

MINUTES MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MAY 29, 2019 NAT U HILL III MEETING ROOM COURTHOUSE BLOOMINGTON, IN

The Monroe County Commissioners met in a regular meeting on May 29, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. with the following members present: Julie Thomas, President; Lee Jones, Vice President; Penny Githens, Commissioner. Also present: Jordan Miller, Payroll Administrator, Jeff Cockerill, Attorney, Angie Purdie, Commissioners' Administrator; Lisa Ridge, Public Works Director; Anita Freeman, Deputy Auditor.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Thomas

II. COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC STATEMENT

Statement read by Jones

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

My name is **Mary Morgan.** I wanted to introduce myself as the Bloomington Chambers new Director of Advocacy & Public Policy. I'm relatively new to the community and as I've been exploring the community over the past few months I've been impressed with the County's leadership role in public safety, public health, road infrastructure, parks, the health of Lake Monroe, economic development and in many other areas. My back ground is as a journalist and I covered local government for many years, including county government in Michigan so I understand that a lot of times the work of the county goes under the radar and is sometimes under appreciated. So I just wanted to say hello and let you know that I do appreciate your work and I look forward to meeting with you and working with you in the future.

(Thomas) Thank you Ms. Morgan, it's nice to meet you.

Good morning Commissioners, **Jim Shelton** with the Chamber but here on behalf of CASA. I want to remind everyone that tomorrow evening at 6:30 downstairs in the Rotunda we will

pg. 1 Board of Commissioners' Meeting Minutes May 29, 2019 have a celebration of CASA serving children in this community for 35 years. We'll have a panel that will discuss how we started 35 years ago. How we had just a few volunteers and I think 14 children to start with to today where we're serving over 408 children this year and we have 148 volunteers. So please stop by if you get a chance. You can also ask questions and some refreshments afterwards. And then if it inspires anybody to be a CASA or if they're already thinking about being a CASA, our next training starts August 8th, just about the time school starts again, which will be here before we know it. Applications will be due in early July. It'd be a good thing to think about now. You can go to www.monroecountycasa.org online and get additional information, download an application or fill out the application online or can call 812.333.2272. We don't have any children waiting right now, but we still have a constant turnover of CASA's due to retiring or moving or changes in life status. We still need volunteers to go through the training and to serve the children who are in the court system for abuse or neglect. Thank you.

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Jason Eakin, from Monroe County Planning. I just wanted to come and say thank you to Monroe County, today is my last day, after 16 years of service. I really valued the opportunity here all the wonderful people that I've been able to work with and meet, learn from. You know it's a sad day. I really have learned so much here and I really do love this community and there's a lot of good people out there doing a lot of wonderful things. I hope you continue to support them, support the staff, listen to the people who work for you, they do give you good advice. But I just wanted to say thank you. It's been an honor.

(Thomas) Thank you so much for your service and I can tell you, I've learned a lot from you. Thank you for everything you've done for Monroe County. You've been a trailblazer on Pathways, Greenway Trails. You've done so much work to help us with our county ordinances, and our zoning laws, and so many cases. I don't know how many cases you've done, but you've managed quite a few.

(Eakin) The one thing I won't miss are all the night meetings. I'll definitely miss all the people, so I just wanted to say thank you.

(Thomas) Thank you so much for your service. We're going to miss you.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• MAY 22, 2019

Jones made a motion to approve. Githens seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

V. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS DOCKET

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE – MAY 29, 2019

Jones made a motion to approve. Githens seconded.

pg. 2 Board of Commissioners' Meeting Minutes May 29, 2019 (Miller) Total for Accounts Payable - \$553,216.35

\$291,297.35 – Food & Beverage Tax

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

VI. REPORTS

- TREASURER APRIL 2019
 - TRAFFIC/ROAD UPDATE
 - Fullerton Pike PH I, Walnut Street Pike is open.
 - The Community Crossings Paving Projects have been advertised and bids will be opened Wednesday, June 5th at 9 am in the Nat U Hill Room.
 - Discuss ribbon cutting for Covered Cedar Bridge during work session.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT ZONE. FUND NAME: N/A FUND NUMBER: N/A AMOUNT: N/A

Thomas opens the public hearing.

(Cockerill) To begin while our power point is loading this kind of exemplifies what we're trying to do. Without technology we have troubles with business, we have troubles doing things. And what the Infrastructure Development Zone is, the State allows for a tax exemption to encourage certain utility investment in these zones. Particularly they talked about broadband, water, and gas infrastructure are kind of the three main areas of utility that we can look at. In order to do that we would have to designate a zone and in order to designate a zone we would have to hold a public hearing and then we would also have to make certain findings. And those findings were related to inadequate infrastructure in place and by incentivizing the infrastructure that there would be investment and that investment would create economic development. So I think it's clearly shown that having access to computers in other areas is important for us to do business.

