

WARRICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM
107 W. Locust Street, Suite 303
Boonville, Indiana
February 24, 2025
4:00 P.M.

The Warrick County Commissioners met in regular session with Sarah Seaton, President; Stacey Franz, Vice President; and Terry Phillippe, Member.

Attorney Cliff Whitehead and Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearnsman were in attendance.

Chief Deputy Auditor Barbi Shelton and Recording Secretary Kristine Georges attended and recorded the minutes.

Commissioner Meetings can be viewed via YouTube: Warrick County Meetings

President Sarah Seaton called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AREA PLAN COMMISSION
REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF SURETY
REPLAT OF LOT 76 LEXINGTON ESTATES SUBDIVISION

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: You're up.

Area Plan Director Molly Barnhill: Okay, first item for the Area Planning Commission, we have one item tonight. It's a Request for Extension of Surety, replat of Lot 76 Lexington Estate Subdivision, by the First Federal Savings Bank, Michael Head President and CEO. We're holding a letter of credit in the amount of \$5,000.00 for street and drainage. They are requesting one year at the same amount and they've had this letter for seven years so far. The current letter expires March 27, 2025. And I did get the County Surveyor and the County Engineer to sign off on the dollar amounts.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Okay.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Okay.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: I'll make a motion to extend the surety.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: I will second that motion.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: We have a first and a second. All in favor?

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Aye.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Aye.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Aye. Carries 3-0.

(Lexington Estates Replat is located on Page 22 of these Official Minutes)

CONSENSUS FOR PRIVATE GRAVEL ROAD: NEWMASER LAKE

Area Plan Director Molly Barnhill: I do have one more thing. It was the consensus for a private gravel road on Newmaster Lake. This was tabled from your last meeting. I have nothing new to bring to you to show you, so I'm asking if we can remove this from the agenda and when they're ready to proceed, we'll just ask that you place it back on it.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Make a motion to remove this from the agenda.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: I will second that motion.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: First and a second. All in favor?

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Aye.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Aye.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Carries 3-0.

Area Plan Director Molly Barnhill: Okay, thank you.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Thank you.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Thanks, Molly.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
RELOCATION TO THE OLD COURTHOUSE**

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay, Items for Discussion. A few things here that I think that we have kind of been circling around for a little while, but I thought maybe it's time we get it on the agenda and actually have a discussion, not necessarily that a decision is going to be made tonight about this, although we might. But, I think it's time that we have some out loud discussions about it. So, first off is the Health Department. We all know that they moved temporarily to the building out by Walmart and continue to hold a lease there costing, I think, \$3,500.00 a month to the County. So, I'd like to talk about bringing them back into their area in the basement of the Courthouse. I think that it makes more sense for them to be centrally located with the other County offices, better accessible, and visible, I think, to the Citizens of Warrick County.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Do you want to say anything first, Terry?

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Go ahead.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: I am in agreement with that. I believe that financially, that Warrick County is not in a place to continue to hold the lease out at that building. Originally, when the Health Department was moved out of the building, it was due to radon. And I have not been privy to the radon discussions, but I have been in the basement since this all happened. I was gone for, I was gone for a couple months. But in December of 2023, I've been back in the basement in the Purdue Extension Office with my co-worker, the other Educators, the Veterans Department, we've all been in the basement. So, it was my understanding that the Health Department would be moved temporarily out to that location. It's just feasibly...now, we need to be good stewards of our money, and we are spending a lot of money for them to be out at that location. So, my response to that would be contingent upon the radon being mitigated, which, again, I just said that I have not been privy to the discussions about it, because I am on the litigation. But, with what I have been told, that it has been mitigated. That there are things that have happened to make it an environmentally safe area now. It's also my understanding that the Board of Health wants, wants the Health Department back in this building. I've not been privy to those conversations either because they feel that, the Board, the Health Department has been a controversy for me, which it is not. So, I went to the Health Department meeting and was able to learn some things there. But, just for those reasons alone, I believe that we just have to come together. We have all of this space. If it's radon free, if it is mitigated, if it is properly fixed where everyone's health is not at risk, I believe that we should be back in this building. I believe that we should be one team. We should be one group. We should be in the same area. And like I said, I'm down in the basement in Purdue Extension, and there's people coming in and out there all the time wanting a birth certificate, wanting a death certificate, and I have to say, oh, I'm sorry, they're not here. They're out at the Walmart area and then they have to pick up their baby and their stroller and all of that and go back out there. So, I'm not sure that the whole community sees them as that is their primary location, that that's, that that's where they're fixed, that that's where they're going to be. And so, to bring them back to this building, I know we've talked about moving some things in the Judicial Center even. There's just places where they can go, but I feel like moving them here fully, financially, from my perspective, is a, is being a good steward of the money that we have. It's going to be over a million dollars to buy that building.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: So, I do know that a concern is the, the status of the radon, what those levels are, what our plans are going forward for more mitigation of that. The Health Board did send a letter requesting more information so that they could decide on theirs, on their end, if they want the Health Department to remain out there or if they felt it was safe to come back here. So, Cliff prepared a letter for them upon which they made their decision that they would like to see the Health Department be brought back in house to, to this Courthouse. So, I'll let Cliff give some information.

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: Sure, this is an update on the radon efforts that the County have taken, has taken. Number one, we are continuing to monitor, on a weekly and then monthly basis, the radon levels of different areas within the Old Courthouse. That is being done by Popham Construction. And then Enviro Forensics is then analyzing that data to determine what, if any, remediation efforts need to be made and if any health risks are present. And so, we have been told by our expert that currently, not speaking about anything in the past, but currently, there are no health risks with the radon levels at any area within the Old Courthouse. However, working with that expert, the County is taking certain steps to remediate some of the radon levels in the basement of the Old Courthouse. And as it will be on the agenda a little later today, Popham Construction has agreed to perform that work, which hopefully will be done within the next week or two. And then finally, the, the County will continue to monitor the radon levels moving forward until a time where our expert says it's no longer necessary.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: So, I've got a couple of comments, and this is just for my perspective in the past before we move forward and I know we're not going to move forward tonight. I would like the Board of Health and the Board of Commissioners to review some of the diligence that's gone into the building that they're currently in. You know, they were moved out there temporarily. At the same time, it's a really good location for them with the Health First Indiana things that they are tasked with from the State. That should increase their capacity. They're going to need a more appropriate space than what's in the basement, I believe. I would like the Board of Health and the Board of Commissioners to review the appraisals that were done, the work that went into those, and there could be some additional work that goes into those, in my opinion, I believe those are finished. And then there was a short term, not a, short form, I should say short form return on investment, provided that building could be paid off in less than three years. And that is a good investment, if everybody deems it appropriate. I don't necessarily, that's not a hill I'm going to die on, but I think it deserves the attention of what's been done towards that end goal. So, that's all I've got to say.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: So, I'll address kind of, a little bit of that. I do appreciate the efforts that have gone into the building and the research that's been done, the appraisals. I would like to look at that separately from the issue of where the Health Department should be located. If that building is a good investment for the County, I think that we can pursue that. But, I don't think that we make the decision where the Health Department should be as reason to purchase the building. I do agree, I mean, if that return on investment is that great, then maybe we do have

a use for it. As far as space, there is additional space that is available in the basement, just kind of keeping in mind that the Health Department was never moved or relocated temporarily because of lack of space. That was never an issue that was brought forward. It was simply for the safety concerns with the radon. So, I don't want to use space or square footage as a reason to not move back in, because it wasn't the reason that they were moved out. If there's additional space that's needed, there is additional room down there that can be appropriated to the Health Department. I assume there's going to be some public comment. Yes, please.

