



MINUTES
MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS'
MAY 15, 2019
NAT U HILL III MEETING ROOM
COURTHOUSE
BLOOMINGTON, IN

The Monroe County Commissioners met in a regular meeting on May 15, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. with the following members present: Julie Thomas, President and Lee Jones, Vice President. Also present: Jordan Miller, Payroll Administrator, Jeff Cockerill, Attorney, Angie Purdie, Commissioners' Administrator and Anita Freeman, Deputy Auditor. Not present were Penny Githens and Lisa Ridge.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Thomas

II. COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC STATEMENT

Statement read by Thomas

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

My name is **Mike Chaveas** I'm the Forest Supervisor at the Hoosier National Forest. We manage about 200,000 acres of multiple use public land located nine counties throughout southern Indiana. About 19,000 of those acres are here in Monroe County. Since we have two new Commissioners since I was last here in December I thought it would be good to come and reintroduce myself just to note that I do make the rounds regularly to each of the nine counties where we have land, partly to educate myself about what's going on in each county and just to be available for questions. I'm available for any questions, mostly just wanted to introduce myself I know this Commissioner board has been interested in our Houston South Restoration Project in recent months. I'll give you a brief update. The project itself is located in Jackson County but is within the boarder watershed of Lake Monroe. We completed our initial public input period which is call "Scoping" back in the fall and early winter. We are now in the analysis phase which takes multiple months for our team of specialists to review what the proposed actions are. There are hydrologists, biologists, botanists, archeologist etc. various specialist take a look at what they anticipate the effects of the proposed action would be. We then will adjust some of our recommendations and some of our actions that we plan on taking and then put it

out for another round of public comment, which will be happening probably late summer or early fall. At that time to coincide with that we'll have more public meetings. We had some public opportunities at the scoping phase, but once we have more of that information available for folks we will have more public meetings. Exact dates and locations are not set yet but once they are we'll get those announcements out so folks are aware. I'm available if you have any questions you can always give me a call as well if anything comes to mind that you want to discuss, I'll be more than happy to speak with any of you at that point.

(Thomas) I do have a question for you about the Houston South Project. In addition to the sedimentation and all of these other concerns that we've heard, I have a strong abiding concern about the planned use of glyphosate which is like a round up type of, it kills grasses, it's an herbicide right, so it kills grass and weeds. But that's going to end up in our water supply and that's my concern. Is there going to be an environmental aspect of that going to be studied or are you going to reference back to previous study from the other property in northern Indiana?

(Chaveas) I'm not sure which other property you mean, but it is part of our analysis process. The anticipated effects of all of our actions including the one you're referring to will be analyzed within that and disclosed prior to making any decision on how we utilize it. I do want to point out we saw in the initial round of scoping some misunderstanding I think of the manner and use of herbicides that are being proposed. We use them in a couple of ways, one big one being to treat nonnative invasive species at that scale; it's just not something you can do with simply hand pulling. Another is to treat some other native species in order to give oak an opportunity to regenerate, a native hard wood. Some people tend to picture in their minds crop dusters or broad broadcasting of herbicide which is not what we are proposing doing. These are spot treatments, very localized and more limited in use that we proposed for a project like this. But like I said it's premature to talk about the outcomes of that because the analysis are happening now, we will put all that in our analysis prior to make a decision. And if I could make a quick sedimentation comment as well. We'd like to point out this project is not immediately next to the lake, it's a good 5 miles as the crow flies, never mind how the water flows from the lake itself, we are very stringent about applying best management practices to protect water quality, whether that's from sediment concerns or herbicide concerns. Water quality is a key component of our mission so we take that very seriously.

(Thomas) I appreciate that. We've heard a lot of concerns from the community, and it helps to know that they're going to do a new study. Because in the previous introductory document there was a reference, and I cannot remember the name of it, I'm sorry. There was reference to another study and it was from another forested area in northern Indiana where they looked at glyphosate use and that's why I was asking if they were going to do a fresh study. I'm at least hopeful about that, you know with more specificity about what you're talking about versus a wide spread application. That helps to know that as well.

