

The Adams County Board of Commissioners met August 18, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the Adams County Service Complex. Present were Commissioners: Doug Bauman, Kim Fruechte, and Rex Moore; County Attorney, Mark Burry; and Adams County Auditor, Mary Beery.

IN RE: MINUTES

Upon a motion by Kim Fruechte, seconded by Rex Moore, for approval of the Adams County Board of Commissioners' Minutes for August 11, 2020 as amended. Under Highway add the words, if interested, to the sentence, "Notices will be sent to adjoining landowners and they would need to bid on the property." and change entity to entities in the sentence under Covid-19, "A portion of the reimbursement was deposited into our bank account and will have to be disbursed to the correct entity." Motion carried.

IN RE: AUDITOR REPORT

**Payroll Claims**

Upon a motion by Rex Moore, seconded by Kim Fruechte, for approval of the payroll claims totaling \$308,198.28 for the pay period ending August 7, 2020. Motion carried.

**Claims**

Upon a motion by Rex Moore, seconded by Kim Fruechte, for approval of the claims totaling \$2,397,104.29 to be paid August 19, 2020. Motion carried.

**Health Insurance**

Upon a motion by Kim Fruechte, seconded by Rex Moore, for approval of the Allied Health Insurance funding request for August 17, 2020, in the amount of \$16,773.97 (Medical \$19,368.30 & Pharmacy \$0.00 & Voided Payment Reimbursement Credit \$2,594.33). Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Rex Moore, seconded by Kim Fruechte, for approval of payment for the September 2020 consulting fee with Shafley Plan Management in the amount of \$2,916.67. Motion carried.

There is currently a combined total of \$2,824,363.09 in the checking and reserve accounts. We received a general plan amendment for 2020 regarding virtual office visits. This was temporarily implemented as a result of the COVID 19 crisis. Allied feel this is a good time to make this change permanent. The amendment needed to be signed by August 14, 2020 to ratify this process. The COVID-19 pandemic has fueled a rapid increase in telemedicine and virtual care visits. The amendment will cover virtual care services, effective September 1, 2020, at the same cost sharing as "traditional" services. Coverage for virtual services includes not only traditional office visits, but also any virtual service where corresponding coverage for "face to face" interactions are already covered by your group health plan. The amendment for coverage of virtual services will be provided to employees.

Upon a motion by Kim Fruechte, seconded by Rex Moore, to confirm the plan change addition of benefit to the plan and inform employees. Motion carried.

**Animal Shelter**

The Adams County Commissioners accepted into the record, the following reports from Animal Shelter Directors, Charlie and Carol Bowers. The July 2020 report states that they had sheltered 5 dogs and 13 cats with 0 being claimed and 9 adoptions. Zero animals were euthanized, and the Animal Shelter is currently housing 9 animals. There was \$20.00 receipted into the County General fund.

Upon a motion by Rex Moore, seconded by Kim Fruechte, to accept the Animal Shelter report for July 2020 into the record. Motion carried.

**Covid-19**

Brianna Brodbeck updated the board on the Covid-19 finances. There are five additional requests which four are coming back to the county and one to jail commissary. The prior legal fees were denied and have to be resubmitted under a new category. A portion of the reimbursement was deposited into our bank account and will have to be disbursed to the correct entity. Adams County is down to \$819,671.30 after these requests.

COVID-19 Cares Act Requests List

Request #	Acct. Receiving Monies	Signed @ Commissioners	Sent to IFA	Amount Requested	Amount Received	Received Monies	Quietus	Reimbursed Dept	Check/ACH #
#1	County	7/21/2020	7/21/2020	\$53,655.30	\$53,655.30	8/10/2020	8/12/2020		
#2	County	7/21/2020	7/21/2020	\$149,000.00	\$149,000.00	8/10/2020	8/12/2020		
#3	Commissary	7/21/2020	7/21/2020	\$3,956.78	\$3,956.78	8/10/2020	8/12/2020	8/12/2020	Ck #49926
#4	Commissary	7/21/2020	7/21/2020	\$59.73	\$59.73	8/10/2020	COMMISSARY		
#5	Commissary	7/21/2020	7/21/2020	\$675.00	\$675.00	8/10/2020	8/12/2020	8/12/2020	Ck #49926
#6	County	7/21/2020	7/21/2020	\$25,082.12	\$20,797.53	8/10/2020	8/12/2020		
#7	County	7/21/2020	7/21/2020	\$3,173.00	\$3,173.00	8/10/2020	8/12/2020		
#8	County	7/21/2020	7/21/2020	\$27,152.60	\$27,152.60	8/10/2020	8/12/2020		
#9	Library	7/21/2020	7/21/2020	\$2,594.49	\$2,594.49	8/10/2020	8/12/2020	8/12/2020	ACH #18573
#10	Commissary	7/21/2020	7/21/2020	\$536.00	\$536.00	8/10/2020	COMMISSARY		
#11	County	8/18/2020		\$49,323.68					
#12	County	8/18/2020		\$4,312.71					
#13	County	8/18/2020		\$15,615.84					

#14	County	8/18/2020		\$4,311.03				
#15	Commissary	8/18/2020		\$1,331.01				

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$340,779.29</b>	<b>\$261,600.43</b>
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<b>County Total</b>	<b>\$331,626.28</b>	<b>\$253,778.43</b>
<b>Commissary Total</b>	<b>\$6,558.52</b>	<b>\$5,227.51</b>
<b>Library Total</b>	<b>\$2,594.49</b>	<b>\$2,594.49</b>

Motion by Rex Moore, to approve that Bri updated on request and the money that will be received for different departments, seconded by Kim Fruechte. Motion carried.

Mary Beery requested permission for her Chief Deputy be allowed to work from home. Her daughter is in school and North Adams Schools is closed until August 31<sup>st</sup>. Currently, she has no childcare for her daughter and is requesting August 18<sup>th</sup> off for Covid-19.

Motion by Kim Fruechte, to take Mary’s recommendation and approve, seconded by Rex Moore. Motion carried.

Mrs. Beery questioned allowing employees to work from home due to increase in Covid-19 cases. The Auditor will address the question with Mark Burry.

**AIC**

Mary Beery signed Adams County up for the virtual conference of the Association of Indiana Counties. All county officials will receive an email inviting them to sign up for the conference. The onetime fee for the entire county is \$500 for those interested in the virtual conference.

Motion by Rex Moore, to approve the virtual conference totaling \$500, seconded by Kim Fruechte. Motion carried.

**Weights and Measures Report**

Upon a motion by Kim Fruechte, seconded by Rex Moore, to accept into the record the report by Larry Weaver, Weights and Measures Director, for the period July 16, 2020 to August 15, 2020 stating there had been 17 inspections, with 17 correct and 0 rejected. Motion carried.

**Workman’s Compensation**

Upon a motion by Kim Fruechte, seconded by Rex Moore, for approval of paying out of the regular claim cycle the claim to Eastern Alliance Insurance Company (Workman’s Comp), in the amount of \$1,471.86. Motion carried.

Upon a motion by Kim Fruechte, seconded by Rex Moore, for approval of \$50,000 to be transferred from County General into the Worker’s Compensation fund. Motion carried.

IN RE: COUNTY ENGINEER REPORT

**Cumulative Bridge**

County Engineer, Tim Barkey, updated the board as follows:  
 Bridge B-133, located on 000 bet 500 and 550 S, is opened.

Last week a field check was done on bridge B-106, located on 200 S over the Blue Creek between 500 & 650 E, with the engineers. Butler Fairman & Seufert is designing a new bridge. The right-of-way will need to be determined to do the bridge project. Mr. Barkey asked to approve Miller Land Surveying to survey for the proper right-of-way to purchase to complete the bridge. He will get a contract and bring to the board for signature.

Jutte Excavating torqued the tension rods on the Covered Bridge to tighten up the loose cross members. The bridge is secure.

A meeting was held last week with landowners and the Wabash River Basin Commission on the project on 1100 S. Cardno Engineers will submit permit applications with IDNR, USACE, and IDEM for the bank stabilization project. The amount that was applied for cannot happen before January 1, 2021. This is an 80/20% match with Adams County paying 20%. The county’s portion is an in kind cash match and the highway department will properly repair the area. The project will begin in the fall of 2021.

IN RE: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

**MVH/Local Road & Street**

Highway Superintendent, Brad Yoder, presented the monthly MVH and Local Road & Street report to the Commissioners stating the MVH and the LRS funds have decreased from last year.

Upon a motion by Rex Moore, seconded by Kim Fruechte, to accept the August 2020 MVH and Local Road & Street report into record. Motion carried.

**Department**

Mr. Yoder reported the crew is mowing, weeding, and the masks should be here next week.

The neighbor on the north side of the High Street property is not interested in the property and Brad has not been able to contact the resident on the south side. A letter will be sent to the neighbor on the south side to give them the opportunity to purchase it if interested.

The cold storage brick building that was approved will not start until November.

IN RE: BUILDING MAINTENANCE

**Complex Building**

Building and Grounds Supervisor, Rick Burkhalter, reported that the contract with Havel for heating and cooling will expire December 31, 2020. He will negotiate the contract or look elsewhere.

He spent the morning with Mike Brown tearing out wiring. There might be things that have to be moved or cleaned up which will consist of departments moving files and finding a location to put the files.

IN RE: PUBLIC DEFENDER

Managing Public Defender, Brad Weber, requested approval to move the current part-time position to a full-time position. All felony and misdemeanor claims are above 80% of caseload and the workload does not decrease. The department does everything they can to get inmates out of jail. Juvenile's automatically get assigned a public defender. His department has one full-time and one part-time person. The prosecutor currently has 4 full-time positions. Initial hearings are being done daily. Brad talks to all of them and then follows the procedure for discovery. The staff has to contact the correct person to access the information then they need to meet with the client as quickly as possible. The part-time position is paid \$10.50 on an hourly basis. Brad would like the full-time position to begin January 1, 2021 unless Council would want to fund in 2020. The judge might require the client to payback some of the charges if they are holding a job. No comp time is being built within the department.

Motion by Kim Fruechte, to accept Brad's recommendation, seconded by Doug Bauman. Motion carried. Rex Moore abstained due to a conflict of interest.

IN RE: GOLDEN MEADOWS

**Application for Admission**

Kris Nichols, Golden Meadows Home Administrator, submitted an application for admission of an out of county female. The individual is becoming too much for her sister to take care of her and she cannot live on her own. She has been assessed and will be a good fit for the home.

Upon a motion by Rex Moore, seconded by Kim Fruechte, to approve the admittance of an out of county female based on the recommendation of Kris Nichols. Motion carried.

**Monthly Report**

Mrs. Nichols presented the July 2020 Golden Meadows monthly report stating that there were currently 28 residents at the home. The report shows \$22,328.19 was received in room and board funds. The room and board receipts are lower than normal because they overpaid last month. There are currently 18 males and 10 females at the home.

Upon a motion by Rex Moore, seconded Kim Fruechte, for approval of the Golden Meadows report for July 2020 as presented. Motion carried.

**Extended Leave**

Mrs. Nichols requested approving an unpaid leave for two weeks for an employee who is new and does not have any paid time off. She also requested the additional biweekly pay for the full-time cook. The cook has exhausted all of their paid time off and will be off for 4 weeks.

Upon a motion by Rex Moore, for approval of the above two requests, seconded by Kim Fruechte. Motion carried.

IN RE: PRIMARY ELECTION INVESTIGATION

Prosecuting Attorney, Jeremy Brown, reported his department applies and receives a VOCA grant for 80% of the pay for the victim advocate. Adams County pays 20% of wage.

Election Board Members, Wes Kuntzman and John Minch were in attendance for the primary election investigation report. Jeremy Brown reported there was a concern that an individual submitted a large amount of absentee ballots to the Clerk's Office. Jeremy had the Sheriff step aside and the State Police took care of the investigation. He cannot divulge information. It was communicated that the incident could be a class C Felony. They contacted the necessary individuals and no one delivered absentee ballots to the Clerk's Office. A person can only deliver another's ballot if you are a bonded courier company, post office, POA, or a member of the household. Mr. Brown is confident that all steps were done correctly.

Wes Kuntzman reported there are qualifications that have to be processed by the voter in order to be a legal ballot. There is no way to track if a ballot has been received. The Election Board will begin in the November election to let voters know the proper protocol. They need to make sure people understand the qualifications. There were over 2,700 absentee ballots in the Primary Election.

An investigation was requested and it was completed. The main concern is all citizens in Adams County are assured that all absentee ballots have been handled correctly. Jeremy wants the public assured that the system is working.

IN RE: BUILDING & PLANNING

**Monthly Report**

Mark Wynn, Building & Plan Commission Director, presented the monthly report for July 2020 showing that there had been:

TYPE OF PERMIT	NUMBER OF PERMITS	DOLLAR VALUE OF PERMITS
Single Family Residence	3	\$755,000
Residential Additions	11	\$263,000
Unattached Buildings	18	\$486,400

Addition to Unattached Buildings	7	\$157,120
Agricultural Buildings	3	\$300,000
Pools	1	\$9,000
Decks	4	\$176,600
New Electrical Service	1	
Electrical Upgrade	3	\$6,000
Remodels	2	\$308,000
Ponds	2	\$18,500
Total Permits	55	Total dollar value \$2,479,620

Upon a motion by Rex Moore, seconded by Kim Fruechte, to approve the monthly report for July 2020 as presented. Motion carried.

IN RE: COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

County Council Chairman, Stan Stoppenhagen, presented the proposed new employee evaluation form and the proposed PTO Policy for approval. Considerable changes have been made to the forms. Several work sessions have been held. Eran Hackman handles the HR policies and Stan has asked for her advice.

Doug Bauman stated his biggest concern is that the rollover be handled correctly. Stan responded the proposal does not address this, it is a big concern and will be addressed.

Stan said Council would like to consider moving and adopting some of the wage adjustments for 2021. It could be mid-year 2021 before PTO begins. A work session can be set up where the Commissioners could attend. Council would appreciate input on addressing fiscal parts of the policy. The policy will require additional software for the Auditor's Office. LOW Financials has a program and is doing a presentation on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

The performance evaluation was presented which updated the current form. The new evaluation would go to a system that quantifies the evaluation. There are wording changes and tweaking on the point system. The evaluation needs to be back from the department heads by October 1, 2020 in order to make wage adjustments at the first of 2021.

The Commissioners will look it over and make a decision at another meeting. A work session will be set up for both boards to share input.

IN RE: COUNTY ATTORNEY

**Certificate of Appointment**

County Attorney, Mark Burry, presented a certificate of appointment for Sandy Voglewede as Soil and Water Director. The term commences on September 1, 2020 and runs to December 31, 2020. The Soil and Water Board recommended Sandy be approved until December 31, 2020.

Upon a motion Kim Fruechte, seconded by Doug Bauman, to approve the recommendation for Sandy Voglewede. Motion carried.

**County Farm Lease**

The county farm lease was sent to Doug Fosnaugh so he can look over the lease. Some of the acreage might need to be used if decided to go forward with solar project.

IN RE: COVID-19

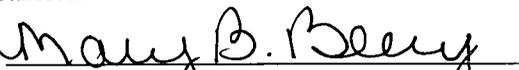
Health Department Attorney, Adam Miller; Sanitarian, Jessica Bergdall, and Environmentalist, Nathan Scherer, were in attendance. Mr. Miller reported the numbers are going up in Adams County. The Health Officer is instituting a countywide face covering mandate. We will need to use as much media and social media where we can. The provision includes all business, restaurants, and grocery stores. Everyone needs to see that all of their employees and customers are wearing masks. This provision is the last resort and the Health Officer has the right to close any facility. They want people to wear masks because it is the right thing to do. Everyone needs to wear face masks, wash hands, and continue to social distance. We need to get it under control before we lose control. They only need a verbal consensus to support the requirement. In an office setting if you are at least 6 feet away you do not have to wear a mask.

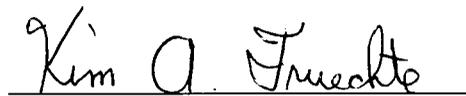
The Commissioners are all in agreement that they support Dr. Ainsworth and Adam Miller's initiative.

IN RE: ADJOURN

Upon a motion Kim Fruechte, seconded by Doug Bauman, the meeting for August 18, 2020 was adjourned. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

  
Mary B. Beery, Adams County Auditor

  
Kim A. Fruechte, Commissioner

  
Rex Moore, Commissioner

  
Douglas L. Bauman, Chairman

IN RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Kim Fruechte, to convene the executive session for August 18, 2020, seconded by Rex Moore.

Motion carried.

The Adams County Commissioners held an executive session in the Commissioners room of the Adams County Service Complex on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 beginning at 12:15 p.m., following their regular meeting, concerning the following:

Discussion concerning pending or threatened litigation:

I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(B)

Employee Conduct

I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(6)(A)

Nothing other than what was advertised was discussed and no decision was made.

Present were Commissioners; Rex Moore, Kim Fruechte, and Doug Bauman; County Attorney, Mark Burry; and Adams County Auditor, Mary Beery.

Upon a motion Kim Fruechte, seconded by Rex Moore, to adjourn the executive session for August 18, 2020.

Motion carried.

ATTEST: Mary B. Beery  
Mary B. Beery, Adams County Auditor