Here is a depiction of the map that we're currently working on. This is what I would consider phase one and what we're going to do. We're trying to find people who install certain types of utilities that we see as being underserved and work with them to create these zones. I would imagine that if you look at this map and you're living in the southwest portion of the county you may wonder why it isn't there yet and my response to that is we're hoping to get a broader map. We want to be sensitive to people who already have infrastructure in place and that the incentive is actually incentivizing new placement of this type of infrastructure.

When we looked at that area we have not heard or seen a need for Gas, Water, or Wastewater so we're looking at just the broadband portion of that. Again broadband is federally defined as 5 MB up and 25 MB down there is some flux to that at this point but that's the basic standard. The area that was shown, we've discussed getting information from South Central Indiana REMC that shows there approximately 4,500 homes in that area that are underserved. Looking

pg. 3 Board of Commissioners' Meeting Minutes May 29, 2019 at literature from the State and particularly Purdue University, they have a wonderful, and the URL is up on the screen now (https://www.pcrd.purdue.edu/files/media/ncirpc-state-ofbroadband.pdf), we could probably get that up on our website, that discuss the economic advantages and the economic incentives that are found with having broadband especially in rural areas. They discuss benefits of agriculture as well as attracting workers who don't have the traditional office space at a downtown office that are working there. But it was \$754 per home is the estimate they used, they also had cited studies that had that number considerably higher, up to 9,000, and they kind of went with a much more conservative number on what the annual cost savings per home per year for having that ability. So, that's what we're kind of looking at when we're looking at a zone. If the Infrastructure Development Zone is approved then the new additional infrastructure placed in that would receive a tax exempt status and that's kind of the benefit to the utility for having this kind of zone there.

(Jones) I can certainly attest to the need for this being one of those who lives out in the county and has a small business that is really completely dependent on e-mail for receiving orders. At one time the company got so frustrated with me calling over and over asking them to get my DSL working that they finally told me that the internet doesn't like going uphill. So anyhow I'll be really really happy to see this take place.

(Githens) I think it also benefits health care. Something we haven't talked about and in fact I was talking to an optometrist last year who said that there are people proposing to do eye exams online even. So I think we can expand this beyond education and agriculture and business to other needs within the community.

(Thomas) Absolutely. Good comments both of you. So absolutely small business tech start-ups out in the rural areas are possible but only if you have a good broadband connection, internet connection. Education and training goes, including K through 12, because when students have snow days, which we can't imagine on a day like today, but when students have snow days they're asked to work online and that requirement means they have to have access to the internet. But even things like job training or post-secondary education online or even secondary education online are really important. The idea of getting our rural areas connection to the rest of the community is very important, aging in place as an issue, and of course as Commissioner Githens mentioned, medical contact but also civic contact and engagement are important as well. So there are a lot of great reasons to do this and it will have I think an impact on tourism as well, a positive impact on tourism, because people like to go places where they can be connected with home. So with that let's go ahead and open the public hearing does anybody wish to make comments on this?

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Hi I'm **Peter Gould**. I want to thank you guys for considering the IDZ. This is a big deal, you've had enough of emails from me you know I'm definitely for it. I had the benefit of owning a business and always had great internet because I could remote into my server with very low overhead which in my connection might have been 600k and it was fine. Well now that I'm retired I got nothing so my only hope is the IDZ and somebody building out. On the map, Jeff, is Kerr Creek Road on the map? I couldn't really read the map on the website I want to make sure that's on the map.

pg. 4 Board of Commissioners' Meeting Minutes May 29, 2019 (Cockerill) I believe it is, but we can certainly confirm.

(Gould) If you could confirm that that would be great. There's just so many reasons to do this and I feel like I'm preaching to the choir here. One of the biggies with the IDZ is that it's really agnostic in terms of your provider so it's not just SCI-REMC, we've got our home team Smithville as well, who I understand will present a map, maybe be part of this, but it really encourages anybody who's going to provide this service to build it and that's really what we need. Education is so important. We have neighbors who home school and their kids can't do anything at home. So this is going to be a big deal for them. And the other thing economically is it's going to enable employees to work in other states remotely. When you think of the economics of that, the local income tax and that kind of thing. Cook is hiring another engineer and maybe her spouse is an attorney or a CPA working in Chicago, they can continue to work in Chicago remotely and that's \$200,000 that we're going to tax here in Monroe County because they're working here. So again, thank you, I encourage you to push this forward with great speed. Let's get it built and let's get connected. Thanks.

