

March 9, 2021

Council Chambers  
Vigo County Annex  
Terre Haute, Indiana

**Roll Call:**

**Present:** Mike Morris, Chris Switzer and Brendan Kearns

**Others Present:** County Attorney Michael Wright, County Attorney Joel Modesitt, Chief Deputy Auditor Cheryl Loudermilk, Tammy York-Allen, Kevin Gardner, Larry Robbins, Diana Smith, Kara Wright, Terry Modesitt, Vickie Oster and Sarah Holbert.

**Pledge of Allegiance.**

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

**Review of Minutes/Claims.** Chief Deputy Auditor Cheryl Loudermilk presented minutes for March 2, 2021 for approval. Chris Switzer made a motion to approve the minutes. Brendan Kearns seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Ms. Loudermilk then presented the Board with expenditures for the period of February 27, 2021 through March 5, 2021 in the amount of \$3,042,446.81 plus payroll in the amount of \$1,042,068.11 for a total amount of \$4,084,514.92. Chris Switzer made a motion to approve the claims. Brendan Kearns seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

**Consideration of Surrendering Driveway Easement to Lukebo.** Attorney Joel Modesitt stated that this item had been somewhat mislabeled and concerned granting an easement to Duke Energy to enable them to place a power line on the former International Paper property for the benefit of Lukebo, who is leasing the property. The document was set up for one signature by the President and this will need to be ratified by all the Commissioners to allow the President to sign the document exclusively. Chris Switzer made a motion to approve ratification of execution of the document solely by the President. Brendan Kearns seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

**Consideration of Contract with Wabash Design Company for Creation of Website Landing Page.** This is a contract with Wabash Design Company for initial design/development of the website landing page for the County. Brendan Kearns clarified that this was for the County's internal intranet, not the public internet website which is also being worked on. Chris Switzer added that it was basically an icon that would appear on the computer screen of each employee to contact HR, Maintenance, etc. Brendan Kearns made a motion to approve execution of this contract. Chris Switzer seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion was unanimously approved.

**Comments or other business from Commissioners or other Vigo County Representatives.** Brendan Kearns noted that the Soil & Water Office was still operating at a limited capacity because they actually rent space in partnership with a federal agency and there are pretty strict guidelines.


**Introduction and Possible Consideration of Tree Removal Project – County Engineer.** Larry Robbins, County Engineer, supplied three estimates from local tree removal companies to remove trees along Springhill Road for the Springhill Road Phase II Project. There are 94 trees along that corridor slated for

removal. They have a deadline of April 1 to get the trees on the ground in order to comply with the Indiana Bat Law. He has estimates for tree and stump removal from: Bob's Tree Service for \$57,700; Walker Tree Service for \$38,500; and Elkins Bros. Tree Service for \$55,000. It is Mr. Robbins' recommendation that we go with the lowest proposal from Walker Tree Service for \$38,500. The trees have to be on the ground by April 1, not necessarily cleared away, but down. Mr. Robbins advised that he would like to have the road closed on the day of cutting from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to assist getting this accomplished. In that way, the road would be open during peak traffic times. Brendan Kearns asked if there was a penalty for not meeting the April 1 deadline. Mr. Robbins stated that there was no penalty but it would put the project on hold for a year. The Indiana Bat Law prohibits cutting of trees larger than a 4 inch caliper, which is a pretty small tree, between April 1 and October 31. This would basically stop the whole project from going forward for about a year. It was felt that any one of the three contractors could get the task accomplished by the deadline. Mr. Robbins noted that all three contractors had been used by Vigo County in the past. Brendan Kearns made a motion to approve the proposal of Walker Tree Service for \$38,500. Chris Switzer seconded the motion. Before the vote was taken, Mike Morris asked about the stump removal. There was a short discussion and a brief explanation was given by Mr. Robbins. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

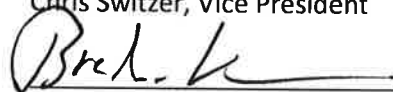
Brendan Kearns asked Larry Robbins to give a brief update on the status of pothole repair in the County. Mr. Robbins stated that the recent weather events had been hard on the roads throughout the county. Anything being done right now with the cold patch is a temporary fix until the asphalt plants open up at the end of the month. Right now they are focusing on drainage problems to get them out of the way before the spring rains come and then they will switch gears the first part of April to road preservation. A brief discussion took place.

**Public Comments.** Brendan Kearns noted that he had received an email complaining about pick-up lines at schools blocking county roadways. There was a brief discussion. There were no other comments.

Today's meeting recessed at 9:20 a.m.

  
Mike Morris, President

  
Chris Switzer, Vice President

  
Brendan Kearns, Secretary

Attest:

  
Cheryl Loudermilk, Chief Deputy Auditor