Dr. James Heinrich: These are all the...

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Can you identify...

Dr. James Heinrich: I'm Dr. Heinrich, I'm sorry. I'm the Health Officer. And I'm not, I wasn't here when it was here. So, I'm speaking really with maybe not as much knowledge as I should. But, I'm just going to pass out the effects of the moving back, from where we are right now is very nice, very beneficial. And there's several reasons for that. We've had multiple, we've had multiple surveys of people who are very, very happy with us being out there. I don't know if I need to read this into the minutes or not. Do I? No?

County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearsman: I think (inaudible) idea.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: I don't think so.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: You want to...

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Unless you want to.

Dr. James Heinrich: Well, the radar numbers are still high. That's why we moved.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: That's....

Dr. James Heinrich: Other counties in the Courthouse, that are not in the Courthouse are Perry, Dubois, Posey, and Vanderburgh. The convenience of being able to do all food truck inspections at our office near Walmart, not having to go to the fairgrounds or park, being able to inspect food trucks here, also allows us to be more accommodating when scheduling these appointments. It's been a complaint lately that we're not accommodating. Accessibility of the office on evening and weekends. Office space storage for our new filing cabinets that accommodate our new organized filing system and new furniture. Office space to add a third inspector, and if, you know, part of the problem here is we've been told that we need to expand. Well, we're not going to be able to expand unless we're out there.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: With all due respect, you don't, you've not seen the basement, I guess.

Dr. James Heinrich: Well, with all due respect, I have not seen the basement. Would anyone like to comment on that?

Public Health Nurse Ragina Hudson: I can real quick. I know that, I'm Regina Hudson. I'm a Nursing Supervisor for the Health Department. Prior to radon, we were actually, our Administrator at the time was actually looking for more locations for us because of the funding that was going to come in. We were supposed to hire a lot of new employees. So, we actually were looking for a facility to expand and have the bigger building to accommodate so we can provide the services for the HFI funding that's required. But then radon came through and it was just kind of an emergent to get somewhere.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Yeah. Okay. I know there were plans to renovate down there and expand the space down there is what my understanding for the HFI funding was.

Dr. James Heinrich: The access for us out there is incredibly better than here. And I'm talking about for elderly people or for people that have babies. So, just the convenience of access for me, not me, but for the people. I mean, the other things, funeral homes have expressed the convenience of our location. We work better out there. Convenience for the public and the entire department in one office. Again, if we move, then we have confusion again. No room to increase services at the Courthouse. Now, you've said that there are, there is word, but right now, there's no privacy, or at least when they were here before, they had to do the STDs and pregnancy tests, testing in the public bathrooms. So, no privacy.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: I assume you mean that the, that the individual had to get the sample in the bathroom. There was no examination done in the bathroom, correct?

Health Department Member from Audience: We weren't able to provide those services because we did not have privacy.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: There's an exam room.

Public Health Nurse Ragina Hudson: No, (inaudible). The tops of the walls were open down there. (Inaudible) ventilation purposes. No, no privacy.

Dr. James Heinrich: No safety for staff and other patients when communicable diseases are present. No secure storage for sharps in a clinical care environment. No storage for meds and other clinical supplies. And both of our offices, which were separate down there, apparently, I'm not familiar with it, but now having everybody together. It's very, very convenient for us and provides a better understanding.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: And I agree with a lot of these things. I know that on, one of the things that we looked at was moving the Purdue Extension Office and then basically all the basement belongs to the Health

Department, vital records and the Health Department itself. And I know the HFI Funds are still available for the renovations that, that were deemed necessary then. So, I think still, we can...

Dr. James Heinrich: But don't we still, Regina, don't you when you drive by you see the radon levels high?

Public Health Nurse Ragina Hudson: The one for down there (inaudible).

Dr. James Heinrich: The monitor down there says the radon level's still high. I don't know. Anyway, thank you.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Thank you.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Dr. Heinrich, how often are you open on the evenings and the weekends I see that this is on your list as well.

Tina Latham: That was in reference to...

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: (Inaudible).

County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearsman: Whoever's talking come up, please.

Tina Latham: Tine Latham, I'm the Environmental Health Person. And we use the weekends, and we use the evenings to come in when we have events and stuff like that. And some of our facilities don't open up until after 4:00pm.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: You mean just the events for inspecting like food trucks and...

Tina Latham: Food trucks and stuff like, things that happen on the Saturday mornings, we have to go and do those inspections, which requires us to stop at the office to gather our belongings and get all of our paperwork together. Sorry.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: You're fine.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: You're fine.

Tina Latham: And the other part of that is the evenings, there's times we get an inspection that those places don't either open up 'til four o'clock or we will start at two. But, the more problems you see, I mean, if you're out there and you're with us and you're seeing what's happening, the more problems you see, the longer you're stuck in that inspection. Well, now the truck has to go all the way back to the office, plus put all your belongings away and write the reports that you need to write.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: So, you mean, you're doing your inspections there at the...

Tina Latham: No, not at the office, but I do it at the site.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: So, what's different right now than when you are here?

Commissioner Stacey Franz: It says evenings and week, your accessibility of the office on evenings and weekends?

Tina Latham: Yes, because right now I don't have it, right now we don't have the accessibility. I'm assuming, the key cards be reinstated at that point if we were to come back.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: (Inaudible) Yeah.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Well, of course.

Tina Latham: Yeah, but out there, it's just easier, you know, we come in and out, get what we need and go back out again, so, but that's my point with that is just...

Commissioner Stacey Franz: And I'm not arguing that there are pluses to be out there, but I think financially, we just can't keep continuing to be there.

Tina Latham: I get what you're saying, I really do. But, I do see a huge convenience to the community. The extra parking that's out there, you know, that people can come in and out. The accessibility, you know, not the stairs. I know we have the one entrance over here that people don't always, they don't, sometimes miss. They have to go around till they get to that point to get into the elevator. But if you're all going to be downstairs, I get that too. But the accessibility...

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Yeah, cause, there's ramps on either side.

Tina Latham: Side, yeah.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Well, there's three ramps actually. Yeah.

Tina Latham: But it's just, it opens up a lot more, opens up more space for people to be able to park and stuff too. You know, it's a lot more convenient. Because if these spots are all taken up around here, then people have to park in the parking lot that's over here. They have to park over here and come all the way back in, which it just is a convenience in that sense, too.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: I mean, I get that, but every department can say that.

Tina Latham: Yeah, probably so. But that's just the thought I have.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: I know and I appreciate the thought that everybody put into putting this list together.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Did you talk to the, did the Board of Health talk to you about this?

Tina Latham: No.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Cause it's my understanding they did.

Tina Latham: No.

Public Health Nurse Ragina Hudson: No.

Tina Latham: We were not spoke to about this.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Okay.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: I'm gonna add an additional comment here. You know, to the point of the financial end of this, again, I just want everybody to look at the numbers. Just examine them. Cast your own judgement. The building can be paid for in less than three years and then from there, if the other tenants that are in that building stay, then the County as the building owner collects that revenue and it can become a stream of revenue.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: I still look at this as two separate issues. One being where should the Health Department be for continuity. And I'm going to go out on a limb and say that Perry, Dubois, Posey and Vanderburgh, their Health Departments are probably not located someplace that's costing the County \$3,500.00 a month. They're probably located in a County-owned building is my guess. And if that were the case here, I wouldn't, that would be absolutely fine. It's that the cost of it, the accessibility, I know you guys say it's accessible, and I get that once you get there, you know, it's, it is easy to get in and out of that building, but it's just the public doesn't know you're there. And, you know, I get that the office space, storage for your new filing cabinets, and new furniture, you all bought that stuff instead of taking what was here there and using it. So, I don't think that I want to make a decision about accommodating new furniture as a reason to stay out there. So.

