

REGULAR MEETING - MONDAY AT 5:00 P.M.

The Switzerland County Board of Commissioners met in regular session pursuant to law and by being duly advertised.

Those present: commissioners: Mark Lohide, Steve Lyons, and Josh South, the county attorney, Wil Goering, the chief deputy, Richard Lock, and the auditor, Gayle Rayles. The commissioners' assistant, Bruce Williams was absent.

The meeting was opened by Richard who also led the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes of the previous meeting of July 7th were approved as presented on a motion by Mark, seconded by Josh and all agreed.

The claims were approved as presented on a motion by Josh, seconded by Mark and all agreed.

#1 Markland Pike Bids

Mark made a motion for an emergency declaration to have Markland Pike repaired, seconded by Josh and all agreed. By doing this the commissioners could put out requests for bids for the road repairs. Bernie Hauersperger, of FPBH, opened the bids at 3:00 p.m. today in the presence of the auditor, Josh, John Day, and a few other people in the office.

He gave the commissioners the quotes: the first one was for Markland Pike about 1 mile off of SR 156, the one that has one lane barricaded; approximately 250 feet long where the creek came in and ate the road out.

There were 5 people/companies asked to bid and there was one with no bid. The bids for this section were as follows: McAlister Construction of Patriot - \$82,190.00, Parham Excavation of Vevay - \$64,835.00, Fred McAlister Excavating of Vevay - \$143,600.00, Angel's Excavating of Patriot - \$78,956.00, and Bovard Excavating did not give a bid. Bernie recommended going with the low bidder which was Parham Excavation. Josh asked about a timeline. Bernie said there is a chance that signs could be put out there in 2 days thus activating his project. The project should be done in 19 days.

There are 4 spot repairs going between the above repair and Melock Road. The bids were as follows: McAlister Construction - \$31,140.00, Parham Excavating - \$27,784.00, Fred McAlister - \$24,430.00, and Angle's Excavating - \$19,635.00. Bovard Excavating did not bid. Bernie said he would recommend Angel's Excavating at \$19,635.00.

Steve asked if there would be any problems with 2 companies working on the road at the same time. Bernie thought everything would work out fine.

Josh made a motion to approve Parham Excavating (\$64,835.00) for the emergency repairs and Angel's Excavating (\$19,635.00) for the spot repairs, seconded by Mark and all agreed.

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Markland Pike Bids cont'd

Wil asked if Bernie is going to give the 2 bidders the notice to proceed - yes.

Steve asked Bernie about Popcorn Ridge Road; if he is working on that. There are quite a few issues/projects. The order of importance is as follows: Markland Pike (both projects) and the county fixing some repairs above Melock Road, Adkinson Hill Road; and Popcorn Ridge Road (2 areas). He said that Adkinson Hill Road and Popcorn Ridge Road repairs should go through the bid process. The USDA was looking at helping with Markland Pike repairs but cannot because of it being a federal aid roadway, so maybe they would be able to help with Popcorn Ridge Road.

Bernie had pictures of the problems with the ford on Plum Creek and some repairs on Bridge #66. The stream at Bridge #66 is trying to relocate thus flooding the road and the home below it. The creek cannot just be cleaned out like in the past - the homeowners thought this might help alleviate the problem. Bernie said they would have to work with the Army Corp of Engineers in order to work in the creek. The cost estimate for this bridge is approximately \$52,000.00; it is only rated for 14 tons.

Popcorn Ridge Road has heavy damage from the recent rains where it crosses the tributary. The blacktop has been taken out and the ford crossing has been heavily damaged. This would be a complete repair and would be approximately \$67,000.00.

The USDA could only possibly fund anything that has to do with the creek. This would not include guard rail, etc. He is hoping they could fund up to 75% of the cost to do any improvements on the creek.

Brad Bender is also with FPBH and will be working with the county for the next 2 weeks while Bernie is on vacation.

Bernie will file the necessary paperwork and coordinate everything with the commissioners.

Josh asked about a time limit if they go get help from the USDA. It will be at least 10 to 20 days for the USDA to decide and then probably another 2 weeks of coordination, etc.

Mark made the motion to go ahead with the repairs and filing of the paperwork, seconded by Josh and all agreed.

The Bear Creek Road slide; John Day thought the county highway workers could fix this one.

Bernie said they would like to get the "go-ahead" to do the geotechnical investigations on the Popcorn Ridge slide area and on Adkinson Hill Road slide area. The cost for the geotechnical survey for Popcorn Ridge Road is not to exceed \$10,300.00.

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Markland Pike Bids cont'd

Josh asked how all of this is going to be paid for. Steve said they have the chip and seal funds to use.

Mark asked about the permitting to get into the creek to work - Bernie said they have contacted the Army Corp of Engineers, IDEM, and the DNR and have gotten the go ahead to do the Markland Pike work.

The cost for the geotechnical survey for Adkinson Hill Road is not to exceed \$9,800.00; for both areas.

Josh made a motion to go ahead with the geotechnical surveys on Adkinson Hill Road and Popcorn Ridge Road, seconded by Mark and all agreed. The necessary documents were signed.

