

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 18, 2023 at the hour of 6:00P.M.(EST) at which time in the following members were present: Carl Baxmeyer, and Dr. Deborah Fleming D.M.D. were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OPENING AND READING OF BIDS ON:

None

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. Baxmeyer.
Motion adopted by a 2-0 vote.

**B)
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
AN APPOINTMENT TO THE
BOARD OF HEALTH**

Mr. Baxmeyer opens nominations.
Dr. Fleming moved to nominate Jill VanBruaene.
Motion seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer.
Seeing no other nominations, nominations are closed.
Motion adopted by a 2-0 vote.

**C)
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
BILLS PASSED BY THE ST.
JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL**

BILL NO. ORDINANCE NO.

28-23 32-23

Dr Fleming makes a motion to table the above item.
Motion seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer.
Motion adopted by a 2-0 vote.

45-23 33-23

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.
Motion seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer.
Motion adopted by a 2-0 vote.

46-23 34-23

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.
Motion seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer.
Motion adopted by a 2-0 vote.

47-23

35-23

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.
Motion seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer.
Motion adopted by a 2-0 vote.

49-23

36-23

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.
Motion seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer.
Motion adopted by a 2-0 vote.

44-23

37-23

Dr Fleming makes a motion to table the above item.
Motion seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer.
Motion adopted by a 2-0 vote.

51-23

38-23

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.
Motion seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer.
Motion adopted by a 2-0 vote.

57-23

39-23

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.
Motion seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer.
Motion adopted by a 2-0 vote.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
A GRANT FOR 3 YEAR FUNDING
FROM CDC FOR TRAINING AND
DEPLOYING CHW'S**

Amy Ruppe, Administrator, offices on the 8th floor.
This is a request to apply for the third year of this grant from August 1st, 2023-August 1st, 2024.

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.
Motion seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer.
Motion adopted by a 2-0 vote.

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING, AND GROWTH:

CONSENT AGENDA

Development / Subdivision Requests
Description
Surety release & subdivision project completion affidavit: Pleasant Valley North, sec :

Special Events Requests
Description

Traffic Regulatory Requests
Description

Approval of ordinance-speed limit in Berg's Addition and surrounding streets

Motion made by Dr. Fleming to accept the recommendation of the Department of Public Works in reference to the above request as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer.

Motion adopted by a 2-0 vote.

A)

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL
TO APPLY FOR EECBG GRANT
PARTNERING WITH MACOG

Abby Wiles, APC Director, offices on the 11th floor.

This is not the formal award or actual grant application submittal. MACOG, has made St. Joseph County aware of a non-competitive no match required energy efficiency and conservation block grant that is available to St. Joseph County. St. Joseph County is one of several jurisdictions within the MACOG region that is eligible to apply. They have provided us with technical assistance in the preparation of the pre-award information sheet that must be submitted to the Department of Energy by April 28th and with the strategy document that's required as part of the submittal. The pre-award information sheet is like a letter of intent. This lets the Department of Energy know that we'd like to submit an application. That won't be due until January 31st 2024. Over the next several months Leo from MACOG and I will work with other department heads to see how we can utilize the funding based on eligible activities. This is in the amount of \$78,920.00. We request your approval.

Motion made by Dr. Fleming to accept the recommendation of the Department of Public Works in reference to the above request as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer.

Motion adopted by a 2-0 vote.

B)

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL
OF ENGINEERING SERVICES
PROPOSAL- LAURAL ROAD TRAIL

Sky Medors, County Engineer, offices on the 7th floor.

The work performed is not to exceed \$141,200.00.

Motion made by Mr. Dieter to accept the recommendation of the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Growth in reference to the above request as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Dr. Fleming.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Baxmeyer. We will be receiving written proposals regarding Portage Manor on May 16th, 2023. Please submit the proposals digitally for easy circulation. Anybody in the group that submits a proposal will be given the opportunity to present to the group. Due to the timing any proposals won't be taken up by the Council until June 13th so, that gives essentially a month to gather additional information to prepare for the presentation to the Council.

Mark Catanzarite, South Bend, IN.

The advocacy group is circulating a petition looking for support for Portage Manor. The Portage Manor Board of Trustees met for the first-time last week. During the meeting I was in communication with our State Representatives so, in the legislature these budget bill passed out of the Senate last Thursday night around noon with no provisions for an RCAP increase. I was instructed to contact Senator Mishler's legislative assistant Kyra Helming. She assured me that she believes Senator Mishler does have another vehicle for funding for Portage Manor in the interim. It wouldn't be taken up until next year before the FSSA could put a request in for an increase in our cap. She believes that is House Bill 1001. We have circulated information to everyone we could to contact the Legislative

delegation Senators and Representatives to contact them and request support for House Bill 1001 and to specifically ask for language that relates to additional funding for Portage Manor. There is still time to contact them. Operations met, we went over what Dr. Atala received back so far from her bids, and they are looking encouraging. They are not as high as anticipated. She thinks this will make her project doable. There is one more piece of data to come back before she can see whether or not she can go for the project. Operations will look at what she has and give her their opinion of if they think it is doable or not. We learned that last week Holy Cross Village opted out and said they would not be a contender for the takeover of Portage Manor. Is the contract with Byron paused during this process or are they actively working to relocate patients? If the census keeps going down that will not help the perform for anyone looking to take over Portage Manor.

