

CASS COUNTY COUNCIL
July 17, 2020

The Cass County Council met at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner Hearing Room. Present were Bruce Ide, Grover Bishop, Mike Stajduhar, Dave Redweik, Tracy Williamson, Brian Reed, George Stebbins, Auditor Cheryl Alcorn, and Attorney Jeff Stanton.

Mike Stajduhar opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence following.

MEETING MINUTES – Grover Bishop made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 20, 2020 as presented, Dave Redweik seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS – Park requested additional appropriation from Park Non-Reverting Fund 1179 in the amount of \$476,108 for reporting purposes of land acquisition.

George Stebbins made a motion to approve additional appropriation from Fund 1179 in amount of \$476,108, Tracy Williamson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ABATEMENTS – Christy Householder, Economic Development Director, presented the following companies compliance documents for continued abatement 2020/payable 2021. Christy informed the Council all documents have been reviewed by Economic Development Director and Assessor’s Office. All companies were found to be in compliance with exception of Tree Worx.

Left Bank Properties, LLC
Maple Grove Distributing
Standard Fusee/Orion Safety Products
SUS Cast Products, Inc.
The Anderson’s Clymers Ethanol, LLC

George Stebbins made a motion to allow the abatements to continue for all companies in compliance with paperwork, Tracy Williamson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

LOGAN’S LANDING – Becki Harris appeared before the Commissioners with summary update report. Annual events have been delayed or cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Green & Clean Day extended to a full week of residents posting their neighborhood cleaning activities on facebook. A contest to promote participation for the Green & Clean event awarded one resident a \$50 gift certificate to a downtown business of their choice. Celebrate Logansport annual Strawberry Shortcake Day activities were canceled, 300 orders were taken for strawberry shortcake by delivery only. Taste of Cass County has been canceled this August due to uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Logan's Landing received a QUIP Grant from IAC & OCRA for downtown art mural project. Interactive mural will be painted on exterior east wall of the county buildings on Sixth Street. Mural is a collaborate project of involving City and County, and Logansport High School Art Students. A dedication ceremony was held late June. Becki extended appreciation to the county for their involvement and prompt attention to preparing the walls for the project.

Main Street Revitalization Program Grant is currently underway for eight downtown businesses. The \$600,000 grant funds combined with local matching funds will provide approximately one million dollars to the downtown area.

Logan's Landing appreciates the continued support of their programs and projects to improve and preserve Logansport's downtown district. Becki encouraged everyone to make donations during the charitable roadblock located on Sixth & Broadway from 11:00 to 3:00 today and 9:00 to 1:00 tomorrow.

CLERK- Beth Liming informed Council the Marriage License Books will be scanned and a portal will be available for researching. The cost of scanning will be paid from Clerk Perpetuation Fund. Project will begin this year and portal available upon completion of scanning. No action by the Council is needed.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES – REVENUE BONDS – Lisa Lee and Tyler Kalachnik with Ice Miller, LLP presented for introduction Ordinance 2020-05 Issuance of Taxable Economic Development Revenue Bonds and Ordinance 2020-06 Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Economic Development Revenue Bonds for the development project of Waelz Sustainable Product, LLC.

Lee explained the taxable economic development revenue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$23,000,000 to be issued for the purpose of procuring funds to pay the cost of financing a portion of the project. Bonds will be payable to principal and interest by pledged TIF Revenues. No county funds nor tax levy are pledged to pay these bonds.

Kalachnik explained the development revenue bonds in an amount of \$60,000,000 to be issued for the purpose of funds to finance the costs of acquisition, construction, improvement and equipping of the Project and will be payable by the borrower.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – Jason Semler with BakerTilly presented a three-year projected comprehensive financial plan. The purpose of the report is to provide information for the review and consideration relative to the financial management of the county.

The report was directed to analyzed receipts, disbursements, and fund balances of selected funds. Report will assist the County with developing a financial planning model that can be

modified as different needs arise and priorities change. The report provides a baseline for future financial operations.

2021 SALARY RECOMMENDATION – Ralph Anderson presented Commissioners’ 2021 employee pay recommendation of 3% increase for all employees with suggestion of 1.5% increase on entry level. Beginning hourly wage remain the same and increase the top hourly wage 3%.

2021 MEETING SCHEDULE – Mike Stajduhar presented 2021 Council Meeting Schedule for approval. Suggestion made to change meeting date in December from the 17th to the 10th to prepare for end of the year state reports.

