

**PIKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2024 @ 8:30 AM**

**Mark Flint
Jeff Nelson
Ryan Coleman**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by BOC President Mark Flint. All Commissioners were present in addition to County Attorney Val Fleig, County Auditor Judith Gumbel, and County Administrator Kristi Dischinger. Others present included Norman Dillon, Greg Wickham, Pike County Coroner Ray Brooks, Jeff Davis, Shellie Wickham, Jail Commander Brian Maxwell, Brian Van Meter, County Extension Director Brooke Goble, County Chamber Director Jill Hyneman, County EMS Director Chris Young, County E-911 Assistant Director Brittany Staake, Jail Matron Ashley Gideon, Jacob Lamberson, Marlin Gray, Randy Crossley, and Press Dispatch Editor Sherri Sebella.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 16, 2024

President Flint asked the Commissioners if they had any additions or corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, he called for a motion. Commissioner Jeff Nelson seconded by Commissioner Ryan Colman motioned to approve the minutes. Motion passed 3 – 0.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS FOR FEBRUARY 5, 2024

President Flint asked if there were any questions regarding the claims. Hearing none he called for a motion. Commissioner Nelson seconded by Commissioner Coleman motioned to approve the claims. Motion carried 3 – 0.

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

German American Insurance Package Renewal-Tony Cochren

President Flint tabled this item because Mr. Cochren did not have the completed package yet.

Purdue Extension Contractual Services Agreement

This is the annual contract between the County and Purdue University. CED Brooke Goble stated that it was a little higher than last year's contract. She also stated that there had been a couple of applicants for the educator position, but Purdue decided not to go forward with either applicant. President Flint asked if there were other questions. He then asked for a motion.

Commissioner Coleman seconded by Commissioner Nelson moved to approve the contract. Motion carried 3 – 0.

EMS Additional (2)

Director Chris Young asked for approval of two additional appropriation requests. The first was from Fund 8465 to appropriate the funds secured by an AFG (FEMA) grant in the amount of

\$47,428.57. The grant has been approved, but it has to be appropriated in order to spend it. The grant is to purchase radios and the County has to provide a 5% match which is available.

Commissioner Nelson seconded by Commissioner Coleman motioned to approve the additional appropriation. Motion passed 3 – 0.

The second additional appropriation request was from the EMS Donation Fund 8101 in the amount of \$3,700. The source of the available money was the Community Foundation.

Commissioner Coleman seconded by Commissioner Nelson motioned to approve the request for an Additional Appropriation. Motion passed 3 – 0.

EMS Transfers

Director Young also requested a transfer in Fund 1170. It was from the Paramedic Account 1170-10320-0000 Paramedic to the Hospital Contract 1170-30790-0000 in the amount of \$5,500. The transfer is necessary because the current EMS Medical Director has resigned and the new director will cost \$6,000. The Director will be Doctor Jeremy Curtis who is an ER doctor at Deaconess.

Commissioner Nelson seconded by Commissioner Coleman motioned to approve the transfer. Motion passed 3 – 0.

Petition to Vacate Public Way

County Administrator Kristi Dischinger stated that Attorney Brian Mahoney gave her the petition in behalf of Colton O'Neal to vacate a portion of Persimmon which is listed in the Town of Arcadia (near Arthur). This is a notice of the petition which will be followed by a hearing on March 4th.

BUSINESS BY COMMISSIONERS

EMA-E911 Director Recommendation

Assistant E-911 Director Brittany Staake recommended that Brandon Truitt be appointed as EMA/E-911 Director. She stated that she felt that she could speak on behalf of everyone in Dispatch that he would do a good job. Commissioner Jeff Nelson clarified that the EMA and E911 Advisory Board met and the recommendation of that body was Mr. Truitt. President Flint asked if there were any questions. Hearing none he asked for a motion.

Commissioner Nelson seconded by Commissioner Coleman motioned to appoint Brandon Truitt as the new EMA/E-911 Director. Motion passed 3 – 0.

EMA Salary Reimbursement Grant 2023

County Administrator Dischinger stated that the County has received the Subrecipient Grant Agreement for Federal Fiscal Year 2023 for the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program – Contract # 0000000000000000000081050. It is a pass - through grant of federal funds to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. It is for \$18,000 and includes base-salary and fringe benefits as stated in the Project and Grant Application. In Pike County this is used for the EMA Director. President Flint called for a motion to approve the grant contract.

Commissioner Coleman seconded by Commissioner Nelson motioned to approve the Grant Contract for the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program. Motion passed 3 – 0.
Official Statement

Official Statement

President Flint read an official statement from the Pike County Commissioners in regard to a report aired by a TV Station about Troy Stewart's concerns that a change in address led to confusion during the response of emergency services. The statement attached was the County's official response and clarifies that Mr. Stewart's address was not changed. A copy of the response was given to the Editor of the Press Dispatch, Sherri Sebella, and a copy was mailed to the television station.

Clerk-Treasurer Monthly Reports, December 2023

President Flint called attention to the reports in the packets.

