

Board of Commissioners

March 2, 2009 – 8:45 am

Meeting called to order by President Rininger. Commissioners Rininger, Logsdon, Gogel, and Board Attorney Lueken were present.

Minutes

02/03/2009 minutes; Logsdon made a motion to approve. Gogel seconded. All in favor.

02/17/2009 minutes; Logsdon made a motion to approve. Gogel seconded. All in favor.

Claims

Gogel made a motion to approve claims. Logsdon seconded. All in favor.

Voter Registration Information

Voter Registration Clerk John Rudisill discussed with the commissioners possible legislation that is being discussed at the federal level which may impact Spencer County. The items being discussed are as follows:

- Federal over-sight of voter registration
- Use of provisional ballots
- Ballot design
- Post election audits
- Restriction of poll watcher protests
- Electronic ballots elimination
- Paper ballots
- No excuse absentee ballot by mail
- Early voting in all states
- Elimination of the ID law
- Auto restore felon voting rights
- Equitable allocation of resources to shorten wait times
- Grant program to develop countrywide software
- Enforcement of the Help America Vote Act

Rudisill also stated that the state funding of the election process will continue to decrease and counties will have to take over more of the cost.

Council on Aging

Blake Bunner and the other board members for the Council on Aging spoke to the commissioners regarding their investigation in the Ride Solutions. Bunner gave the following report:

Dear Spencer County Commissioners,

This is a summary of the reasons we are choosing to not partner with Ride Solution at this time.

- 1) A feasibility study has not been conducted to determine if Spencer County would benefit from public transportation. Ride Solution has no plans to pursue a study or pay for the cost of a study.
- 2) Ride Solution does not meet our agency's standard of "curb to curb" service. We believe that the personal service of assisting passengers is a major reason why our agency is successful. Ride Solution cannot meet this standard at this time.

- 3) With Ride Solution, revenue collected from each trip is about 70% less than the current average donation we receive. We believe this cost variance may create a shortfall in our budget and confusion among passengers.
- 4) Labor costs will increase with no guarantee of increased revenue. Under Ride Solution's agreement, our agency would be required to conduct business more hours per day which will increase labor costs in driver hours and clerical hours.
- 5) Ride Solution has severe limitations of service. Trips to Owensboro and Evansville are not permitted. Neither are they permitted to make Medicaid trips.
- 6) Many of our board members are concerned that the additional funding that Ride Solution requests from the county may negatively offset the funds that might be available to our agency annually.
- 7) There have been inconsistencies in the information that has been presented to us from Ride Solution. These inconsistencies make us suspicious of the integrity of the company.

After several meetings with Ride Solution, a meeting with an INDOT representative, and multiple calls to other agencies, we have decided that the Spencer County Council on Aging would not benefit from a partnership with Ride Solution at this time. It does concern us that Ride Solution appears more concerned about securing federal and state funding than meeting the transportation needs of the citizens of Spencer County.

Logsdon stated that the Council on Aging has done the research. He would like to accept their recommendation and continue to support their local solution. Rininger complimented the Council on doing a great job. Bunner reminded the commissioners that the Council on Aging holds their annual Walk-A-Thon on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and they are welcome to participate.

The meeting was recessed for a break at 9:40 am.

The commissioner meeting reconvened at 9:45 am.

#### Lincoln Bicentennial Jubilee

Chris Middleton and Debbie Thomason requested permission to use the courthouse for a Lincoln Era style show and luncheon as part of the Lincoln Bicentennial Jubilee on August 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> with set up in the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup>. They said the lunch would be set up on the rotunda and they would like to use a couple offices as dressing rooms for the participants. Rininger asked if security had been arranged. Middleton stated that they are working with both the Sheriff's department and the City of Rockport Police Department. Logsdon stressed the importance of having office personnel present in the offices being used. Thomason explained that Clerk GayAnn Harney and Deputy Assessor Donna Burrows are both part of the committee.

