

The Adams County Board of Commissioners met July 7, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the Adams County Service Complex. Present were Commissioners: Doug Bauman, Kim Fruechte, and Rex Moore; County Attorney, Mark Burry; and Chief Deputy Auditor, Kristy Stuckey. Absent was Adams County Auditor, Mary Beery.

IN RE: MINUTES

Upon a motion by Rex Moore, seconded by Kim Fruechte, for approval of the Adams County Board of Commissioners' Minutes for June 30, 2020. Motion carried.

IN RE: AUDITOR REPORT

Health Insurance

Upon a motion by Rex Moore, seconded by Kim Fruechte, for approval of the Allied Health Insurance funding renewal request for July 7, 2020, in the amount of \$9,485.16 (Medical \$9,485.16 & Pharmacy \$0.00). Motion carried.

Payroll Claims

Upon a motion by Kim Fruechte, seconded by Rex Moore, for approval of the payroll claims totaling \$311,142.35 for the pay period ending June 26, 2020. Motion carried.

Claims

Upon a motion by Rex Moore, seconded by Kim Fruechte, for approval of the claims totaling \$329,189.45 to be paid 7/8/20. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Upon a motion by Rex Moore, seconded by Kim Fruechte, to accept into record the June 2020 report from the Treasurer of Adams County. Motion carried.

IN RE: COUNTY ENGINEER REPORT

Cumulative Bridge

County Engineer, Tim Barkey, opened the following bid for three bridges B-23, B-51, and B-93. The structures need riprap placed around the footings.

Contractor	Amount
KBL Transport, LLC, Portland, IN	\$29,973.88

Upon a motion by Kim Fruechte, seconded by Rex Moore, to take the bid under advisement. Motion carried.

Mr. Barkey reported Jutte Excavating will start Saturday morning on Bridge B-133 located on 000 between 500 S & 550 S. This will take 5-6 weeks to complete.

IN RE: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Superintendent, Brad Yoder, opened the following bids for a cold storage 140' x 80' building with a stone floor.

Contractor	Amount
Arnold Lumber Co., Decatur, IN	\$118,500.00
Elmer Miller construction, Berne	\$151,010.00

Upon a motion by Kim Fruechte, seconded by Rex Moore, to take the bids under advisement. Motion carried

Department

The crew are chip and sealing. They are taking water breaks to keep cool.

Mr. Yoder said a gentleman from the Indiana Soybean Alliance contacted him asking for a copy of their annual report to analyze. The annual report is at LTAp. The data will be shared with a professor from Purdue that is doing a study for the Indiana Soybean Alliance.

Upon a motion by Rex Moore, seconded by Kim Fruechte, to share the annual report with the Indiana Soybean Alliance. Motion carried.

Community Crossing

The Community Crossing filing in July has been cancelled. They will know in December when to submit for the next round.

IN RE: BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Building and Grounds Supervisor, Rick Burkhalter, gave Rick Minnich and his family condolences since his wife passed away. They have done a lot with the community and Adams Central School.

Yolanda and Rick has come in at 5:30 A.M. to pull weeds. Rick has posted the job to hire a replacement.

Complex Building

The construction on the new flagpole will start within the next couple of weeks. The parking area by the pole will be marked off.

Courthouse

The courthouse clock is not keeping time. He has not been able to fix it. He contacted a company out of Columbus, OH, the person is on furlough, and they hope he is back in a few weeks. The Commissioners gave Rick several names to contact.

The courthouse air conditioner needs a new coil system. He wants to shut the unit down when it is cooler out. He does not want to shut it down the whole day with the hot days we are having.

The Peace Monument needs to be sprayed down and cleaned. There are funds in the Monument fund to pay these costs.

IN RE:

PUBLIC DEFENDER

Managing Public Defender, Brad Weber, met to request changing the job title of the full-time secretarial position to office manager. He presented a copy of the old job description and a copy of the new job description for Sildain. Mr. Weber said that the job description for Public Defender Secretary and the Prosecutor's manager are 85% the same. Sildain was already assuming the job duties of the office manager. Her title will go from Secretary to Office Manager/Assistant to the Chief Public Defender. Mr. Weber said his office is getting busier because they have more caseloads. Sildain does what needs to be done without being asked.

Upon a motion by Rex Moore, seconded by Kim Fruechte, to approve the job description of the Office Manager/Assistant to the Chief Public Defender. Motion carried.

IN RE:

CLERK

Clerk, Jim Voglewede, met to discuss the Primary Election. Commissioner Bauman said he received several phone calls concerning this year's absentee voting in the Primary Election. With the general election this fall, the Commissioners want to make sure the absentee voting is accurate. If absentee ballots are received, they want to assure voters feel confident their ballot was received and was counted. They want there to be checks and balances.

Commissioner Fruechte asked how do voters know their ballot was counted when they voted an absentee ballot. Mr. Voglewede replied when the ballot envelopes are received in his office, they go into the Statewide Voter Registration System database and check marked that they received the ballot back. Then they will lock them in the basement filing cabinet and file them by precinct.

Commissioner Fruechte asked if he can get a list of who requested absentee ballots. The ballots that were sent and what ones were not received back. Mr. Voglewede said the voter would have to contact his office and ask if their ballot was returned was counted.

Commissioner Bauman asked Mr. Voglewede if he know the absentee voters bills of rights 3-11-10-25(g). He replied that he does.

