



**MINUTES  
MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'  
APRIL 3, 2019  
NAT U HILL III MEETING ROOM  
COURTHOUSE  
BLOOMINGTON, IN**

The Monroe County Commissioners met in a regular meeting on April 3, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. with the following members present: Julie Thomas, President, Amanda Barge, Vice President and Lee Jones. Also present: Cathy Smith, Auditor, Jordan Miller, Payroll Administrator, Jeff Cockerill, Attorney, Angie Purdie, Commissioners' Administrator, Lisa Ridge, Highway Director, and Anita Freeman, Deputy Auditor.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Thomas

**II. COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC STATEMENT**

Statement read by Thomas

**Public statement read by Jones:**

On March 28, 2019, Monroe County issued a Public Statement regarding the County's contracts with Brandon Drake. The Public Statement did not mention or address sexual harassment claims raised by Brandon Drake. There is a reason for that.

Mr. Drake, has never made any complaint or claim to Monroe County Government regarding sexual harassment. **Monroe County government has not reviewed, been made aware of, or received any evidence that demonstrates harassment or illegal behavior by any of its elected officials or employees.**

Several months after the contracts ended, Mr. Drake spoke with a reporter from the Indiana Daily Student (IDS), made his allegations of harassment, and provided the IDS with materials that he believes supports his allegations. The IDS published selected portions of those materials. The County believes that the selected materials, while personally embarrassing to

Commissioner Barge, do not support Mr. Drake's allegations of harassment and certainly had no bearing on the County's decision to end its relationship with Mr. Drake. If Mr. Drake believes otherwise, he is free to seek any legal remedy he believes to be available.

Monroe County strives to treat all people, including those with whom it contracts, fairly and with respect. Harassment is not tolerated in Monroe County government. Illegal behavior is not tolerated in Monroe County government.

If anyone has evidence or information regarding harassment or illegality in Monroe County government, please contact the Monroe County Legal Department.

**Public Statement read by Barge:**

I'd like to take a moment to address my constituents and all of Monroe County Government regarding a recent story in a local student newspaper. First, let me say that I call on Monroe County Government to have conversations about protections for all workers, both independent contractors and employees, because our core and our mission is to ensure the wellbeing and safety of everyone. We as a county and a community are about to study our criminal justice system where we have vulnerable people who have made mistakes and need support and compassion should be the standard for every human being in Monroe County, regardless of your position or station in life. Attacking others, regardless of who they are or what they did, should not be acceptable and I stand by that principle. The allegations that were made against me were false. I didn't sexually harass Mr. Drake nor did I hold his livelihood over his head. In fact true to who I am and always been, I worked hard to help the program be successful and help Mr. Drake succeed. Because we believed in the program. Sadly for all, the article included misinformation and didn't tell the complete story. I have been and will continue to provide information to show facts otherwise. As Commissioner I think it's important to say that I suspended my campaign because I needed time with my family. Not because I'm guilty of those allegations. I continue to have compassion for everyone that was involved in this story and that includes Mr. Drake. And yet, I'm sorry to my community for the personal decisions that I made during a difficult time and my family's personal life. You have my word that I will get up every day and work at being the best Mom, best Commissioner and best partner I can be. Your strongest public servants are community members are the ones who have walked through fire, who have been hurt and have come out stronger. I'm not ashamed for being open and trusting or even giving people second and third chances, because that is who I am, and I will always be that person. I know this story has shaken our community and in some cases divided us. Let's not do that anymore. Let's sit together face to face and listen to each other. Everyone has had or is having a difficult time. Rather than bully each other let's try to understand each other and I'm here and I'm willing to do that. It is crucially important that we get back to business. It is important that I continue to do the work that you asked me to do. I want to thank you for listening.



### **III. PUBLIC COMMENT – FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA, LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES**

My name is Margaret Clements, and I'm here as resident of Monroe County. And I'm here to just talk with the community about my experience in Human Resources Management. I believe that a lot of harm can be done when people refer to characters assassination. And the reason why we have reporting requirements and procedures for anyone incurring a grievance or a complaint is so that harm is not done. That's why the progressives in our community and in our State and in our party have worked over decades to insure that there are adequate reporting procedures and techniques for anyone suffering a grievance, whether they're a contractor or employee. And trying someone in the court of public opinion is the most egregious way to handle any complaint that a person may have, because how does one restore the person who may have an allegation, truthfully or falsely, levied against them. I would just say that hearsay and trying someone in the court of public opinion and seeing what has happened in our community over the last week and a half, has been devastating to me personally, because personal and professional lives are at stake. It's not just a class project, it's not just a student newspaper that needs to thrive, there are lives at stake, lives of community members on all sides. And I urge that we as a community come together, have caution, have respect for processes, because they in the end protect us. Thank you.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **NONE**

### **V. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS DOCKET**

- **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE – APRIL 3, 2019**

Barge made motion to approve. Jones seconded.

