

# Tippecanoe County Board of Commissioners

## Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 16, 2021

10:00 am

Tippecanoe Room, Tippecanoe County Office Building  
20 N 3rd Street, Lafayette, Indiana

Commissioners present President Thomas P. Murtaugh, Vice President David S. Byers and Member Tracy A. Brown.

Also present: Attorney Matthew Salsbery, Auditor Robert Plantenga, Commissioners' Assistant Paula Bennett, and Recording Secretary Jennifer Wafford.

- I. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – President Murtaugh called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance
- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from Monday, August 2nd, 2021.- **Moved to next meeting**
- III. **PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** – Paula Bennett presented and recommended:

The claims from August 5, 2021, through August 16, 2021, were recommended for approval without exception.

  - Commissioner Brown moved to approve the Accounts Payable as presented, second by Commissioner Byers. Motion carried.
- IV. **PRESENTATION OF PAYROLL** – Paula Bennett presented and recommended:

The payroll from August 6, 2021 was recommended for approval without exception.

  - Commissioner Brown moved to approve the Payroll as presented, second by Commissioner Byers. Motion carried.
- V. **HIGHWAY** – Stewart Kline presented and recommended:

Two Water Easements for Indiana-American Water, for the project located at CR 500 N and River Rd. This is for 2 different properties owned by the County. Indiana-American Water requested 2 Easements.

  - Commissioner Byers moved to approve the easements as presented, second by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.
- VI. **GRANT OF EASEMENT TO 777 COR DALE ROAD** – Matthew Salsbery presented and recommended:

Attorney Salsbery advised that his office has created a Grant of Easement for 777 Cor Dale Road for Eugene and Anita Hurt. This is a private road that is just south of the County Jail. There have been a number of private property owners that have already been granted easements for different reasons. The property owners that will be granted this easement were not given an easement in the past. The owners have been at their current address since 1987, so they have met the necessary elements for a prescriptive easement. This will allow them to continue to have access, and they are trying to sell the property. Based on the fact that other private property owners have been given an easement from the county, this easement will simply give the current property owners a status that matches those adjacent to them.

  - Commissioner Brown moved to approve the easement as presented, second by Commissioner Byers. Motion carried.

**VII. PUBLIC DEFENDER CREATION OF NEW POSITION** – Amy Hutchison presented and recommended:

The Public Defender's office is requesting the elimination of (2) "Part-Time Conflict Attorney" positions and combining them into (1) "Full-Time Attorney" position for 2021. The reasoning is that the Public Defender's office has received no applications for part-time Attorney's for individuals that are qualified for the position, and an hourly option is exceedingly expensive. The Public Defender is wanting to move one of the positions requested for 2022, at the August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 Commissioner Meeting, to starting in 2021. They plan on posting the position externally to gauge interest, and that will help understand the interest for 2022.

- Commissioner Brown moved to eliminate 2 Part-time Conflict Attorney Positions and approve the new Full Time Attorney position as presented, second by Commissioner Byers. Motion carried.

**VIII. 2022 NEW POSITION REVISION** – Shirley Mennen presented and recommended:

Human Resources Director, Shirley Mennen, advised that there was a title adjustment needed for a Fairgrounds position that was approved for 2022. The Fairgrounds Department asked for a "Maintenance Technician" (LTC 2), and there was no such description. The position they intended to create was an "Assistant Property Manager" (LTC 2).

- Commissioner Byers moved to approve the title revision as presented, second by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.

**IX. GRANTS:**

**Permission to Apply for Grants:** Patrick Harrington presented and recommended:

For the Prosecutor's Office, from Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, in the amount of \$60,385.50. This is for the 2021 Northern District Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN). Prosecutor Harrington advised that this grant program started in 2001 throughout all 50 states. In 2011 the Federal Government ceased funding for this program, but they have now resumed funding in 2020 for this Fiscal year. The Focus of this program is to launch a violent crime reduction strategy to strengthen the local project neighborhood programs.

- Commissioner Brown moved to approve applying for the grant as presented, second by Commissioner Byers. Motion carried.

**Permission to Accept Grant Funds:** – Sharon Hutchison presented and recommended:

A. For the Health Department, from the Tippecanoe County Drug-Free Coalition, in the amount of \$7,313, for funding the Recovery Coach. This is in conjunction with Gateway to Hope.

- Commissioner Byers moved to accept the grant as presented, second by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.

B. For Community Corrections, from the Tippecanoe County Drug-Free Coalition, in the amount of \$5,850, for funding the Recovery Coach. This is in conjunction with Gateway to Hope.

- Commissioner Brown moved to accept the grant as presented, second by Commissioner Byers. Motion carried.

C. For the Sheriff's Office, from the Tippecanoe County Drug-Free Coalition, in the amount of \$13,650 for intoximeters for patrol cars.

- Commissioner Byers moved to accept the grant as presented, second by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.

**MOU/Contracts**

1. A Contract with Amber Gibson for the JDAI 2021 program to provide Yoga sessions in the school for at-risk youth, not to exceed \$600.
  - Commissioner Brown moved to accept the MOU as presented, second by Commissioner Byers. Motion carried.
2. A Contract with Laura Stull for the JDAI 2021 program to provide Parenting the Teen Brain session, not to exceed \$2,000.
  - Commissioner Brown moved to accept the MOU as presented, second by Commissioner Byers. Motion carried.
3. A Contract for the Department of Corrections Grant for Truancy Services with the following School Corporations:
  - a. Lafayette School Corporation, in the amount of \$12,240.
  - b. Tippecanoe School Corporation, in the amount of \$8,160.
  - c. West Lafayette Community School Corporation, in the amount of \$2,040.
  - Commissioner Brown moved to accept the MOU as presented, second by Commissioner Byers. Motion carried.

**X. CHANGE ORDERS****Tippecanoe County Central Offices**

Change order #1 with Brand Electric, for a deduct of \$559.22, to complete the following:

- a. Omit all supply air duct smoke detectors
  - b. Omit F-1A, 1B return air duct smoke detector.
  - c. Omit Generator Room smoke detector.
  - d. Add one Generator Room heat detector.
- Commissioner Brown moved to approve the change order as presented, second by Commissioner Byers. Motion carried.

**XI. REPORTS ON FILE**

- Tippecanoe County Building Commission
- Crystal Creek Boarding Kennel
- Central Mail and Duplicating
- Tippecanoe County Treasurer
- Tippecanoe County Clerk of the Circuit Court
- Rural Transportation Report

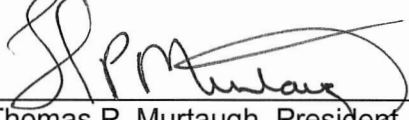
**XII. UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS – None****XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mike Morris, 902 South 11<sup>th</sup> Street, states that he is a retired soldier and businessman. He is representing the Lafayette Citizens in Action and other individuals who wish to thank the Commissioners for standing strong. Due to SB5 being passed last year, the Commissioners have the power to protect the citizens of Tippecanoe County from Health Department overreach. He states that the CDC and Health Department can't make laws; they can only issue guidance. Now there is an elected body that can make that final decision, and he is glad that it's the Board of Commissioners. He trusts that the Commissioners will make the decision to allow the residents of Tippecanoe County to make their own choices, assess the situation, and move on from there. He urges the Commissioners not to get involved with the decisions that Tippecanoe School Corporation and Lafayette School Corporation make regarding mask mandates and other items. They are an elected school boards, so they make their own decisions regarding those topics.

Kent Kroft, DOIT Director, introduced Vik Abrol who is the new Unified Communications Engineer. Kent stated that he has already been working wonders with the phone system. He was a contractor with the Department of Defense and came to us from Virginia.

Commissioner Brown moved to adjourn. President Murtaugh adjourned the meeting.


BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
THE COUNTY OF TIPPECANOE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas P. Murtaugh, President

  
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David S. Byers, Vice-President

  
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Tracy Brown, Member

ATTEST:

  
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Robert A Plantenga, Auditor 09/07/2021

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Wafford, Recording Secretary