Amanda Mosiman: Amanda Mosiman, representative for Purdue Extension. If it's going to be a viable option that we're going to talk about moving Purdue Extension, as you guys look to see where you're gonna fit with that, it would be nice for us to be on the front end of that process. Cause that was definitely some news to me in the back.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: You absolutely will be. You definitely will be.

Amanda Mosiman: So, okay, if that ends up being a viable option, and if we need to get some stuff together on what our requirements are, we can do that for you.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Yeah. Cause right now, you guys aren't, you're not here, correct?

Amanda Mosiman: According to Purdue University clientele, which three out of the five, our County staff is here full time 8:00 am to 4:00 pm like normal.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay.

Amanda Mosiman: And actually, I've been back since December. But, Purdue has told us, due to the health concerns that until we know they are ratified, and our lawyer has told us to stay from the building. But we are still providing services in its entirety to the County. So, but yes, we're hopeful to get that remedied and back in our spaces as soon as possible.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Thank you. Any further discussion on that?

Chris Stevens: I'm Chris Stevens. I'm the Operations Officer for EMA. I just have a quick question. It seems like there's some confliction between one person saying the radon levels are good, other people saying the radon levels are not good. So, my question is, on the data that the County has on their website, what is that number? What are we, what we measuring in? Cause for, just for example, the EMA Admin Office, I have a rolling average of 0.5 but it doesn't tell me what that 0.5 is.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Picocuries per liter.

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: So, what I'd be happy to do is you want to reach out to me directly. I can take you through that, and more specifically, with our expert take you through that as well. Again, we are not experts in radon. We rely on our experts to let us know.

Chris Stevens: Sure.

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: It's a transparent process, so we'd be happy to fill you in. We've informed Purdue Extension by letter. I've been in touch with their attorney and then we informed the Board of Health as well. But, anyway, long story short, just reach out to me via email and I'll get you in touch with the person you need to talk to.

Chris Stevens: Okay, I was just curious as to why that information isn't listed. It's just the number. But, that could be, you know what I'm saying? It's just kind of hard to understand what you're actually reading.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: That's understandable.

Chris Stevens: And, what did you say, Terry?

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Picocuries per liter.

Chris Stevens: Okay, picocuries per liter. Okay, thank you.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay, so, are we done discussing that? Bring it up for a decision at a later time. Is there a motion? Okay.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: The next is in regard to Human Resources. Not long before, but before taking office after, after winning the election, one of the first things I did was start to visit the departments to find out what's working, what's not working, what the needs are, what the wants are, and what the ideas and goals for each department would be. And one of the recurrent themes was frustration with our payroll process, kind of from start to finish. Every two weeks, it's kind of being an ongoing headache. So, we've been working to fix that. And I think we're making lots of, lots of headway in each department being able to get what they need in HR handling that part and Auditor's Office doing their part and everybody working together. But there did seem to still be a disconnect between Human Resources and what that that role is and the Auditor's Office and Payroll and what that role is and the communication between the departments. So, in speaking with the Auditor, it was recommended that Human Resources just physically be relocated into the Auditor's Office space for continuity of the flow of this, from hiring a new, a new person, all the way through the HR, the payroll process, and then any life changes that need to happen. You know, everybody is just right there in the same office to communicate these things, as well as having that HR person more easily accessible to where most of the employee's work, which is in the Judicial Center. So, this would just be a physical relocation of an office from this building to the Judicial Center into the Auditor's Office. This would not be any reassignment of who the Human Resources Director would be reporting to. So, that, that was the recommendation from the Auditor's Office. I think it's a good idea for, for communication and continuity.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: That was my understanding as well in speaking to Mike Dietsch, that he felt, that there, if there was an issue on one end, instead of waiting for an email or waiting or going across the street, that person would be right there, and they'd be working hand in hand so that issues could be resolved easily instead of waiting for that to take place. I know that we've had several meetings as a collective staff with the people that needed to be in place, working out a procedure to make sure that things go more smoothly. That just needs to happen. Because from the time that we, I took office, people just are upset about payroll. Everybody wants their money. Everybody wants to be paid on time. Everybody wants that to, to work. And I feel like having that direct relationship with the other half, because there's, like, two halves of it. One half is over here; one half is over there. If they work side by side, then obviously it's going to bring the flow and the continuity that they all want to see happen.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Just gonna say one thing, I don't think payroll tasks are a large percentage of the HR job and moving that office across the street to better facilitate what little communication needs to happen once the wrinkles are ironed out is not a reason to move the entire office across the street. And I'll just leave that at that.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: And there were a couple of other reasons. One is traffic flow. You know, a lot of people come over here into the Commissioner's Office for HR reasons and not that we don't want people in the Commissioner's Office, but it also does make it difficult for, you know, the non-HR people to do their work. So, I think that having that person, you know, more accessible in the Judicial Center just makes a little bit more sense. The other part of my recommendation would be, then to make the, right now the HR person is the Assistant Administrator/HR, and that title has been that way for a year. And as Terry even said, it's just such a, the HR job is so busy and so inclusive that she's not even been able to learn the tasks of being that Administrative Assistant or Assistant to the Administrator. So, I think removing that title, that extra burden, would also be beneficial for her. Because I know there's a lot of frustration that, you know, there's, there's a job that needs to be done that she's not able to even get to because the HR is, is so time consuming. So, that would be my other part of that, of that suggestion.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: I agree.

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: And just, if I may, real quickly. So, if we're going to change a title, which we can do subject to the approval of the County Council pursuant to the salary ordinance. So, if this will ultimately be a motion, I respectfully suggest it be two different motions. And the first, you can absolutely, as Commissioners, move her physical location, or HR's physical location wherever. But the title or removal of title would have to be subject to the approval of the County Council.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay, thank you. Any further discussion on that? Make a...

Commissioner Stacey Franz: I will make a motion to relocate the HR position to be in the Auditor's Office.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Terry, (inaudible) wanna second that? I'll make a second. So, we have a first and a second. All in favor?

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Aye.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: I have a statement to make.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Want to make a statement on this. When I first ran for this office, I made a commitment to do is what was right for the right reasons. I firmly believe that I have honored that commitment. It's with that conviction, and despite the County Counsel's advice, that I feel compelled to address this issue. I believe it represents an unjust action, specifically, it is unfair to HR. I spent the entire weekend reflecting on this and I cannot remain silent. It would be wrong of me to do so. I feel strongly about this matter. I've served on this board for over

six years and I'm not entirely certain where this conversation began, who's driving it, or why. All I know is it goes against what I believe to be right, therefore, I'm insisting that we continue the dialogue in a productive way that it fair to all involved with the goal of addressing and resolving any issues whether they're real or perceived. I believe if we take this approach it will satisfy everyone. I want my comments today noted verbatim in the minutes of today's meeting. As a matter of fact, I'd like this entire meeting to be recorded verbatim. That's all.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: And Terry, I know how you feel. I know you, I know how you feel about this and I respect that and I respect your opinion. The issue is when brought to me, I was told that these issues are ongoing for a year and a half now, and they've been brought forward in the past and not resolved. So, I don't know that ongoing dialog is going to do anything, but just keep pushing this down, down the road, and maybe time will prove that this was not necessary. It wasn't the right decision. But, I do know that for the last eighteen months, issues have been ongoing without any resolution.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: I have nothing to add.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay. So, we have a first and a second. All in favor?

