

Commissioner Meeting

August 5th, 2013 8:00 A.M.

Present: Rick Nobbe, Jerome Buening, John Richards

Chairman Nobbe called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The claims were approved as submitted and the minutes were approved as presented.

County Highway Superintendent Mark Mohr reported that they will be paving Bridge 18 within the next two to two and a half weeks.

Mr. Mohr also reported that Ron May/Aecon had been contracted by Enterprise for the pipeline project and that the company had also subbed some work out to Cripe Engineering who in turn subbed it out to Jenson and Spahn. Mr. Mohr confirmed that all of the firms are prequalified with INDOT.

The highway department is currently working on a culvert project on 700 south, just west of Letts. They have removed trees and dead limbs and have done some tile repair and will be widening that stretch. Overall, the area will be much safer when the project is complete.

Mr. Mohr reported that RW Armstrong has merged with CHA Company. RW Armstrong is contracted to do the Bridge 2 project but it will be under the new name. Mr. Mohr recommended that the Commissioners sign a document that would allow CHA to run the project through under the new business name. The Commissioners agreed with Mr. Mohr's recommendation.

Mr. Mohr presented a Utility Agreement with Frontier requesting permission to bore under CR 400 North between ST. RD. 3 and Moscow Road. Mr. Mohr said he didn't see any reason why the Commissioners shouldn't grant permission. The Commissioners agreed and signed the agreement.

Mr. Mohr reported that the St. Mary's 5K committee was requesting permission to close Millhousen Road from 300 South to the city/county line from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on August 24th. Approximately 250 walkers and runners have already signed up for the inaugural event. There was discussion of the proposed route. Mr. Nobbe pointed out that since this is the inaugural event, it might be wise to see how it plays out closing the road and that closure may not be needed in future years. Mr. Mohr said the highway department would post signage a week before forewarning of the closure and will have signage the day of the event. Mayor Herbert was present and there was some discussion about the plight of people living on the two mile stretch of road if it were closed. Mr. Nobbe said it was his understanding that there will be volunteers staged along the route to help manage those situations. The City's Board of Works will be discussing the same issue from the city perspective this evening. Discussion of potential numbers of participants and safety issues continued for a while. Mr. Mohr stated that advanced signage is the best way to make people aware. Mr. Nobbe reiterated that although road closure isn't something he'd favor as an annual event, from a safety point of view he feels that closing for this first time event will alleviate some of the risk. Mr. Nobbe requested that Mr. Mohr let him know of any costs incurred with the signage and he would pass that information on to the 5K committee. Mr. Nobbe will follow up with what the Board of Works decision is.

Mr. Nobbe read a letter from Ms. Janet Duvall that heaped praise upon the fine job that the County Highway Department did in response to a tree being down on County Road 500 South. She was highly complimentary of the extra detail the crew put into cleaning up the area and the shape that the site was left in when the crew was finished.

Mr. Rick Moore, Sandusky citizen was in to discuss a boundary issue between him and a neighbor and an alley that runs between their properties. He provided pictures of the area in question so the Commissioners would have a visual of the problem he was there to discuss. He wanted the county to have a survey done to show where the actual right of way area is in relationship to the alley. He was upset over the neighbor utilizing the alley as a private drive and that the neighbor trimmed Mr. Moore's bushes back from the alleyway. The neighbor has also privately paid to have gravel put on the alley and Mr. Moore complained that the gravel was getting into his yard and causing problems with mowing because it was larger sized stone.

Mr. Mohr, Highway Department Superintendent stated that the area in question is an alley owned by the county and that when small towns such as Sandusky were originally platted, alleys and streets were laid out with right of way taken into consideration. He also stated that the county usually expresses appreciation to private citizens that do anything to improve an alley, such as hauling in stone. Mr. Mohr went on to state that the bush-cutting situation is a civil issue and that the county's responsibility is making sure the ownership of the alley is clarified with adjacent landowners. Mr. Moore stated in his opinion, the neighbor feels he can dictate what goes up and down the alley since he laid the stone. Someone asked about the possibility of their being an "obstacle rule" that allows someone to trim back brush or limbs and it was agreed that something along that line does exist. It was also agreed that it is the landowners' responsibility to get legal surveys that delineate their property lines. Mr. Moore stated he cannot afford a survey and that he wants to know where the center of the alley is. Mr. Nobbe stated that the Commissioners will check with the County Surveyor to see what can be done and then will get in touch with Mr. Moore to let him know within 30 days. Mr. Moore gave his cell phone information to Tami Wenning.

Mr. Darren Covington, Carousel Play and Learn Center came before the commissioners to ask their permission for utilization of $\frac{3}{4}$ mile stretch of a county road for their 5K fundraiser. He has already appeared before the Board of Works and gotten their permission to use the city's portion of the planned route as if it were a construction zone. He shared the details of what the city had proposed. He also stated that Big Brothers/Big Sisters has utilized the same route and hasn't had to close the road. There was much discussion. The commissioners advised that Mr. Covington work with Mr. Mohr and decide the best course of action and they will revisit the discussion at the meeting on the 19th. Mr. Covington was advised to continue planning the event.

Mr. Nobbe received an agenda for the "Sister City" mission trip to China and stated that he will be unable to go but requested that Mr. Buening and Mr. Richards review the information and see if they would consider accompanying the Mayor to China.

Mr. Nobbe reviewed the Decatur County Inmate food Fund balance sheets and gave a copy to Tami for filing. Ms. Wenning also received copies of IDEM documents regarding Confined Feeding Operations in the county.

Mr. Nobbe asked Mr. Buening and Mr. Richards to review the annual report that was filed by Mr. Bob Barker of the Parks Department. Upon review, the gentlemen were asked to give the report back to Ms. Wenning so that she can file it.

Mr. Nobbe discussed a quote received for repair work on the east side of the courthouse entrance. It was determined that a leak in the tower is causing the problems that are visible in the east entrance. Water is blowing in and leaking down the tower wall. Bruns and Gutzwiller brought in a roofing specialist and the quote is for the interior area in the tower to be re-roofed, not to exceed \$7,910. The company is called Innovative Roofing. That quote doesn't cover the repair of the damaged plaster but does cover tuckpointing the brickwork and sealing the area from birds that Bruns and Gutzwiller will do. Mr. Nobbe asked for Mr. Richards' and Mr. Buening's approval. It

was agreed that the Courthouse Repair line item be used and if there weren't enough funds in there to cover it, to utilize Plans and Implementations.

Mr. Nobbe asked what the other two Commissioners thought about the Tourism department wanting to put a memorial on the square commemorating Carl Fisher. There was some explanation about Mr. Fisher's significance to the community and to the state of Indiana. The commissioners agreed it would be fine to place the memorial on the square.

Mayor Gary Herbert asked about a bridge on South East Street between St. Mary's and the Cemetery that poses a danger to children. He has received calls from a concerned citizen about the bridge. Mayor Herbert wondered if the highway department would be involved since it was a bridge issue. Mr. Nobbe said he would check with Mr. Mohr.

A letter from Millers Merry Manor was read that thanked the county for allowing their residents to fish and exonerating the county from any liability that should occur. This letter prompted Mr. Nobbe to state that the ADA plan currently being developed should encourage a special safe zone that would allow persons with disabilities safe access to the water's edge for fishing.

Ms. Wenning was given permission to allow Simplex Grinnell to test the alarms at the jail and the Sheriff's Department.

There was more brief discussion about China, and then Mr. Richards moved to recess. Mr. Buening seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, August 19th at 8:00 a.m.

Rick Nobbe, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____