

REGULAR MEETING
CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 18th, 2024

The Board of County Commissioners of Clark County, Indiana met in Regular Session on July 18th, 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 Nick Mobley. Prayer was led by Jack Coffman.

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve the July 2nd, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Coffman seconded. Motion approved 3-0.

Danny Yost presented the claims and payroll for July 18th, 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:

Shawn Bostock – Shawn was here to speak on EMS, “Why are we not listening to the experts when it comes to EMS in Clark County? Jeffersonville Fire Department had to transport a choking child last night. Scott County EMS had to be called into Henryville because there were no trucks. Every night at 8pm, we lose trucks from the contracted agency. I heard AmeriPro may be mentioned tonight. Why are we going to replace one failed contract EMS provider with another? AmeriPro cannot keep New Albany city staffed with two trucks. Multiple times a week, Highlander Fire & EMS has to go bail them out. AmeriPro is AMR, all of which have failed in Clark County. Do you see a pattern? If we are going to do this, it can either be

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County based or Fire based. The towns have spoken. Jeffersonville city wants to start their own. Clarksville wants to start their own. Tri-Township has its own. New Washington has its own. Why do we not subsidize them? Why isn't Tri-Township receiving money when they are transporting? Those are County residents that are being provided with EMS and that is your responsibility"

Mark Furnish – Mark is the Fire Chief of Monroe Township and is here to speak on EMS," In my forty-two years of service, I have never seen the EMS service at the level it is at right now. It is a broken system that can't sustain the way that it is. We work with New Chapel EMS. We provide a driver for a squad that stays in Monroe Township. That squad is scheduled from 8am to 6pm. That costs me about \$42,000 a year. That is about 10% of my budget. I run on \$400,000 a year. The benefit of it is that our response time is nine minutes or less when we are manned. When we are not manned from 6pm until 8am the next morning, the response time is twenty-six minutes or more. We do have a good partnership with New Chapel, and we appreciate them working with us. We must find a solution and I believe it is spiraling out of control faster than we can grasp. If there is any subsidy, we may be able to go twenty-four hours. This is an organization within the County that is there only for the community and not the money. We aren't looking for anything other than to provide a service for our community." Mark thanked the Commissioners for their time.

Jason Cochran – Jason is the Fire Chief of New Washington and is here to speak on EMS, "I have been the Chief of New Washington for ten years. Historically, EMS has always been a problem for Clark County. Our department saw the need to purchase an ambulance over twenty years ago. We have partnered with New Chapel and all other contractors to provide the service to our community. My squads are from 2006 with high mileage. They have cost me \$18,000.00 for maintenance just this year. We are happy to do it for our community. My budget is less than \$400,000.00. We are running into financial issues to provide this service. It appears that there is funding left for the ARP. We would like to ask if there is available funding, we need two new ambulances. We are prepared to continue doing our part to serve our community. I wanted to make you aware of our equipment because it has aged. I would like to present a quote to you to receive additional monies." Jason thanked the Commissioners for their time.

Kelly Khuri – Kelly was here to speak on EMS, "I think back into the decades that I have been involved. There is so much money going into development in our County. There is all this prospective growth in our County, yet we do not have the

facilities to take care of our people. I don't feel like you all are following the comprehensive plan. The smart growth, taking care of our land and our people. We are dedicating millions to these companies coming into our County but not dedicating money to providing the services that we need for public safety. We all need to pull together and make sure we are taking care of the citizens of our County. I'm not concerned with Meta coming in other than they will suck our resources and they only run on renewable energy. The number one priority for the comprehensive plan is to protect our rural community. We have public safety and resource issues that we need to address. We need to make sure we can provide for the people already here and for the ones moving here as well."

Christina Horsley – Christina was here to speak on EMS, "Just about three weeks ago, I had an emergency in our family. This was the first time in my life that I was scared to call an ambulance. My mother called and said that she was going to pass out and didn't know what was going on. I called other family members to see if they could get there faster because I was ten minutes away. I wasn't sure if she was in the process of suffering a stroke. We called 911 and I was getting ready to take her because of the uncertainty with our ambulance services. New Chapel arrived there in a reasonable time. I was panicking the whole time because I didn't know if they had all the supplies they needed to deal with her situation. Taking care of our residents is a priority. It is concerning to not have paramedics on staff especially with the choking child situation the other night as Shawn said. The tax dollars need to be used for public safety and to hire and retain qualified people with those EMS services. Something needs to change." Christine thanked the Commissioners for their time.