Logsdon made a motion to approve the request. Gogel seconded. All in favor.

#### Stimulus Projects

Tom Utter of LEDC was present and Lisa Gehlhausen was called to discuss the county projects which should be proposed for the stimulus money which will be available for the county. After many projects were discussed, Gehlhausen stressed the importance that the county have a prioritized list of their top ten projects. It was decided that the commissioners will continue the discussion at the conclusion of the meeting and a copy of the list will be forwarded to the papers if they are not able to stay for the discussion. The list will also be added to the end of the meeting minutes.

#### Storm Debris

The commissioners expressed their appreciation to Commonwealth Aluminum, owner of the former Barmet Aluminum property, for allowing Solid Waste to use the property as a storm debris collection site.

#### Santa Claus Intersection

Painter stated that JH Rudolph won the bid from the state to re-do the intersection of CR 1600N and SR 162 and they have asked if CR 1600N could be closed during construction. Painter spoke with Calvin Evans of INDOT and was told that the specs for the project included keeping the road open. Painter recommended keeping the road open. Logsdon stated the road should remain open but if during the final days of the project JH Rudolph

Commissioner Meeting 03/02/2009 cont.

would like to request a short term road closing for final paving, the commissioners may agree. Painter agreed that he would see no problem with a one day closing.

#### Highway Report

REC – Painter reported that he met with REC regarding the recent ice storm to put together a plan to be prepared for future emergencies. REC had a problem keeping fuel in their trucks due to being out for an extended time. REC asked if they could purchase fuel from the county in an emergency situation, which would save the time wasted returning to the REC building. Rininger stated that as long as it is logged he sees no problem with it. Painter also asked if REC could store equipment at the highway department if they have an emergency with their building. The commissioners agreed that if it will help the citizens of the county it is fine. Logsdon recommended that Painter put together an emergency plan. Rininger stated that it should be made part of the EMA Emergency Mitigation Plan.

Surveyor Vehicle – Painter obtained information on the value of the vehicle being borrowed from the highway by the Surveyor. Painter stated that the truck cost \$19,492.75 new. A tool box was added at a cost of \$325. The current Kelly Blue Book value is \$19,405. Painter also stated that there is a radio installed in the truck which would need to be removed if the truck is kept by the Surveyor. Lloyd stated that there was also a road counter installed in the truck which she would like to have moved to her vehicle.

Generator – Painter also researched the cost of various generators for the highway department. Discussion was had on what size would be needed in an emergency. Rininger stated he would like to have one big enough to support the highway department and the solid waste department. Logsdon disagreed saying that having the solid waste department running non-stop is not an emergency. Logsdon also suggested Painter ask Perdue to contact the Kentucky National Guard about obtaining a used generator. The commissioners asked for the issue to be put on the council agenda.

#### Cornerstone Identification

Mark Chamness, Licensed Surveyor, explained the process of how he identifies cornerstones for the county. Chamness stated that he would like to wait until a section is complete before he enters them into ThinkMap because he will then be able to spot discrepancies. Surveyor Herron stated that he would prefer that the information be turned in on the cornerstone sheets so they can be put in the books, so that even if they are not on ThinkMap they can still be used by the public. Chamness said a note stating that the cornerstone is subject to final approval should be added to the sheet.

Chamness also stated that he would like the county to purchase special markers for the “6-mile cornerstone”. He said they are more expensive but these are important monuments.

#### Engineer Report

Huffman Mill Bridge – Lloyd stated that both of the Huffman Mill Bridge grant applications have been submitted.

SR 231 – Lloyd stated that Calvin Evans of INDOT will be sending a revised PO regarding the payment for the old SR 231.

The meeting was recessed for the Drainage Board Meeting at 11:37 am.

The commissioner meeting reconvened at 12:09 pm

#### Legal Report

HB 1336 – Lueken reported that HB 1336, regarding county liability and ATV's, passed the House and has moved to the Senate.