Mr. Voglewede said 2,703 absentee ballots were sent out and of that 375 ballots were not received. Mr. Fruechte asked if they contacted those voters of the ballots that was not returned. Mr. Voglewede said they do not contact those voters. Some people forget to mail them back or accidentally throw them away. Thirteen people surrendered their absentee ballots at the polling site on Election Day to vote by machine. He said every vote was counted.

Mr. Voglewede reported that when opening the absentee ballots on Election Day, they have to have four people present while counting the absentee ballots. They include an election board member from the Republican and Democrat party, Voglewede and the election deputy.

Delivery methods of absentee ballots are by mail, brought in person, have a family member bring it in or by the power of attorney. Commissioner Bauman asked if a bundle or bundles of absentee ballots were dropped off at the Clerk's office at any time. Mr. Voglewede said he would need to ask his election deputy.

Commissioner Bauman asked Mr. Voglewede if they verify the person that gets the absentee ballot. He replied that they verify by photo ID and they also have a signature on file in the database. When a person signs to vote the election deputy will mail out a blue card and if it does not come back they know it is a good address. Mr. Voglewede said his staff did an excellent job with the election. They went from handling 110 absentee ballots in last election to 2,703 this election.

Council member, Steve Bailey said his name was on the list of his absentee ballot was not returned. This was from a list the State gave the Republican Party. Mr. Bailey said Mr. Voglewede said his ballot was misplaced or never received. His ballot was found, but he wants to know if his ballot was counted or not. He would like to know what happened. Mr. Bailey said he contacted five people on the list. They were all concerned because they said they voted and wanted to make sure their ballot counted. He said human error like a worker check marked the ballot in the system as received but did not hit the save button. Mr. Voglewede said a deputy in his office was on the list and they never requested an absentee ballot. He does not know why this happened.

Mr. Bailey asked if he could have walked in and voted by machine as well? Mr. Voglewede said no, if a person that received an absentee ballot will be marked in the E-poll book that they requested an absentee ballot. The poll worker would have to contact the clerk's office and they would have to verify a paper ballot was returned. Don Kuhn replied that they had to call on several of these to check this year at the poll site he worked at. Mr. Kuhn said if that showed up as a mailed in ballot and he could not get an answer from the clerk's office. Then he would have the voter do a

provisional ballot. Then the voter would have to return the provisional ballot to the clerk’s office and it would need to be double checked before it can be counted.

Council member Tony Mellencamp said he voted absentee and he was also on the list.

Voter Cindy Fruechte said she received a call on June 20 that she was also on the list. She called the Clerk’s office and was told her ballot was not received so it was not counted. She was told it was lost in the mail, was not signed, or was received late. Then later she found out that her ballot was found but the clerk’s office did not notify her. She said she contacted the State’s Voters Attorney and she asked why the discrepancy, they replied her vote was not counted and it is possible somebody is lying. Mr. Voglewede apologized to Mrs. Fruechte that a staff member did not contact her back and let her know that they found her ballot.

Commissioner Bauman wants to know of the 2,073 absentee ballots, how many absentee ballots were mailed and how many were carried in. He also asked if he could have the names of the 375 people who did not return their ballots. Mr. Voglewede said he would have to check to see if this is public knowledge.

Commissioner Bauman told Mr. Voglewede that every voter must feel confident, feel secure and to have trust when they absentee vote. Lastly, absentee votes that come in must follow Indiana Code.

IN RE: ENVIRONMENTALIST

Environmentalist, Nathan Scherer; Sanitarian, Jessica Bergdall; and Health Department Attorney, Adams Miller, met to discuss a complaint they had from a farmer that found human discharge in his field tile. The health department took samples located at the corner of US 27 and 200 N. They found four failed systems. With the size and setback on the properties, it will be hard to put in new septic systems. The worst outcome is they will have to evict four families.

The Health Department would like to get some direction of what to do. There is not a sanitary sewer system nearby to hook into. The Commissioners asked if they could contact the farmers next to these properties and see if they would be willing to sell them some land. Mr. Miller said the owners could put in a cluster system with two tanks. Soil tests need to be done and the State would have to approve this type of system. The Commissioners asked if they could all get a mound system. Mr. Scherer said if they get a farmer to sell them some land they will need to contact a soil scientist to see if it would work.

Commissioner Bauman asked if the property owners are aware of this. Mr. Scherer said no, he has prepared a letter that can be sent out today.

Commissioner Fruechte, advised Mr. Scherer to send the letter so they can meet with the owners to discuss what is going on.

IN RE: ASSESSOR

Assessor, Don Kuhn, met the Commissioners to present the agreement with Pictometry International Corporation. This six-year contract is in the total amount of \$212,400.00 to be paid \$35,400 per year. If approved, they will do the flyover now with the leaves on the trees or wait until the leaves are off. The Commissioners agreed to do a flyover with the leaves on now since the pictures are so far behind. Then have the next flyover with the leaves off the trees. The Assessor has the money budgeted for 2020.

Upon a motion by Rex Moore, seconded by Kim Fruechte, to approve the six-year contact with Pictometry International Corporation in the amount of \$212,400.00. Motion carried.

IN RE: COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney, Mark Burry, did not have anything to present.

IN RE: ADJOURN

Upon a motion Kim Fruechte, seconded by Rex Moore, the meeting for July 7, 2020 was adjourned. Motion carried.

ATTEST: Mary B. Beery
Mary B. Beery, Adams County Auditor

Kim A. Fruechte
Kim A. Fruechte, Commissioner

Rex Moore
Rex Moore, Commissioner

Douglas L. Bauman
Douglas L. Bauman, Chairman