

Commissioners Patrick F. Clawson, William R. Brown and Ron Slavens met in Regular Session on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of November 2011 at 9:00 a.m. to conduct business pursuant to the laws of Carroll County and the State of Indiana.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ron Slavens made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' Executive meeting held November 7, 2011 and the minutes of the regular Commissioners' meeting held November 7, 2011. Motion was seconded by William Brown; passed unanimously.

Payroll claims for the period ending November 12, 2011 and the Operation Pull Over payroll were approved unanimously. WB/RS

**COURTHOUSE:** Sheryl Shockley gave the Commissioners an update of open projects:

1. Becks will be coming this week to quote a price for the carpet in the Probation Department.
2. Todd Price indicated it would be 2 – 3 weeks before the outside lights come in.
3. Results of the cement borings should be received by December 21<sup>st</sup>.
4. The asbestos removal will begin December 6<sup>th</sup>. Following removal of the asbestos Shane Chapman will begin the boiler repair. New insulation will be installed at a cost of \$2,300; Shockley has requested a transfer in her budget to cover this expense.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:** Paul Coutts, County Highway Engineer, asked the Commissioners to sign the Right-of-Way Certification. Brown made a motion to endorse the letter to INDOT for sign replacement, seconded by Ron Slavens; passed unanimously.

Coutts announced that the County had been awarded a grant in the amount of \$26,292.27 for railroad crossing signage; the grant brings the County into compliance. There are 23 different crossings with 87 signs. It is a 100% grant, no match required and a contractor will do the work. The old signs will be taken by the contractor. William Brown made a motion to endorse the grant; seconded by Ron Slavens; passed unanimously

Coutts distributed a proposed chip and seal plan for 2012, sticking with the program of doing collector roads and roads that are not in good shape. Coutts would also like to do 100 N all the way to State Road 75. The proposed plan will do 38.15 miles for an estimated cost of \$777,000. \$500,000 will come from wheel tax and \$277,000 out of the Highway budget. Coutts stated he did not need to have the plan approved immediately; Ron Slavens moved to table further discussion until the next meeting, seconded by William Brown; passed unanimously.

Brown asked about a short stretch on 350 S that was gravel, Coutts thought it was west of 350 E. Coutts will put a traffic count on that section to see how traveled it is; Slavens and Brown thought the area had been petitioned.

Brown asked about the culvert on 500 S almost to Burlington, when would it be repaired? Coutts is waiting for a cost estimate and hopes it will be repaired in December.

Coutts announced the bridge on 300 E north of State Road 218 should be completed and opened this week.

**HOMESTEAD VERIFICATION ASSISTANCE:** Dave Wichlinski of SRI, Incorporated proposed a program to the Commissioners where SRI will assist the Auditor's Office by providing homestead verification assistance. At first glance SRI believes there is a potential of 2,994 parcels receiving an invalid homestead deduction with a potential sum of back taxes owed being \$1,848,407.14. In return, SRI will get 30% of the back taxes collected. Brown made a motion to table the decision until the County attorney was present to give his opinion of the agreement. Seconded by Slavens; passed unanimously. Attorney McLeland joined the meeting later and stated he had no issues with the SRI agreement. Slavens made a motion to accept the SRI agreement for homestead verification. Brown seconded; passed unanimously.

**ON-LINE AUCTION OF COUNTY PROPERTY:** John Winkle of Asset Auctions On-Line was present to discuss an on-line auction of County property stating the an-line auction will bring buyers from a larger area. There would be no crowds, no transporting all the items to one auction site, etc. Vehicles will need to have a title and the County will have to sign off on all titles. Their fee is 25% for a complex auction which means there are items at several locations. Slavens moved that based on the approval of the County attorney, to conduct an on-line auction of County property. Seconded by Brown; passed unanimously. Payment will go through the Auditor's Office and the Auditor's Office will disburse the money to departments or townships.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE ON LAND SALE:** Laura Walls, EDC Director, was present to talk about moving forward with Enviro-Sense. The cost to complete the work, including all proposed drilling activities, analytical testing and report preparation has been estimated to be \$16,500. All work will be completed on a time and materials basis not to exceed the proposed cost; a claim will be made to the County's insurance. Enviro-Sense provided a Certificate of Liability Insurance. There will be 2 wells that will be monitored. Walls explained the insurance coverage predates the problem and the insurance during the time of operation is responsible for the claims. Clawson stressed that the County was only liable to the limits of insurance, after that the County is not liable. County attorney Nick McLeland stated the contract looked good. Slavens made a motion to accept the contract with Enviro-Sense, Brown seconded; passed unanimously.