SB 423 – He also reported that SB 423, regarding coal gasification, passed the Senate and has moved to the House.

Commissioner Meeting 03/02/2009 cont.

Pending Litigation – Lueken asked if the commissioners would approve moving to mediation in a pending EEOC case. Logsdon made a motion to proceed with mediation. Gogel seconded. All in favor.

Stimulus Projects – Prioritized List

**INDIANA ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN**

**Priority List of Proposed Projects in various Unincorporated Areas of Spencer County, IN**

**By: Spencer County Board of Commissioners**

**As of March 1, 2009**

**Economic Development Projects \***

**Priority Number One:**

Drainage improvement project south of Dale, IN for existing and future industry to preserve over 250 jobs, and expand employment at Thermwood Corporation and Spencer Industries

**Priority Number Two:**

Spencer County Public Safety Building and Emergency Operations Center near Chrisney, Indiana with an earthquake-proof and tornado-proof command structure to centralize and create efficiency in county emergency response and operations during and following tornadoes, winter storms, floods, earthquakes and other disasters

**Priority Number Three:**

Rail overpass at State Road 70 and County Road 800 N to facilitate port projects and new manufacturing by providing:

- a) rail access to riverfront intermodal logistics developments which does not jeopardize the health and safety of residents of the western half of the county
- b) access for emergency response crews to western half of Spencer County from dispatch headquarters while accommodating 200 jobs and a \$2 Billion project

**Priority Number Four:**

Spencer County Fairgrounds improvements to include ADA compliant restrooms, wastewater collection and treatment

**Priority Number Five:**

Stormwater improvements to alleviate flooding of industries and public facilities in Grandview, Indiana

**Priority Number Six:**

Create necessary emergency disaster shelter in St. Meinrad by upgrading the Harrison Township Community Center's roof and other structural features and acquisition of emergency generator

**Priority Number Seven:**

Luce Township Sewer District Project to open residential, commercial and industrial development opportunities in the vast southwestern portion of Spencer County currently not served by wastewater collection and treatment

**Priority Number Eight:**

Removal of log jams and other obstructions from the Anderson River in order to alleviate flooding along the eastern side of Spencer County, which has for decades suffered significant agricultural losses and damage to public roadways and other public infrastructure

**Priority Number Nine:**

Spencer County Fair Board fairgrounds Conference and Community Center to attract economic development from tourism events, and to accommodate trade shows and community activities

**Priority Number Ten:**

Firefighting equipment at New Boston Volunteer Fire Department to protect public and private property in southeastern Spencer County

**Priority Number Eleven:**

Railroad and River Port Construction of Mid America Terminals between Grandview's City Limits and the American Electric Power Rockport Plant, in order to open the major Mid America Terminals, Inc. intermodal, multi-commodity river port

**INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Spencer County Projects \***

**Priority Number One:**

County Road 200 N from County Road 125 W (Silverdale Road) to U.S. Highway 231, in order to accommodate creation of 200 new permanent jobs at a \$ 2.1 Billion investment

**Priority Number Two:**

Upgrade of County Road 350 N from County Road 125 W (Silverdale Road) eastward across the new fourlane U.S. Hwy 231, to State Road 66, in order to accommodate the economic development of Mid America Terminals river port, and Indiana Gasification on the west and east sides of U.S. Hwy 231, and to allow the Town of Grandview residents access to major thoroughfares

**Priority Number Three:**

Upgrade of Base Road from 0.5 mile north of State Road 66 northward to County Road 350 N, to accommodate Tri State Warehousing's logistics growth, Indiana Gasification's \$2.1 Billion project, Sceptre Mechanical, MPW and agricultural operations

\*May be supplemented and revised as additional information becomes available

Logsdon made a motion to adjourn. Gogel seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 pm.

Board of Commissioners,

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President

Attest:

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Cindy Shelton, Auditor

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