Commissioners Meeting
December 1, 2020

Present: Jim Seiler, Tom Brown, Al Logsdon, Jeff Lindsey, and Auditor Melissa L. Bunner

Meeting was called to order by President Jim Seiler at 2:00 P.M.

Minutes
Logsdon made a motion to approve the minutes from Commissioner meeting November 17, 2020 as presented. Brown seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Claims
Brown made a motion to approve Batches #4503, 4504, 4505, 4506. Logsdon seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Health Department / Kim Hay
Hay reported 990 Cases. 112 in isolation. 14 hospitalized. Deaths remain at 5. 873 have recovered. Hay read a COVID-19 update from Dr. Tretter. It reads "Spencer County remains in the "orange zone" this week, which indicates moderate to high community spread. We continue to see high numbers of positive cases with many close contacts throughout our county. The area hospitals in our neighboring counties report high census and warn of reaching capacity with shortages of healthcare staff due to illnesses and quarantines. It is critically important that we as a community continue to be diligent by following the precautions that are well known to all of us by now – washing hands frequently, socially distancing, wearing face coverings in public, avoid gatherings, and stay home when sick or advised to quarantine. We are very concerned that we will see increasing numbers in the upcoming weeks due to holiday gatherings and events, so we urge residents to limit these gatherings in order to minimize viral transmission. We are anticipating vaccines to become available this month on a limited basis, which will first be provided to healthcare workers and high risk individuals, with exceptions that more widespread availability of vaccines for the general public may be available by spring of 2021. We are working with the state department of health on vaccine distribution plans for the public, and more information will be available as it is known."

Hay also reported the new CDC Quarantine Guidelines provide two (2) options. A seven (7) day option for quarantine if you are in close contact with a case and get tested after day five (5) with a negative result. The ten (10) day option meaning you can end quarantine if you are asymptomatic with no test. This information will be released at the end of the week.

Health Department / Barb Ninke
Ninke is asking the Commissioners for permission for all four (4) full time employees to carry over their unused vacation time. Brown suggested paying out the vacation as opposed to carrying it over. The handbook states it can be carried forward, but it also states no employee will not be compensated for vacation time in lieu of taking vacation time. Lindsey reports if the decision is made to pay them out, then an ordinance amending the personnel handbook would need to be done for this particular purpose. Ninke is going to talk with her employees and see which they would prefer – carry over or payout. Lindsey will prepare the ordinance and if they choose to carry over, then the ordinance will not be adopted. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

VSO / Butch Meredith
Meredith presented his progress. For week of November 9, 2020 the total Veterans assisted this week was 62 and total phone calls totaled 83. For week of November 16, 2020 the total Veterans assisted this week was 86 and total phone calls totaled 123. For week of November 23, 2020 the total Veterans assisted this week was 23 and total phone calls totaled 31.

Meredith provided an update on some of the building maintenance projects. K & K provided a quote to trim the remaining trees on premises plus remove stump from tree removed during last project. The quote is for $4,268.00. If approved, K & K can do the work on December 16 – 17, 2020. Ann has verified the money is there to use. Brown motioned to approve. Logsdon seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Meredith also updated the Commissioner's about a water leak in the basement in the Surveyor's office. It is currently a slow leak but could become a problem if not dealt with soon. Winkler will patch the leak until a pipe replacement can be done. Meredith is waiting on a quote to replace the cast iron pipe.

HWY Report / Dale Kenney
Kenney brought a list of roads he is requesting to be removed from inventory effective December 1, 2020. They are as follows:
Road 1275E located at 1700N south 1,090 feet. (.21 miles)
Road 1300E located at 1275E to Long Johnnytown. (.65 miles)
Long Johnnytown located at SR545 to 1300E (.53 miles)
Road 800E located at 2100N south 2,140 feet. (.41 miles)

These four (4) roads are not maintained and not sure they ever have been and need to be removed from the inventory. Brown motioned to approve removing them from inventory. Logsdon seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Legal Report
Lindsey presented the Stanley Convergent Security Solutions, Inc. contract that needs to be signed by the Commissioners. This is the company that was awarded the jail security upgrade project. The contract states the "owners" as "Spencer County Board of Commissioners". The contract requires one signature. Brown motioned to authorize President of the Board of Commissioners to sign. Logsdon seconded. Motion approved. Jim Seiler signed the contract.

Lindsey is following up on the discussion from the last meeting in regards to the amendment to the Spencer County Handbook to extend the emergency paid sick leave. Lindsey has brought Ordinance 2020-05 amending Ordinance 2020-03 and Section 4.3.3 of the Spencer County Personnel Handbook, to extend "Emergency Paid Leave". Logsdon motioned to approve Ordinance 2020-05. Brown seconded. Motion approved.

Lindsey prepared a letter of congratulations for the Honorable Dennis Spinner, former Mayor of Huntingburg. He has been named the new executive director of the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. The letter reads: Dear Denny, As the Spencer County Board of Commissioners, we want to congratulate you on your appointment to lead the State of Indiana's Office of Community & Rural Affairs. With your winning track record of working with OCRA for the benefit of the City of Huntingburg, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor couldn't have chosen a better person to lead this very important state agency. We congratulate you and look forward to working with you and your agency for the benefit of Spencer County and its citizens. Sincerely, Spencer Board of Commissioners. Logsdon motioned to accept the letter. Brown seconded. Motion approved.

Lindsey prepared a letter for It Takes a Village confirming the contract will renew for another year without doing anything further. It says we look forward to another year of It Takes a Village providing Animal Shelter Services for Spencer County in 2021. Brown motioned to do the contract with It Takes a Village. Logsdon seconded. Motion approved.

New Business
No Report.

Old Business
No Report.

Logsdon motioned to adjourn. Brown seconded the motion. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:36 P.M.

President

Attest:
Auditor, Melissa Bunner