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Aye.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Aye. Opposed?

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: I'm opposed.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Motion carries 2-1 (with Commissioner Terry Phillippe opposing).

COMMISSIONERS' ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: The third item for discussion is in regards to...

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: I'm going to ask for a recess real quick.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Certainly.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Motion to make a recess.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Second that?

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Second.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: All in favor? Aye? Okay. Recess.

(The meeting recessed from 4:32 pm to 4:37 pm).

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Okay, make a motion to enter back into the meeting.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Second.

County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearsman: Terry, is your mic on?

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: First and a second, I think I muted you. So, we have a first and a second to resume. All in favor?

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Aye.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Aye.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Aye. Carries 3-0.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: So, the last thing on the items for discussion, I think that's the last, was the Commissioners' Administrative Assistant modification of job title. And again, this is just going to have to be a discussion because Counsel advised, this, if we do decide to do this, it has to go before the County Council for approval. But, that would be to, well, this is two parts also. Number one, if anybody knows where Dana is located as you first step into the Commissioners' Office, I'm not sure how she gets anything done. She is the gatekeeper of that door and that's not her job. She's almost a receptionist type situation and she is not a receptionist. She has routine job duties and responsibilities and everybody just loves to come and talk to her. And I'm sure she loves everybody, but at the same time, it's very difficult. So, by moving Human Resources from that office, we do free up an office space for Dana to have an actual office with a door and some privacy to do the things that she needs to do. And then along with that, down the line I would like to have her have the title of the Assistant Administrator. So, that's, for now, it's just logistics moving her in there. I think it's a good idea. And I don't know that that takes an act of, does it?

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: No, logistics, no.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Any discussion on that? We good? Okay.

**ACTION AGENDA
APPROVAL OF MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2025**

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: So, next, Agenda Item, Action Item, is that where we are? Yep, Action Item. Approval of the Minutes from February 10, 2025, if you had the opportunity to review those. Do I have a motion to accept?

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Motion.

County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearsman: Commissioner Seaton, there is one mistake in those.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: The, the, Terry Phillippe.

County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearsman: It's the very beginning. Yeah. Page one.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Yeah. This right here. That just needs to be changed.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Oh, okay.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Make a motion to approve the minutes, except the error for correction.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: I will second that motion.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay, we have a first and a second. All in favor?

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Aye.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Aye.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Aye. Carries 3-0.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
CONSENT AGENDA
PAYROLL VOUCHER – AP VOUCHER – FINE & HATFIELD CLAIM**

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: County Administrator.

County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearsman: Yes, ma'am. First item I have is Payroll Voucher in the total sum of \$691,042.75, the Accounts Payable Voucher in the amount of \$3,234,715.03, and a claim from Fine and Hatfield, who was approved at the beginning of the year to do work, as far as radon is concerned, and their claim for the month is \$845.00. I'm going to stop right there right now.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Debbie, the claim from Fine and Hatfield is that for the re...litigation?

County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearsman: Radon, yes.

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: And I did look at it.

County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearsman: You should have a copy in there.

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: And to me, it is consistent with the scope of their work.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Okay, I read it, I just didn't, okay. I will make a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Second.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: First and second. All in favor?

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Aye.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Aye.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Aye. 3-0.

(Payroll is located on Page 21 of these Official Minutes)

(Certified Claims are located on Pages 19 through 21 of these Official Minutes)

(Fine & Hatfield Claim are located on File in the Auditor's Office)

MERISTEM PERMIT APPLICATION FOR THE COUNTY HIGHWAY GARAGE PROJECT

County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearsman: And the last item I have is the Meristem permit application, and that application pertains to the County Highway Garage Project, the preliminary. Byron, did you want to come up and talk about it at all? Or you want me too?

Byron Sanders: We talked about...

County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearsman: State your name.

Byron Sanders: I'm Byron Sanders and I work for Project Partnerships, represent the County in several projects. We talked about, the other day, that we're trying to just do a feasibility study for the County Garage to see if, you know, the funding, and some of the critical things that need to be approved and we're getting those items together. One of the critical key tasks is make sure the property is, can be developed. So, we're ready to submit a permit to the Corps of Engineers and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management that will identify, there's a stream that runs across the southern property, and this stream should mitigate the wetland issues if it drains properly, the rip rap. We've got a sixty-two-page application and we need the Commissioners to sign that document and, and then we'll get the information back that says, I feel confident that, we'll get it back that says, everything's fine. And then we can go on to some of the other issues. So, it's just a step along the way of the feasibility for the County Garage Project.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Thank you.

Byron Sanders: Any questions?

Commissioner Stacey Franz: No, I read through it. Did you read through it?

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Yes. I continue to appreciate all the information that you give us on this.

County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearsman: Motion...

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Need a motion?

County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearsman: Yeah.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Make a motion to approve the Meristem permit application.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: I will second that.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: First and second. All in favor?

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Aye.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Aye.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: (Inaudible).

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Carries 3-0.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST DISCLOSURE FORM - SHERIFF

County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearsman: The next thing, it's not, I don't know it's exactly on my agenda, but we have received another conflict-of-interest disclosure form from Sheriff Wilder. I have the form with me today. Want to officially bring it in front of the meeting, have the commissioners approve it, and then we will get it filed with the Clerk and the Auditor.

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: And I reviewed it too. We just need to accept it. No motion is necessary.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Thank you.

County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearsman: That's all I have.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Thank you.

(All Conflict-of-Interest Forms are found on Indiana Gateway)

ACQUISITIONS ADMINISTRATOR ADDITION OF CERTIFIED MAIL WITH RETURN RECEIPT FEATURE FOR POSTAGE MACHINE

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Acquisitions Administrator. Sherrie just had a birthday, everybody. (Inaudible), and Terry's is Thursday (inaudible).

Acquisitions Administrator Sherrie Sievers: Thank you for sharing that, Commissioner. Sherrie Sievers, Purchasing Administrator. And I have three items on the agenda tonight. The first one is, at the last meeting, we had tabled the new postage machine, adding the return receipt feature on there for \$2,895.00. And then, of course, an additional annual subscription based on the amount of return receipts required. I did receive a response from Ellen Sprinkle at Superior Court I regarding my email sent February 10th. Ellen explained that the use of the Clerk's Office to send out documents with signature confirmation when serving court documents. For several years, this method has been employed as a more, by using the Clerk's Office, as the more cost-efficient alternate, alternative to certified mail. On rare occasions, they may send a document via certified mail to Indiana Supreme Court, but the department covers the expense for those cases. So, in conclusion from Ellen, adding the return receipt feature to the current posting machine for their office would not be justified because they don't use it enough. Since our last Commissioners' meeting, I have received no further responses from the other departments regarding the use of that,

how many they use. So, at this time, I would kindly request approval to pause any further pursuit on this matter, unless it's brought up again in the future.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Counsel, is that a motion to remove it from the agenda?

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: You don't need a motion. But...

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: I will make the motion.

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: Yeah, whatever you want to do.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Make a motion to remove it from the agenda, please.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: I will second that motion.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: First and second. All in favor?

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Aye.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Aye.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Carries 3-0. Thank you.

Acquisitions Administrator Sherrie Sievers: Thank you, Commissioners.

OPEN BIDS FOR JUDGE GRANGER'S PROJECT

Acquisitions Administrator Sherrie Sievers: The next item on my agenda is opening bids for Judge Granger's Project. The bid process I'm representing today mirrors the same one I conducted back in August of 2024. Due to significant workloads faced by contractors at that time from the aftermath of the tornado event during that period, we received no bids. In accordance with Indiana Code, 36-1-12-5, which governs Public Works Projects estimated to cost under \$50,000.00, I've reached out to qualified companies to solicit their bids. Furthermore, to enhance participation, I published a notice to the bidders in the newspaper. First notice was January 30, 2025; second notice was February 6, 2025. And I'm pleased to announce that I invited three companies and that would be Metal Fabrication, LLC; Mark Schmidt Construction; and Chapman Construction. Unfortunately, we've received, once again, zero bids.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Wow.

Acquisitions Administrator Sherrie Sievers: Yeah.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Who was the first in (inaudible)...

Acquisitions Administrator Sherrie Sievers: That's Metal Fabrication, LLC. And they had sent a notice requesting to bid that.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: How do you spell that. I don't recognize that. How you spell?

Acquisitions Administrator Sherrie Sievers: Metal Fabrication.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Metal Fabrication?

Acquisitions Administrator Sherrie Sievers: Uh huh. So, unfortunately, we've not received any. In accordance with Indiana Code 36-1-12 and Indiana Code 5-22-10-10, I believe that pursuing a vendor through competitive bidding for this specific project of constructing a separate wall within Judge Granger's Administration Office is no longer feasible or viable. I have attempted to seek proposals twice and have not received any quotes on the proposal. Therefore, as Purchasing Agent, I'm requesting the Commissioners' approval for me to seek a quote from vendors or contractors in the open market. I will present this quote to the Commissioners at an upcoming board meeting. If you agree, I kindly ask that you make a motion authorizing me to seek a quote in the open market. Additionally, I would be grateful if the Commissioners could sign my written statement for my records in accordance with Indiana Code that we can keep in our file that we followed the procedures precisely. And I have on the back of your papers there, I do have your Indiana Codes. It explains, you know, what we can do moving forward. I have conferred with Legal, with Aaron Allen, and so, we followed it completely as we should.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Make a motion for to go on to the open market and solicit a bid to get Judge Granger's wall built.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Yes, I will second that motion.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: First and second. All in favor?

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Aye.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Aye.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Aye. 3-0.

Acquisitions Administrator Sherrie Sievers: Thank you.

RADON REMEDIATION

Acquisitions Administrator Sherrie Sievers: And the last thing that I have on my agenda this evening is, has to do with Radon Remediation. At this time, as a Purchasing Agent of Warrick County, I declared the proposal submitted by Gourley and Sons in response to the County's request for proposal for removal and replacement of the concrete flooring in the Purdue storage room as non-responsive as of 5:00 pm on Friday, February 14th, due to Mr. Gourley not providing the required certified insurance naming the County as an additional insured. This was a listed requirement under the terms of the RFP. Due to that non-responsive proposal, I contacted the next lowest bidder, Popham Construction. I have worked with the Legal Department through each step of this process to negotiate and prepare proposed contracts. That proposed contract has been approved by the Legal Department and is ready for consideration by the Commissioners. I asked the Commissioners two things. First, we need to ratify the actions in accordance with Indiana Code 36-1-4-16, which permits the ratification of any action if the action could have been approved in advance. And I also asked for approval of the contract with Popham Construction for the removal and replacement of the concrete flooring in the Purdue storage area. I don't know, Debbie, if you've got the contract up there.

County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearsman: Yes, I do.

Acquisitions Administrator Sherrie Sievers: The total for that is \$17,500.00.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: So, Sherrie, what, what piece of this are we ratifying again? The non-responsive?

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: Yes, if I may...

Acquisitions Administrator Sherrie Sievers: Yes, please.

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: Yes. That is absolutely correct, Commissioner Phillippe. It is the first portion of that to declare it non-responsive, which she already did. We sent notice, written notice to Mr. Gourley, unfortunately, did not hear back. And so, then took it upon, working with us, to negotiate with Popham. We now have an agreement that's in line with our services agreement that we are using, and Popham has agreed to that. So again, sorry, to answer your question is the first half of that.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: So, you good with one motion to cover all?

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: I am, yes.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Make motion to ratify Gourley and Son's proposal as non-responsive and to award the contract to Popham Construction and thereby approve the service agreement with Popham Construction in the magnitude of \$17,500.00.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: And I will second that motion.

Acquisitions Administrator Sherrie Sievers: Thank you, Commissioners.

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: We need to vote.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: All in favor?

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Aye

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Aye.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: (Inaudible) (Motion carried 3-0).

Acquisitions Administrator Sherrie Sievers: Thank you, Commissioners.

(Popham Construction Agreement is located on File in the Auditor's Office)

COUNTY HIGHWAY/ENGINEER SAMSARA PRICING AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

County Engineer Bobby Howard: Thank you. The first item I have is the Samsara Pricing and Executive Summary. Our current GPS Fleet Management Telematics vendor has been kind of non-responsive in regards to customer service. So, we were looking at a different vendor. And I found in talking with local counties, they are using Samsara for their fleet management and maintenance, telematics, GPS, and also some forward-facing dash cameras. And I got a rough quote together for that with the dash cameras of \$12,909.12 and that is a three-year contract and that is the price per year. Basically, if you do approve this, I guess, can we just have it where the contract could be improved subject to legal review tonight, so that we don't have to come back, or, can we get that process rolling? Because right now, it's just a basic proposal and not the contract and agreement. But this would give us the ability to live stream some of the routes and snow plows. We can also see when the spreaders are on and off, so that we know a road's been treated or not treated. And it'll show me our whole road network at one time of what vehicles have been where, where our current provider only does one vehicle at a time.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Can we live stream like INDOT does?

County Engineer Bobby Howard: We, possibly, possibly. Yes.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: It's kind of addicting to watch.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Bobby, I have a couple of questions. Are the old devices out of contract and off, canceled?

County Engineer Bobby Howard: I have not canceled them yet, because we were, there's a process to get these together, and I still use them until then.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Okay. I don't think we're under contract.

County Engineer Bobby Howard: I'm not aware of a contract.

County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearsman: I told him that we weren't.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: So, we can cancel without cause then?

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: We should be able to, yeah, I don't know what the rules are with them. But, I'm not real fond of a three-year contract. Did you get equipment subsidies of some sort to get a three-year contract to justify it?

County Engineer Bobby Howard: They had a three and a five is what they normally look at. And they did have some discounts in regards to the equipment. And then they replace anything as well.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Okay.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: That's good.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: I'm good with it.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Is that a motion?

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: I'll make a motion to approve.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: I will second the motion to approve.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: First and second. All in favor?

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Aye.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Aye.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: 3-0.

County Engineer Bobby Howard: Thank you.

(Samsara Contract is located on File in the Auditor's Office)

WAIVER OF APPLICATION FOR IDEM JOE BEARD AND SONS

County Engineer Bobby Howard: The next item I have is, was tabled from the last meeting. And I believe Joe Beard is here, and he had sent a letter or email in to discuss this further and what they were trying to do. And again, I've commented on this that I have no issue with where they want to be in relation to the road right-of-way. Our current standards would allow buildings and anything else there right now. So, they are not in any kind of violation of any setbacks. It's just the IDEM requirement.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Joe, before you start here, let me, let me ask a couple questions of Bobby. So, this is on what border of the property, north, south, east or west?

