Martin

County

THE MARTIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

September 1, 2015

MINUTES

The Martin County Commissioners convened in regular session Tuesday, September 1, 2015 in the Commissioners’ Room at the Courthouse located at 129 Main Street, Shoals, Indiana. Commissioners attending were President Paul R. George, Dan J. Gregory and Kevin R. Boyd. Others in attendance were Auditor January Roush, County Attorney J. David Lett, Surveyor Nathan Hoffman, Linda Evans-Dillon, Veteran Service Officer; Sergeant Keith Keller, Leo Padgett, Highway Superintendent; Terri Alcorn, Highway Clerk; Kathy Collins, Community Corrections, Brent Roberts, BF&S; Mark Ellis, Karen Whorrall and Beverly McIntosh, SOAR!; Chris Zimmer, Darren Norrington and Ron Scott, Hoosier National Forest, Joshua Hughett, Martin County Journal; Dave Sutton, Mike Jones and Jill Albright, Loogootee Tribune.

President George called the meeting to order with the Pledge to the Flag at 6:00 pm.

President George offered condolences to family of former Martin County Sheriff and Circuit Court Clerk John Hunt.

The minutes from the regular meeting of August 18, 2015 were approved as submitted with the motion by Commissioner Boyd and seconded by President George. Commissioner Gregory abstained due to his absence at the meeting.

The Claims and Allowances were approved as submitted with the motion by Commissioner Gregory and seconded by Commissioner Boyd. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Ranger Chris Zimmer, Darren Norrington, Transportation Engineer and Ron Scott, Lands Progress Engineer, Hoosier National Forest, gave a presentation on the impact of off-road vehicle traffic on the National Forest Land. The area in question is in Sections 1 & 12 in Halbert Township, specifically Old Natchez Church Road. The presentation included maps and several photographs showing the damage being done to forest land. A lengthy discussion followed between the Commissioners, Patrons and National Forest Representatives. Commissioner Boyd is not in favor of closing Old Natchez Church Road. The Commissioners agreed they will send out a warning to all citizens to stay off the National Forest Land. If citizens do not abide by the law, the next step will be for the Commissioners to close the road.

Commissioner Gregory read a Proclamation honoring LT. Jessie Hall of Crane, Indiana for her 100th Birthday. A celebration will be held at the Henry Dwyer Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9297 in Crane, Indiana on September 4, 2015.

President George read the Proclamation declaring September 2015 as Literacy Month in Martin County.

Beverly McIntosh, SOAR, gave a brief update on the program.

Sergeant Keith Keller reported there are currently 45 male and 8 female inmates in the Security Center. We will know later in the month if the county will receive the Operation Pullover Grant that he applied for in July. President George commended the entire Sheriff’s Department on their work during last week’s events.

Highway Superintendent Leo Padgett submitted his 2-week work schedule. The Highway Department offered condolences to the family of former employee Allan Sims on his passing. Superintendent Padgett gave an update on road repair. Butler Bridge Road is a less than two days from being finished.

Linda Evans-Dillon, Veteran Service Officer, gave her August report. The Veteran’s Van was recently damaged in an accident. The insurance payment has been received and is scheduled to be repaired soon. The van is also having some issues with the air conditioning. The Commissioners advised her to return it to the dealer where purchased. The issue with the air condiditoning could be still covered under warranty.

Kathy Collins, Community Corrections Director, thanked the Loogootee Tribune for educating the community on her programs through recent articles. Director Collins informed the Commissioners on the recent performance bonus they received. Her department ranking in the top percentile in the state and will be receiving a performance bonus of $25,523.22. The funds will be used to reward her staff for their hard work. Director Collins requested the performance bonus be issued during an off week of regular payroll. Commissioner Gregory made a motion to approve the performance bonus be issued during an off week of regular payroll. Commissioner Boyd made the second. All were in favor and the motion passed. The performance bonus will also be used for additional training. A Special Advisory Board meeting has been set for Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at 6pm at the Learning Center to discuss and apply for several grants being offered by the Department of Correction to bring addiction and mental health programs to the county.

County Attorney J. David Lett submitted an ordinance regarding a speed limit change to parts of Valley Avenue in Mitcheltree Township. The speed limit on Valley Avenue beginning at the intersection with Sawmill Road and continuing north for a distance of one-half mile shall be 15mph. Commissioner Boyd made a motion to Resolution 2015-15 Amendment of Martin County Code Chapter 73: Traffic Schedule, specifically to change a part of Valley Avenue speed limit to 15mph. Commissioner Gregory made the second. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Veteran Service Officer Dillon returned. She would like a panic button installed in her office. Auditor Roush will make arrangements to have it installed.

Budget Hearings will be held Monday, September 14, 2015 and Tuesday, September 15, 2015. The Commissioners budget will be reviewed on Tuesday morning at 8:30am.

Commissioner Gregory reminded taxpayers that harvest time will begin soon and to be aware of the additional farm equipment on the roadways.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm with a motion by Commissioner Gregory and seconded by Commissioner Boyd. All were in favor and the motion passed. The next Commissioners meeting will be Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 6:00pm.

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Paul R. George Dan Gregory

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Kevin R. Boyd

ATTEST:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

January L. Roush, Martin County Auditor