AE Building 5

Don Lopp stated the contract is with Tower Pinkster for \$243,750.00.

Motion to approve. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Jason Sharp. Motion passed unanimously.

h. Regional Park Jensen Tree Contract

Don Lopp stated the low quote was for RL Vuckson for \$36,000.00. The funds are coming from the Caesars Foundation that were allocated to the park.

Motion to approve RL Vuckson for the tree removal contract at Jensen Park for the amount of \$36,000.00. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Jason Sharp. Motion passed unanimously.

i. Certificate of Substantial Completion for the Altawood Project

Don Lopp stated the sanitary sewer ARP projects for Altawood and Buffalo Trails subdivisions. The final component would be the repaving of the roads that were disturbed for the sewer of Altawood as well as the Water and Sewer for Buffalo Trail.

j. Update on transit

Don Lopp stated the contract for Urban-to-Urban transportation is ending. He has reached out to TARC. He has a meeting with their staff on June 5 to discuss the Urban to Urban services and extending those via TARC. They had 120 unique users during the time period of the pilot program for the transit. Eleven were outside the City of New Albany. The defined area would include parts of Floyds Knobs, Georgetown and Parts of Galena. TARC announces a grant round for 5310 funding that nonprofits can apply for service in the Urbanized area. The County has extended it's support for the SITS program through 2024 and through 2025 for the rural section.

The administrator at Azalea Hills said they did not realize that it was already voted on to end the Southern Indiana Transit.

Erlene King, a resident at Azalea Hills Assisted Living, stated she and other residents at Azalea Hills, used the Southern Indiana Transit. They were told they would lose their services at the end of May. They were informed that the Commissioners of Floyd County did not approve the contract with them for urban, but only for rural. This has caused the residents a great deal of concern and confusion. She stated, according to the Assessor's office, Azalea Hills is considered rural, not urban. She said SITS is vital to them to get to doctor appointments and other important places. Many of the residents have no other means of transportation to get where they need to go. They are asking the Commissioners to approve a contract with SITS which would include the area that would continue service to Azalea Hills. She asked if TARC would have a lift for wheelchairs.

Don Lopp said he will reach out to TARC about whether it will be a bus or an accessible vehicle. He said the 5310 grant is based for the mobility of seniors and folks that have accessibility issues. He is willing to keep Azalea Hills in the loop in terms of how the process is moving forward with TARC and the 5310 grant.

Al Knable said they will work to prevent lapse of services.

3. County Attorney-Rick Fox

- a. FCO 2024-13 Establishing Non-Reverting Fund for EMS Services Fund #4000

Motion to approve, with unanimous consent, FCO 2024-13 Establishing Non-Reverting Fund for EMS Services Fund #4000. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Jason Sharp. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. FCO 2024-14 Addendum to FCO 2024-12 Ordinance Establishing a Consolidated Fire Protection District for Lafayette And Greenville Townships, Floyd County, Indiana, and Providing for the Appointment of Fire District Trustees for the Highlander Fire Protection District FCO 2022-41

Motion to approve, with unanimous consent, FCO 2024-14 Addendum to FCO 2024-12 Ordinance. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Jason Sharp. Motion passed unanimously.

- c. EMS Contracts

Motion to approve contract for Highlander Fire Protection District to provide emergency medical services whereas passed by Floyd County Ordinance 2024-14. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Al Knable. Motion passed 2-1. Jason Sharp opposed.

Motion to approve the ambulance emergency medical service delivery agreement in Floyd County with AmeriPro EMS Indiana LLC providing emergency ambulance service care for Floyd County. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Jason Sharp. Motion passed unanimously.

Jason Sharp stated he thinks two ambulances for the first seven months will not be enough.

4. Board & Committee Reports

John Schellenberger

- Met with BluMine to look at the usage with the clinic and got some really good results. Usage has gone up compared to last year.
- 5-21-24 Attended Solid Waste Meeting

- 5-14-21 attended meeting with Southern Indiana Works. They talked about the Summer Work Program and the different programs that are available through Southern Indiana for employment possibilities and employment counseling.

Jason Sharp

- 5-10-24 toured Smith Creek plant with Matt Smith, who also happens to be the President of the Highlander Fire Protection District. Smith Creek is an amazing operation. They employ a lot of our residents.
- 5-18-24 attended Georgetown Firefighters Union Cookout at Georgetown Park. All the proceeds went to Crusade for Children
- 5-19-24 attended Animal Lovers Party hosted by Floyd County Animal Rescue League with some members of the Animal Care and Control Board.

Al Knable

- 5-8-24 attended Caesars Foundation Meeting and Legacy Foundation Special Meeting
- 5-9-24 met with State Board of Accounts for the entrance interview, along with Diana Topping and President Short.
- 5-14-24 attended Joint Meeting
- A lot of conferences and contract negotiations
- 5-17-24 Grant Award Ceremony with Legacy Foundation

- Approval of the Commissioners Meeting Minutes for May 6, 2024

Motion to approve. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Jason Sharp. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approval of Payroll and Claims

Motion to approve. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Jason Sharp. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Commissioners Meeting:

Tuesday, June 4, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

Closing Comments:

Jason Sharp said he has spent a lot of time trying to wrap his head around on how the EMS contracts unfolded. He thinks it is the worse contract he has ever seen in regards to public service. From the way it was negotiated to the language that was put in. He thinks the public has the right to ask why is it the only person sitting on this board, who actually has worked in public safety, has a problem with this. It was brought up that there are very few measurable standards in the contract on performance. Within these same Fire Departments, their unions have collective bargaining units. They have contracts within their own department. He said when it becomes more important who's providing the service versus the level of service, it's not about Public Safety anymore.

John Schellenberger said the journey started in March 2019. That's when the Commissioners asked for the Fitch study and people were against it. In January 2020 the Fitch study was reported to the county. One of the recommendations was to create EMS Advisory Board and that was done with Ordinance 2020-02, Commissioner Billy Stewart voted against it. In September 2022 an RFP was issued, he and Commissioner Carruthers were the only two that voted for it. December 2022, Lafayette and Greenville merged to Highlander fire District. He said it's a perfect contract but over the past several years, it always seems to be a coalition


against Highlander. When a Fire District can provide better Fire Protection and Ambulance Service, it benefits everyone including the surrounding districts. He applauds New Albany because they are taking a positive step creating their own Fire Department. Surrounding districts will be there to lend a hand to make them successful. He concluded; this is a compromise contract. He thinks it is good for Floyd County with much better ambulance service that we had before. It will be a partnership between Highlander and Ameripro with a lot better coverage for the residents of Floyd County.

Al Knable said the change and transition is upon us. It is not always the easiest thing in the world to deal with, it brings a lot of emotions and a lot of uncertainty. This option was not his first choice but he learned along the way and is content with the contracts signed. It sets up both of the service providers for success for 2024, 2025, 2026 and beyond.

Motion to adjourn. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Jason Sharp. Motion passed unanimously.

Approved on June 4, 2024


BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Al Knable, President



John Schellenberger, Vice President



Jason Sharp, Commissioner



Attest: Diana M. Topping, Auditor