

**PIKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 20, 2024 @ 8:30 AM**

**Mark Flint  
Jeff Nelson  
Ryan Coleman**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Ryan Coleman Vice President of the Board of Commissioners called the meeting to order. Commissioner Jeff Nelson was present and Commissioner Mark Flint was absent. Also present were County Attorney Val Fleig, Auditor Judith Gumbel, and County Administrator Kristi Dischinger. Others present included Coroner Ray Brooks, Chief Deputy Dallas Killian, EMS Director Chris Young, German American Insurance Agent Tony Cochren, Auditor's Chief Deputy Audra Warner, Highway Superintendent Joshua Byrd, Holly and Levi Hume, Shellie Wickham and Press Dispatch Editor Sherri Sebella.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 5, 2024**

VP Coleman asked if there were questions concerning the minutes. Commissioner Nelson motioned to approve the minutes and Commissioner Coleman seconded the motion. Motion passed 2 – 0.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS FOR FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

**OLD BUSINESS**

German American Insurance Package Renewal-Tony Cochren.

Mr. Cochren presented the renewal package for German American Insurance. He stated that it was a "hard market" and that the County's combined loss plus the industry pricing increase currently in effect had generated an overall 7.4% premium increase for total annual price of \$357,354.00. The coverage includes property, general liability, linebacker, law enforcement, crime, inland marine, business auto, umbrella, workman's comp, and cyber liability. The coverage does not include the EMS building or vehicles.

Commissioner Coleman stated that he would like to reduce some of the coverage to the vehicles to liability only.

The Workman's Comp experience was much better in 2023. The mod rate can go to 0. It is a rolling 12-month period over 3-years. Our is a .65 rate which is really good.

Commissioner Nelson asked what the renewal date was - March 3rd was the answer. Therefore, the decision had to be made. Commissioner Coleman also said that he would like to see consideration made as to what level of deductible should be in place. Mr. Cochren said that and the reduction to liability coverage only on some of the vehicles could be looked at any time.

Commissioner Nelson motioned to renew the insurance with German American. Commissioner Coleman seconded the motion and it passed 2 – 0.

### Notice to Bid Approval-Highway Dump Truck

Highway Superintendent Byrd stated that they had located a 2019 Volvo Tri-axle dump truck at Vincennes. It is a fully auto 6-speed transmission, 435 horse, diesel. His request was to put out for bid for the truck out for bid. This would be one of the two that he had discussed needing at a previous meeting. The plan would be to purchase the second one as new in 2025. This truck would be for hauling rock and asphalt.

Commissioner Nelson motioned to allow the request for Bids for one 2019 Volvo tri-axle dump truck. Commissioner Coleman seconded the motion, and it passed at a 2-0 vote.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Request of Opioid Funds-Sheriff

Chief Deputy Dallas Killian requested to use a portion of Pike County's Opioid Settlement funds for the purchase of 2-Body Cameras, 3-rocket controls and 3-in car cameras from either the restricted 1237 Fund or the unrestricted 1238 Fund in the amount of \$39,564.00. The Sheriff's letter stated that the purchase would qualify for the use of the funding through E-12 H in regard to training and education regarding naloxone and other drugs that treat overdoses for first responders, public education relating to emergency responses to overdoses, public education relating to immunity and Good Samaritan Laws, educating first responders regarding the existence and operation of immunity and Good Samaritan laws, education of law enforcement or other first responders regarding appropriate practices and precautions when dealing with fentanyl or other drugs, and the provision of wellness and support services for first responders and others who experience secondary trauma associated with the opioid-related emergency events.

Commissioner Nelson seconded by Commissioner Coleman motioned to approve the use of the opioid funds for the purchase of body cams. Motion passed 2 – 0.

### Highway Additional (2-CCMG Funds)

Superintendent Byrd explained that the funds were budgeted in 2023 as stated in the grant but were not formally made a part of the budget in they system. Therefore, they could not be encumbered into the 2024 budgets of the Community Crossings Funds 9129 and 9130. Therefore, they were requesting the additional appropriation for the 2024 budget.