(Jones) There have been some recent studies completed on glyphosate and its effect on humans, would that information be taken into account as a part of this study?

(Chaveas) When we analyze any part of our project, we have to consider all the best available science. Without knowing exactly which ones you're talking about, if they're relevant to the type of application that we're going to be doing, so if it's a study comparing again big broadcast spray from a crop duster or something like that that's not at all what we're talking about doing so it's not exactly relevant. But we will be taking into account any studies that are out there. I know some folks did provide us with some references they'd like us to consider during the comment period, we will consider all of those and review those. If you have any new ones you'd like us to review you can always send those to us as well.

(Jones) Thank you.

(Thomas) Thank you so much. And please keep us posted we kind of found out about the Houston South Project by accident and we weren't directly notified of it as part of the scoping. We would appreciate any information you could give so we can get that out to the public and have them attend the meetings.

(Chaveas) Sure. And we do do our best to get as much notification out to anyone we know who might be interested. We also post these things on our work site on a regular basis

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **MAY 8, 2019**

Jones made a motion to approve. Thomas seconded.

Motion carried by voice vote.

V. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS DOCKET

- **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE – MAY 15, 2019**

Jones made a motion to approve. Thomas seconded.

(Miller) Total for Accounts Payable - \$6,098,664.96

- \$3,291,407.58 – LIT
- \$1,000,320 - Red Lot Acquisition
- \$512,439.67 – Fund to Fund transfer to Westside TIF
- \$305,584.08 – Wheel & Surtax

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

VI. REPORTS

- **TRAFFIC/ROAD UPDATE - NONE**

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. MOVE TO APPROVE: RENTAL AGREEMENT WITH CONVENTION CENTER FOR MONROE COUNTY CHILDHOOD CONDITIONS SUMMIT.

FUND NAME: LIT SPECIAL PURPOSE FUND NUMBER: 1114 AMOUNT: \$1600

Jones made a motion to approve. Thomas seconded.

Thanks for having me. My name is **Stephanie Solomon**, I'm the prevention coordinator at the Youth Services Bureau. I'm seeking approval for the rental agreement for the 4th annual Monroe County Childhood Conditions Summit also known as MC3. It is scheduled a little earlier this year on November 19, 2019. We are already planning the summit and we've identified the theme of "Equity and Inclusion" for this year. We know that equity is a determinate of youth health and we look forward to hosting a summit that helps us collaborate across the county to best support youth and families. I'm happy to answer any questions.

(Thomas) How many attendees are you expecting?

(Solomon) In the past it's been around 200. I think it grows a little bit. It seems to grow each year.

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

B. MOVE TO APPROVE: RESOLUTION 2019-06; SHERIFF SURPLUS PROPERTY.

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

Jones made a motion to approve. Thomas seconded.

(Cockerill) The Sheriff has two vehicles, a 2007 motorcycle and a 2003 Gator that they no longer feel are adequate for their needs. They are wishing to have those declared surplus property. The total value of both items at this point is under \$5,000 and therefore it could be handled at a private or public auction.

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

C. MOVE TO APPROVE: ORDINANCE 2019-14; TO AMEND ORDINANCES: 86-09, 86-06, 86-11 AND 86-12.

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

Jones made a motion to approve. Thomas seconded.

This ordinance will amend 86-09 by the deletion of various Speed limit locations. Amend 86-09 by the addition of various speed limit locations.

Amend 86-06 by the addition of a Stop Location. Amend 86-11 by the addition of a No Parking location and amend 86-12 by the addition of a Yield location.

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

VIII. APPOINTMENTS

- **NONE**

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Bloomington Early Music Festival Presents: Marian Adoration: Sacred music from 17th century Italy, Sunday, May 19 7p -8:30pm at the Courthouse.
- Peace Officers Memorial Day – May 15 was proclaimed as Peace Officers Memorial Day in 1962 by President Kennedy, in honor of all fallen officers and their families and US flags should be flown at half-staff.
- Accepting applications for all boards and commissions. Currently seeking applicants for Board of Zoning Appeals.
- Next Commissioners' Meeting, May 22, 2019 at 10 am in the Nat U Hill meeting room, 3rd floor of the Courthouse.

X. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

(Thomas) A couple of notes about some letters that we're sending today from the Board of Commissioners. The first one is to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management regarding the Huff properties, 250 acres adjacent to Lake Monroe. This is related to the mass logging that occurred on that property. We have not received the requisite permits here and we are also looking at instigating a Rule 5 notice of intent with IDEM about the logging and its impact on the lake sedimentation. So we're very concerned about that.

The second letter relates to the Metropolitan Planning Organization, which is a transportation planning group that includes the City/County boarders. In this case at our last MPO policy committee meeting some discussions ensued about the fact that the hospital construction is anticipated to be done by 2021, yet the expansion of State Road 45 East from the bypass all the way to Russell Road has been tabled pushed back by INDOT, because it's their road, until 2023/2024 and we just anticipate that traffic in this area, from intersections to inadequate pedestrian access crossing, inadequate bike lane side paths, pedestrian walkways, we've made a note of all of these issues and our concerns and we're asking begging IDOT to move this forward on their calendar as quickly as possible hopefully before the hospital opens. Because we imagine ambulance services, patients and employees will be using Range Road, Pete Ellis and State Road 45 East intersection quite a bit and it is not ready for that kind of traffic load. The resulting traffic load on State Road 45 East is going to increase exponentially of course as well. So I don't know why we are so behind in our planning at the State but we're writing a letter of support to the MPO asking the State to reconsider their calendar on this one.

XI. PROCLAMATION – ROTARY IN BLOOMINGTON - "IT TAKES A VILLAGE DAY"

XII. ADJOURNMENT



**MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION AGENDA
MONROE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
JUDGE NAT U. HILL III MEETING ROOM
BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA
May 15, 2019**

- 1. Tammy Behrman - Planner**
 - a. 2019-19 Mirwec Planned Unit Development (PUD) Outline Plan Amendment 3
- 2. Lisa Ridge – Highway Director**
 - a. Miscellaneous
- 3. Legal Department**
 - a. Miscellaneous
- 4. Angela Purdie – Commissioners' Administrator**
 - a. Miscellaneous

The minutes of the May 15, 2019 Board of Commissioners' meeting were approved on May 22, 2019.

Monroe County Commissioners


Ayes:

Nays:



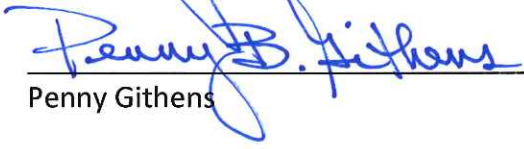
Julie Thomas, President

Julie Thomas, President



Lee Jones, Vice President

Lee Jones, Vice President



Penny Githens

Penny Githens

Attest:



Catherine Smith, Auditor



**OFFICE OF
MONROE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**
100 West Kirkwood Avenue
The Courthouse Room 322
BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA 47404

**Telephone 812-349-2550
Facsimile 812-349-7320**

Julie L. Thomas, President

Lee Jones, Vice President

Penny Githens, Commissioner

May 15, 2019

Joe McGuinness, Commissioner
Indiana Department of Transportation
100 N. Senate Ave., IGCN 755
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Commissioner McGuinness:

The Monroe County Board of Commissioners wishes to express our serious concerns about a number of traffic and safety issues on East State Road 45 from the intersection of the SR 45 / 46 Bypass east to the intersection of State Road 45 and Russell Road.

The development along this corridor has been appreciable over the last several decades, with large apartment complexes and the large postal facility. In addition to the heavy bus, bicycle and pedestrian traffic, the passenger vehicle traffic in these areas has increased precipitously at the intersections of Range/Pete Ellis, Smith Road (with apartment complexes on Smith and East SR 46), and Russell Road (University Elementary). When both Indiana University and the Public Schools are in session, the area can become congested quickly. With the construction of the new IU hospital - with a key access point on Range Road from SR 45 - the congestion will increase substantially.