County Engineer Bobby Howard: South, I guess you'd say near Prospect.

Mr. Joe Beard: Well, depends, I would say it's on the east.

County Engineer Bobby Howard: Southeast.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: That's what I would say.

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: Could you introduce yourself, please?

Mr. Joe Beard: Yeah. Joe Beard. Actually, northeast.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: It's on the roadside, right?

Mr. Joe Beard: It's on the roadside.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: That's probably a better question.

Mr. Joe Beard: Yeah, in between, so, we got the three properties there. Two of them have entrances to the property. The third, the south property, does not have an entrance, but we're looking at putting, we want to put the holding facility, holding tanks at that, in between the two entrances.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Is this what's marked Option 2B? Or what does...? Can you...

Mr. Joe Beard: I'd have to look and see what you're looking at, I'm sorry.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: This schematic here.

Mr. Joe Beard: Can I come up there?

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Yes, show me where you're...

Mr. Joe Beard: This is the road.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay. Oh, perfect, thank you.

Mr. Joe Beard: Even better.

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: For the record, that was Cliff's even better iPad.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Such a perfect world. Okay, so there, is this Prospect, right there?

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: Be careful with the pen.

Mr. Joe Beard: Where these four cars, there...

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: Sir, I'm not joking.

Mr. Joe Beard: Where those four cars, there in that area.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: So, right here.

Mr. Joe Beard: Between this entrance and that entrance.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay, and then what is, this is all industrial?

Mr. Joe Beard: Yeah.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay, the residential's back there, residential.

Mr. Joe Beard: The residential is back behind that levy wall that...

Commissioner Stacey Franz: So, you're wanting to have a separation from the residential and the industrial primarily.

County Engineer Bobby Howard: It meets IDEM requirements for distance from residential.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay.

Mr. Joe Beard: I tell you, the hurdles that IDEM is putting us through is...

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Okay, it meets IDEM.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: And this is just because your parking area is so close to the road and there's no other place to put it.

Mr. Joe Beard: It's in order to get away from these at 600 feet from these houses.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay.

Mr. Joe Beard: Then we'll get with the variance from, for the road. The variance from our industrial neighbors. (Inaudible).

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: So, what is the what is the requirement? What is the setback requirement?

County Engineer Bobby Howard: Well, we don't have any from the County.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: And what does he want...right. IDEM, does.

County Engineer Bobby Howard: IDEM is requiring 300 feet.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Which is 300. And you are wanting it...

Mr. Joe Beard: If I was to be 300 from the road...

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: What are you asking us to...? How close are you going to be?

County Engineer Bobby Howard: From the edge of the road, it's roughly 45, 40-45 feet, I think.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay.

County Engineer Bobby Howard: From the edge of the actual pavement, I believe. But, they're outside of any easement on the property for the location they're looking at.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay. Cliff wants his iPad before I mess it up.

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: Sir, did you get your pen back?

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: It was Terry's.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: I got it.

Mr. Joe Beard: It was...

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: Oh.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay. So, the biggest reason that you want the variance is to move it, to get it as far away from the residential as possible.

Mr. Joe Beard: Correct.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: And, it's temporary holding, but it's going to be a long-term investment for you?

Mr. Joe Beard: Oh, yeah.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay, so it's going to be there temporarily, but then recycled out and more brought in?

Mr. Joe Beard: Correct.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay, so it's going to be permanent...?

Mr. Joe Beard: It'd be a permanent structure, but a tank, it's a concrete structure with tanks setting inside it to hold it if anything was to ever happen, a valve busts or freeze up, crack, anything like that, that tank form will hold.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Self-contained.

Mr. Joe Beard: It is self-contained, correct.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Correct.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Joe, I apologize. You've probably already answered this, if not this year, maybe last year. So, the grease and oil is going to go in these things. Is this going to be an environment where we pick up the car wash loads as well? Does, that stuff all get mixed together? Is there anything else that's going to go in it other than the food waste?

Mr. Joe Beard: I mean, it's septic, and yeah, but it's more than likely to be septic and car wash waste is what we're currently looking at.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: In that?

Mr. Joe Beard: In the tanks. What it is, is we've got to have storage tank in order for, and then there'll be a process facility, which is the next step, inside the building of the middle property, 5776, and then the solids, the wastewater will go to the sewer and managed per Newburgh's requests and then the solids go, go to landfill. This is just another hurdle in the steps that, that IDEM is requesting.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Let me, let me clarify, because I thought that this was a holding tank for fats, oil, and greases.

Mr. Joe Beard: That's grease trap waste, septic waste.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: So, everything is going to go in there. It's not just...

Mr. Joe Beard: Yeah, our major, our major amount of materials is gonna be the grease trap waste.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Not human waste, right?

Mr. Joe Beard: Yeah. That's septic.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Yes, septic waste.

Mr. Joe Beard: I mean, we usually do, just on average for the business. Currently, all septic waste can go to the treatment plants. I mean, right now, Chandler's down because of mechanical malfunctions, but we're able to take...

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Is septic waste something new for you?

Mr. Joe Beard: Oh, no.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Where do you hold it now?

Mr. Joe Beard: Well, that's what I was getting at. We go pump it from the resident and take it straight to Evansville or Chandler. But, Chandler's down. Anything we pump over in Owensboro, goes to Owensboro. And right now, the grease trap waste, what we pump in from restaurants, from the grease trap waste from restaurants, if it's in Vanderburgh County, we can take it to Evansville treatment plant. It's out of Vanderburgh County, we take it to either Paducah, Owensboro, or Louisville. So, we're having to store it into the tankers and then transport it. And me getting a, getting all of our permitting with IDEM set up and having discharge for separate, it separates and discharge the waters and solids go to landfill, that's a huge, huge cost savings. Other than transporting.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: I'm just going to give my two cents here, and I don't, I don't know how to say this, other than just tell you what my mind's thinking. This has nothing to do with the setbacks for me. It's just the nature of what you guys do. You have a good business. It's growing. I get all that. But, you're so close to those neighbors. I want to look out for them. You know, I don't know that if I was right behind you, I would want this in my backyard. You were there before they were probably, I don't even know.

Mr. Joe Beard: Yeah.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: I just have a hard, hard time with it. I don't want to be arbitrary, but I just have an idea, a hard time with the concept and the idea. And that's nothing against you. I just can't help but think about the, you know, the nature of the business, so to speak. Has nothing to do with the setbacks.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: That's kind of where I am, too. Because I thought it was, I thought we were just talking about the restaurant waste. What is the next step in this process? Do, do the residents in the area have any weigh in on this at all?

Mr. Joe Beard: Not as long as we're 600 feet from them.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: That's why you want to do it where you want to do it, so that you would be away from the residents, correct?

Mr. Joe Beard: Correct. I mean, my industrial neighbors next door and across the street, stuff like that, I mean, they, they've already been made aware. But, I don't think we're going to have any problems with them. Because, I mean, it's currently, we're in and out of there, you know, we're parking the trucks and transferring from little trucks to big trucks.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: It's already there.

Mr. Joe Beard: It's already there.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: It's already there and it's going to be self-contained.

Mr. Joe Beard: And I've been there, we've been there since '99.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Yeah.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Okay.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: So, this is where my, you know, I'm kind of like Terry, it's like, there's a new factor, but then there's the also, like, it's a necessary service.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Yes.