Josh asked if all chip and seal projects were going to be put on hold until a later date - yes. The slides need fixed first.

Brad presented a preliminary plan for Bridge #5 and they have the survey completed. This is the bridge on Bennington Pike. Mark asked if the bridge is being lowered or left the same height, actually it will be a little higher.

#2 Lonnie Harris - Moorefield/Bennington Mapping

Lonnie came concerning the mapping of the sewer lines at both sites. He looked at the plans provided by the contractor, who installed the systems, and found them to not be very accurate. All the systems have been put in with tracer lines. There are some valves that he has not been able to locate. What he wants to do, given the permission, is take an aerial map and transfer an accurate mapping to that aerial. Then have it put on the county's GIS system as an overlay then it would be there for future access. It would probably take him 60 hours to get it done, stretched over a couple of months at a cost of about \$1,800.00 not including the time putting it on the GIS system.

Mark asked if you would be able to tell the pipe and valve sizes on the new mapping - yes. Josh asked how often Lonnie had to do a location; last year he had to do 12 for Indiana Underground. This year he has had 4 requests.

Steve asked Gayle if there are any surplus funds in the Moorefield/Bennington Sewer District Fund to cover this. She said things are pretty close but you may be able to take it out of there as the repair expense has been down compared to the past.

Mark made a motion to go ahead with the mapping of the sewer district, seconded by Josh and all agreed.

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#3 Bob Stivers - Creek Rules/Regulations

Mr. Stivers lives on Mary Lamb Lane and came to inquire about the violation levied against the county on Grants Creek. He wanted to know who levied the fine, what was the nature of the violation, what rules etc. were violated, and are there documents on file that he can look at.

Steve explained that a land trade was made in order to correct the violation and that there was not a fine. Mark said he was the one who met with Army Corp of Engineers in Louisville and it worked out well for the county. Wil clarified that it was not the county highway workers that were working in the creek but a contractor hired by the county.

He wanted to know who told the highway employees that they could not enter or do any removal of gravel, trees, or do any other type of work in the creeks and streams. Steve said they told the employees, and contractors working for the county, to stay out of the creeks without a permit from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management; this is a result of the Grants Creek violation. In some cases it is up to the landowner to get a permit from IDEM or the Army Corp of Engineers.

Mr. Stivers came to see if he and his family could give the county highway department gravel from the creek on their property to help with some of the necessary repairs - unfortunately he cannot.

#4 Eric Cole - YMCA Contract 2014-2015

Eric came to present the contract renewal for the YMCA. The commissioners wanted to know what the head count is of the county employees and/or their families using the facility. He said there are 94 county employees who have memberships at the YMCA; during the last contract year 48 of them have been using the facility. This is about 51.6% of the employees and/or their family members. The value of those memberships equals \$26,220.00 per year. He is asking for \$15,000.00 for the contract year; a 42% discount off of the number of people actually using the facility. The contract amount last year was \$10,000.00.

Steve suggested waiting until budget time. Eric asked if it would be better to do a 6-month contract in order for it not to come due in the middle of the year. That way it could be a part of the budget process. The decision will be made at the next meeting.

Larry Tolbert was at the last meeting and brought up the question as to who owns a small section of land by old SR129 behind the YMCA. According to Carolyn Miller, of the auditor's office, the YMCA has a deed for this property.

#5 Food Pantry

Steve informed everyone that he has met with Lou Gordon and some others to discuss the food pantry. There has been an alternate location offered to the pantry by Rod Dickerson which is the old Ford dealership building.

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Food Pantry cont'd

It is the commissioners' decision whether or not to ask the food pantry to vacate the building at the Markland Industrial Park which clears the way for EDC to start contractual agreements, etc.

Wil said that since the Economic Development Commission owns the real estate where the building is they would actually put out a notice of accepting bids for lease/purchase, they would have to have 2 appraisals done of the building, so that they have a basis for the lease/purchase, then get public bids, and then open the bids to determine who to enter into an agreement with.

Mark asked Lou if he had looked at the building that was offered to the food pantry and Lou said he has looked at 4 buildings. He said they use all of the building at Markland. He looked at the old Ford dealership with Rod and the food pantry could not function the same at that building, even if they added on to the building. He has looked at another building at Ogle Industrial Park.

Steve said he, the commissioners, do not appreciate the rumor that the county is "throwing them out of the building". A number of people have said they would help the food pantry relocate when the time comes. Steve said he felt like they have an obligation, as a county executive, to help move the county forward. The county has paid all of the utilities and maintenance for the building the food pantry is currently in. Lou said they use their donations to purchase food and supplies.

Lou said the Free Store Food Bank has to approve any location the food pantry moves into.

Josh said he commends the food pantry for the work they do and the passion they have but by the same token he feels that it is the commissioners' responsibility to make sure that the Industrial Park be used for what it was intended and move forward. He said it is a hard decision whether or not to make the food pantry move.

Mark agrees, to some extent, to what Josh said but he has an issue with the food pantry not having a suitable place to move to. He said he did not see very many cars in the parking lot of the food pantry from other areas; the majority were from Switzerland County. (There was a rumor going around that there were quite a few people outside the county getting assistance.)