There was initially a plan to widen SR 45 east from the SR 45/46 Bypass. Because this plan was not implemented, there are two turning lanes from the SR 45/46 bypass from the north, onto East SR 45. However, this quickly diminishes to one lane of traffic. This infuses confusion and sometimes anger into the traffic pattern. The intersection of Pete Ellis and SR 45 East has a traffic light that does not allow for the flow of traffic. Any vehicles traveling east on SR 45 waiting to execute a left turn causes all of the drivers - whether trying to drive straight or wishing to also turn left - to wait. Vehicles sometimes need to wait through multiple cycles of the light to traverse the intersection.

At the T-Intersection of Smith Road and SR 45 East, there is a stop sign for the drivers on Smith. However, the back-up here can be appreciable, especially when both IU and the public schools are in session. This back-up can stretch the equivalent of two city blocks.

A hawk signal was installed for children crossing SR 45 East to and from University Elementary School. However, this seems to be in the wrong place as it is east of the intersection with Smith Road.

Lastly, traffic is halted on a dangerous curve when vehicles turn left from SR 45 East onto Russell Road.

There are significant pedestrian and bicyclist safety issues along this stretch of roadway. Pedestrian crosswalks are not located at each juncture where City and IU buses regularly pick up and drop off

passengers. There is a lack of sidewalk access between Grandview and Smith Road. There are no sidewalks or side paths between Pete Ellis and eastward where the bus stop is located (on the south side of SR 45). Bicyclists utilize a SR 45 route from campus east to Lake Lemon - but there is a lack of sufficient shoulder or side paths, creating a dangerous situation.

All of this is occurring while the new IU Bloomington Hospital is poised to open in 2021. Again, additional emergency, employee and patient vehicle traffic is expected, not just at the intersection of Pete Ellis/Range Road and SR 45 East, but also on SR 45 East and the intersection with Smith Road. The planned update to SR 45 East, scheduled for 2023-2024 needs to be moved up to a much earlier date. Reconstructing the road **with** the hospital open for business will lead to unnecessary back-ups and dangerous driving conditions as soon as the hospital is open and especially during reconstruction in 2023/2024.

There are solutions - one short-term and several long-term, which can help address this situation.

The short-term solution would be to phase the traffic light at the intersection of Pete Ellis/Range Road and SR 45 East - allowing east - west traffic to alternate.

The long-term solutions, which would also require completing the project earlier than currently planned, includes:

- widen SR 45 East from near the intersection of the Bypass through at least Smith Road;
- create a turning blister for vehicles turning from SR 45 East onto Russell Road;
- install sidewalks and/or side paths from the Bypass to at least Russell Road. If funding is short, provide a sidewalk/side path between Grandview Drive and Smith along SR 45 East;
- create a larger footprint at the intersection of SR 45 with Pete Ellis/Range road, including dedicated turning lanes;
- create a safer intersection with a traffic light at Smith Road and SR 45 East. Relocate the hawk light to align with that intersection.

We appreciate any additional information you can provide for us that we can share with the community. We believe the traffic situation is already dangerous and is poised to become much worse beginning in 2021. We support the Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization's Policy Committee recommendations.

Sincerely,



Julie L. Thomas, President
The Monroe County Board of Commissioners



PROCLAMATION

Rotary in Bloomington 'It Takes A Village' Day

WHEREAS: The State of Indiana and Monroe County both have high incidences of infant mortality and the causes of infant mortality are often related to access to health care and health education resources and support; and

WHEREAS: Maternal and Child Health is one of the six Areas of Focus of Rotary International; and

WHEREAS: The three Rotary Clubs in Bloomington are committed to 'Service Above Self'; and have created 'It Takes A Village' resource fair for community members who may need assistance with infant care, an event which brings together health resources, education, and needed materials in one place for expecting parents and parents of infants and toddlers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Monroe County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim May 18, 2019 as

Rotary in Bloomington 'It Takes A Village' Day

IN MONROE COUNTY

PROCLAIMED THIS FIFTEENTH DAY OF MAY, TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN.

THE MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS