

# ***Commissioners & County Council***

## ***Joint Meeting Minutes***

March 15, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Pineview Government Center  
Commissioner Meeting Room, Suite 104  
2524 Corydon Pike

Al Knable called the meeting to order and led the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

**Present:** Commissioners – Full quorum

Council – Quorum- Jim Freiberger-absent

**Also Present:** Auditor, Diana Topping and Sheriff, Steve Bush

### ***Approval of 2-27-24 Joint Meeting Minutes***

**Motion to approve. Moved by Brad Striegel. Seconded by Dale Bagshaw. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **New Business:**

#### 1.) Benefits-Perf, Healthcare

#### 2.) Building Authority Budget

Danny Short stated he will be putting together the framework for the proposal for the rest of the year. The intent is for the information to be shared and then a meeting with Building Authority.

#### 3.) Administrative & Judicial Building Updates

Al Knable said the asbestos study and structural analysis study are underway. The architectural firm they have contracted with has their plans underway to start meeting with stakeholders on office space needs.

#### 4.) EMS Update

Al Knable said there was an Advisory Board Meeting the week prior. He spoke to Attorney, Rick Fox, after the meeting just to get some things in a row and having numbers put forward in the near future on the hybrid system. He stated they have to be very cautious since they put out an RFP and they had two contracts submitted. Mr. Fox advised to not entertain a third option unless they reject the first two in order to avoid any sort of liability on the RFP process.

John Schellenberger stated they had two responses to RFP. The choices they have is to pick one or deny all. He said the Council needs to decide if they are going to put out over three million dollars for 3 years or take the stipend for one year and go a different route. Maybe run parallel for a year.

Jason Sharp stated it will take time to set up a Fire-based EMS. The first thing they need to do is the GIS study to see what kind of assets you need and then they need to make sure they can afford it. It may not be the cheapest option moving forward. This is a good opportunity to do it right the first time. If they don't set it up right it will be much more expensive.

Al Knable – he thinks the Council needs to be prepared to deal with at least a one or two year contract with an outside provider. He doesn't think they have enough to get more employees to be prepared for all those contingencies.

Tony Toran – He thinks they need to keep this on the forefront. He was looking forward to receiving the proposals. He thinks they need to exhaust every effort and do their due diligence for the taxpayers.

Brad Striegel – He said it is complicated but investing in their own Fire Departments is the right thing to do. He said Danny Short's comment about the Fire Districts playing EMS, he thinks they will resent that comment. They have been a fire-based EMS since the creation of the fire district and they've had ambulances before that. They do great work and compensate for the inadequacies of the private providers. He is done seeing the private providers coming in and taking the tax dollar money, it is time to invest in our own back yard. He thinks they can reach the timeline.

Denise Konkle – She said she believes they can be ready for fire-based but she needs the experts, the people who are going to run this to tell them whether they can or not. She said they are part of the community and will not let them down.

Dale Bagshaw – He asked why Highlander didn't submit a bid for the RFP. He concluded that they do not have the ability to provide it. In his opinion, if they had the ability to submit an RFP they would have.

John Schellenberger – They have already been through this 2 years ago. He stated the previous EMS Advisory Board had issued request for RFP. The Board made 3 recommendations. Their recommendations were for a fire-based EMS, talk to Baptist Health for a proposal or contractor base. He also said they will have to staff up for fire-based at first so they will need a one year stipend from the County Council to get staffed. He also said, currently, the response times from the fire departments are less than an ambulance located somewhere in the County.

Al Knable – They have a time limit and safety issues. They need to hire and train but only have 75 days. He doesn't see that happening. There have been no numbers put on the table to compare. He thinks the most realistic plan is to contract for one to two years and then purposefully and diligently bring on the fire-based system if they can find out the numbers make sense.

Jason Sharp – he said he worked on a med unit for six years and have been a firefighter for 24 years. He stated the County has outstanding firefighters and fire departments. It is not about them letting us down, it's about us letting them down by not giving them the tools and equipment what's necessary to properly do their jobs. He knows some people do not like the timeline but they have the potential to build a system of Floyd County that everybody can be proud of. They do not want to wing it.

Connie Moon – She doesn't think a fire-based EMS can happen in 75 days. They have two ambulances, maybe three and another coming in January but it takes time to get ALS certified. There is a national shortage of EMS workers and paramedics. It will take longer than average to fill the positions. She asked if they would have a look into a mutual aid contract with a private contractor in the event that more ambulances are needed.

Danny Short – He said he is not opposed to any style system. He is tasked with looking at the financial side of all aspects of County government and specifically District 3, New Albany Township. He said he could have used a better choice of words when he said they were playing ambulance, but is going to stick by the fact that they had ambulances 10-15 years and never budgeted to replace them like they do other apparatus. They never increased the training levels on those ambulances. Those were opportunities that were missed but the Council bailed them out with a half million dollars for 2 ambulances of taxpayer money. He hasn't heard Franklin Township mentioned and they can not be forgotten. He also said they need to talk to New Albany Township Fire Board. They are on a fast-track to get out of their contract with New Chapel and employ the City of New Albany to cover.

Brad Striegel requested a Council Workshop on the funding mechanism once they get the go ahead once the EMS Advisory Board comes forward with a recommendation.

A workshop is scheduled for Monday, April 1 at 5:00pm.

## 5.) Financial Advisor

Danny Short they stated the Council voted to contract with Baker Tilly.

#### 6.) Jail Repairs

Sheriff Steve Bush asked to move forward with their IT item and then initial stage of the water pipe over the server. He stated, since the last meeting they learned that the Reedy Group did not put the DOC money in the projection or on the Form 2 and there is Cares Act money but it will be up to the Council to decide what money to use.

**Motion to allow the Sheriff to move forward on the IT project and to allow the Sheriff to explore the options for the server room. The Council will discuss the funding at their next meeting. Moved by Brad Striegel. Seconded by Denise Konkle. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### Public

Shawn Bostock, out of county, as a fire fighter they get the job done. If they don't have a contract with an EMS provider by June 1 that Highlander would fill in because that's what they do to get the job done.

Dale Mann, Georgetown, asked about paying for a fire-based EMS. Would it be added to the Fire District levy?

**Motion to adjourn. Moved by John Schellenberger. Seconded by Dale Bagshaw. Motion passed unanimously.**

Signed on 23 day of April, 2024

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Al Knable  
Al Knable, President

John Schellenberger  
John Schellenberger, Vice President

Jason Sharp  
Jason Sharp, Commissioner

**FLOYD COUNTY COUNCIL**

Danny Short  
Danny Short, President

Connie Moon  
Connie Moon, Vice President

Dale Bagshaw  
Dale Bagshaw, member

Jim Freiberger  
Jim Freiberger, member

Denise Konkle  
Denise Konkle, member

Brad Striegel  
Brad Striegel, member

Tony Toran  
Tony Toran, member

Diana M. Topping  
Attest: Diana M. Topping, Auditor