

The Adams County Board of Commissioners met July 2, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in the Adams County Service Complex. Present were Commissioners: Doug Bauman, Rex Moore, and Kim Fruechte; County Attorney, Mark Burry, and Chief Deputy Auditor, Kristy Stuckey. County Auditor, Mary Beery, was absent.

IN RE: MINUTES

Upon a motion by Kim Fruechte, seconded by Rex Moore, for approval of the Adams County Board of Commissioners' Minutes for June 25, 2019. Motion carried.

Claims

Upon a motion by Rex Moore, seconded by Kim Fruechte, for approval of the claims totaling \$673,725.18 for the claims to be paid 7/3/2019. Motion carried.

Health Insurance

Upon a motion by Kim Fruechte, seconded by Rex Moore, for Allied Health Insurance funding request for June 24, 2019, in the amount of \$52,579.09 (Medical \$28,999.81 & Pharmacy \$26,623.92 & Stop Loss Reimbursement credit \$3,044.64). Motion carried.

Clerk of Circuit Court Monthly Report

Upon a motion by Rex Moore, seconded by Kim Fruechte, to accept into the record the June 2019 report from the Clerk of the Adams County Circuit Court. Motion carried.

IN RE: COUNTY ENGINEER REPORT

County Engineer, Tim Barkey, reported that Bridge B-75 was awarded to Primco, Inc. out of Fort Wayne. The bridge is located on 400 W between 100 N to 200 N. He received the signed contract, performance bond, and e-verify. He did not get the certificate of insurance. He contacted them and said he needs this before he will issue them to proceed.

Upon a motion by Rex Moore, seconded by Kim Fruechte, for the approval to sign the contract stated above. Motion carried.

Culvert C-389 was started today by Landon out of Portland Indiana.

IN RE: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Roads

Highway Superintendent, Lonnie Caffee, reported some roads are bleeding. This is when the oil comes to the roads surface caused by the hot weather. Certain roads are worse than others. They are trying to pin point those roads and address them.

Mr. Caffee reported some property owners are upset that they are chip and sealing the smooth blacktop roads. By chip and sealing them it puts a top coat on them to help preserve them longer.

There has been vandalism to stop signs in French Township. They are spray painting the signs white. Four signs have been reported so far. This is a serious problem because the signs will not reflect especially at night. Mr. Caffee has contacted the sheriff department.

There are trees that are overgrown located on Salem Road heading south at Highway 218. The branches are blocking the stop sign and they need to be cut back. Mr. Caffee said this is not a county issue and has contacted INDOT this morning. He believes the owner or INDOT is responsible. The stop sign is a state stop sign. Mr. Caffee is concerned and said this is a hazard. The branches are in the right of way. County Attorney, Mark Burry, said that if the state does not address this soon, then we need to cut the branches back.

Mr. Caffee said his department put chip lock on a section of 900 N. Chip lock is different than fog sealing.

Farmers

Mr. Caffee reported farmers are farming and they are traveling heavily with semis on the roads. Farmers need to enter their fields in the field entrances and not go through the side ditches. This is causing damage to the roads.

Department

Mr. Caffee said they have a crew mowing. They are mowing in Wabash and Union Townships as they still need some work. The other townships are good.

IN RE: BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Service Complex Building

Building Maintenance Supervisor, Mike Stimpson, was not in attendance.

IN RE: EMA

EMA deputy, Barb Lehrman met with the Commissioners to ask permission to hire a part-time employee. Karla Marbach recently gave her two weeks' resignation. This is a shared position and it is budgeted. The job pay range is \$10.00 to 17.50 per hour depending on the experience.

Upon a motion by Kim Fruechte, seconded by Rex Moore, to give EMA permission to hire a part time position to fill the vacated position. Motion carried.

IN RE: COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney, Mark Burry, presented a contract with Ritter Strategic Services LLC. in the amount of \$14,000. This should be paid out of the Commissioners budget under professional services. This is a public safety study and a report will contain supporting documentation to support the County's desire to establish an interlocal agreement with the cities and towns. This is a viable way for the cities and towns to help out in the E-911 costs. This study will show how many calls come in, how many are emergency or non-emergency and what area the calls are located.

Upon a motion by Kim Fruechte, seconded by Rex Moore, to approve the contract with Ritter Strategic Services, LLC in the amount of \$14,000. Motion carried.

IN RE: PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

Health Department Attorney, Adam Miller, appeared before the Commissioners to report that the Health Department and Building and Planning Department have received 23 public records requests over a period of 22 days. The requests have been hand delivered and the individual often comes in at 4:21 P.M or 4:25 P.M. to drop the request off. By law, each department has 24 hours to provide an initial response to each request. An example of just one of the requests is a copy of all the Health Department permits issued from January 1, 2017 through current. So far, the Health Department has made 2,014 copies. This has caused a substantial amount of time spent on pulling records and making copies. Mr. Miller stated that he wanted to make the Commissioners aware because in the near future the departments may need to ask for permission to hire a part-time temporary person so we can make sure the departments meet the state requirements. Commissioner Moore asked if we can get any reimbursement for our time or copies. Mr. Miller stated that state law says we can only collect \$0.10 per copy.

Mr. Miller said the individual requesting the records is an investigator who is working for an attorney out of Ohio. The Ohio law firm is representing a group of people which include 600 families and 24 bishops. Mr. Miller said that the Ohio attorney previously stated that he wants to resolve issues and reach an agreement with the county. Mr. Miller sent a letter to the attorney last week asking what they are requesting. He has not heard back from them. Mr. Miller stated that he thinks he has an idea of some of what they will be asking, but certainly not all. He believes that the group being represented by the Ohio law firm wants to do certain things their own way which at this point does not comply with state laws and local ordinances. Mr. Miller suggested that in the near future we may need to have a public meeting in order to discuss and address the issues that the group would like to have changed and to keep everything moving forward.

There was also a brief discussion of the recent situation in the county where dead animals were left in or near an open ditch along with feces and toilet paper. In that situation the County Prosecuting Attorney filed criminal charges.

Commissioner Bauman said we are following the state laws and are doing the right thing health wise and good for everyone across the county.

IN RE: ADJOURN

Upon a motion by Kim Fruechte, seconded by Rex Moore, the meeting for July 2, 2019 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