

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT, The Board of Commissioners of the County of St. Joseph met in a regular session in the County City Building on March 5, 2019 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. (EST) at which time in the following members were present: Andrew Kostielney, Dave Thomas, and Dr. Deborah Fleming D.M.D. were present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PRAYER**

The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved.

**OPENING AND READING OF BIDS ON:**

Vehicle bids for the Health Department.  
Amy Ruppe, Health Department, Offices on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor.  
This is a request to review the submitted bids.

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.  
Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.  
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

**REPORTS AND REQUESTS FROM:**

**COMMISSIONERS**

**A)**

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING  
THE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE DOCKETS**

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the Accounts Payable Docket as read and outlined.  
Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.  
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

**B)**

**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

The employee of the month is Brian Davidson.  
Mr. Thomas. Brian certainly is a hard worker and was promoted from within. He watched Embrickson and learned from him.

Mr. Kostielney. Brian has been a fantastic employee his entire career here at St. Joe County. It is amazing what we are able to do and maintain. Some of the equipment is original to this building that Brian is able to keep running. I know during the polar vortex he and I were on the phone at least a dozen times over a two-day period and every time he was here in the building making sure things were up and running. He does a fantastic job and we can't thank him enough.

**COUNTY POLICE**

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL  
OF AN RFP FOR 2019 PATROL VEHICLES**

Dean Chandler, 4817 LWW, South Bend.  
I am requesting that this be advertised on March 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> with a bid opening on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.  
Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.  
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

**DEPT OF HUMAN RESOURCES  
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING  
A CLINIC MANAGEMENT**

AGREEMENT

Kim Karkiewicz, Human Resource Director, offices on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor.  
 These contracts are to renew services with our clinic along with the lease of the building there are at. This has been reviewed with our brokers and Attorney.  
 Mr. Thomas. Isn't this a double request not only the extension of the building but the extension of services also?  
 Ms. Karkiewicz. There are two.  
 Mr. Thomas. I see where it goes from \$43 to \$46, which is good, does that mean employees or each user?  
 Ms. Karkiewicz. They charge us by the employee not by the dependents. All inter locals will also be charged these rates.

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.  
 Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.  
 Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

**DEPT. OF PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH:**

CONSENT AGENDA

<b>Development / Subdivision Requests</b>
<b>Description</b>
<b>Special Event Requests</b>
<b>Description</b>
<b>Traffic Regulatory Requests</b>
<b>Description</b>
"No Trucks" regulation on 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street from Cottage Grove Ave. to Basswood Rd.
"No Trucks" regulation on Cottage Grove Ave. from SR 933 (Lincolway East) to 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.
<b>Project Completion Affidavit</b>
<b>Description</b>

Motion made by Dr. Fleming to accept the above recommendation in reference to the above request as read and outlined.  
 Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.  
 Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

Frank Fotia, office on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor.  
 A)  
 IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL  
 OF RIGHT OF WAY ENGINEERING  
 AGREEMENT FOR THE BRIDGE  
 NO 62 OVER YELLOW BANK CREEK  
 ON WALNUT ROAD REPLACEMENT  
 PROJECT

This is an agreement with Lochmueller Group not to exceed \$22300.00.

Motion made by Dr. Fleming to accept the recommendation of the Department of Public Works in reference to the above request as read and outlined.  
 Motion seconded by Mr. Thomas.  
 Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Debra Durall, 21677 Auten Rd, South Bend, IN.

I am here to speak about the new development in the New Carlisle and South Bend areas. First this is not vacant land. If we cannot bring jobs into this area without scrapping the land, then the premise for growth is flawed. The main question is, what is in it for us? We are being told, not asked, to trade things we care deeply about for progress. This is an obvious abstraction and it has been nine months since we have had a public meeting giving us specifics. The public is overwhelmingly calling highly motivated inspired planning to build on what we have and want to keep. Not scrap it. We want to keep our farmland and further enrich it. We want to keep waterways clean for all and our green areas growing. We want tax abatement agreements for companies like the Smilax Road shredder to enforce succession owner standards, and consequences for injuries and pollution, and eliminate abatements for warehouses with low quality jobs. We want to maintain and improve the safety of our roads for pedestrians, passenger vehicles, bikes and the people living along these roads kept safe. Living within our means is already a challenge and becoming more so. We are at a crossroads, challenging even the experts to look beyond what statutes, codes and regulations typically require, calling on personal ethics, rigorous problem solving, and future scenarios. Whether or not you believe in climate change and human causation, development should now be factoring in the real challenges we face. The climate recovery ordinance is stepping up to this challenge and other towns will follow. We want a place that is good for people. If development does not involve keeping these quality aspects of life here, then we do not need it. We need your help to meet the economic goals with environmentally sound solutions.

