

BOONE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 MEETING

The Boone County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 AM on Monday, September 20, 2021 in the Connie Lamar Meeting Room located on the main floor of the Boone County Annex Building at 116 W. Washington Street, Room 105, Lebanon, IN 46052 with the following personnel in attendance:

Tom Santelli	Commissioner, President
Jeff Wolfe	Commissioner, Vice President
Donald Lawson	Commissioner
Bob Clutter	County Attorney
Kaylee Jessie	Administrative Assistant

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Santelli opened the meeting at 9:28 AM with a quorum of all three (3) Commissioners present. The Pledge to the Flag took place during the Drainage Board Meeting this morning.

IN THE MATTER OF MINUTES

Commissioner Wolfe moved to approve the Minutes of August 16, 2021 and September 7, 2021 Commissioners' Meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Lawson; motion passed unanimously 3-0.

IN THE MATTER OF LEGAL ISSUES

Attorney Bob Clutter presented the following items:

- 1) Brought up the replacement of Bridge 41 for discussion. Boone County will need to acquire right-of-way from two property owners that reside in Clinton County. Bob has been working with Clinton County's Attorney on a drafted interlocal agreement between Clinton County Commissioners and Boone County Commissioners to present at their meeting in October.
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IN THE MATTER OF ACKNOWLEDGING RFP RESPONSES RECEIVED FOR THE COMPENSATION STUDY AND ANALYSIS

- 1) Clarity Consulting Group received on Tuesday, September 14th at 10:47 AM.
- 2) Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele, and Associates, INC. received on Friday, September 17th at 11:45 AM
- 3) Segal received on Friday, September 17th at 1:08 PM
- 4) The Archer Company received on Friday, September 17th at 5:16 PM
- 5) Purple Ink LLC received on Sunday, September 19th at 6:14 PM
- 6) FirstPerson Advisors received on Monday, September 20th at 7:28 AM

Commissioner Wolfe moved to take the RFP responses received for the compensation study and analysis under advisement. Motion seconded by Commissioner Lawson; motion passed unanimously 3-0.

IN THE MATTER OF WORK FROM HOME AGREEMENT

Commissioner Wolfe moved to approve the Work From Home Agreement for Lisa Younts. Motion seconded by Commissioner Lawson; motion passed unanimously 3-0.

IN THE MATTER OF INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT

Lisa Younts, Health Department Administrator, submitted a proposed Independent Contractor Agreement for individual(s) to provide services aiding the Boone County Health Department with the COVID-19 Emergency Response, not limited to providing testing, vaccinations, registration, and operational clinic duties.

Commissioner Wolfe moved to approve the Independent Contractor Agreement submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Lawson; motion passed unanimously.

IN THE MATTER OF REQUEST PERMISSION TO USE COURTHOUSE GROUNDS FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL & APPRECIATION EVENT

Colonel Tony Harris, Deputy Wesley Garst, and Chaplin Joni Scott presented the request to use the courthouse grounds for the Law Enforcement Memorial & Appreciation Event on Monday, October 11th. There will be a meet and greet with all local law enforcement agencies beginning at 6pm and then the Law Enforcement Ceremony at 7pm. This ceremony is to honor those officers who laid down their lives and paid the ultimate sacrifice in Boone County, Indiana. There will be a multi-agency Honor Guard presentation, guest speakers, a candlelight vigil, and a light presentation.

They have coordinated with the Lebanon Police Department and the Lebanon City Council for the request to block off the surrounding streets – Washington Street and Meridian Street – for the event.

Commissioner Wolfe moved to approve the request to use the courthouse grounds for the Law Enforcement Memorial & Appreciation Event on Monday, October 11th. Motion seconded by Commissioner Lawson; motion passed unanimously 3-0.

IN THE MATTER OF LOCHMULLER AGREEMENT FOR REPLACEMENT OF SC-015

Nick Parr, Highway Director, presented the Lochmueller Agreement for Project 2021-12, replacement of SC-015. Small structure SC-015 is located on CR 900 N over Young Creek. The agreement for Professional Services on this project has a not to exceed amount of \$198,390.