Mark asked Lou if something were to come available is there a way for the food pantry to pay the utilities. Lou said they paid the utilities when they were located in Quercus Grove; no one has asked them to pay the utilities at Markland.

Josh said it seems like that every option that is being provided, there is always a road block with each site. Josh asked Lou if he actually could see the food pantry vacating the property in Markland.

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Food Pantry cont'd

He said the new site would have to be clean, be able to be maintained, secure, etc. He said anything he has looked at is just not right and Josh reminded him of where they began the food pantry at Quercus Grove. He said the county has not put up a comparable building. Steve said the new site they move to should not be a county building.

Josh made the motion to have the food pantry vacate the property at 7110 Commerce Drive; the Markland Center. After much discussion Steve seconded the motion. Steve took a comment from Glenn Scott, who was in the audience. He said he was all in favor of bringing industry into the Industrial Park but not at the expense of the food pantry. Steve called for a vote and the motion passed with Steve and Josh voting "aye" and Mark voting "nay".

Steve asked Jon Bond as to how long they have to vacate and what can be done to help the food pantry. Jon said the fastest the Redevelopment Commission would be able to approve a lease and giving notice would be the second week of August, approximately the 11th, but ultimately the time line would be the commissioners' decision.

Teresa Lyons has been involved with the Redevelopment Commission and Jon Bond on previous projects. She was made aware of a company, in mid-June, owned by James and Lori Peters, that was looking to move from a building they currently occupy in Jefferson County and add another component to their company. She then contacted Jon Bond and county attorney, Wil Goering, to find out the status of leasing the building. Mr. Peters said he would need to get in the building in a timely manner as he is expecting a new piece of equipment to be delivered to the new site, if possible.

Teresa told Lou that she and several other people have been diligently looking for another site for the food pantry. She did confirm with Rod Dickerson today, that if the food pantry did decide to use the building he offered, he said he would let them have the space free for 5 years and did not care if they added to the building or whatever in order to make it work.

Mr. Peters spoke to the commissioners and the audience that he would like to move into the building but the move would not have to be until, at the latest, the first of October. If Mr. Peters is awarded the lease, he has offered his equipment and trailers to assist in moving the food pantry.

Mr. Gordon said they would have to most likely shut the food pantry down for a couple of months during the transition. He would have to coordinate everything with his suppliers. Josh made a suggestion of a temporary staging site at some of the county buildings. Steve said if Lou would get the process started they would be happy to help facilitate the inspections and coordinate with the people who want to help. Pam Acton said that the 5 year plan is for right now and Rod has been asked what he would do in the future after the 5 years.

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Food Pantry cont'd

Lou agreed to shoot for the end of September and that way they would have 2 food pantry days, they are the 3rd Sunday of each month, to get rid of some of their inventory and get some things done. Steve asked Mr. Peters if October 1st would work for him, he said he would make it work. If the piece of equipment he is expecting would have to be delivered to the Markland site it would be boxed up out of the way of the food pantry.

Josh made a motion to request the food pantry be vacated by September 30, 2014 this was seconded by Steve. The motion carried with Steve and Josh voting "aye" and Mark voting "nay".

Mark asked James Peters about his business and how many they currently employ. They currently employ 4 to 5 people and it has to do with the automotive industry.

Mark Robins spoke on behalf of James and Lori Peters as to their good character.

#6 Other Business

Joint Meeting dates: The joint meeting dates were changed at a previous meeting. The new dates are September 17th and December 17th, both are on Wednesday. The commissioners signed the new dates.

Highway garage gas tank: John Day, interim highway supervisor, wanted to know if the commissioners wanted him to look into getting prices for a gas tank at the garage. Steve said they could get a lot of information from Jefferson County as they have a tank and card readers already installed.

Tourism health insurance and MedBen's response: Gayle said that MedBen said that as long as they fit within the criteria set up by Indiana Code as qualifying then they could be added to the county's plan. If they are added, who will pay for the insurance and the claims. Josh said he is not in favor of adding them. Gayle and Wil said it could end up being costly to someone. No decision was made at this time.

Courthouse repairs: There are needed repairs to the courthouse downspouts and the roofing on the old part. Wil prepared documents to put the repairs out to bid. There is an option to send information out to 3 contractors or more then the bids could be opened at the next meeting. This is a small project which allows this shorter time frame. Mark made a motion to send the bid package out to a minimum of 3 contractors, seconded by Josh and all agreed. Bruce will send them out.

Markland Park utility line mapping: Gayle mentioned at the last meeting that the park board would like to have the utility lines mapped at the Markland Park. The park board has money in their budget to have this done.

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CenturyLink findings: Josh met with Carson Trotter of CenturyLink and said the cost increased significantly when all of the other buildings were added. There is 2 ½ years left on the agreement. There is really no room to change things; Carson is checking. Carson said the county has equipment for the EDC office but Jon Bond said they do not have any service through CenturyLink; Josh thought the monthly cost for the EDC equipment runs \$125.00.

With no further business to come before the board, Josh made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mark and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Attest: _____
Gayle A. Rayles, Auditor
Switzerland County, Indiana