Daniel Caruso, 305 E Compton St., New Carlisle.

Those who do not know history are doomed to repeat it. Those words have never been truer in the case of Elwood Illinois in 2002 and current day New Carlisle, Indiana. Leading up to 2002, decisions were made by local and county leaders in and around Elwood to allow logistics and warehouse industry giant Center Point Intermodal to construct many millions of square feet of container storage and product preparation facilities. Center Point was granted a 20-year tax abatement and in 2002 opened the first of their warehouses, which today stretch for as far as the eye can see. These drab, non-descript box looking structures now cover what was once some of the most fertile farmland in North America. Within 4 years Elwood became the largest inland port in North America. Containers from overseas were shipped to our ports, loaded onto trains, railed to the facilities in Elwood and then trucked to retailers like Meijer, Target and Walmart. With rail service right to the property and interstate highway access close by, Elwood is within one days travel from 60% of all major markets in the US. The locals were promised great economic growth within the community and endless retail and small business opportunities directly related to the openings of these warehouses. The thousands employed by these warehouses would be a natural consumer for any enterprising local to flourish as a small business owner. What followed, however was a long trail of broken promises along with faded hopes and dreams. The traffic, truck traffic in particular, has increased exponentially. There is daily gridlock during the three shift changes at the warehouses causing not only angst and frustration for all, but an infrastructure that is now in constant need of repair, except a shortage of monies due to the developers getting the 20-year tax abatement, Elwood has no funds. The city in trying to meet the needs of all took out a bond and is now \$30 million in debt with no foreseeable way to repay these obligations. Truckers (most independent contractors) on a tight schedule and looking to get from point A to B and return as quickly as possible tire of the traffic and often find their way to load restricted roads, causing unanticipated abuse to local roads, bridges and ramps along with safety concerns. The promised jobs are almost all temporary 90-day employment and so far, after 17 years the only retail growth has been the Dollar store in the existing business district. There has, however been a boon in one type of business in Elwood Illinois population 2200, there are 99 temporary employment agencies charged mainly with hiring the temporary workers for the logistics and warehouse business. These temporary workers, with no guarantees aren't able to support new home construction in the area and many commute daily from as far as

Indiana. After making the commute, some workers still aren't guaranteed work and are often sent home without any employment for the day. Please read the January 2019 New Republic magazine article by Alexander Sammon. Do we want this in St. Joseph County Indiana? Someone does. Look at the accessibility of the land 6,000-22,000 acres. Rail access on site, I-94, 80/90, and 65 just minutes away. Yes, the great jobs have been promised, the retail growth and business opportunities are assured to local entrepreneurs. Property values rising, schools flush with money. Sound familiar? Is any promise, fulfilled or not worth the destruction of one of our most precious resources-the most fertile farmland anywhere? Will these new neighbors be good stewards of our natural resources and not contaminate our aquifer, from where many of us draw our portable water? Will they be an unsustainable draw on the aquifer causing wellheads to run dry? Too many questions, very few answers. Let's make the right kind of history.

Mr. Thomas. I share and echo your sentiments. On this issue there is the Pat Bauer land bill in the state legislature. That may decide this issue one way or the other. I have heard there have been attempts to amend it. I hope that doesn't happen. Time will tell what happens. We are wrapping up our Commissioner tax sale.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Mr. Kostielney asked for a motion to recess, Mr. Thomas so moved, seconded by Dr. Fleming. Meeting recessed by a 3-0 vote.

  
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

\*Please refer to the St. Joseph County website for the full audio and visual of the St. Joseph County Commissioners meeting if needed.