Mr. Joe Beard: And the thing is, if you put this up in the middle of nowhere, like IDEM's asking, which I get it...

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Yeah, that's what you said last time...

Mr. Joe Beard: You ain't got, you don't have, you don't have sewer. It just don't make any sense. Keep this in mind, this is not necessarily on topic, but you ever been by Chandler's wastewater treatment plant?

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Yeah.

Mr. Joe Beard: What's the difference? There's houses all around that place.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: I know.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Yeah.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: I know. Boonville was the same way for a long time, yeah, and I think that was my only hesitation, just would I want that in my backyard. But, you know, it has to be done and as long as it's being done in accordance with, you know, protection of the environment.

Mr. Joe Beard: And I'm working hard to get, get the right equipment, the most efficient equipment, you know, to make this a long-term effect, long term positive effect for the community.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: What is the next step then?

Mr. Joe Beard: To get the storage permit, then we can, then we can get the dewatering and solidification permit.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay. Alright. So, you need us...?

Mr. Joe Beard: I need, I need to be able to start getting this stuff stored.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Permit. Oh, no, you need us for the easement, variance.

Mr. Joe Beard: Yeah, I need you for the variance.

County Engineer Bobby Howard: Just the fact that we are just approving the location to be less than what IDEM requires so that they can get a waiver from IDEM.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: All right, so, do I have a motion for that for Mr. Beard?

Commissioner Stacey Franz: I will make a motion to approve the location waiver.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: I can't.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: I'll second the motion. All in favor?

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Aye.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Nay.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Thank you, Mr. Beard.

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: Did you vote yes?

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Yes, she did.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: I have not voted yet. Aye. 2-1 (with Commissioner Terry Phillippe opposing).

Commissioner Stacey Franz: (Inaudible).

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay.

OAK GROVE FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY

County Engineer Bobby Howard: Then, if I may, one last thing I wanted to discuss. We had a project for the roundabout at Oak Grove and Anderson Road and in that we're looking to buy right-of-way. And a couple of the property owners have been non-responsive to any of our consultant's attempts to contact them in regards to this right-of-way. And so, I would like to the Board to consider moving forward with the ten-day letter, so that maybe that will get some of the conversation started at least so that this project can at least stay on, try to stay on schedule of going to bid this summer.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Who drafts that, Bobby?

County Engineer Bobby Howard: If it is not in the scope of work for our consultant, then our County Attorney's Office would do that. And I'm verifying that with the consultant as to how much is actually in their scope of work. Because normally, it's the County Attorney that would do that.

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: For the record, I'm continuing to reach out and see if I can find anyone that knows the property owner. I haven't found anyone yet. So, I'll make a motion to approve the ten-day letter.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: I will second that motion.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay. First and second, all in favor?

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Aye.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: Aye.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Aye. Carries 3-0. Thanks, Bobby.

County Engineer Bobby Howard: Thank you.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: You have anything?

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: I don't have anything new to update the Board.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay.

APRIL EDWARDS CLAIM

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: So, next agenda item is the reconsideration of the April Edwards' Claim. Do we have any new discussion on that?

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: Not from myself. No, I've updated the Board as to my conversations with Ms. Edwards following the last Board meeting.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: I think I made my thoughts plain last time. So, I think everybody already heard that.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: The only thing I'm going to add is that I have looked at it. I do take this very seriously and I do believe that April does deserve to be paid. The question continues to be, by who? Who is responsible for that payment? I believe that she entered into an agreement of good faith. The problem that I continue to bump up against is, was the contract legal? And at the last meeting, it was brought up that prior to signing a contract with, with Ms. Edwards, the Health Board attempted to hire the services of Adam Long to represent and the Commissioners said no, that the Board could not hire an attorney. That if they needed the services of, if they needed legal services, they were to use the services of the County Attorney, which was Fine and Hatfield. So, historically, only the Board of Commissioners can enter into a contract for legal services for the County. The Commissioners made it clear to the Health Board that they were not giving them permission to hire Mr. Long, so, then it would go forth that they would not have either the authority or the permission to enter into a contract with April, with Ms. Edwards. So, that's what I just keep going back to. It has nothing to do with the services she provided or the question of intent to serve in that capacity. I think work was done and done well, it's just, I don't think that the Commissioners are responsible for paying for a contract that was not, that was not a legal contract.

Ms. April Edwards: April Edwards. It was never an issue of the Commissioners paying my legal fees. It has always been they'd come from the Health Department fund. That was the documentation that was submitted. The only thing that was, is that it got bogged down because the Commissioners just didn't do the formality of approving it. I mean, it wasn't an issue of anything of the County paying for it. It was the Health Department paying for it. It was coming from Health Department funds. And when the Commissioners' attorneys, actually they had approved, the Commissioners approved the hiring of an Attorney, Adam Long, for the Health Department. It was Fine and Hatfield that came along the following meeting and said, oh, no, no, no. The scope is way too broad and law doesn't allow, says it has to be the County Attorney that represents the Health Board. And I provided to both of you the statutes that clearly indicate from a plain reading that that's not accurate. So...

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: I, I'm just, it's difficult because I'm not an attorney. I'm not well versed in the law and I cannot make a legal opinion.

Ms. April Edwards: Absolutely. And I respect that.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: I can't, so...

Ms. April Edwards: But, the Commissioners can approve me getting paid from Health Department fund. That is what the money was there for. They had the legal authority to hire me. There was a clear conflict. And so, all I ask that the Commissioners do today, is to do what I think they should have done a year ago and that's just let my claim be paid from the Health Department funds, which was what those monies were earmarked for. It doesn't cost the County one dime. It costs the Health Department, which comes from State Health Funds, with all due respect. So, I appreciate and do ask that you do approve it. Every other attorney has been, had it approved by the Commissioners. The Commissioners never came forward with any legitimate reason why I shouldn't have been hired or paid, other than personal issues that were going on at the time with the Commissioners.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: I think it just came down to, they didn't approve the contract and they could just, I mean, that's, that's just my legal understanding is that the, the Commissioners are who has to sign that contract.

Ms. April Edwards: I disagree strongly. I've given two (inaudible) sections.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: That's what I'm saying. I know, that's why you're asking me to interpret law. But, I'm just not, I'm not equipped to interpret that, and I've seen it both ways, and I've read it both ways, as far as like the scope of, of the hiring.

Ms. April Edwards: I appreciate that, and I do, and I respect, I do respect your opinion on it. But, it's going to result, because I am not going away, it's going to result in litigation. And it's going to cost the County a lot of money, and that's not what I intended. I should be paid. I worked just like anybody else, and I should be paid.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: I agree.

Ms. April Edwards: So, I respectfully ask you to approve my contract to get paid so that I can go on and do my job in a different capacity. Thank you.

County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearsman: Commissioner Seaton, the fund that would be paid out of the Health Department is tax dollars. It would be the amount they get from taxes.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: From the County?

County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearsman: Yes.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay, do I have a motion to approve? Disapprove? No motion?

Commissioner Stacey Franz: I have a motion to approve that she should be paid from the Health Department. I believe that she did the work. I believe that she did it. I believe she did it well, so, I will make that motion to approve that she would be paid from the Health Department funds that were earmarked for that in 2023.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Do I have a second?

County Attorney Cliff Whitehead: Motion dies for...

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Motion dies. Okay.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Commissioner's Items for Discussion. Terry, did you have something?