BUSINESS BY PUBLIC

Norman Dillon-SWCD

Norman Dillon, Chairman of the Pike County Soil and Water Conservation District stated that he had tried for a long time to find out information regarding the Pike County Economic Development Board meetings. He said that he had been appointed as a member of this group, but could find nothing out. He asked the Commissioners to waive the SWCD's membership fees three times during his presentation. President Flint explained that the Commissioners are not in charge of this entity. He stated that they have one appointment to the Board. That appointment has been made for the year. Commissioner Nelson stated that he thought that Mr. Dillon was on the board. Mr. Dillon requested that the Commissioner's help him out with his request to be on the board. He said that he understood that a lot of what this group does is confidential, but stated that he would keep that commitment. He stated that SWCD does the permitting for EPA for new construction in Pike County. He stated that SWCD can also provide aerial photos of these construction sites. He stated that he just wants to help work to move Pike County forward.

President Flint asked if any of the Department Heads had information to share.

Jail Commander Brian Maxwell stated that the Annual Jail report was emailed to the Commissioners and the Council.

Highway Superintendent Josh Byrd stated that they were changing pipes on the roads picked for paving and trying to catch up on the road freezing and thawing issues. They are just now at the point where it can be graded.

Citizen's Comments

Randy Crossley asked how he would go about getting a road vacated. County Administrator Kristi Dischinger explained the procedure. Highway Superintendent Byrd stated Randy was NOT really talking about a public road. Mr. Byrd explained that right now it is really private. Conversation evolved and the "road/easement" in question is one that had a ditch across it when Randy purchased his piece of property. It is actually some kind of oil/gas easement that

was allowed in place by the previous owner when the property was "reclaimed". Mr. Byrd said that one side of the "road/easement" is now owned by Troy Stewart previously mentioned in the "Response" discussed above and the other side is owned by Mr. Crossley. Mr. Crossley said that Mr. Stewart is the one who put the ditch in, but now Mr. Stewart wants to open it up and make it a road again because he wants to sell some property the easement would be the access to the property. County Attorney Val Fleig stated that the County would have no jurisdiction in the matter because at this time it is a private road. Greg Wickham stated that it has not been a road for at least 10 years. Mr. Byrd stated that if it were opened back up it would make the renaming of the road that the Wickham's live on a problem again. On January 2, 2024 part of Road 700 S was renamed Sunset Drive; it is the northern portion of a loop previously just called 700 S which began and ended on CR 700 E. This is the road that the Wickham's live on. It is official and the road will get signs and the post office will be notified.

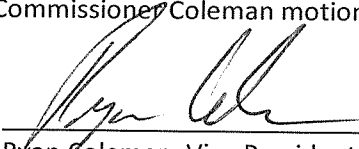
Jeff Davis asked the Commissioners if it was a requirement to put the 911 number that he was issued displayed some place at the end of his road. Commissioner Nelson stated that it was technically supposed to be displaced on the person's house. Mr. Davis said "What if the house is a mile off the road". No one could really answer Mr. Davis' question. President Flint told Mr. Davis that the answer would be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

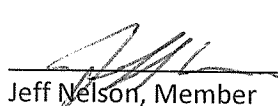
President Flint asked if anyone else had comments. Hearing none he called for a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Nelson seconded by Commissioner Coleman motioned to adjourn. Motion passed 3 – 0.

Mark Flint, President

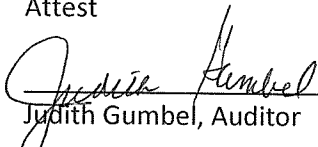


Ryan Coleman, Vice President



Jeff Nelson, Member

Attest



Judith Gumbel, Auditor

2/20/24

Date



PIKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COURTHOUSE, 801 MAIN ST., PETERSBURG, IN 47567
812-354-8448

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 5, 2024

**OFFICAL STATEMENT FROM THE PIKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSONERS IN
RESPONSE TO CONCERNS A CHANGE OF ADDRESS CAUSED ISSUES WITH
EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

In response to Mr. Stewart's recent concerns that a change in address led to confusion during the response of emergency services, it should be noted Mr. Stewart's address was not changed. The change, which was brought forth by a signed petition by residents whose addresses were changed, was presented to the commissioners at a regular Board of Commissioners' meeting held on January 2, 2024. Petitioning residents requested that the northern portion of 700 S be changed to Sunset Dr. The Pike County E911 Director stated during that meeting that County Road 700 S is the southern portion of a loop that begins and ends on CR 700 E. The northern portion is a private drive also named 700 S and portions of that road were improperly addressed when created and need to be corrected. The northern portion was renamed Sunset Drive, which is a private drive.

Official records indicate the emergency call was received by Pike County E911 Dispatch at 11:59:25 on 1/9/2024 and the first unit arrived on scene at 12:17:08. The nearest volunteer fire departments are 7.0 & 13.7 miles from the residence. The change of other individuals' addresses had no effect on the emergency response time to Mr. Stewart's residence.

PIKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS