

August 16, 2022

Council Chambers
Vigo County Government Center
Terre Haute, Indiana

Roll Call:

Present: Chris Switzer, Mike Morris, and Brendan Kearns

Others Present: County Attorney Terry Modesitt, Tammy York-Allen, Judy DeLisle, Kevin Gardner, Kara Wright, Larry Robbins, Tim Cunningham, Diana Winsted-Smith, Chris Eldridge, Jared Bayler, Tona Bean, Bionca Gambill, Rick Jenkins, Howard Greninger, Tony Cassiseah, Bob Murray, and several members of the public.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Chris Switzer called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review of Minutes/Claims. Karen McCammon, Deputy Auditor, presented bid opening meeting minutes for Bridges 301 A & B dated August 2, 2022, bid opening meeting minutes for Community Crossings Matching Grant Project 2022-1 dated August 2, 2022 and regular meeting minutes for August 2, 2022 for approval. Brendan Kearns made a motion to approve all minutes. Chris Switzer seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 2-0, the motion unanimously passed. Mike Morris abstained since he was not present at the August 2 meetings.

The Board was then presented with expenditures for the period of July 30, 2022 through August 5, 2022 in the amount of \$490,574.08 plus payroll in the amount of \$1,110,446.48 for a total amount of \$1,601,020.56. Brendan Kearns asked to share that in a recent Council budget meeting there was a discussion about postage and fees. He noted that in the claims to be approved, there was an expenditure of \$100,000 for postage on the County's mailing machines. This is for one machine. As postal rates go up, the amount of postage spent increases. And a third machine has now been added at the new Jail. Mike Morris and Brendan Kearns noted that all County postage is paid from the Commissioners' budget. Election years always cost significantly more. Brendan Kearns made a motion to approve the July 30, 2022 through August 5, 2022 claims in the amount of \$490,574.08 plus payroll in the amount of \$1,110,446.48 for a total amount of \$1,601,020.56. Mike Morris seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed. Next, claims were presented to the Board with expenditures for the period of August 6, 2022 through August 12, 2022 in the amount of \$3,635,189.36. Brendan Kearns noted that the postage claim previously mentioned was actually from this claim packet. Brendan Kearns made a motion to approve the August 6, 2022 through August 12, 2022 claims in the total amount of \$3,635,189.36. Mike Morris seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Slum and Blight Spot Declaratory Resolution – Kristy Jerrell. Chris Switzer said that Kristy Jerrell had sent this Resolution for approval. This is another step in the process of the remodel/reconstruction of the music conservatory building at St. Mary-of-the-Woods. St. Mary's has already done their part and this resolution declaring slum and blight is the next step. Brendan Kearns said that this endorsement and sponsorship is what helps move this forward. Mike Morris made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-07. Chris Switzer seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Study for Juvenile Center – Norm Loudermilk. Norm Loudermilk, Juvenile Justice Center Director, came to the Commissioners with concerns about the Juvenile Center building and how long it will last, what the Commissioners expect of the building, whether he should invest money into the building, or if there was any

talk of having a new Juvenile Center built somewhere down the road. Mr. Loudermilk had reached out to DLZ and DLZ offered to do a study. Chris Switzer then reached out to DLZ and negotiated the price down. For \$14,000, DLZ is going to do a complete interior and exterior study, including structural and the roof, and advise whether it is worthwhile to invest in the current building any further. The contract being presented today for approval will allow this study to move forward. Mike Morris asked Larry Robbins if this would be a conflict with what is being prepared for the Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Robbins said that it would not since this was an immediate need. Brendan Kearns made several comments and noted that they had originally tried to make it a part of the new jail building plan but that did not happen. Mr. Kearns said that he was supportive of Mr. Loudermilk's initiative and explained why. Mr. Loudermilk has the money in his budget to pay for the study but is just asking for support and approval to have the study done. Brendan Kearns made a motion to support Mr. Loudermilk and move this forward. Mike Morris seconded the motion. Before the vote was taken, Chris Switzer said that, just to be clear, there is no plan to build a new Juvenile Center right now. This is just a study. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Letter of Authorization for ProVal – Kevin Gardner. Kevin Gardner, Vigo County Assessor, reminded everyone that he had been here previously with a contract to have Schneider Beacon host a site on the current Beacon website to have the property record cards available to taxpayers. A statute has been put in place to that effect and we have to comply. The contract was the first step. The data has to be provided to Schneider Beacon. Vigo County has 60,000 parcels which all have to be into pdf format and named by the parcel number. This would take an inordinate amount of time and manpower which we do not have. Pro-Val will provide this service at a cost of \$3,000. Mr. Gardner does have the money in his budget but needs Commissioner approval and execution of the contract. Mike Morris asked if this was a 1-time deal and Mr. Gardner said it would be yearly in order to keep the property record cards current with any new information that gets added. Mr. Gardner said he hoped to be able to put the property record cards on the website in the next month or so if this contract is approved today. Brendan Kearns made a motion to approve the Letter of Authorization. Mike Morris seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Utility Agreement – Commissioners. Brendan Kearns explained that this is an adjustment to the agreement that was signed not long ago. Attorneys for Indiana-American wanted the word "easement" changed to "right-of-way" in the body of the agreement. Such change will not affect the operation of the agreement. County Attorney Terry Modesitt has examined the document and has no problem with the change. Brendan Kearns made a motion to approve the agreement. Mike Morris seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Appointment to the Public Defender Board. The Commissioners appointed John Isaacs to the Vigo County Public Defenders' Board as of August 31, 2022 for a 4-year term expiring on August 31, 2025. Mike Morris made a motion to approve this appointment. Brendan Kearns seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Deed of Easement Riley Spur – Commissioners. Chris Switzer said they now have the Deed of Easement for the Riley Spur after many hours spent by the Commissioners, the County Attorney and Thomas Densford, who is the attorney for CSX and Indiana Railroad. Brendan Kearns made a motion to approve the easement. Mike Morris seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed. Brendan Kearns also noted that even though this has been put in motion, the trail is not yet open. Clean-up is ongoing and railroad ties are being removed and disposed of per the wishes of CSX. The County will move forward with getting the trail built and it will hopefully be open this time next year.

Award of Community Crossings Matching Grant 2022-1 for Bridges 310 A & B – Larry Robbins. Larry Robbins said that bids for Bridges 310 A & B were opened on August 2. The bridges are located on Fruitridge

Avenue just south of Beech Street. The consultant went through and analyzed the two bids received. Everything is in order. The bids were from Force Construction for \$841,328 and White Construction for \$1,063,520. The Engineer's estimate was \$763,075 so the low bidder, Force Construction, is a little over 10% higher than the Engineer's estimate. In the current climate, he does consider this a successful bid. Six bid packages were picked up for the project but only two bids were received. It was Mr. Robbins' recommendation that the bid be awarded to Force Construction. There was a brief discussion. Chris Switzer made a motion to approve the bid of Force Construction. Brendan Kearns seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Gordon Fleisch Agreement – Commissioners. Chris Switzer said that this is for two new copiers in the Commissioners' offices. The cost will be an additional \$9.00 on top of what they are currently paying monthly. It is a 60-month lease with a cost of \$243.30 per month. Mike Morris made a motion to approve this agreement. Brendan Kearns seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Public Comments. Bionca Gambill, President of Sullivan-Vigo Rural Water Corporation, was present to ask how to be considered for use of the ARPA money that has been given to the County. She advised that they had applied for and received a grant from Indiana Finance Authority for \$750,000. Sullivan-Vigo had to put in a portion but would like to request funding from the ARPA money. This generated a very lengthy discussion.

Comments or other business from Commissioners or other Elected Officials. Kevin Gardner said that he had a letter that the employees of this building have signed. He said he was not the author of the letter but he had been asked to present it in a meeting. He also said that a duplicate copy of this letter will also be presented to the County Council who is ultimately who it should be directed to. The letter read as follows:

Vigo County Council Members,

We come to you not only as Vigo County Employees but also as Vigo County taxpayers. We feel that we deserve the same level of protection as other county employees. (Courthouse & Juvenile Center for example)

The Commissioners set forth a proactive plan of action. We do need this building secured, regardless of the expense, as it will be nothing compared to the lawsuits that will follow when something happens.

ANNEX – PLAN OF ACTION

- Manpower! It doesn't do any good to have safety equipment if it is not manned by trained professionals.
- Armed security guards on site Mon-Fri 8-4.
- Metal detectors & x-ray machines at point of entry Mon-Fri 8-4.
- Public access limited to the Northeast door only.
- Paging System with color code alerts for all emergencies.

Our hope is that action is taken before tragedy. In the current year the Annex building has been on lockdown four times, more than any past years. Each lockdown there has been no clear direction, only confusion and hesitation, which in an emergency will cost lives.

Please be proactive and take the Vigo County Employees safety seriously.

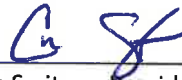
Our lives depend on it.

Thank you,

Concerned Employees of Vigo County Government

This does not necessarily support or not support the \$1.2 million dollar plan presented to the Vigo County Council but the employees feel that something needs to be done before something bad happens. Chris Switzer said that prior Commissioners have always wanted to do something with this building. There has never been funding available that would not take directly from taxpayers. They now have these American Rescue Plan Funds that can be used for projects such as this and he explained how the plan was created with the cost being \$1.2 million. If that expenditure saves just one life, it would be worth the expense. A gentleman made the comment at a recent County Council meeting that indicated the employees in this building were expendable and he was not in favor of the project. It was also noted that this building is not in compliance with current ADA standards and this project would also remedy that. The Commissioners are fully behind this plan. There was a lengthy discussion. Among the many points set forth, Mike Morris noted that they felt this was a well thought out plan and a way to fund this update. There is no money any other place to really do this kind of thing and they look at this as an opportunity to make the improvements that need to be done. Brendan Kearns said that while it is a good problem trying to figure out how to spend \$20 million, nevertheless, it is a problem. There are many entities out there who feel they are entitled to part of those monies. All three Commissioners have had many meetings with the Mayor and others about how they can collectively use these monies to benefit the entire community. Discussion continued. The three Commissioners fully stand behind the plan presented to renovate this building to make it safe for the employees and the public and to bring it into current ADA compliance. It was also noted for the record, that no money has been awarded to, or even discussed, for the Torpedoes, the United Way or anything like that which had been referenced earlier in the meeting. Chris Switzer noted that the three Commissioners have been meeting with the Mayor for more than a year about the use of the ARPA funds to try and develop a plan on how best to use this money. And they will all continue to work for the collective good.

Next meeting will be September 6 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting recessed at 10:10 a.m.



Chris Switzer, President



Mike Morris, Vice President



Brendan Kearns, Secretary

Attest:


James Bramble, Auditor