Mr. Misch. There are two contracts one is currently in force which is a consulting agreement to assist with oversight of administration, that type of thing. If we have state reportables they assist us with that type of thing. They assist with lobbying trying to get fssa to give us additional funds. The other contract has not been finalized; it is in the event of actual shutdown of Portage Manor they have agreed to help our staff to assist with rehousing individuals. This contract is not in effect.

Mr. Catanzarite. In regard to funding, the monies that were committed through the Commissioner resolution, if there were someone that was willing to take over Portage Manor, non-for-profit, it would be handed over to them with a viable plan if you guys chose to do so for \$1. This was discussed at the Council meeting. At that time, you guys could come into the \$2.7 million to an individual who would take it over for operations money. It delineated that money as ARP money in that resolution which we understand now the ARP monies mostly been appropriated at our last Council meeting. The money was appropriated to pay the bonuses, retention bonuses if the staff stay on board to the very end. If Portage Manor closed or a change in ownership would occur are we going to, is it the Commissioners intent to fulfill that amount of funding that was committed to in that resolution? The \$2.7 million to whomever would be granted ownership or the operations of Portage Manor plus the cash reserve which, is down to \$795,000.00. That was listed in the resolution also.

Mr. Baxmeyer. It would be our intention to fulfil that.

Mr. Catanzarite. If any other organization would like to be considered, please put your plan together and present it on May 16th.

Mr. Baxmeyer. There are several people here to speak about the Anderson Road. Before that I want to announce that there will be public meeting Thursday, April 27th, at 6:00 at the Granger Missionary Church, 50841 Birch Road, Granger, IN. We have been fielding and answering the questions that have been submitted and are still working on them as they come in. These will be posted in advance of the public meeting. There will be a press release going out tomorrow for those not in attendance so the general public is aware of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Cheryl Nix, South Bend, IN. Gives thanks for the approval of the 3rd year community health worker. April 17th an article entitled "I just pushed through" was published in the South Bend Tribune. Reads this article. The need for community health workers is there. So, I was wondering why the Force 5 contract was taken off the agenda. This was meant to advertise for these incredible community health workers. I ask that this Force 5 contract be signed.

Dan Carouso, New Carlisle, IN. Speaks on the change in the agenda in agreement with Ms. Nix in reference to the Force 5 contract.

Mr. Baxmeyer. The decision to remove the Force 5 contract was not a decision by the Commissioners. I had a meeting with the Health Officer yesterday and he asked that this be taken off. He is reviewing it. He wants to make sure he understands what the deliverables are and asked for it to be taken off.

John Sill, Granger, IN. Comments on the highway garage and the park. Not in favor of this. Has a petition of signatures against the garage.

Mary Sill, Granger, IN. Speaks on the highway garage. Not in favor of this. Would like the park.

Denny McIntyre, Granger, IN. Comments on the highway garage. Not in favor of this.
Emily Trausch, Granger, IN. Comments on the highway garage. Not in favor of this.
Tom Rowe, South Bend, IN. If I want to make a statement and have a question, why am I not entitled to a response in a public hearing? Another question I have is, people were clapping and applauding, and you said don't applaud. Why can't the people applaud on comments?

Stacy Skillman, Granger, IN. Comments on the highway garage. Not in favor of this.
Mike McManus, South Bend, IN. Follows up on Mr. Caruso's comment on the new personnel job. Hope this is rejected. Feels the Auditor is doing a fine job with the finances.

Dr. Don Westerhausen, Granger, IN. Questions the process of appointing people to the Board of Health. Feels this is not transparent. It would be nice for the public to be able to hear what is said. Comments of SB4 and what the Board of Health thinks of this program that could bring millions of dollars into our County. Some types of publication would be helpful.

Dan Schaetzle, Council Member for Granger, Granger, IN. Wants the residents of Granger to know he is looking forward to the 27th meeting where a plan is presented for the garage/park. I believe, after speaking to Sky and other people with more knowledge, that the plan is solid for storing and moving salt and fuel that will not contaminate. I ask the people here, online, and other people in Granger, come to the meeting, listen, and we will listen to you. I've answered every email and phone call that I have gotten. I am listening to you please listen to us and then give us your honest opinion. If your mind hasn't changed you will tell us that. If you see that there are parts of the plan that you didn't know and understand and think they are solid I hope you have the courage to tell me that as well.

Kenneth Slack, Granger, IN. Quotes Winston Churchill, "Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it."

Laura McClellan, Leroy Township, OH. Asks about the proposals for Portage Manor and the voting dates.

Mr. Baxmeyer. For clarity, the Council, at our request, gave a 60-day period to field proposals. We will be accepting proposals until the 16th of May because of that the next Council meeting at which they would consider that is in June not in May. For clarification.

Nate Kelly, Granger, IN. Speaks on Indiana Environmental Management inspection report from March 21st, 2023, at the Granger garage on Cleveland Road. There are serious issues with these garages. This needs to be on your agenda, and it isn't.

Roy Signs, South Bend, IN. Clarification needed for proposed ordinance 32-23, Finance Director. Thanks for Portage Manor timeline.

Stephen Whitmer, Osceola, IN. Speaks on the proposed garage and IDEM issues.

Julie Calhoun, South Bend, IN. Asks about timeline for approval of Dr. Atala's plan if accepted. Asks if there are other options for the garage placement.

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. Baxmeyer. Meeting recessed by a 2-0 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.