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Good morning Commissioners. My name is Geoff McKim. I'm on the County Council and I would like to speak here in favor of the creation of an IDZ in Monroe County to encourage and to incentivize the creation of broadband infrastructure to serve both the unserved and underserved areas of Monroe County. The benefits of access to broadband are well documented. School aged children can get access to educational materials and participate fully in school activities. Rural residents can have an access to an increasing variety of telehealth services including both mental health and addiction recovery services. In the increasing number of remote workers can have a broader choice of affordable housing options throughout the community. I think that's an aspect that's often forgotten about. The personal property tax abatement incentive included in the IDZ is also easy to support from a tax fairness prospective. The assessed value that would be abated doesn't currently exist so you aren't losing anything. And also unlike with new assessed value of real property increases in personal property assessed value don't tend to come along with increases in government costs such as policing and criminal justice. And finally the creation of IDZ demonstrates community commitment to increasing the accessibility of broadband in our rural areas. This demonstration of community has real value in applications for other funding opportunities such as the next round of the next level connections funding. We can actually raise the scores of grant applications from local providers and there by multiply the effects of the local IDZ. The only caveat here I have is about the map that was published for the public hearing. Monroe County has at least four current broadband providers, but the map that was chosen for this precise area of one of those four providers, although a second does have some overlapping area, and will hopefully be able to take account. So this effort is a great start I would encourage the Commissioners to propose a map that includes all of the unserved and underserved areas county for future infrastructure development zones. But I thank you for your efforts to end the digital divide in Monroe County and encourage you to move forward in the adoption of one of the few tools the State gives us makes available to the counties to encourage rural broadband development. So thank you for doing this.

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Meeting Minutes May 29, 2019 Jim Shelton with the Chamber. We certainly support this. We've been advocating infrastructure, recognizing that infrastructure is an important part of economic development since we did our study back in the 1990s, although back then broadband wasn't digital. My son has recently moved out into the County and he's had to get a land line because his internet doesn't work and his cell phones don't work. I know this probably won't help the cell phones but I encourage you to do this. It will, I think, open all manner of opportunities to do things at home. And then as a CASA it will certainly help keep children in touch with the programs and services that they need which are very difficult to manage because there's so many involved and this will help them in school to do a lot of their assignments even if they're not home schooled you need access to the internet. So I certainly applaud you for doing this and we support it.

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I'm James Tanneberger. I'm the CEO of SCI-REMC. And I too want to thank the county for making this move. The point I wanted to make is really to the whole county, we've got this northern part which we really appreciate. We have some territory in here and Smithville does too and we're working together to serve that area. But the thing that I would want to make sure is said is that these areas and some more of the rural area around Bloomington are very expensive areas to serve and really when a provider builds in these areas it's because they've gritted their teeth and said we're gonna build it because I'll tell you the financials don't support it doing it as an investment from pure revenue going to be gained off people paying for internet. It's really about lifting up the area. This part of the map that's on here it's actually one of the southern parts of our service territory and we entered into a much bigger project and the whole idea was to bring high speed internet to our members. In order for us to do this we have to get a lot of participation from our counties and we've been able to accomplish that and so that is a huge way that the county can come and partner with the providers who are making a financial stretch to do this. Just wanted to point out the whole county, everybody in the rural area, if you've got a provider willing to build into there, just know that it's not about making money for them, it's about lifting up the rural areas. So thank you very much.

(Githens) Mr. Tanneberger, may I ask a question? I know I heard last year in Morgan County that our SCI REMC was looking to roll things out sort of in quadrants. Was this one of the areas that you were included in that?

(Tanneberger) Yes. So this is an area that we intend to make sure this entire area is served by fiber and that being us or another provider, we want to make sure fiber is provided in here. And I know part of this territory is part of Smithville's traditional telephone ILEC, and so we're working together to make sure we're doing this as efficiently as possible and trying to avoid building over each other. It's already a high cost area, we don't want to spend money twice. (Githens) Thank you.

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Good morning, **Cullen McCarty** Executive VP of Smithville Communications. I don't want to repeat what James said because that's exactly what I could've said myself. But I applaud this move, Smithville applauds this move it's a tremendous opportunity I think for everybody

pg. 6 Board of Commissioners' Meeting Minutes May 29, 2019 involved. But really I'd like to encourage that, to Geoff McKim's point, we keep looking at these areas and as we've gathered our data together in the foot print we serve which is all of Southern Monroe and all of Western Monroe, we have pockets that are fibered to the cabinet but that's distance sensitive with that DSL copper fiber hybrid and we want to continue to build fiber to the prim. We made that commitment 12 years ago, but with changes in regulatory recovery it became very hard. So we'd be glad to share with you what we have, maybe in a work session because that's a little more productive and you can actually sit down and we can take a look at what we've got and what areas we cover. We've got these pockets we need to hit and we would encourage you as this moves forward taking a look at what we can do in other areas of the county that can be served. It's a great start thank you for doing this, greatly appreciate it, Smithville supports it.

