

**MARSHALL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES**

MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2011

The Board of Commissioners of Marshall County, Indiana, met in the Commissioners Room, in the City of Plymouth, Indiana at 9:30 a.m., Monday, April 18, 2011, for a regular meeting. Present were Kevin Overmyer, President; Jack Roose, Vice President; Greg Compton, Member; County Attorney James Clevenger and Auditor Penny Lukenbill. The meeting was opened in due form and the business before it heard.

**THE HEALY GROUP
QUARTERLY REVIEW**

Charlie Bushkill stated that the County's health insurance premium had been guaranteed to increase no more than 9% for 2011, but the actual increase was only 3%. They will soon begin working with Advantage to negotiate an arrangement for the next two years.

He then provided an overview of the county claims experience through the end of 2010. The report showed that emergency room visits were well below the national average, showing that employees are seeking treatment in their doctor's office, rather than in the emergency room. Hospital stays were half the national average. Also included was a breakdown of dollars expended by medical category. Approximately 55% of employees are participating in free programs offered by Advantage for those who are on certain prescription medications. Participation in these programs directly affects the cost of the County's insurance premiums.

Mr. Bushkill reported on discussions he has had about the possibility of establishing a health clinic for county employees as a possible cost savings measure. He found that the clinic arrangement saved money only for entities that had self-funded insurance programs. The cost of services typically covered in clinics is \$86,599, which would not be enough savings to warrant establishing a clinic.

He also recommended that the Commissioners clarify their policy regarding the required waiting period for rehired employees before being reinstated on the health insurance plan. Advantage has advised that if an employee is rehired within 30 days, they could simply be reinstated to the insurance plan, but if they were rehired more than 30 days later, they could be subject to the 90-day waiting period.

The Healy Group continues to offer several HR seminars throughout the year, and HR Deputy Debbie Palmer will attend upcoming COBRA and compliance form seminars. They also continue to review our voluntary benefits program and will make recommendations later.

Tony Nyers reported that HRI, our dental coverage carrier, has now enrolled nearly every dentist in the county, and there are very few issues with claims.

**CHUCK DEWITT-BUILDING INSPECTOR
1ST QUARTER UPDATE**

Mr. Dewitt reported that 43 building permits were issued in the first quarter of 2011, valued at \$1,265,432, compared to 64 permits valued at \$1,171,400 for the same period in 2010. Contractors report they are bidding more jobs and are "guardedly optimistic" for this year.

A total of 185 inspections were performed in the first quarter, and he is averaging three or four inspections each day. He is working 4-7 hours per day, five days a week, allowing inspection

requests to be handled promptly. Contractors appreciate that he is available on a daily basis.

Mr. Dewitt is also working on computerizing the department's processes. Applications will be entered into the computer, facilitating scheduling and generating needed reports. An iPad will streamline the inspection process, much of which is still handwritten. He will be able to enter inspection information on site, take pictures of the work in progress, and file reports electronically. He can also be notified on site if there is a request for another inspection in the same area. He is already utilizing MapQuest to map more efficient routes.

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE #2011-04
VACATION OF ALLEYS

Plan Director Ralph Booker presented proposed Ordinance #2011-04 to vacate three unimproved alleys in Inwood near the grain elevator. The alleys have not been utilized for many years and are not used as access to adjoining properties. The Plan Commission issued a favorable recommendation at their March 24, 2011 meeting.

Jack Roose moved, seconded by Greg Compton, to open the public hearing on Ordinance #2011-04. Motion carried 3-0.

There was no public comment.

Jack Roose moved, seconded by Greg Compton, to close the public hearing. Motion carried 3-0.

Jack Roose moved, seconded by Greg Compton, to suspend the rules and approve on all three readings Ordinance #2011-04 for the vacation of unimproved alleys between Lots 3 and 4, Lots 7 and 8, and Lots 15 and 16 of the original plat of Pearsonville, in Inwood. Motion carried 3-0.

CLYDE AVERY – EMA DIRECTOR
MONTHLY REPORT

Meetings Attended:

National Level Exercise District meeting; Commissioners; District and Deputy Task Force; Amish community members in German Township; District 2 DPC and General Assembly; LEPC exercise after-action report; Fulton County EMA Director; Mickey Davenport and Joyce Woodall re: Animals in Disaster Annex update;

Miscellaneous: District 2 Communications Exercise at the Sheriff's Dept.; 2011 LEPC Exercise, Lapaz; IDHS monthly radio test, conference call and Web EOC test; District Planning Council conference calls; coordinating U.S. Great Central Shakeout drill with Plymouth Schools; statewide test of Tornado Warning System; sandbags to Town of Bourbon.

Community Outreach: WTCA radio show for Severe Weather Awareness Week.

Emergency Responses: Gas leak and evacuation in Plymouth

Training Attended: CASM Webinar; two-day Senior Executive Leadership Course

General Information:

1. Kirk Hinz is interested in an unpaid part-time summer internship with the EMA to gain experience in the field. He is a student at Ball State University and would like to volunteer one or two days a week, beginning the second week in May.

The commissioners suggested that he check with Gibson regarding liability coverage, and Mr. Clevenger recommended a statement that Mr. Hinz is a volunteer who will receive no payment from the County.

2. He will participate in the “Great Central U.S. Shake Out” drill on April 19 at 10:15 am, and will discuss earthquake preparedness with schools and businesses.
3. The District 2 Task Force will be deploying May to Muscatutuck May 17-19 for the “Shaking Bedrock” National Level Exercise.

Grant Updates:

1. Received the incident command vests and two monitors purchased with the 2010 EMPG Competitive Grant
2. 2010 EMPG Grant has been submitted to the state.

Training and Meeting Requests for April:

1. April 15 - Training meeting, Pulaski County for shelter systems purchased for the District 2 Task Force.
2. April 25 – Training meeting in South Bend with the District 2 Incident Management Team to prepare for National Level Exercise Deployment.
3. April 28 – District 2 DPC and General Assembly meetings in St. Joseph County - full scale exercise to test establishing and setting up a Base of Operations prior to the National Level Exercise Deployment.

There are many on-going meetings to prepare for the National Level Exercise, and the commissioners asked that Mr. Avery just keep them informed when he will be out of town, rather than request approval for each meeting.

Jack Roose moved, seconded by Greg Compton, to approve Mr. Avery’s training requests for April 15 in Pulaski County, April 25 in South Bend and April 28 in St. Joseph County.

Motion carried 3-0.

RICK GAUL – CITY OF PLYMOUTH
COMMON CONSTRUCTION WAGE APPOINTMENT

On behalf of the City of Plymouth, Mr. Gaul requested that the board appoint a representative to the city’s common construction wage committee for the City’s annual projects.

Jack Roose moved, seconded by Greg Compton, to appoint Greg Compton as their representative to the City of Plymouth common construction wage committee for 2011.

Motion carried 3-0.

JEFF MILLION - DLZ
BRIDGE 89-13TH ROAD UPDATE

Mr. Million reported that work is progressing on Pier 2. The coffer dam is in place and the footing is being excavated, and they hope to have the pier completed in the next two to three weeks. After the piles are driven and filled with concrete, they will pour the footing and then set the beams for the center. Construction is moving along faster due in large part to a new foreman and working ten-hour days and Saturdays. An additional crew could be brought in to begin work on the end bent and retaining wall on the east bank.

Mr. Million doubts that the project will be completed by the July 13 deadline and thinks that mid-August is more realistic. The company has asked for a 28-day extension, but he feels only seven are justified due to the difficult work on the Pier 3 footing. The additional 21 days have been requested due to weather, and he feels INDOT is unlikely to grant them. INDOT will not consider the extension until the end of the project, and only after meeting with the Commissioners and DLZ.

RECORDER MARLENE MAHLER
SOFTWARE UPDATE

Ms. Mahler provided an update on the Recorder’s office software. She is researching programs that would modernize the system and provide the capability of online research, while reducing annual

maintenance costs. She initially considered five vendors, but is now considering two - Fiddler and CSI. Manatron, the current vendor, is reconsidering their initial proposal, and will provide a new estimate. A new system will cost approximately \$50,000, and there is an estimated \$10,000 difference between the two programs. The annual maintenance fees are approximately the same for the two programs, and Ms. Mahler estimated the county would save approximately \$200,000 in maintenance over a ten-year period by changing to Fiddler or CSI.

She has visited counties who are using the systems, and the IT Department has been included in the discussions, but she is not ready to commit to either at the present time. Fiddler interfaces better with GIS, and part of the fee paid by researchers is returned to the county. CSI costs less, but none of the researchers' fees are returned to the county. CSI programs are currently being used by Probation and the Clerk.

Ms. Mahler is also organizing document backups. All recorded documents have been filmed and scanned, with the exception of 40 mortgage books from the 1840s and some documents from the late 60s and early 70s that are missing and presumed destroyed by water. All the backups are currently stored in three file cabinets in her office, and she has contacted the Sheriff about the possibility of using the jail for an off-site storage location.

JENNIFER LAURENT – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MARSHALL COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
UPDATE

Jennifer Laurent provided an update on the MCEDC. She stated that overall, county businesses had weathered the economic downturn well, as a result of being conservative and well-prepared. Many reinvested money in their businesses and retained employees.

She regards MCEDC as a community “resource broker” with a strategic plan for positioning the county to attract businesses, including marketing through a strong web presence and development of a shovel-ready certification process to put the county on the state list for site selectors. A task force has been formed to address the issue of education-to-work which arose from the Community Conversation on Economic Development last fall.