Coy Travis – Coy is the spokesperson for New Chapel EMS and was here to speak on EMS, "Hearing someone say they are scared to call 911 when you are the spokesperson for the primary EMS provider is concerning. It is concerning because I know the dedication of our staff that make sure the safety net is there. Knowing the other public safety providers that partner with New Chapel to make sure that safety net is there. We have always tried to be transparent and honest over the last five months since the change in leadership. We've made mistakes and we own that we must learn from those mistakes. You hear about the bad things and not that New Chapel had over 12,000 runs this year. Over 98% of those runs have had no concerns reported. We have had continuous investments in our equipment and staff. The continued efforts of us trying to bring in more paramedics. This is a problem that Dr. Yazel and others have identified as not just a Clark County problem but a nationwide problem. We want the public to know they are safe and

that we care. The safety net is there. I do want to address the concern of the child that was choking. The Fire Department transported a stable breathing child before EMS arrived. The child was stabilized in four minutes. You have heard that Clark County has had a historical EMS problem, and we are committed to working with you all to make it better. Nobody should be scared to call 911. You all have been such great partners, and we haven't invoiced you in the last two months." Coy thanked the Commissioners for their time.

II. New Business:

- A. Gavan Hebner, the Director of Clark County EMA, presented the EMA Director Report. Commissioner Glover asked Gavan for his recommendation as a member of the EMS Advisory Board. Gavan responded, "Currently New Chapel doesn't meet the staffing requirements to fulfill the contract to cover EMS. I recommend that we reach out to other partners to find a solution to cover the EMS calls in our community. That way our citizens know that when they call 911, they will get an ambulance." Commissioner Glover added, "I think what we are looking for from the EMS Advisory Board perspective, we know it is there for short-term and long-term solutions. Sitting in on those meetings, it's been about the ordinance that is in place now. Does this movement allow us the time to look at the long-term solutions?" Gavan answered with, "I think what we have in front of us is three objectives that we need to accomplish. First is to initially stabilize our County with emergency response. Secondly, is to amend the public safety ordinance. Lastly, to figure out a way to fund fire-based EMS or another service to adequately cover our community. This isn't going to be a quick change. We've had over forty years of private EMS. It has gotten archaic. We need to find a provider to stabilize our situation. As well as working in the background to amend the public safety ordinance and find a long-term solution."

Motion by Commissioner Sellers to allow Gavan Hebner and Dr. Yazel in conjunction with the EMS Advisory Board to find an EMS provider. Seconded by Commissioner Coffman. Motion approved 3-0.

- B. Steve Leist, Senior Vice President of Assured Partners, presented the Assured Partners – Property and Casualty Insurance Renewal. Steve wanted to thank the department heads and office holders that provided the information in order to

work with the carriers and provide coverage for the County. For Liability, Auto, Umbrella coverage with Trident in the amount of a yearly premium of \$705,006.00. For Property coverage with Chubb in the amount of a yearly premium of \$107,123.00. For Workers Compensation coverage with IPEP in the amount of a yearly premium of \$368,784.00. For Law Enforcement Liability coverage with Indian Harbor, Kinsale, Upland in the amount of a yearly premium of \$334,871.00. For Cyber Liability coverage with Beazley in the amount of a yearly premium of \$13,080.00. For Crime, Hull / P & I coverage with Travelers in the amount of a yearly premium of \$14,994.00. The agreement has a term date of 8/1/2024 - 7/31/2025. Motion by Commissioner Sellers to approve the Assured Partners – Property and Casualty Insurance Renewal. Seconded by Commissioner Coffman. Motion approved 3-0.

C. County Attorney R. Scott Lewis presented the Alternative Health Care Center Services Agreement. The current agreement expires on August 1st, 2024. This is a two-year contract from August 1, 2024 – August 1, 2026. The agreed rate is in the amount of \$68.65 per month per employee. Motion by Commissioner Coffman to approve the Alternative Health Care Center Services Agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Sellers. Motion approved 3-0.

D. County Attorney R. Scott Lewis presented the BMS Annual Section 125 Plan and FSA. The agreement has a term date of 8/1/2024 – 12/31/2024. Next year there will be a one-year agreement to match the health plans. No change in contract price. Motion by Commissioner Sellers to approve the BMS Annual Section 125 Plan and FSA. Seconded by Commissioner Coffman. Motion approved 3-0.

E. Judge Lisa Glickfield, presented the Clark County Problem Solving Court Opioid Unrestricted Funds Request. Judge Glickfield, “The Opioid settlement money had come with a request regarding trying to give an appropriation or some of the funds from that settlement for our problem-solving courts. At the time, we were unsure of the money being allocated to other entities. We ask the Commissioners to consider allocating a portion of those funds to the problem-solving courts. Dr. Yazel provided a letter of support that was given to the Council as well. The Clark County Health Department is on board with the problem-solving courts being a participant in receiving some of that money.” The request is in the amount of \$111,000.00. Commissioner Glover thinks this

should fall under the Restricted Fund. County Attorney Scott Lewis confirms it qualifies as Restricted Funds usage. Motion by Commissioner Coffman to approve the Clark County Problem Solving Court Opioid Restricted Funds Request. Seconded by Commissioner Sellers. Motion approved 3-0.

- F.** Judge Lisa Glickfield, presented the Ordinance Establishing the Court Interpreter Grant Fund. This is Ordinance 13-2024. This Ordinance will establish fund 9109. The grant is in the amount of \$7,000.00. Motion by Commissioner Sellers to approve the Ordinance Establishing the Court Interpreter Grant Fund. Seconded by Commissioner Coffman. Motion approved 3-0.
- G.** County Attorney R. Scott Lewis presented the Ordinance Establishing the Landfill Bond Proceeds Fund. This is Ordinance 14-2024. This Ordinance will establish fund 4804. This is for the supplemental bond process to complete the barrier and slurry wall projects at the Landfill. The creation of fund 4804 is for the receipt of those revenue bonds and for the disbursement of those funds. Motion by Commissioner Sellers to approve the Ordinance Establishing the Landfill Bond Proceeds Fund. Seconded by Commissioner Coffman. Motion approved 3-0.
- H.** County Attorney R. Scott Lewis presented the E & B Paving LLC Contract – Bridge #400 (Willinger Lane over Mill Creek). The total contract amount is \$1,385,262.00. A waterline must be relocated before a start date will be announced. Motion by Commissioner Coffman to approve the E & B Paving LLC Contract – Bridge #400 (Willinger Lane over Mill Creek). Seconded by Commissioner Sellers. Motion approved 3-0.
- I.** County Attorney R. Scott Lewis presented the American Structurepoint Inc. – Professional Services Contract – Lance Court. Motion by Commissioner Sellers to table the American Structurepoint Inc, - Professional Services Court and allow them to send a revised agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Coffman. Motion approved 3-0.

- J. County Attorney R. Scott Lewis** presented the Pioneer Environmental & Engineering LLC – Contract for Landfill Service Ditch Design Plans & Testing. This is for the service ditch design plans and material prequalification testing. The cost of the agreement is in the amount of \$21,000.00. Motion by Commissioner Coffman to approve the Pioneer Environmental & Engineering LLC – Contract for Landfill Service Ditch Design Plans & Testing. Seconded by Commissioner Sellers. 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 438, 39 are Federal Inmates.

E. Elected Officials & Department Heads: Dr. Eric Yazel was here to speak on EMS, “I agree with the gist of what was discussed before I arrived. We have given New Chapel ample opportunity to meet the needs of Clark County. We have developed contingency plans along the way when problems arise. We had some concerns when they lost a significant amount of their workforce in June. They were able to cover it in the short-term, but it was unsustainable with how much those are working. We are asking for a service that they can’t provide. I wanted to reiterate what Gavan had said to ensure that our County has ALS paramedic coverage 24/7. We also need to look at helping some of our local providers and to flex up their service delivery.” Dr. Yazel thanked the Commissioners for their time.

V. Other Business: None

VI. Public Comments: None.

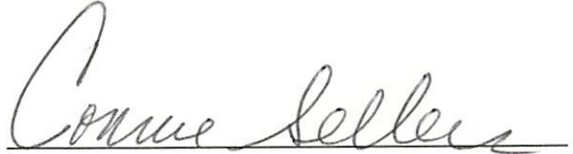
VII. Adjournment: Commissioner Glover entertained the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Sellers motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Coffman seconded. Motion approved 3-0.

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
CLARK COUNTY, INDIANA

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BRYAN GLOVER, PRESIDENT

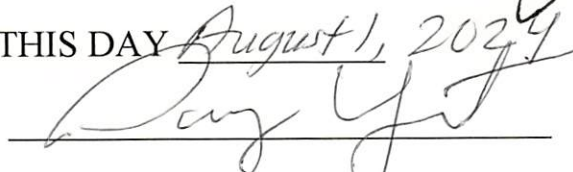
A black ink signature, appearing to be "Connie Sellers", written over a horizontal line.

CONNIE SELLERS, VICE PRESIDENT

A black ink signature, appearing to be "Jack Coffman", written over a horizontal line.

JACK COFFMAN, MEMBER

SIGNED THIS DAY August 1, 2024

ATTEST: A black ink signature, appearing to be "Danny Yost", written over a horizontal line.

DANNY YOST, CLARK COUNTY AUDITOR

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