

March 14, 2023

Council Chambers
Vigo County Government Center
Terre Haute, Indiana

Roll Call:

Present: Mike Morris, Chris Switzer and Mark Clinkenbeard

Others Present: County Attorney Jared Modesitt, James Bramble, Cheryl Loudermilk, Diana Winsted-Smith, Chris Eldridge, Bruce Allen, Kara Wright, Jordynne Shelton, Josie Thompson, Kevin Gardner, Tim Cunningham, Adam Grossman, Bill Watson, Todd Thacker, Howard Greninger, Tony Cassiseah, and several members of the public.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mike Morris called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review of Minutes/Claims. Auditor James Bramble presented the Board with expenditures for the period of March 4, 2023 through March 10, 2023 in the amount of \$1,008,396.64. Mark Clinkenbeard made a motion to approve the March 4, 2023 through March 10, 2023 claims in the amount of \$1,008,396.64. Chris Switzer seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Bramble presented the Board with ARP public meeting minutes for March 6, 2023 for approval. Chris Switzer made a motion to approve the minutes for March 6, 2023. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Bramble presented the Board with meeting minutes for March 7, 2023 for approval. Chris Switzer made a motion to approve the minutes for March 7, 2023. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Bramble then presented the Board with rezoning meeting minutes for March 7, 2023. Mark Clinkenbeard made a motion to approve the minutes for March 7, 2023. Chris Switzer seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Agreement to Provide Professional Consulting Services – James Bramble . Mr. Bramble said this is an agreement with Dossett Consulting Services to prepare indirect cost reports which is an accounting report that calculates overhead and overhead expenses that go into administering federal programs. The report is submitted and it allows us to be reimbursed from the federal government for that. The agreement has an option for one year at \$10,000 or three years at \$9,500 per year for a cost savings of \$1,500. Audience member Clinton Grayless asked if this was something that needed to be bid out or is it awarded to whoever you want to award it to. Mr. Bramble said this was for personal services and is not required to go through a bidding process. Dossett Consulting has performed this reporting for several years and is a state-wide firm. County Attorney Jared Modesitt agreed with Mr. Bramble that personal services do not have to be bid out. Mr. Bramble indicated that the County had received its most recent report last week and would be receiving a \$140,000 reimbursement. Chris Switzer made a motion to approve the professional consulting services agreement. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Resolution for ARPA Plan Approval - Commissioners. Mike Morris indicated that the Commissioners had been informed that the Ordinance adopted last week was not necessary and a resolution would be the

proper format. Mark Clinkenbeard made a motion to rescind Ordinance 2023-01. Chris Switzer seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed. Chris Switzer then made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-04 in support of the ARPA Plan. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion was unanimously approved.

Markle Mill Dam – Commissioners. Adam Grossman, Vigo County Parks Superintendent, said his department believes Mill Dam should be demolished. He said he didn't believe there were too many options other than demolishing the dam and saving any structure that they possibly could and improving the park for the public. He said that regardless of whether demolition was chosen, he planned to make improvements to the park and gave a short presentation of what was planned. The park has not been maintained to a high level and plans to change that start tomorrow. He plans to do a little maintenance on the existing gazebo. He has worked with IT to come up with a plan to get cameras installed to help stop the vandalism that has occurred in the past. The plan is to prosecute people, with the help of the cameras, committing the vandalism. He plans to expand the playground and provide additional playground equipment. Removal of dead trees and grinding out of the stumps is also planned. They will be adding some covered picnic tables and stand-up grills. They are working on more signage and restoring existing signage that has been vandalized repeatedly. He talked about paving the parking area but would rather create a pull-around/walkway so people could pull in from either side and park around the edges of the semi-circle, putting a planter box toward the road giving a barrier from the roadway as people exit from their cars. The planter box could be a memorial to victims of 911, replacing the redbud trees that had previously been planted for that purpose but that were now at the end of their life span for numerous reasons. He would like to add new signage, including personal tour signage pointing out historical information about the areas. Mr. Grossman said he did not currently have funding to do this and made a couple of suggestions. He estimated the costs to be \$70,000-\$75,000 for the makeover and playground equipment with an estimated cost of \$12,000-\$13,000. Commissioner Clinkenbeard asked if the existing parking lot would go away and the new one take its place. Mr. Grossman indicated that would be best.

Chris Switzer asked Jerry Sweeten to introduce himself and give a little background. Mr. Sweeten said he was a senior research ecologist with Ecosystems Connections Institute and was here along with his team. He gave a brief background of how he got into the business of helping communities with removal of dams. He has done extensive research and their reputation was noted around the State on how to remove low head dams that are very dangerous to humans. He said they have learned from their research that removal of these dams improves streams ecologically, fishing improves, the fish community improves, everything about the stream improves, plus no one will be injured/killed after the dam is removed. They can assist in removal and also try to save as many historical parts as possible. Chris Switzer said that Mr. Sweeten and his team, along with Adam Grossman, wrote a grant proposal that was submitted in 2021 and was awarded \$109,000 in grant money. An additional grant proposal was submitted a couple months ago for \$100,000 and they expect that grant to be fully funded. Public meetings were held to help in the decision process. If removal is chosen, permitting takes about 5-6 months. Removal would like happen at the end of summer or early Fall. Contractor selection, actual removal, and post-removal assessment would happen in 2024. A final ecological report from Jerry and his team would be given at the end. Jerry and his team will provide oversight with everything that has to do with the dam. Chris Switzer made a motion to approve execution of a contract with Jerry and his team. Mike Morris seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed. Mark Clinkenbeard made a statement summarizing this process and saying that they felt their only option was to remove the dam. They have not undertaken this process lightly but feel that public safety is their highest priority. He said that they, as Commissioners, want to commit up to \$75,000 to the revitalization of the park. Audience member Curtis Grayless then commented that he had nothing to do with this project, would get no work out of it, but he felt that he has seen our community outsource jobs and he asked that this work not be outsourced to the cheapest out-of-town contractor and our community be supported. There was a brief discussion about how to proceed. Mark Clinkenbeard made a motion to move

forward with the removal of Markle Mill Dam. Chris Switzer seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.


Public Comments. There were none.

Comments or other business from Commissioners or other Elected Officials. Councilman Todd Thacker made several comments and suggestions.

Mark Clinkenbeard commented on the flood plain issue taking place in North Terre Haute. The Commissioners are working on it. He said it looks like the best way to rectify the situation is through the legislature and they are working with Senator Jon Ford and R/L Solutions on this matter.

Chris Switzer thanked Jerry Sweeten and his team and all the work they have done and will continue to do.

The next meeting will be March 21, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting recessed at 9:35 a.m.



Mike Morris



Chris Switzer



Mark Clinkenbeard

Attest:



James Bramble, Auditor