

UNION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – NOVEMBER 20, 2017

PRESENT: Paul Wiwi, David Woeste, Alan Alcorn, Pam Tharp, Marissa Lane, Jim Crouch, Jenny Brown, Jeff Mathews, Daniel Taylor, and Gene Sanford.

Wiwi called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Woeste moved to approve the minutes of the November 6th meeting. Alcorn seconded the motion and it carried 3-0.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: Melissa Browning introduced Mike Kleinpeter of Kleinpeter Consulting Group who is presently working on a Comprehensive Plan for Liberty. He presented the possibility of doing one for the county at the same time which would make the County eligible for grants over the next 6 years. Discussion followed with no decision being made at this time.

ENERGY SAVINGS: Brad Gillen, a representative from Duke Energy, presented a potential savings plan for jail and Courthouse energy by going to LED lighting. Cost for the Courthouse is \$24,057.40 of which the county would pay \$11,784.96 with an estimated annual energy savings of \$4,102.40. Cost for the Jail is \$10,175.18 of which the county would pay \$3,421.44 with an estimated annual energy savings of \$3,809.79. He estimated the project could be done by the end of the year with payment due in January of 2018. Discussion followed with Woeste moving to do the projects as submitted for the Courthouse and Jail. Alcorn seconded the motion and it carried 3-0.

INNKEEPER’S TAX: Discussion of the Innkeeper’s tax was held with the proposed Ordinance and statute for review. It seems the tax money collected can only be used for tourism functions and a Commission needs to be established by the Commissioners to oversee these funds. Commissioners attended the Public Hearing at the recent County Council meeting where discussions on use of the funds were held and several members of the public had supported the tax. This could save some money in the EDIT fund that is currently being used by the Union County Development Corporation which could be transferred for use in the ambulance fund. County Council passed the Ordinance establishing the Inn keeper’s Tax effective January 1, 2018. Woeste moved to support the tax and help with its implementation. Alcorn seconded the motion and it carried 3-0. The Commissioners asked that Development Director Melissa Browning come to a future meeting to discuss the implementation part of the Commission.

DEPARTMENT HEADS: The Commissioners met with Department Heads for the Highway Department, 911, Courthouse Custodian, Veterans Service Officer, and Dog Warden for a year-end review. Dog Warden Rick Hill stated the Dog Shelter needed some work on the building and pens. The Commissioners asked him to get a quote on what needs to be done. 911 Director Jenny Brown said about all of her equipment issues are fixed. All of the others present stated things were going alright with no issues. All present said they would be willing to serve in their capacities another year. The Auditor stated County Attorney James Williams and Transfer Station Manager Cecil Dake would also be willing to serve another year as they were unable to attend the meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST PLOICY: The Commissioners signed Ordinance 2017-3 establishing a Conflict of Interest Policy for all public officials and employees of Union County, Indiana, with a threshold of \$300 below which any financial interest or value of any gratuity is not considered substantial in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations.

MISC: The Commissioners agreed for all county offices to close from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on December 11 for a Christmas lunch for county employees. They also agreed to hold their meetings on January 8 and January 22, 2018 due to holidays falling on the first and third Mondays of the month.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Attest _____, Auditor