Walls received a questionnaire from Alt & Witzing Engineering concerning the land to be monitored; due to timing issues Walls completed the questionnaire for Clawson's signature. Slavens moved to accept the questionnaire as presented, seconded by Brown; passed unanimously.

County attorney Nick McLeland asked for a copy of the land survey; it is necessary to complete the title insurance. Walls believes she has a copy of the survey and will get a copy to him.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:** Walls was asked who funded the trip to Japan for her and Mayor Strasser. Walls reported Mayor Strasser's trip was funded through private donations and IPC; her trip was funded through the EDC budget and support from utilities. The expenses were approximately \$8,000 per person. Walls was asked if she was doing anything to try to attract businesses from Illinois, stating she had been to trade shows promoting Carroll County.

**INDIGENT FUNDING:** Martha Lewis, Superintendent of Carroll Manor, reported to the Commissioners that State funding for low income residents had closed; the State is taking names should the funding open again. Lewis asked about using the \$50,000 in the Commissioner's budget to bring those residents up to the ARCH rate. Council President Ann Brown was in attendance and said she had previewed the IC code which stated the townships were liable for a certain amount; residents from other counties, their county is liable for those residents. Lewis stated that at the present time none of the indigents were out of county. Lewis asked about township trustees paying, Brown stated they are to pay in June and December. Lewis also questioned if the paper should publish if a person is private pay or negotiated. Slavens asked Lewis to calculate what the County's cost would be to bring residents up to the \$37 per diem rate. Presently it is \$56 per day for private pay residents; the majority are private pay. At the present time there are 8 residents on the ARCH program. Ann Brown also pointed out that according to the statute, price adjustments are to be done in July.

**WABASH RIVER HERITAGE CORRIDOR COMMISSION:** William Brown made a motion to reappoint George Mears as the County representative to the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission and Tom VanSickle as alternate. Seconded by Ron Slavens; passed unanimously.

**ZONING ORDINANCE:** Assessor Neda Duff was present to let the Commissioners know she had looked over the new zoning ordinance; from an Assessor's standpoint, there were too many discrepancies and it was a lot more complicated. Duff felt they were very strict in some areas and very lax in others, and encouraged the Commissioners to not approve the new ordinance in the current state. Rex Millhouse, Jefferson Township Trustee, asked if the time of the meeting could be changed to a night meeting. The Commissioners decided to keep the regularly scheduled meeting and possibly add a night meeting. Debbie Lowe asked what the stance of the Commissioners was; would the Commissioners approve the ordinance without issues being changed; was it going to matter if the people came to the meeting and had concerns? Brown stated the Commissioners needed to, and will listen to the people; they are the final decision.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

- It was the unanimous opinion of the Commissioners that the UPS drop box not be on Courthouse grounds.
- William Brown made a motion to close the Courthouse from noon to 1:00 p.m. on Monday, December 19, 2011 for the Courthouse employee Christmas luncheon. Slavens seconded; passed unanimously.

**SIGN ON COURTHOUSE LAWN:**

- Carroll County Chamber of Commerce from November 25 to December 3, 2011 to advertise Holiday Shopping Event. WB/RS

**NEXT MEETING:** There being no further business to bring before the Commissioners, a motion to adjourn was made by William Brown and seconded by Ron Slavens. Passed unanimously. The next regular meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, December 5, 2011.

**CARROLL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick F. Clawson, Chairman

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William R. Brown, Vice Chairman

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Ron Slavens

**ATTEST:**

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Elaine Hathaway, Auditor