MCEDC also focuses on encouraging and facilitating business retention, and as a result, many existing businesses are adding jobs and equipment in quiet way. Mr. Overmyer noted that when MCEDC began, some thought success would be attracting big business, but instead it is quiet growth that no one hears about. Ms. Laurent agreed that job growth today is in small numbers, rather than hundreds, and that their philosophy is that of growth of existing businesses, rather than “smokestack chasing”.

The MCEDC has developed a Small Business Development Center which provides one-on-one business counseling and marketing tools. They also provide assistance to local development commissions who may not have a paid staff.

She stated that infrastructure is one of the most important needs and feels the Metronet would have a huge impact on the potential for economic growth in the county. Ms. Laurent noted that MCEDC is constantly laying the groundwork for new businesses, and that development often takes years to materialize.

JOSH WAKELAND-VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER
WAR MEMORIAL PROJECT

Mr. Wakeland reported that area veterans' organizations have raised funds to enhance the war memorial on the courthouse lawn to increase the monument's visibility in the community. The project includes replacement of the landscaping, new flag pole and benches, and repainting the existing concrete planters. Buildings and Grounds has been involved in the planning, and final plans will be brought to the Commissioners for their approval.

Jack Roose moved, seconded by Greg Compton, to allow the Veterans Service Officer to work with Building and Grounds and local veterans to enhance the war memorial on the Courthouse lawn. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Wakeland also reported that an auction this past weekend raised several thousand dollars for local veterans' projects. As a result, the number of veterans visiting his office has increased, and he currently has 75 open claims, with the potential of nearly \$3.5 million in direct compensation to the county's veterans. He thanked the press for their cooperation in publicizing the auction and the services available through his office.

MICHAEL MARSHALL-IT DIRECTOR
DOMAIN NAME CHANGE

IT Director Michael Marshall appeared before the board to request approval to obtain a new domain name for Marshall County government. The new domain will be easier to find, and will enable more control on incoming and outgoing electronic traffic. Both domains will run side by side for some time, and all email will be forwarded from the old domain. However, all email addresses will eventually migrate to the new site. It is necessary to register the proposed new domain name of Marshallcounty.in.gov with the State of Indiana, and the Commissioners will need to approve a letter requesting the change. Mr. Marshall anticipates that the change will be effective mid-to-late summer.

Jack Roose moved, seconded by Greg Compton, to request a domain name change for Marshall County government to "Marshallcounty.in.gov." Motion carried 3-0.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORT

County Attorney James Clevenger presented his report, which included:

Old Business:

Jail sewer line easement: Mr. Clevenger will be checking with RQAW and Construction Control regarding the sewer line easement.

Lindsey Einspahr v. Court Services: Our insurance carrier is completing an answer on our behalf.

Crowel v. Drainage Board: I expect a reply brief from Crowel within the next few days. The appellate court will take several months to render a decision.

Berger Drain: A letter has been sent to Mr. Imhoff demanding clean up of the spoils he left in the ditch by April 15.

US 31 Relinquishment: Commissioner Roose and I will meet with the Town of LaPaz representative in the upcoming weeks.

New Business:

Lake of the Woods public accesses: Mr. Booker and I are reviewing some additional documents provided by Chris Mahoney concerning a lake access at Pleasant Point Beach.

Homestead Verification proposal: Mr. Clevenger has reviewed the proposal from SRI Consulting Services to manage the input, review and audit of the homestead verification forms, as well as assist in recovering back taxes and penalties on ineligible homestead deductions. SRI would receive 25% of the recovered amounts, and waive the per form charge for data input.

Jack Roose moved, seconded by Greg Compton, to approve the agreement with SRI to manage the Homestead Verification Form process and assist in recovering taxes owed on ineligible homestead deductions. Motion carried 3-0.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Minutes of the April 4, 2011 meeting: **Greg Compton moved, seconded by Jack Roose, to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2011 meeting. Motion carried 3-0.**

April mid-month claims: **Greg Compton moved, seconded by Jack Roose, to approve the April mid-month claims as presented. Motion carried 3-0.**

COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Commissioners Certificate Sale: SRI has proposed a sale date of June 8, 2011 at 10:00 in the Commissioners' meeting room to auction the tax-sale certificates held by the commissioners. The properties that are included in the sale are those that have gone through at least two tax sales and remain unsold.

Jack Roose moved, seconded by Greg Compton, to approve the proposed sale date for the Commissioners' tax sale certificates for June 8, 2011 at 10:00 am. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Clevenger will prepare the appropriate resolutions for the City of Plymouth, Town of Culver, the DNR, and the LaPaz Legion, for direct assignment of certificates.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, **Jack Roose moved, seconded by Greg Compton, to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m. Motion carried 3-0.**

Kevin Overmyer, President

Jack Roose, Vice President

Greg Compton

Attest: _____
Penny Lukenbill, Auditor