

RECORD OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL OF ORANGE COUNTY, INDIANA
JANUARY 21, 2021 AT 5:00PM

OFFICIALS PRESENT were Council members Matt Henderson, Alan Waynick, Chad Hager, Robin Stackhouse, Jack Hinkle, John Robert (Bob) McDonald, and Zach Brown.

Zach Brown gave prayer. Matt Henderson called the meeting to order.

Minutes from December 10th regular meeting and 17th special meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes as written was made Alan Waynick seconded by Bob McDonald, and carried 7-0.

Reorganization of the Council Board. Motion to appoint Chad Hager president was made by Jack Hinkle, seconded by Alan Waynick, and carried 6-0-1 with Chad Hager abstaining. Motion to appoint Jack Hinkle Vice President was made by Matt Henderson, seconded by Alan Waynick, and carried 6-0-1 with Jak Hinkle abstaining.

Carl Anderson, Highway Superintendent, presented the annual report on road work. There was a total of 52.7 miles of roads addresses his year. Of that 52.7 miles 20.2 was hot mix. Carl reported on the on-time completion of bridge #96 on County Road 675 South and that the Highway Department is working on getting Community Crossing grant dollars for paving projects in 2021. With the additional hot mix roads Carl requested that the County consider purchasing a crack sealer to maintain the new roads as they will need sealed every couple year \$60,120 for the unit. Verbal was given for Carl to have the additional published for consideration at the February Council meeting.

Sheriff Josh Babcock presented sheriff department stats and the Council with the biannual Commissary Report. Sheriff also presented the Council with an annual Jail Commanders report and the annual stats for the Jail.

Sandy Hill, Recorder, presented a request to use money receipted into general fund for the COVID relief. The Commissioners approved Sandy to request up to \$60,000 as an additional appropriation to have scanning done to the records held in the Recorder’s office. The total cost of the scanning is \$106,000 with the remainder being paid from the Recorders Perpetuation fund. Verbal was given for Sandy to have the additional appropriation advertised for the February meeting.

Auditor Stroud presented a request from Patoka Water Board to reappoint. Motion to reappoint Matt Henderson to the Patoka Water Board was made by Alan Waynick, seconded by Jack Hinkle, and carried 6-0-1 with Matt Henderson abstaining. Stroud presented the Council with a yearend cash balance statement. Stroud explained that the County has not been receiving the estimated revenue from the Casino and there was proposed legislation that may eliminate the Community Support fee. Stroud reported on possible option that is being considered by the Commissioners to continue COVID-19 pay for employees that test positive for COVID-19 up to 80-hour total even though the expansion of the Family Medical Leave Act expired on December 31st. Stroud presented the Council with the encumbrance amount of \$426,516.86. This amount was from outstanding invoices and multiple year contract continuation. Motion to approve the encumbrance amount was made by Robin Stackhouse, seconded by Zach Brow, and carried 7-0.

Additional appropriations and transfers were presented and passed with proper motion and vote.

Matt Henderson presented the request that the Council consider an additional amount to the stipend given to employees. Matt stated that the most valuable asset the County has is its employees. COVID-19 has presented multiple challenges to those employees over the last year. Matt asked that an additional \$500 to \$1000 be considered later in the year. Stroud pointed out that stipend cold not be offered to elected official per State Board of Accounts rules, that an Elected official not receive more than the salary ordinance list. Discussion on the possibility of timing of the stipend and if part time would be included.

With no further business to discuss the motion to adjourn was made by Matt Henderson, seconded by Zach Brown, and carried 7-0.

Chad Hager, President

Attest: _____
Karie Becht, Deputy Auditor for:
Lonnie Stroud, Orange County Auditor