Commissioner Wolfe moved to approve the Lochmueller Agreement for Project 2021-12. Motion seconded by Commissioner Lawson; motion passed unanimously 3-0.

IN THE MATTER OF LPA CONSULTANT AGREEMENT WITH A&F ENGINEERING 400 E / 100 S ROUNDABOUT

Nick Parr, Highway Director, presented the LPA-Consulting Contract with A&F Engineering. Services included in the agreement are survey, design plans, environmental and right-of-way services. This is a Highway Safety Improvement Project that is funded 90% federal and 10% local dollars, the total contract amount is not to exceed \$341,450.00.

Commissioner Wolfe moved to approve the LPA-Consulting Contract with A&F Engineering. Motion seconded by Commissioner Lawson; motion passed unanimously 3-0.

IN THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION REGARDING COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES

Carrie Douglas was present at today's meeting to have an open discussion about how COVID is being managed and present some alternative avenues to mitigate the spread. She is not anti-vaccine or anti masks. Carrie gave a little background history about herself – her involvement in the community and occupation. She is a registered nurse who works in the COVID unit and described her experience with masks during the pandemic. Her request is for the leaders of our community to put a stop putting the fear of the people above the freedom of the people in an effective manner. Some of the local schools have begun mandating masks indoors again. She asked what happens if the parent who doesn't want their child(ren) next to other child(ren) without masks? What if that leads to not being near those who are not vaccinated? What if someone has been vaccinated but hasn't developed the antibodies to the vaccine? Or the child is immunocompromised and can't get the vaccine? It was suggested that schools should look into ventilation / infiltration systems. She asked the commissioners to support the school boards to make other effective decisions and lift the mask mandate.

County Attorney Bob Clutter commented that the school boards are also elected, so the Commissioners are unable to overturn their mandate.

Dr. Herschell Servies commented that he is tired of the distrust from the community towards the medical field and government. He has made his recommendations to all the school boards, but in the end the boards make their own decision. He expressed his frustration with the Governor's order allowing the school boards to make the decision regarding masks mandate. In regard to the other protective measures Carrie referenced, Lebanon Schools have already installed the new ventilation and infiltration systems. The number of positive COVID cases are on the rise, significantly. The Boone County Health Department has opened the testing clinic at Witham today. The hours of operation for the testing clinic are Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 8am to noon and 2pm to 6pm. The vaccination clinic is still operating out of the Boone County Health Department on Wednesdays from 2pm to 7pm and Fridays from 9am to 2pm. Booster vaccine available to select individuals – immunocompromise, age 65 and older, and medical staff.

Commissioner Santelli read off the number of positive cases for children in Boone County per Lisa Younts.

<u>June</u>	
Years Old	Positive Cases
0-4	6 cases
5-11	5 cases
12-18	14 cases

<u>July</u>	
Years Old	Positive Cases
0-4	5 cases
5-11	5 cases
12-18	14 cases

<u>August</u>	
Years Old	Positive Cases
0-4	17 cases
5-11	82 cases
12-18	73 cases

Commissioner Wolfe commented on the respectful and civil way Ms. Douglas presented information at today's meeting. The job of Dr. Servies and the health departments is to understand the risk and advise how to mitigate. It is up to schools and businesses to make their decisions on how to mitigate the health risk.

IN THE MATTER OF OLD BUSINESS

There was none at this time.

IN THE MATTER OF STAFF REPORTS

- APC – Rachel Cardis
- Coroner’s Office – Justin Sparks
- Facilities / Capital Investments – Max Mendenhall
- Health Department – Lisa Younts / Abby Messenger
- Highway Department – Nick Parr
- Human Resources – Megan Smith
- IT Support – GUTS
- Other Elected Officials

Nick Parr, Director of Highway Department presented the following items:

- 1) Construction in right-of-way permit (#202110047) for Everstream at 5400 E 200 S to install fiber optic cable. Bond amount of \$10,000. The Boone County Highway Department recommends approval subject to the company providing a copy of the agreement with REMC to use their poles for some of the project. Commissioner Wolfe moved to approve the construction in right-of-way permit (#202110047) for Everstream, subject to the comments made by Nick Parr. Motion seconded by Commissioner Lawson; motion passed unanimously 3-0.
- 2) Construction in right-of-way permit (#202110048) for for Everstream at Indianapolis Road and Circle Drive for placement of overhead lines for telecommunications. Bond amount of \$5,000. The Boone County Highway Department recommends approval. Commissioner Lawson moved to approve the construction in right-of-way permit (#202110048) for Everstream. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wolfe; motion passed unanimously 3-0.
- 3) Construction in right-of-way permit (#202110051) for BP Pipelines at CR 725 N, 525 feet east of CR 150 W for underground linear construction for facilities. Bond amount of \$10,000. The Boone County Highway Department recommends approval. Commissioner Wolfe moved to approve the construction in right-of-way permit (#202110051) for BP Pipelines. Motion seconded by Commissioner Lawson; motion passed unanimously 3-0.
- 4) Construction in right-of-way permit (#202110052) for Professional Service Industries at Bridge 150 on CR 700 W, north of CR 425 S, for geotechnical borings for project. Bond amount of \$40,000. The Boone County Highway Department recommends approval and to waive the fees due to it being a Boone County project. Commissioner Lawson moved to approve the construction in right-of-way permit (#202110052) for Professional Service Industries and to waive the fees. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wolfe; motion passed unanimously 3-0.

- 5) Construction in right-of-way permit (#202110053) for Centerpoint Energy at 8440 Hunt Club Road for a tap pit to tie into an existing gas main. Bond amount of \$5,000. The Boone County Highway Department recommends approval.

Commissioner Wolfe moved to approve the construction in right-of-way permit (#202110053) for Centerpoint Energy. Motion seconded by Commissioner Lawson; motion passed unanimously 3-0.

6) Other Highway Department Updates:

- Fall Road opened on 09/15/2021. The trail construction continues.
- Bid date for Bridge 217 approximately October/November.

Commissioner Santelli:

- 1) Commented that some of the permits is for installations of fiber optic cable. He and others are working with Charter Communications to apply for the Next Level Connection Grant on behalf of Boone County.

Commissioner Wolfe:

- 1) Asked Ken Hedge, County Surveyor, and Nick Parr, Highway Director, want to address the small structure CE040 near CR 400 E that was reported cracked and damaged. Mark Turner presented a picture of the damage.



Nick Parr commented that he reached out to the USI inspectors immediately after Mr. Turner reported the damage of the small structure to the Boone County Highway Department. They are waiting on the final report from USI, and Mr. Turner will be contacted upon receipt. Mark Turner asked the commissioners to entertain a notion of a group action to monetarily support the replacement of some of the small culverts near that area and possibly budget for it next year. He believes some of these could be replaced at a fraction of the cost with the support from some of the local farmers in that area. Nick Parr commented that the Boone County Highway Department has professionals determine the structure, size, and type to prevent problems upstream or downstream before making a decision that could be a negative impact. Commissioner Wolfe commented that he and Nick would be happy to meet with Mr. Turner to discuss further options.

IN THE MATTER OF DOCUMENT SIGNING

1) Claims Dockets – regular, prepays, payroll, and insurance.

Commissioner Lawson moved to approve Budgetary Claims presented from the Auditor's Office. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wolfe; motion passed unanimously 3-0.

IN THE MATTER OF MAIL

See (**Appendix #3**) for a list of mail opened by the Commissioners on this date.

- **County Attorney Bob Clutter brought to the commissioners attention a letter from the Town of Thorntown requesting county assistance in an amount of \$2,000,000.00 from County ARP funds.**
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IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Commissioner Lawson moved to adjourn the Boone County Commissioners' Meeting at 10:32 AM on Monday, September 20, 2021. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wolfe; motion passed unanimously 3-0.