

**HIGHWAY/BUILDING/GROUNDS/
ENVIRONMENTAL/WELFARE/ZONING
COMMITTEE MINUTES
December 2, 2019**

Present: Phil Schneider, Chairman
Charles DeClerck, Dale Livingston, Linda Curtin
Absent: Craig Corzine
Others present: Becky Edwards, Cliff Frye, Vince Harris, Michael Gianasi, Zach Hicks,
Lacey Franklin, Brian Wilbur, Clark Pearce, Vicki McMahon, Bruce
Kettelkamp, Tom Latonis, and Jan Bland.

The meeting of the Highway/Building/Grounds/Environmental/Welfare/Zoning Committee was called for on Monday, December 2, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Christian County Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting was County building issues, highway business and any other matters properly brought before the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Len Corzine asked how the process works to make a zoning change. Chair Schneider responded that he was checking with the States Attorney.
- Jeff Nolan handed out a House Bill 2988 stating the authority of the County Board to site a wind farm.
- Jean Vandenburg commented on a letter that was received today to the attorney for the PCC organization declaring the December 18 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting being canceled. [Chairwoman Edwards read a letter from Mike Havera explaining that the County had lost legal counsel from the Appellate Prosecutor's Office and the county is unable to address the moratorium issue until a replacement counsel is obtained.
- Other comments included airplanes would not spray where wind turbines were located; the county board needs to protect all its citizens, and first responders may have trouble where wind turbines are located.

COURTHOUSE BUSINESS:

Elevator

Bill Kennedy requested to comment on the elevator repairs which are up coming. He pointed out through photos and his personal opinion that the current elevator, installed in the 1960's, didn't need to be repaired. His opinion was the elevator might have parts to wear out sometime but not now. The changes proposed by OTIS to be made will negate the grandfathered safety code status for future elevator inspections. Any changes will be up to elevator safety code.

Pictures showed the lack of elevator maintenance with dust and no covers over machines, however, this was how the former company left it after constant repair calls. Zach Hicks, Maintenance Supervisor recalls the poor service and a lot of down time. Recently, due to the poor service and constant down time, the County changed their vendor to OTIS. Angela Newman, an OTIS representative noted the long history of the company and the fact the county's elevator is an OTIS elevator. Parts are difficult to find for this 57 year old elevator. The project is underway and expected to begin the rebuild in early February.

The question of the inspection was discussed. Yes, most recently it failed due to phone issues. Other parts were weak and passed due to the fact the inspector understood the county was in the process of a rebuild. The cost of the project from OTIS is \$200,000. The elevator's failing condition has been discussed for years by the County Board. The initial request was replacement parts/modernization. It is not necessary to replace the ropes, but the electric boards, electric fixtures, and lighting are also in need of replacement—some are things that you can see, however the most important safety code waivers are the internal workings. Chairwoman Edwards commented that a contract in place and the down payment for the project has been made.

The OTIS representatives noted that they have been in business 166 years and are an honorable business. When asked about postponing or canceling the project, their response was that there is no cancellation clause, the parts are ordered and the county has paid 60% down. There would be excessive attorney fees involved. Hannah Jordan, an OTIS representative stated that doing this renovation will provide 20-25 years of service with minimal maintenance and in the long term a savings to the County. More discussion was held about getting an independent inspector to review the project. Dale Livingston made a motion for Phil and Dale to look for another elevator inspector for review of the project. The motion was seconded by Phil Schneider and the motion carried.

South door entrance

Another topic that has been discussed many times over the years is the sagging floor at the south entrance of the courthouse. Mr. Kennedy offered a suggestion to fix the floor and showed pictures of the problem. A motion was made by Phil Schneider and seconded by Linda Curtin for Bill Kennedy to write up the specs for the repairs to the south entrance. The motion carried. Bill noted that it should take a couple of weeks and the job could begin in the spring if the bids are approved by the finance committee.

Clock tower brick repairs

Mr. Kennedy gave an updated comment to the clock tower drainage issues as described by Mr. Verardi a few months ago. It was Mr. Kennedy's opinion that the work already done on downspouts in the clock tower area should solve the problems. The wood around the tower and the faces of the clock are in need of repair. Mr. Kennedy will write the specs for this task by January 1st.

Courthouse boiler

Mr. Kennedy also suggested that the county purchase a separate boiler and machinery policy for the boilers at an estimated cost of \$900 annually. It was reported that ICRMT, the liability carrier for the county has boiler coverage. He commented it wasn't the same. [NOTE: after the meeting the type of coverage was discussed with the carrier and the county is covered with that type of policy.]

HIGHWAY BUSINESS:

Gas Bids

Bids for delivery of gasoline and diesel fuel to be used during 2020 will be presented at the County Board meeting on December 17th.

Maintenance from MFT Fund

Resolution R2019HY025 appropriating \$900,000.00 from the Motor Fuel Tax fund for highway maintenance during FY2020 was presented. A motion was made by Dale Livingston and seconded by Phil Schneider to recommend to the full Board adoption of the County Maintenance Resolution in the amount of \$900,000.00. The motion carried.

MFT Salaries Paid

Resolution R2019HY026 appropriating \$50,000.00 from the Motor Fuel Tax fund for payment of social security and IMRF retirement during FY2020 was presented. A motion was made by Phil Schneider and seconded by Linda Curtin to recommend to the full Board adoption of the Social Security and IMRF Retirement Resolution in the amount of \$50,000.00. The motion carried.

Appropriating Funds for Engineer's Salary

Resolution R2019HY027 appropriating the salary and expenses of the County Engineer from the Motor Fuel Tax fund for FY2020 was presented. The State recommended salaries have not been released at this time so the resolution remains the same as 2019. A motion was made by Phil Schneider and seconded by Charles DeClerck to recommend to the full Board adoption of the County Engineers Salary and Expenses Resolution in the amount of \$114,755.00. The motion carried

Updates:

- Clear Talk Communications has our radio equipment and will be installing it after they complete programming.
- A 2001 International 4700 single axle dump truck has been purchased to replace the truck that was totaled.
- County Highway #12 (Bear Creek Rd) plans are being completed pending resolving bridge issues with IDOT.
- Assumption Bridge #17 was completed mid-October.
- Soil Borings have been completed for the proposed structures in Locust, Pana, Prairieton and Taylorville Townships.

ANIMAL CONTROL UPDATES:

Vince Harris, A/Z Director reported that three other counties came to the facility for feral cat capture and release program training.

It was also suggested as a possible program for Vince to contact the FFA students to research a dog and cat food for "meals on wheels".

A motion was made by Dale Livingston and seconded by Charles DeClerck to adjourn. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Schneider, Chairman-Buildings/Highway/Environmental/Zoning/Welfare Committee