

Commissioners submit 11 projects for funding through AR&RA

Written by

Wednesday, 11 March 2009 00:00 - Last Updated Wednesday, 11 March 2009 13:03

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, March 4. Commissioner John Mishler was not present because he and County Highway Superintendent, Rick Graves were attending a meeting in North Vernon. That meeting concerned projects in the county being submitted for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (AR&RA).

Board President, Lana Sullivan, went over the projects submitted for consideration:

Improvements to the county fairgrounds

Construction of a new jail

Right of Way costs for truck bypass

Archaeological dig costs for truck bypass

Redesign and construction costs for Sparksville Road

Land Use Plan development costs

Maintenance costs on major roads in 2009

Preventative maintenance cost on major roads in 2009

Adult literacy training through SOAR!

Awareness Washington County programs

County Courthouse repairs

According to Sullivan, the total price tag for the Washington County projects submitted for consideration is approximately \$17 million. When asked in a subsequent interview with Mishler how did the meeting go, he said, "It's going to be tough. All counties are doing their best to get a piece of the stimulus pie. We'll just have to wait and see what happens."

In other business, the Board heard from Washington County Prosecutor, Dustin Houchin who requested that language contained in the Prosecutor's Drug Investigation Fund (PDIF) be broadens to include training programs for law enforcement officials and prevention programs for the general public. According to Houchin, his office recently received funds from the federal forfeiture program to be used in the PDIF. After a brief discussion, the request to amend the language was approved unanimously.

Next, the Board heard from representatives of the company working with the City of Salem on revising its land use and zoning plan. The question was asked by Commissioner David Brown if any sort of a cost savings might be realized for the both city and the county if one company did work on the comprehensive plans of both. It was estimated that if both plans were developed at the same time by the same company the savings over doing the plans at different times could be well in excess of 40%. It was emphasized that if the two plans were developed at the same time that would not mean that the plan for the city and the plan for the county would be the same. It was explained that the two plans, besides costing less to develop, would be easier to dovetail if they are developed at the same time. When asked what a county wide plan would cost, it was estimated to be between \$60,000 and \$70,000 if it was developed at the same time as Salem's plan.

Other business that came before the Board included:

Unanimously vote to appoint Desi Alexander as the Emergency Management Director/911 Coordinator for the county.

Approving a request to place a 3-way stop sign at the intersection of Franklin School Road and Conway Church Road.

Notification that INDOT has approved the Environmental Impact Study for the truck bypass.

Approval for Relay for Life to use the courtyard at the courthouse.

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Update on Bridge # 113 in Fredricksburg.

Approval of a quick deed transferring the old Salem Chees Factory property to the City of Salem.

Consideration of issuing contracts for professional services such as County Attorney, County Engineer, and County IT Director.

Approval of payroll and all claims.

With no further business to conduct, the Board adjourned until its next regularly scheduled meeting on March 18.