

REGULAR MEETING

CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 14th, 2024

The Board of County Commissioners of Clark County, Indiana met in Regular Session on March 14th, 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 Jamie Hayden. Prayer was led by Commissioner Jack Coffman.

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Coffman made a motion to approve the February 29th, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Sellers seconded. Motion approved 3-0.

Danny Yost presented the claims and payroll for March 14th, 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 were no amendments. Motion by Commissioner Coffman to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Sellers seconded. Motion approved 3-0.

I. Public Comments:

Max Zimmerman – Max was here to provide why he is for solar farms in Clark County. “Somebody knocked on my door one day to talk to me about solar. He wasn’t the only one because more came to my door after that. I started digging deeper into it and consulted with my friends that I knew from Purdue. I talked to my father about this and the ground that we signed up with this particular company had been in our family for over 120 years. I went to school for agriculture & economy and I farmed for a living after I came out of school. I then got into the restaurant business among other things. They gave me a lease and I worked with my attorney on that lease. We agreed to terms in July of 2021 with BriteNight

March 14th, 2024

energy. I talked to my father and the one thing he told me to do was to take care of that land. We are protective of our farm and I don't want to do anything to harm our dirt for my family's future generation. After we signed the lease, I got a call from a neighbor asking if I was moving because of the solar panels. I said it is fine and not that big of a deal. Some people want more restrictions and we can talk about that. Solar farms are the next big thing. My grandparent's started farming our grounds with horses and plows. It then went to gasoline tractors and then diesel tractors. Now they are planting with twenty-four row planters. Owning farm land is great. You have a big asset but the only way you can ever cash it in is if you sell. I don't want to sell." Max thanked the Commissioners for their time.

Greg Hostettler – Greg was here to provide his support of the solar projects in Clark County. "The decision to sign the lease was not done lightly for our family land. There was much time spent regarding the negotiation of this lease with BrightNight. It is great to see County Officials that understand the presence of solar power and the idea to create a UDO. It is apparent that the economic development of Clark County and those businesses that want to come here and are inquiring that Clark County implement practices that are friendly to solar. Noting that the recent announcement of solar panel manufacturing and a meta high-tech farm. Clark County already has a solar project in the county near Underwood and owned by Hoosier Energy. It is also apparent that amending the UDO seems to have taken a heavy influence by the state of Indiana solar standards and the Purdue Extension solar land recommendations. For the new UDO, I would ask that the Commissioners accept a practical and logical set of UDO guidelines within the state limits. We should make the use of solar acceptable so that we can have a clean energy source of power. We should not be inclined to make the UDO so restrictive and prohibitive to not be able to develop the new businesses in our county. There are many economic benefits generated by the projects for the townships, municipalities and for the County to relieve our budget issues and to provide funding for our community needs. There is zero-cost for our citizens and no maintenance and operating expenses associated with this project. I ask for your support of the Flag Run solar project so we can find a balanced approach to meet the needs of all parties concerned with the UDO." Greg thanked the Commissioners for their time.

Eric Vaughn – Eric was here to provide "I want to acknowledge that you all have a big decision in front of you. What I would support is that we do give consideration to what the state has considered for what is meaningful and required. They have already established the state guidelines. From my understanding of the criticism of

— this project is that there is consideration of the loss of future development for the land. As a landowner, we have the opportunity to develop this property for solar but people are trying to stop it to develop it for other reasons. The only ones making the offers are the solar companies and nobody else is making offers.” Eric thanked the Commissioners for their time.

— Kelly Khuri – Kelly gave the Commissioners an update on her appointment to the Utica Township Fire Protection Board. “It has been difficult to get any knowledge about what is going on. I have contacted State Board of Accounts and the Indiana State Police. I expect to hear from the Indiana State Police tomorrow about trying to get to the records. Danny Yost helped me with finding out the establishment year of 1998. I just wanted you all to know that I am attempting to see the records and to figure out about what is going on. We can’t change the past but we can do something moving forward. The two trustees were to have a meeting in January, they did not. They are supposed to have one in April. I’m not sure if Mr. McDonald will make it back in time for the April meeting. I talked to the public access counselor about that today. Maybe you all can call a meeting according to statute 36-8-11-13b. I am concerned about not being able to access the records as of now. I’m going to attempt to that tomorrow with the Indiana State Police. Mr. Castleberry has said that he probably shouldn’t have been appointed to this because he doesn’t know what is going on. I think we may need to consider the other appointees and I have someone who lives in the town of Utica that would be willing to do that. I am concerned with the lack of information and the meetings. I will let you know what I hear about the records but I must be able to obtain them. They were supposed to be designated in the Ordinance in 1998, but that meeting place has not been designated. They have been meeting at the 5840 Utica Pike at the Fire-Department. Those records are supposed to be available for public viewing. I am doing the best I can and I will update you when I receive more information” Kelly thanked the Commissioners for their time.

II. New Business:

- A. Commissioner Glover presented the Resolution Authorizing Bonds to be Issued by River Ridge Development Authority. Speaking for River Ridge are Executive Director Jerry Acy and Attorney Beau Zoeller. River Ridge has its own revenues that are derived from tax increments and other sources inside River Ridge. These bonds will not be secured by any property tax dollars or a debt-levy associated with these bonds or obligations. The County is not an

obligated party or a guarantor. The County just has to approve this pursuant to statute and to allow these bonds to be tax-exempt for River Ridge. The project will include road improvements, utility improvements, lighting, sidewalks, extensions of certain roadways, demolition of existing structures from the old army ammunition plant, remediation related to the demolition, and other infrastructure improvements. Motion by Commissioner Sellers to approve Resolution 01-2024 Authorizing Bonds to be Issued by River Ridge Development Authority. Seconded by Commissioner Coffman. Motion approved 3-0.

B. Commissioner Glover presented the Tractor and Mower Bid Award for the Highway Department. Commissioner Glover is asking for more clarity on the bids from the County Engineer and Highway Superintendent. Motion by Commissioner Sellers to table the Tractor and Mower Bid Award for the Highway Department. Seconded by Commissioner Coffman. Motion approved 3-0.

C. Commissioner Glover presented the Letter of Support for IDOC Community Corrections and Justice Reinvestment Grant. Clark County Chief Probation Officer Jamie Hayden spoke regarding the IDOC Grant. This Letter of Support is required for the application process for the grant. The total amount of the grant is \$1,026,000.00. Motion by Commissioner Coffman to approve Letter of Support for IDOC Community Corrections and Justice Reinvestment Grant. Seconded by Commissioner Sellers. Motion approved 3-0.

D. County Attorney R. Scott Lewis presented the CyberTek Annual Packet Viper Subscription Renewal for the Government Center Building. This provides firewall and cybersecurity for the Government Center Building. The total cost of the annual renewal is \$9,350.00. Motion by Commissioners Sellers to approve the CyberTek Annual Packet Viper Subscription Renewal for the Government Center Building. Seconded by Commissioner Coffman. Motion approved 3-0.

E. County Attorney R. Scott Lewis presented the Clark County REMC Utility Relocation and Reimbursement Agreement. This agreement is for the relocation of electric lines existing along the roadway(s), or sections thereof,

known as Charlestown Pike Part 3 which roadways run from Salem Noble Road to Highway 62. The estimated cost of the relocation is an amount total of \$280,847.96. Motion by Commissioner Coffman to approve the Clark County REMC Utility Relocation and Reimbursement Agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Sellers. Motion approved 3-0.

- F. County Attorney R. Scott Lewis presented the CIMA Natural Gas Price Quote for Judicial Center Building. The base load price is equal to the current NYMEX NG Index price and a \$0.2500 additional cost per volume of MMBtu. This is a lower rate than last year. Total yearly volume is 18,273 MMBtu. Motion by Commissioner Sellers to approve the CIMA Natural Gas Price Quote for Judicial Center Building. 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 423, 52 are Federal inmates.

E. Elected Officials & Department Heads: None.

V. Other Business: None.

VI. Public Comments: None.

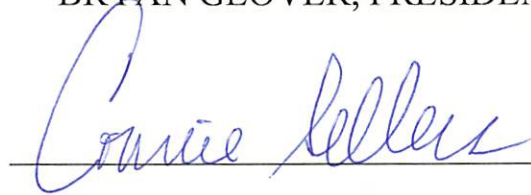
VII. Adjournment: Commissioner Glover entertained the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Sellers motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Coffman seconded. Motion approved 3-0.

March 14th, 2024

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
CLARK COUNTY, INDIANA



BRYAN GLOVER, PRESIDENT



CONNIE SELLERS, VICE PRESIDENT



JACK COFFMAN, MEMBER

SIGNED THIS DAY 3-28-24

ATTEST: 

DANNY YOST, CLARK COUNTY AUDITOR

March 14th, 2024