Commissioner Nelson seconded by Commissioner Coleman motioned to approve the request for the additional appropriations in Fund 9129 at \$1,690.52. Commissioner Nelson then made a second motion to approve the request for the additional appropriations in Fund 9130 at \$1,763.10. Both motions passed 2 -0.

## **BUSINESS BY COMMISSIONERS**

### Approval to get specs & advertise to bid tuckpointing

County Administrator Kristi Dischinger explained that after installing the new windows it was discovered that water was still coming inside the building when it rained. She was told that the building needed tuckpointing. She said that she significantly underestimated the cost of the

procedure and asked for a quote to do the entire building. It came in at just under \$300,000. That amount of money, of course, necessitated that the project bid. She was initially told that contractors would not want to warrant their work if they didn't do the entire building. But later she talked with others who had their buildings repaired by spot fixing only the bad parts of exterior brick mortar. Her request was for permission to find someone who was qualified to write the specs of the project and then to advertise for bids.

Commissioner Nelson seconded by Commissioner Coleman motioned to allow Ms. Dischinger to locate a qualified person to write the project specs and then to advertise for bids. Motion passed 2 – 0.

## **BUSINESS BY PUBLIC**

Levi Hume addressed the Commissioners asking if consideration had been given to improving County Road 250 S in Marion Township. He stated that anytime he had reached out to the County Garage concerning something like a washout in the road or something they had responded the next day. Superintendent Byrd explained that the Commissioners would recognize it as Rich William's road. Mr. Byrd said initially it would have to be addressed through road 650 and that the bridge has now been replaced. Mr. Byrd said that there would have to be a lot of action. One of the landowners along the road had originally said he would give some ground to widen the hills out but when it came to decision time, the landowner didn't even want any trees removed. Mr. Byrd said that coming in from 175 S could be looked at and that even though it would be a longer distance it might be the best alternative. Commissioners said they had talked about it, but nothing had been resolved. Mr. Hume asked if it would help if he would talk with the other landowners, and Superintendent Byrd stated that it might help if they would all set down and talk together. Mr. Byrd also said that it didn't help that the hills were sandstone. Commissioner Coleman stated that they would continue to look for solutions.

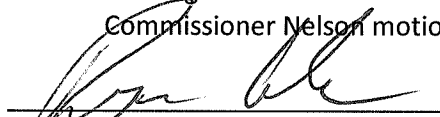
EMA Assistant Director Chris Young stated that the EMS Hazards Mitigation Grant was coming to an end. He said the County had been sent a contract extending the contract to end in 2024. He said the contract was about 165 pages. He said that they would have to meet with all of the players to get their approval of the extension. The plan is to get it to the Commissioners for their approval at the next meeting.

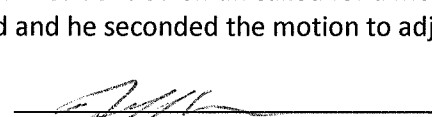
Superintendent Byrd said that it was an eventful weekend, but Mother Nature helped out as to the snow. He said that he will need the Commissioner's approval to hire replacements for two positions that would be coming open within the month.

Commissioner Nelson seconded by Commissioner Coleman motioned to give approval for the Highway to hire two replacements to the highway staff. Motion passed 2 – 0.

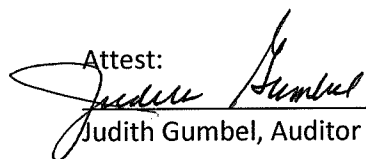
County Administrator Dischinger stated that she was looking forward to no stickers on the new windows. NOTE: At this point the battery died on the recorder.

Hearing no further business Vice President Coleman called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nelson motioned and he seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion passed 2 – 0.

  
Ryan Coleman, Vice President

  
Jeff Nelson, Member

Attest:

  
Judith Gumbel, Auditor

3-4-24  
Date