

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT, The Board of Commissioners of the County of St. Joseph met in a regular session in the County City Building on April 4, 2023 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. (EST) at which time in the following members were present: Carl Baxmeyer, Derek Dieter, and Dr. Deborah Fleming D.M.D. were present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**OPENING AND READING OF BIDS ON:**

Assessor-CAMA system, annual review of commercial and residential properties, and MRA program.

Bree Roberts for the Assessors office, offices on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

CAMA:

xSoft Inc., Noblesville, IN.

Annual review of commercial and residential properties:

Nexus Group, Indianapolis, IN.

Tyler Technologies, Moraine, OH.

Vision Government Solutions, Hudson, MA

MRA program:

Gavin Fisher, Elkhart, IN.

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Dieter.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

**REPORTS AND REQUESTS FROM:**

**COMMISSIONERS**

**A)**

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING**

**THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE DOCKETS**

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the Accounts Payable Docket as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Dieter.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

Dr. Fleming makes a statement:

To my fellow Commissioners and the Public. I'm announcing that I will not be able to serve on the several boards to which I have been assigned as a County Commissioner. This is due to other obligations I have, including helping people in other capacities. In addition, I wish to avoid any voting conflicts related to matters affecting a board to which I may have been appointed. So, it is best for these reasons that I resign immediately from appointed board positions. I am hopeful that things may change in the next couple of months allowing me to resume additional duties. But for now, it is best for all that I limit my duties. I know this will place additional burden on others and I thank you all in advance for your understanding and assistance. My desire has always been to do what is best for the residents of St. Joseph County and I really like to support the public health. Thank you.

Mr. Baxmeyer expresses their appreciation for her willingness to step down temporarily and deal with other matters.

Mr. Dieter moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

B)  
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING  
AN APPOINTMENT TO THE PORTAGE  
MANOR BOARD OF MANAGERS-  
J. PIONTEK

Dr. Fleming nominates Jenny Piontek.  
Motion seconded by Mr. Dieter.  
Seeing no other nominations, nominations are closed.  
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

C)  
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING  
BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Baxmeyer moved to appoint Derek Dieter to the child protective team and myself as the representative to MACCOG.  
Motion seconded by Mr. Dieter.  
Seeing no other nominations, nominations are closed.  
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

D)  
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING  
AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
AND OUR LADY OF THE ROAD-  
VEHICLES

Mr. Agostino. This is an agreement that allows a transfer from the county of ownership of two vans that are being used by Our Lady of the Road. This type of transfer is allowed by the state. This transfer is in the amount of \$1.00 and the vehicles are as is. Our Lady of the Road will then be responsible for everything connected with the vehicles after this transfers approval.

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.  
Motion seconded by Mr. Dieter.  
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

IT:  
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING  
A RENEW WITH EXPERIAN-  
AUDITOR SOFTWARE

Richard Warfield, IT Director, offices on the 2nd floor.  
This contract is with the Auditor's office and is used to verify address and zip coded for the transfer process of properties.

Mr. Dieter moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.  
Motion seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer.  
Motion adopted by a 2-1 vote.

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND GROWTH

CONSENT AGENDA

Development / Subdivision Requests
Description

  

Special Events Requests
Description
Angel of hope memorial ride

  

Traffic Regulatory Requests
Description

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.  
Motion seconded by Mr. Dieter.  
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

Sky Medors, County Engineer, offices on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor.

A)  
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING  
A PROJECT COMPLETION AFFIDAVIT-  
FIR AND BRICK ROUNDABOUT

The final project cost is \$47,792.00.

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.  
Motion seconded by Mr. Dieter.  
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

B)  
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING  
CHANGE ORDER #8-CONTRACT R-37496

This change order results in a change of \$10,127.67. The revised contract amount will be \$12,690,730.57.

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.  
Motion seconded by Mr. Dieter.  
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

C)  
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING  
CHANGE ORDER #9-CONTRACT R-37496

This change order results in a change of \$35,331.50. The revised contract amount will be \$12,726,062.07.

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.  
Motion seconded by Mr. Dieter.  
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mark Catanzarite-Portage Manor update.

The advocacy group met, they completed their development of a petition, and they are doing a petition drive to seek additional funding for Portage Manor through the State Legislature. I am assuming that the resolution you did last week got sent to the State Legislature. We met that evening with the County Council to discuss this informally. We believe there is unanimous support in the County Council to do the same thing. We don't meet again until April 11<sup>th</sup>. A resolution has been drafted similar to yours for CAP funding and other funding for Portage Manor. Dr. Atala and her team toured the facility and came away with ideas and thoughts on what it would take to make it viable. The next meeting would be on April the 16<sup>th</sup> due to holidays coming up. The operations group met with some other outside groups that are interested. One of the people from the group developed an options matrix which has been helpful. That document is helping to lay out the options that are available for the fate of Portage Manors future. This will be revised as the group makes different entries on the form. They will meet again on April 11<sup>th</sup>. There is an issue with the generator switch, I believe Mr. Dieter has information on that. Mr. Dieter. We are following up on the switch. EMA has been made aware of the issue and it will be addressed. Parts are being looked for.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Cheryl Nix, South Bend, IN.

Talks about speaking with two health workers funded by the CDC grant and their work with examples. Also, the force 5 grant and SB4 was addressed.

Mike McManus, South Bend, IN.

Follows up on Ms. Nix comments addressing the services offered but are unknown to the community.

Debra Durall, South Bend, IN.

Speaks on a wetlands bill sb414.

Dan Coates, South Bend, IN.

Speaks in favor of the Force 5 grant. Please be more supportive of the Health Department.

George Enderley, South Bend, IN.

Urges the Commissioners to support the Health Department.

Trina Robinson, NAACP, South Bend, IN.

Speaks on concerns about supporting the Health Department from this organization and the community. Speaks about Portage Manor.

Phyllis Crawley, Granger, IN.

Addresses concerns about the aquifer.

Roy Signs, South Bend, IN.

Recommends the recognition of Gunnery Sergeant Fred Dodd and if you would like to recognize an organization, I would like to recommend Engineering Company B of South Bend, this is the reserve unit. Addressed the remaining \$2 million in grant money for the Health Department plus additional money. Please support the Health Department and funds made available to them to improve our community. Please respect Portage Manor and the people they are not there to be exploited.

Kenneth Slack, Granger, IN.

Urges the Commissioners to find a new location for the proposed garage site.

Cynthia Heckman-Davis, Walkerton, IN.

Speaks on the health department and the programs. Force 5 grant.

Ellen Stecker, MD.

Commends Commissioner Dieter for organizing another clean up of the Portage Manor woods. Would like for the board to reconsider its opposition to the various programs of the Board of Health that involve community health workers they could be a great help to the community.

Mary Countryman, New Carlisle, IN.

Agrees with Debra Durall about the wetlands. Speaks on behalf of the Health Department. Gives applause to Robin in the Health Department for her help.

Rebecca Go, South Bend, IN.

I work in the area of higher education trying to get our students actively engaged in what we call civic engagement. I was appalled to see a comment in the media made by Mr. Dieter where he calls people organizing around issues having a pity party and whining. Having an engaged citizenship is essential to having a democracy and having people who engage in the public process called whiners or pity parties is deplorable. I would hope the Commissioners would censure Mr. Dieter on that because that cannot be the message, we send to the public about what it means to be active citizens. Comments on the term equity not to be used when talking about public health in the meeting yesterday.

Stephen Whitmer, Osceola, IN.

Addresses the problem with grants and the Health Department. Also discussed the direction of pushing abortions to not be funded.

Mr. Baxmeyer. We have received a letter of resignation from Tyler Gilliam from the Redevelopment Commission. We will be looking for names to fill that spot.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Mr. Baxmeyer asked for a motion to recess, Dr. Fleming so moved, seconded by Mr. Dieter. Meeting recessed by a 3-0 vote.

  
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

\*Please refer to the St. Joseph County website for the full audio and visual of the St. Joseph County Commissioners meeting if needed.