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: I have nothing.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: I think all my items were already discussed.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: I have nothing.

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Okay.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Terry Phillippe: Motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Stacey Franz: I will second that motion.

County Engineer Bobby Howard: Sign in? Did anybody sign in?

Commissioner Sarah Seaton: Oh, I'm sorry. Did anybody sign in to speak? I'm not officially adjourned yet. No, okay. (Motion carried 3-0).

Meeting adjourned at 5:17 P.M.

The next Warrick County Commissioners' meeting will be held on Monday, March 10, 2025 in the Commissioners' meeting room at 4:00 PM.

WARRICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



SARAH SEATON, PRESIDENT



STACEY FRANZ, VICE PRESIDENT



TERRY PHILLIPPE, MEMBER

ATTEST:


MICHAEL J. DIETSCH, AUDITOR
WARRICK COUNTY, INDIANA

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Kristine Georges, Official Recording Secretary

[illegible]

[illegible]

I hereby certify that each of the above listed vouchers and the amounts on the bills attached thereto, are true and correct and I have audited same in accordance with IC 2-12-10-1-6, February 24th, 2023. IC 5-13-10-2 permits the governing body to sign the accounts Payable Voucher register in lieu of signing each item when the governing body is adjourned. We have audited the vouchers listed on the Accounting Accounts Payable Voucher Register in the total amount of \$3,244,753.03 Dated this 24th day of February, Michael Dietrich, Auditor of Warren County

Signature, Name, Title, Period of
 Service, Country, Vice President
 President
 Michael B. Dittelsch
 Michael B. Dittelsch, Chairman

WARRICK COUNTY, INDIANA
Governmental Unit

Fiscal Year: February 11, 2025

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE VOUCHER REGISTER

Notes: (1) Use both sides to form a voucher. (2) Date of voucher must always appear, date on the last page of a multi-leafing is subject to audit. (3) See above (2). The above voucher is for payment of a bill or payable against a voucher or bill shown in schedule of bill, if furnished in a bill indicating a governing board, or for other preferred information.

Payroll #

Index	Name of Claimant	Department	Amount of Voucher	Amount Allowed	Warrants	Certified
	CLERK	1000-0001	\$ 24,207.04			
	AUDITOR	1000-0002	\$ 25,085.12			
	TREASURER	1000-0003	\$ 4,484.33			
	RECORDS	1000-0004	\$ 7,019.18			
	SHERIFF	1000-0005	\$ 117,286.13			
	SURVEYOR	1000-0006	\$ 4,850.68			
	CORONER	1000-0007	\$ 5,023.23			
	ASSISTANT	1000-0008	\$ 13,457.74			
	PROSECUTOR ATTORNEY	1000-0009	\$ 22,875.17			
	ATTORNEY OFFICE	1000-0011	\$ 1,789.77			
	VETERAN'S AFFAIRS	1000-0012	\$ 3,353.39			
	COUNTY COUNCIL	1000-0013	\$ 4,128.27			
	COMMISSIONERS	1000-0009	\$ 21,125.80			
	AREA PLAN COMMISSION	1000-0070	\$ 9,888.25			
	COURT HOUSE	1000-0152	\$ 10,365.32			
	SUPERIOR COURT #1	1000-0001	\$ 17,622.69			
	SUPERIOR COURT #2	1000-0007	\$ 11,720.25			
	CIRCUIT COURT	1000-0022	\$ 17,245.89			
	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	1000-0071	\$ 18,780.13			
	CENTRAL DISPATCH	1000-0002	\$ 4,304.37			
	JAIL	1000-0260	\$ 51,512.24			
	CHILD SUPPORT	1000-0000	\$ 5,170.17			
	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	1112	\$ 21,529.74			
	CUM BRIDGE	1135	\$ 8,449.16			
	CUMULATIVE BRAIN	1161	\$ 3,733.65			
	HEALTH DEPT.	1188	\$ 9,337.73			
	LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH	1181	\$ 8,802.98			
	PUBLIC SAFETY LIT	1170	\$ 55,481.26			
	HIGHWAY DEPT	1173	\$ 2,674.85			
	MIDDLEMEANANT	1174	\$ 1,163.80			
		1170-0030	\$ 11,140.63			
		1170-0031	\$ 89,179.22			
		1170-0033	\$ 5,873.50			
	HIGHWAY DEPT.	1170-0004	\$ 8,024.83			
	RECORDS PERPETUATION	1180	\$ 3,332.16			
	STORMWATER MANAGEMENT	1197	\$ 15,864.25			
	CAL CIRCUIT COURT	1211	\$ 1,884.97			
	ELECTION	1215	\$ 1,812.24			
	PARKS DEPT.	1218	\$ 13,836.83			
	PROPERTY REASSESSMENT	1224	\$ 6,547.60			
	SUPERIOR CIRCUIT PROBATION	2000	\$ 1,057.60			
	PRETRIAL DIVISION	2504	\$ 1,828.02			
	BUILDING COMMISSION	4908	\$ 5,144.16			
	ODORS FROM INCOME	4921	\$ 2,020.12			
	WOGA	8075	\$ 2,743.85			
	SOIL GRASS	8100	\$ 68.36			
	EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS	8278	\$ 738.00			
	CHILD SUPPORT PROSECUTION	8595	\$ 8,893.19			
	COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS	9203	\$ 8,893.19			
			\$ 691,042.79			\$



I hereby certify that each of the above listed vouchers and the invoices, or bills attached as indicated in the Certified column herein, are true and correct and I have advised the same in accordance with the provisions of the Indiana Code without stopping documentation cannot be certified as true and correct.

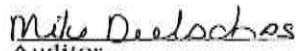
Terry Padgett, County Commissioner
Michael Lawson, Fiscal Officer

ALLOWANCE OF VOUCHERS TO 5-11-02 PERMITS THE ISSUING BODY TO SIGN THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE VOUCHER REGISTER, SIGNING OF ONE (1) PAGE, and accept for issuance are indicated as shown on the register such vouchers are shown in the total amount of \$ 691,042.79

Replat of Lot 76 in Lexington Estates Subdivision
Request for Extension of Surety
2/24/25

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

President

Member

Member

ATTEST:

Auditor
Date: 2/24/25



Corporate Headquarters
5001 Davis Lant Drive
P.O. Box 1111
Evansville, IN 47706-1111

FILED

FEB 11 2025

WARRICK COUNTY
AREA PLAN COMMISSION

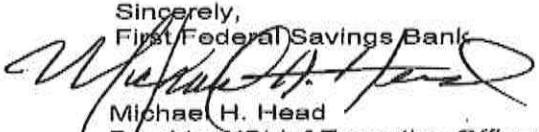
Date: February 11, 2025

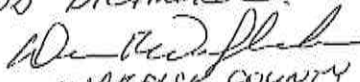
Project: Replat of Lot 76 in Lexington Estates Subdivision
Street and Drainage Construction

To: Warrick County Area Plan Commission
107 Locust Street
Historic Courthouse Room 201
Boonville, IN 47601

RE: Letter of Credit Number: 356

First Federal Savings Bank is requesting an extension
for one additional year to complete this project – the
Replat of Lot 76 in Lexington Estates Subdivision Street
and Drainage Construction at \$5,000.00.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Head
President/Chief Executive Officer

OK TO EXTEND LOC #356
FOR \$5000.00 FOR REPLAT
AND DRAINAGE.

WARRICK COUNTY SURVEYOR
02-13-2025