George Stebbins made a motion to approve 2021 Meeting Schedule amending the December meeting to the 10th, Bruce Ide seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT- Mike Stajduhar instructed public to state name and address without time limit for comments. Council will listen to concerns of the public without responding to questions.

Malcom Jarrell, 2405 Hastye Hyll, Logansport – Presented opposition briefing of the Waelz Sustainable Products facility. Informational booklets, created by Jarrell, were distributed to Council members.

Scott Johnson, 1750 E PR 340 N, Logansport – Manipulation of information to the public during the decision-making process of the WSP project has caused animosity in the community. WSP processes have been flawed from the beginning. Encourage council members to be leaders and re-evaluate this path it’s not one we should be on.

Linda Wright, 216 W Clinton, Logansport – Shared the statistics of economic decline in Milford, Alabama since the construction of WSP facility.

Erika Gutierrez, 2716 CR 375 W, Logansport – County Council is our last line of defense on the WSP project. County has not provided requested reports containing their research of the WSP.

Sue Davidson, 1531 McCarty Street, Logansport – Do not listen to WSP salesman, listen to your constituents. Say no to the WSP.

Nicole Walters, 4599 Division Road, Logansport – Do not put your trust in IDEM to protect our health and our environment. Say no to the WSP.

Lora Redweik, 5524 N 600 E, Twelve Mile – WSP gave false security in IDEM application report.

Angie Zeck, 752 E CR 1300 S, Galveston – Cass County ranks third in the state for cancer and fourth for infant child mortality. County should look deep into any new industry that is brought into our county.

Jim Brugh, 1315 E Market Street, Logansport – WSP project doesn't make good financial sense for the county. TIF and Revenue Bonds are not good ideas, only borrow when you need to and you don't need to.

Jim Conn, 913 Plum Street, Logansport – Look at the young people protesting against WSP. Say no to the TIF and think about the younger generation.

Brian McAllister, 2715 E Broadway, Logansport – WSP is not good for our community. Council works for us not for them.

Beth Hershberger, 404 E Terpstra Drive, Logansport – Environmental study needs to be prepared before moving forward with the WSP project. A public hearing needs to be scheduled. Concerns of where the extra money will come from in access of TIF fund.

Dawn McAllister, 2715 E Broadway, Logansport – Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and over expecting different results. Don't take us down the same road again, like Exide and Essroc, which is pure insanity. WSP needs to take their business out west to the desert where there are no people.

Ali Alavi, Senior Vice-President of regulatory affairs and general counsel for Heritage Environmental Services representing Waelz Sustainable Products. Mr. Alavi objects to the accusations that WSP has been dishonest. There has been plenty of supports in the county. Several residents have applied for the Plant Manager position. WSP conducted a public town hall meeting at the 4-H Fairgrounds. County is in no way on the hook for the bonds. IDEM is over seen by the US EPA regional headquarters. Materials will be received and processed, no need for storage of any material or hazardous waste.

Mr. Alavi stated this recycling process is the most successful in the history of country. Reducing the amount of hazardous waste in landfills and reducing mining activity. There is no comparison to the manmade chemical and the naturally occurring metals that have the daily recommended allowance of zinc.

Annette Spear, 2705 Elmwood Drive, Logansport – Concerns of why four other communities in the state rejected WSP. The vast majority of county residents don't think that WSP is a good fit.

Patricia Rozzi, 519 N CR 300 E, Logansport – Read aloud two articles regarding proposed WSP facilities for Delaware County, Muncie, Indiana. Articles provided information opposing the project. Ms Rozzi requested a public hearing before moving forward.

Gary Lewis, 4311 Pottawatomie Road, Logansport – Population will decrease, future businesses will not come to Cass County if the WSP is permitted.

Denise Barktel, Indianapolis, Bond Attorney – Explained the difference between the two bonds for the WSP project. Both bonds do not affect the county. The county acts as a pass through allowing for a lower interest rate. Bonds are at no costs to the county.

Dave Price, 220 Cotswald Court, Logansport – There are more people in the county that are opposed this project than are in favor of it. Price asked for a list of signatures in favor of the project. Say no to WSP.

ADJOURNMENT – Dave Redweik made a motion to adjourn, Brian Reed seconded. The motion carried unanimously.




Mike Stajduhar, President



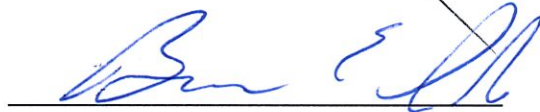
Brian Reed, Vice President



Grover Bishop



Dave Redweik



Bruce Ide



George Stebbins



Tracy Williamson

ATTEST:


Cheryl Alcorn, Auditor