

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 28, 2023 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. (EST) at which time in the following members were present: Carl Baxmeyer, Derek Dieter, and Dr. Deborah Fleming D.M.D. were present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**OPENING AND READING OF BIDS ON:**

Federal aid project-Countywide bridge inspection and inventory program in accordance with national bridge inspection 2024-2027

DLZ

Lochmueller Group

United Consulting

Mr. Dieter moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Dr. Fleming.

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. Dieter.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

**B)**

**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH-February**

Jason Nelson

**C)**

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING  
RESOLUTION R-9-C-2023 AUTHORIZING  
THE SPECIAL PURCHASE OF POLICE  
VEHICLES**

Mr. Misch. This allows us to use our special purchasing authority of the Indiana code.

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Dieter.

Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

**POLICE**

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING  
TO PURCHASE FOUR 2023 FORD  
EXPLORER POLICE MECHANICALS**

Dean Chandler, County Police, South Bend, IN.

This is for four Ford Explorers located at Sutton Ford in Matson, Illinois. The total purchase price is \$178,644.00.

Dr. Fleming moved to accept the above request as read and outlined.

Motion seconded by Mr. Dieter.  
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

D)  
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING  
AN EMPLOYEE AGREEMENT FOR  
ST JOSEPH COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

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

E)  
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING  
RESOLUTION R-10-C-2023-SUPPORTING  
THE COMPLETION BONUSES FOR  
PORTAGE MANOR STAFF

This resolution is made in an effort to retain the employees of Portage Manor to continue to provide care to the residents regardless of whether the facility is to be closed or sold to a new operating entity. This also addresses the \$2.7 million appropriation.

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

F)  
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING  
RESOLUTION R-11-C-2023-URGING  
THE STATE OF INDIANA TO INCREASE  
THE RCAP REIMBURSEMENT RATE

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

HUMAN RESOURCES:  
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING  
AMMENDMENT #1-SJC EMPLOYEE  
MEDICAL BENEFIT PLAN

Kim Karkiewicz, Human Resource Director, offices on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor.  
This is to amend the eligibility portion of our County health plan. This plan has been adopted and restated in 2022. The amended one just adds clarification for eligibility. This would be effective April 1<sup>st</sup>; it amends the eligibility and restates the classification of eligible class for a non-traditional position.

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

HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING  
A GRANT THROUGH CDC THAT  
FUNDS COMMUNITY HEALTH  
WORKERS

Amy Ruppe, Department of Health, offices on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor.  
We are asking for support to apply for year three, the final year of our grant through the centers for disease control. It focuses on 8 of our CHW's that help to build and strengthen community resilience to fight COVID 19 through addressing health disparities. They also

focus on providing insurance navigation to our community as well as social needs assessments. The amount is \$914,000.00.  
Short discussion held on the way this money is spent. Mr. Dieter would like the new Health officer to weigh in on this.

Mr. Dieter moved to table the above request as read and outlined.  
Motion seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer.  
Motion adopted by a 3-0 vote.

AUDITOR  
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING  
A SECOND ADDENDUM TO THE  
SRI MASTER AGREEMENT

Kathy Gregorich, Auditor's Office, offices on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.  
This increases the cost collected through the tax sale process and paid to SRI Incorporated for their services.

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

PSAP  
IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING  
A WORK ORDER PROPOSAL-  
SJC EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION  
TOWER

Julie Toby, Executive Director PSAP.  
This is for approval to hire DLZ to assist with the Granger tower project. The RFP is almost complete. We are currently waiting for the Geotech survey to come back.

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

INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND GROWTH

CONSENT AGENDA

| Development / Subdivision Requests |
|------------------------------------|
| Description                        |
|                                    |

  

| Special Events Requests |
|-------------------------|
| Description             |
|                         |

  

| Traffic Regulatory Requests                             |
|---|
| Description   |
| a) speed limit on Fenner Lane from Beech Rd to Dead End |

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Report on Portage Manor-Mark Catanzarite

Mark Catanzarite, South Bend, IN.

A meeting was held this past Sunday at the Portage Township Trustee's Office. We got a report back from the working groups. One of the discussion points was our cap funding in which you addressed. We know that's administered through the state's FSSA agency. I know the three of us were in attendance last Friday when the state legislators and Senator emphasized the point that it is important that we get the message to the state house from Council and Commissioners that the support for reaching our cap, I mean for places like Portage Manor and any other additional funding that might be out there. It was also alluded to that there might be some additional funding, he's working with additional Senators for Portage Manor that may be outside of our gap. I appreciate your efforts getting that resolution passed. I will take this to Council and see if we can get a similar resolution passed. There is an operations committee. They met last Friday. They are looking to crunch numbers and planning to do more of a deep dive this week. Dr. Atala and Todd Zeiger are doing a walk through today to look at construction needs and costs with a contractor. We discussed there is a need for affordable housing in our community and affordable assisted living. That may become a path forward if Portage Manor would succeed on a private or not for profit level. This may be a way to offer some affordable assisted living. Dr. Atala has formed a non for profit. That would be her vehicle if she intended to pursue Portage Manor to get a quick transfer of the property if that is how the Commissioners desire to go. There are currently 97 residents at Portage Manor several others have left and gone to other facilities. There will not be taking any more residents due to staffing. I will be talking to council about CAP funding.

Mr. Dieter expresses his appreciation for all his hard work.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Dieter informs the public that tomorrow at 2:30 at Portage Manor a new program is starting, developed by the Commissioners. It is called "Picking trash with the Commissioners." This is a program where you can email or call if there are locations with roadside trash, I will check it out and see if it's resulting from a code enforcement issue or not. If it is anywhere in St. Joseph County including the City limits of South Bend and Mishawaka let us know.

Mr. Baxmeyer states that a press release will be sent out to emphasize that we are soliciting input on the Anderson Road project. This will be tied to our web page and Facebook page.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Nathan Kelly, Granger, IN.

Speaks against the Anderson Road Highway garage proposal.

Phyllis Crawley, Granger, IN.

Speaks against the Anderson Road Highway garage proposal.

Cynthia Heckman-Davis, Walkerton, IN.

Thank you for signing the contract with Dr. Serbin. I am interested in the health of this community. Asks about the Force 5 contract.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Mr. Baxmeyer asked for a motion to recess, Mr. Dieter so moved, seconded by Mr. Baxmeyer. Meeting recessed by a 2-0 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.