

## REGULAR MEETING

### CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

The Board of County Commissioners of Clark County, Indiana met in Regular Session on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in Room 103, Clark County Government Building, in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

Present at the meeting were Commissioners – Bryan Glover, Connie Sellers and Jack Coffman, County Attorney R. Scott Lewis, Auditor Danny Yost, and Commissioners' Assistant Sabrina Corbin.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bryan Glover. Prayer was led by Commissioner Jack Coffman.

#### Approval of the Minutes

**Commissioner Sellers** made a motion to approve the January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Coffman seconded. Motion approved 3-0.

**Auditor Danny Yost** presented the claims and payroll for February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Commissioner Sellers motioned to approve the claims and payroll. Commissioner Coffman seconded. Motion approved 3-0.

**Commissioner Glover** asked for any amendments to the agenda. There was one amendment. The amendment is a quote by Mom's Music to install an amplifier to the audio system in the Commissioner meeting room. Motion by Commissioner Coffman to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Sellers seconded. Motion approved 3-0.

#### I. Public Comments:

Kelly Khuri – Kelly had checked on the meeting times of other entities throughout Clark County and other Commissioners throughout the state. Her issues with the meeting times are that some taxpayers are not able to make the meetings at 5pm. She has seen that most meeting start times range from 6-7:30 pm. Kelly also wanted the Commissioners to consider placing public comment after County business is conducted during the meeting.

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

James R. McClure Jr. – James agrees with Kelly that the meeting times are inconvenient for a significant portion of the constituents of Clark County. Moving the time to after 6pm would be significantly more advantageous so the Commissioners can be engaged by their constituents. With respect to Ordinance 15-2017 placing certain limits on our right to freedom of speech, I would like to remind the Commissioners that under Indiana State Constitution Article 1 Section 9 states:

No law shall be passed restraining the free interchange of thought or opinion, or restricting the right to speak, write, or print freely on any subject matter or for the abuse of that right, every person shall be responsible.

By placing these restrictions, you are in violation of the State Constitution, the Federal Constitution and the will of almighty God. I invite you to reconstruct your ordinance in a more appropriate manner in seeing the recent Supreme Court decisions that allow the use of certain terminologies that you seem to be offended by. I am not encouraging such use of speech but recognizing that the free use of speech allows the speaker to be colorful. James thanked the Commissioners for their time and for the work that they do.

Kaitlin Blessit – She wanted to start off by saying that she is deeply troubled with the chain of events that have led to the current situation with the EMS provider New Chapel. She has heard that Medicaid has suspended reimbursement to New Chapel which will be bad news for New Chapel employees and the County. She had questions for the Commissioners and Public to reflect upon. What is the plan if New Chapel can't function any longer? Why did the Commissioners stop discussions regarding County EMS contracts in regular public meetings after 2020, instead discussing and voting on those agreements during administrative department head meetings at 8:00 am? Indiana code 5-14-1.5-5f specifically states that administrative meetings will not be used to enter the County into anything binding. Why are those minutes from those discussions not on the County website? I couldn't find anything on EMS discussions without a records request. Did any of you ever speak with the 911 board or the EMS subcommittee to verify Dr. Yazel's statements from his recommendation letters that these boards discussed and unanimously approved New Chapel as the County's EMS provider? I have reason to believe that no such discussions or recommendations ever took place by those boards. I have pending record requests with the Health Department but what will the repercussions be if you find out that Dr. Yazel lied to us about those details? In 2020 as Jack Coffman stated, there was a short-abbreviated agreement with New Chapel in order to get implemented quickly. That was a one-year contract but Jack

presented it to the Council as a three-month contract when you requested funding. When those mistakes happen, how are they addressed to the Council or Public? Why did you never require a full-length contract or agreement that outlines more details and terms and conditions? In 2020, the agreement referenced the public safety plan and EMS requirements for Clark County Ordinance 2-2014. The ordinance requires annual audited financial statements from New Chapel, the number of calls, response times and etc. Were they ever received and or did they county inquire about them? Moving forward, I demand more accountability, oversight and transparency within this executive branch of Clark County. I further demand that the County finds a way to record or stream all meetings outside of executive sessions. I demonstrated two ways to do it for free with an Iphone and a GoPro. I think the County can easily do something like this and I'd be more than happy to help set it up. Kaitlin thanked the Commissioners for her time.

## **II. New Business:**

- A. County Attorney R. Scott Lewis presented the HAVA Election Security Grant fund for the Clerk's Office. This is Ordinance 5-2024. The amount total of the grant award is \$23,234.42. The fund number will be 8251. Motion by Commissioner Coffman to approve Ordinance 5-2024 that establishes the Election Security Grant fund for the Clerk's Office. Seconded by Commissioner Sellers. Motion approved 3-0.
  
- B. Gavan Hebner presented the Duke Energy Foundation Grant fund for EMA. This is Ordinance 6-2024. The amount total of the grant is \$2,750.00. The fund number will be 9217. The grant will help with the purchase of an inflatable boat that can also be utilized by local first responders. Motion by Commissioner Sellers to approve Ordinance 6-2024 that establishes the Duke Energy Foundation Grant fund. Seconded by Commissioner Coffman. Motion approved 3-0.
  
- C. Gavan Hebner presented the Federal Field Services 2024 Outdoor Warning Siren Annual Preventative Maintenance Inspection Agreement. The inspection cost is \$450.00 per siren. Motion by Commissioner Coffman to approve the agreement with Federal Field Services in the total amount of \$5,850.00. Seconded by Commissioner Sellers. Motion approved 3-0.

- D.** County Attorney R. Scott Lewis presented the Professional Services Agreement for Construction Administration and Inspection Services for the Landfill Barrier Wall Project. This agreement is with JTL inc. to provide those Construction and Administration Inspect Services. The amount total is not to exceed amount of \$160,000.00. Motion by Commissioners Sellers to approve the Professional Services Agreement for Construction Administration and Inspection Services for the Landfill Barrier Wall Project and to allow President Bryan Glover to sign. Seconded by Commissioner Coffman. Motion approved 3-0.
- E.** Commissioner Glover presented the Mom's Music Quote for an Audio System. There have been some problems with the sound system in the Clark County Government Building meeting room. Mom's Music will install an amplifier in the amount of \$1,010.00 to the meeting room. Motion by Commissioner Sellers to approve the Mom's Music Quote for an Audio System. Seconded by Commissioner Coffman. Motion approved 3-0.

**III. Old Business: None.**

**IV. Reports:**

**A. Auditor: None.**

**B. Attorney: None.**

**C. Highway Department: None**

**D. Sheriff:** The current jail population is 426, 54 are Federal inmates.

**E. Elected Officials & Department Heads: None.**

**V. Other Business: None.**

**VI. Public Comments: None.**

**VII. Adjournment:** Commissioner Glover entertained the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Sellers motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Coffman seconded. Motion approved 3-0.

February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
CLARK COUNTY, INDIANA



BRYAN GLOVER, PRESIDENT



CONNIE SELLERS, VICE PRESIDENT



JACK COFFMAN, MEMBER

SIGNED THIS DAY February 15, 2024

ATTEST: 

DANNY YOST, CLARK COUNTY AUDITOR