(Smith) Total for accounts payable - \$1,186,453.43

- \$457,220.43 - Convention & Visitors Bureau – 2019 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter operational
- \$179,149.61 - Innkeepers Tax - February
- \$165,626.87 – Anthem BC/BS – Fees and claims

**After call for public comment, motion carried by voice vote.**

### **VI. REPORTS**

- **CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT - FEBRUARY 2019**
- **TRAFFIC/ROAD UPDATE**
  - Northern portion of the Walnut Street Pike/ Rhorer Rd will be closed through May 25, 2019. Travel east/west/south of intersection is open.
  - Crews are working on patching pot holes.
  - Fullerton Pike PH I, II & III meeting April 15, 6pm at Batchelor Middle School.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. MOVE TO APPROVE: BLEDSOE, RIGGERT, COOPER AND JAMES AGREEMENT FOR KARST FARM PARK MASTER PLAN

**FUND NAME: NON-REVERTING PARKS      FUND NUMBER: 1179**

**AMOUNT: \$2,510**

Barge made motion to approve. Jones seconded.

(Kelli Witmer) The Park Board is considering numerous projects and some of it is to improve accessibility at Karst Farm Park and to improve shade opportunities at Karst Farm Park. We've secured a \$25,000 donation to help with some of the play scape items and \$10,000 from Monroe County Parks and Recreation Foundation. We're in the process of getting budgets together, most likely it will cost more than \$35,000 and we may be coming back to the Commissioners' to talk about assistance with the ADA spots in the parking lots, asphalt and such. But right now we need to get Bill Riggert and engineer plans done and go through Planning and Building and once we're there will come back. Any questions?

(Jones) More trees sounds wonderful.

(Witmer) Oh yes, and to do that we need more top soil.

**After call for public comment, motion carried by voice vote.**

### B. MOVE TO APPROVE: ORDINANCE 2019-11; AMEND STOP ORDINANCE 86-06: ORDINANCE 86-11: NO PARKING AND ORDINANCE 86-12: YIELD LOCATION.

**FUND NAME: N/A      FUND NUMBER: N/A      AMOUNT: N/A**

Barge made motion to approve. Jones seconded.

(Ridge) These items were taken to our March Traffic Commission meeting and they have been reviewed by the County Highway Engineer. So it is to amend Ordinance 86-6 by the addition of a stop sign at Maefield CT for White River Dr. Amend Ordinance 86-11 for addition for No Parking location at LaCross Drive Cul-de-sac, Monday – Friday, 7a -5p only. Amend Ordinance 86-12 by the addition of Yield location at Howard Rd for Starnes Rd. All of these sign installations are warranted by the MUTCD, Manual and Uniformed Traffic Control Devices.

**After call for public comment, motion carried by voice vote.**

## VIII. APPOINTMENTS

- NONE

## IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Accepting applications for all boards and commissions.
- Next Commissioners meeting; April 10, 2019, at 10 am in the Nat U Hill meeting room, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Courthouse.

## X. ADJOURNMENT

The minutes of the April 3, 2019 Board of Commissioners' meeting were approved on April 17, 2019.

Monroe County Commissioners

Ayes:

Nays:

  
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Julie Thomas, President

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Julie Thomas, President

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Amanda Barge, Vice President

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Amanda Barge, Vice President

  
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Lee Jones

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Lee Jones

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Catherine Smith, Auditor





**MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORK SESSION AGENDA  
MONROE COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
JUDGE NAT U. HILL III MEETING ROOM  
BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA  
April 3, 2019**

- 1. Penny Caudill – Health Administrator**
  - a. Approval of billing application with ASD Healthcare and the Monroe County Health Department, Futures Clinic
  
- 2. Lisa Ridge – Public Works Department**
  - a. Miscellaneous
  
- 3. Legal Department**
  - a. Miscellaneous
  
- 4. Angela Purdie – Commissioners' Administrator**
  - a. Miscellaneous