(Thomas) Absolutely. We had a meeting with Smithville a few years ago now in a work session and talked about the economic costs of infrastructure placement, the capital costs and how they were prohibitive and we would really appreciate meeting with you during a work session, so before you go today we'd like to get that booked in if we could; that would be great. I will also point out that for you and for anyone else that provides this kind of broadband infrastructure that we're very happy, I think it was Mr. Cockerill initially said this, we're happy to have this meeting every week if we need to, so we're happy to expand the map and that is our goal is to encourage that, so anything we can do to make that happen would be great, so you know we're on board.

(McCarty) Thank you and we'll be in touch.

After call for more public comment, Thomas closed the public hearing.

(Thomas) Mr. Cockerill the next step is next then? An ordinance?

(Cockerill) Well, I think what the anticipation is that we would have an ordinance on your agenda for next week. It would incorporate the information we've received today, because there has to be findings. So the next step is getting that put together and hopefully get it on next week's agenda. I did not hear anything that I thought was not in line with what I thought we were going to hear but it's great and I don't think it'll be a problem to get that next week.

(Thomas) Are the Commissioners agreed to get this on our agenda for next week as an Ordinance?

(Jones) Absolutely.

(Githens) Yes.

(Thomas) Yes. So please do that. That would be excellent. Thank you so much and thank you everyone for your comments today and for all your hard work to make this happen and we look

pg. 7 Board of Commissioners' Meeting Minutes May 29, 2019 forward to working with additional entities. And Mr. Gould I suggest you speak with Jim Tanneberger today and check with him on your street.

B. MOVE TO APPROVE: ORDINANCE 2019-15; AMEND MONROE COUNTY PERSONNEL POLICH HANDBOOK AND MONROE COUNTY CODE CHAPTERS 266 & 296. FUND NAME: N/A FUND NUMBER: N/A AMOUNT: N/A

Jones made a motion to approve. Githens seconded.

(Margie Rice) Good morning Commissioners. This is an ordinance that we've talked about several times in work session already so you should be familiar with the language. We are amending our Personnel Policy to broaden the language to specifically recognize those with whom we work and consult which is an addition to this policy. We've streamlined the process making it the investigation process the same for elected officials, all department heads, any employees, volunteers, and we are now putting this same language in chapter 266 and 296 in our code just to get the word out there that this the Monroe County Policy and to make sure that it is as visual as possible. We'll also be including this policy as an attachment to our contracts and having the language in each of our contracts. So with that I'm happy to entertain any questions that you have.

(Jones) Just happy to see this happening.

(Thomas) Absolutely.

(Githens) Yes.

(Thomas) This is great. Great work! It really clarifies for any contractor that they have, not just one place to go to issue a complaint, but they have a number of different people that they can reach out to and the same thing for our employees and volunteers, etc. so I really like that layering because sometimes that's the person you don't feel like you could go to issue a complaint and so you can actually go to the Board of Judges, go to Legal office etc. So I really like that layering that's happened. I think that's going to be really helpful and it is now part of our contracts as I pointed out last week in that section that we had of a contract. So I think it's a great thing for our employees and it's a wonderful thing for our volunteers and contractors and elected officials as well. I appreciate your work on this.

Jim Shelton again. The Chamber is a representative of a number of businesses that do work for you. We certainly support this. Somebody who worked for Crane as a contractor for a long time, 30 something years, I recognize how important it is that the public perceive that your business dealings are based on business only and that if there is a problem that the person knows that they'll get support if they do report the problem. I applaud your doing this. I think it's great and I watched your work session last week and it seems like it's a really good proposal. We're in support. Thanks.

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

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VIII. APPOINTMENTS

NONE

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Monroe County's Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) will celebrate 35 years Thursday, May 30, 2019 at 6:30 pm in the Courthouse Rotunda. This event will highlight the history of the local CASA chapter. There will be a question/answer session as well as refreshments.
- Accepting applications for all boards and commissions.
- Next Commissioners' Meeting: June 5, 2019, at 10 am in the Nat U Hill meeting room, 3rd floor of the Courthouse.

X. ADJOURNMENT

pg. 9 Board of Commissioners' Meeting Minutes May 29, 2019 The minutes of the May 29, 2019 Board of Commissioners' meeting were approved on June 5, 2019.

Monroe County Commissioners

Ayes:

Julie Thomas, President

Lee Muss

Lee Jones, Vice President

Penny Githens

Nays:

Julie Thomas, President

Lee Jones, Vice President

Penny Githens

Attest:

mit. Catherine Smith, Auditor

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MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION AGENDA MONROE COUNTY COURTHOUSE JUDGE NAT U. HILL III MEETING ROOM BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA May 29, 2019

- Lisa Ridge Highway Director

 a. Discussion on Bicentennial Pathway
- 2. Legal Department a. Miscellaneous
- 3. Angela Purdie Commissioners' Administrator a. Miscellaneous