

**VANDERBURGH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
EMERGENCY MEETING  
March 16, 2021**

The Vanderburgh County Board of Commissioners met in session this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021 at 3:01 p.m. in Exhibit Hall A of the Old National Events Plaza with President Ben Shoulders presiding.

<b>Reconvening of Meeting</b>
-------------------------------

President Shoulders: Good afternoon. I would like to welcome you to the reconvening of the emergency meeting of the Vanderburgh County Commissioners, today, March 16, 2021, here at 3:00 p.m.

<b>Attendance Roll Call</b>
-----------------------------

President Shoulders: Madelyn, the roll call please.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Musgrave?

Commissioner Musgrave: Here.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Hatfield?

Commissioner Hatfield: Here.

Madelyn Grayson: President Shoulders?

President Shoulders: And I am here as well.

<b>Pledge of Allegiance</b>
-----------------------------

President Shoulders: On that note, if you could join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(The Pledge of Allegiance was given.)

President Shoulders: Thank you. Any students with us here today? Students with us here today? No? Okay.

<b>Permission to Open Bids: VC21-02-02: Milling &amp; Resurfacing of County Roads</b>
---

President Shoulders: On that note, I ask for permission to open bids of VC21-02-02. This is the milling and resurfacing of county roads, and I ask for a motion to open bids.

Commissioner Musgrave: So moved.

Commissioner Hatfield: Second.

President Shoulders: Madelyn, we have a first and second, the roll call please.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Musgrave?

Commissioner Musgrave: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Hatfield?

Commissioner Hatfield: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: President Shoulders?

President Shoulders: And I am a yes as well.

**(Motion approved 3-0)**

President Shoulders: Our legal counsel will open the bids, when he gets to them, and then we'll circle back later in the meeting.

<b>CAJE Presentation</b>
--------------------------

President Shoulders: We have a couple of discussion items today, and we'll lead off here with my friend, Amy Devries, of CAJE, who is here. I think, yes, Amy, your name, who you're with and the floor is yours.

Amy Devries: Thank you. Can you hear me okay? I'm not good at adjusting microphones. Again, I'm Amy Devries. I'm the Lead Organizer for Congregations Acting for Justice and Empowerment, also known as CAJE.

Commissioner Hatfield: Ask if everybody can hear her?

Amy Devries: We are a grass root—

President Shoulders: Amy, could you move your mic down a little bit, so it's closer to your...here he comes.

Amy Devries: Okay, I think I got it.

President Shoulders: There you go.

Amy Devries: Thank you. Yeah, I'm short, so, it's hard. So, CAJE is a grass roots direct action interfaith organization, with 24-member congregations, 19 of which are located in Vanderburgh County. We thank you for the invitation to present to you today. My role is to offer a brief timeline of CAJE's Jail Diversion Campaign, and then allow Jason Emmerson, the Executive Director of United Caring Services, where the unit is located, and simply waiting for funding, to share with you the plan. In the fall of 2014, after listening sessions with over 400 concerned citizens, CAJE voted to take on the problem of the criminalization of addiction and mental illness. In the years that followed, we traveled with local officials to San Antonio, Texas, and discovered a successful jail diversion model. Then presented it to the community during a mental health summit in 2016. In that same year we formed a Mental Health Commission, Co-Chaired by Mayor Lloyd Winnecke and Wyeth Hatfield, who was with ECHO Community Health at the time. In 2017, at CAJE's asking, (Inaudible) event, the city agreed to pay for expert consultation from Leon Evans, the original director of the San Antonio model known as Haven of Hope. In 2018, Mayor Winnecke allocated \$135,000 to assist with renovations of an area of United Caring Services for this jail diversion model. Over the last three years, Jason has worked tirelessly to create a plan for mental health and addiction crisis intervention and a sobering unit. During that time, we were hopeful that a few grants would be approved to give the unit a chance to get up and running. And during that time, the county has continued to see avoidable suicides and suicide attempts and the warehousing of non-violent offenders in need of mental health and addiction treatment. In fact, I just today received some information from the Coroner's Office. In 2018 there were 38 suicides in Vanderburgh County. In 2020 there were 38 suicides in Vanderburgh County. And, so far, in 2021 there's been eight. We're on pace to have about one a week if we don't offer some intervention for folks who are suffering with mental illness and addiction related disorders. According to the Well Being In the Nation Network, Evansville has 98 per 100,000 people, 98 deaths per 100,000 people that are considered deaths of despair. That's drugs, alcohol and suicide deaths. Jason has agreed to come with us today and share the plan, in how with an annual investment from Vanderburgh County, lives can be saved, families remain intact and the jail overcrowding could be addressed. Along with that, taxpayer dollars will be used in a more just and conservative manner. Thank you. Jason?

President Shoulders: Amy, thank you so much. I believe Jason is also here. There he is. Jason, your name, organization and the floor is yours.

Jason Emmerson: Thanks for the opportunity. After I get done speaking, if it's okay with you too, I'll invite Katy Adams with Southwest Behavioral Health—

President Shoulders: Please.

Jason Emmerson: --- up to follow me. Is that okay?

President Shoulders: Yeah.

Jason Emmerson: Okay. So, as Amy said, I've been involved with this for a couple, three years. UCS has an issue that contributes to and causes and continues homelessness. You know, substance use, mental health issues, intoxication, right? So, it made sense. We've been, at UCS, working on an internal solution. We've reached out to, about 2018, to kind of put something together for the larger community. We have, so far, probably invested around \$300,000 total in renovating the space, and it is all but a few thousand dollars' worth of equipment, ready to go. 2020 there was a pandemic, and, so, all thought and function focused on something else, right? So, where we were at the end of '19 and beginning of '20, we're still at that same location, because everything focused on that. So, we're excited to kind of get back to this. I gave you all some information, this is basically sort of an estimated use cost avoidance of the sobering stabilization. Kind of an executive summary. I don't have, was unable to fully format the entire document to bring it to you. So, it just kind of lets you know that, based on our intake criteria, this would be a total of around 2,000 referrals, based upon the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office, EPD, Dispatch information and AMR, that would meet kind of the intake criteria. That's about 1,500 individuals. You know, as you can go down and see, it's about a thousand hours saved for law enforcement, the equivalent of about \$500 a day, 332 hours for AMR, more in hospital emergency room treatment costs. Basically, this gets down to around 12 grand a day in cost avoidance, based upon some very conservative numbers. And the daily cost to operate our unit would be around \$1,500 a day, if we operated in four days a week, which would be Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, where around 70-80% of these diversion calls would take place, according to AMR. But, if we operated it seven days a week, it would spread out to about \$1,100 a day. All in all, that's about a 779%-1046% return on investment. So, if you look to one, two, three, four, kind of the third one from the top, in the executive summary, in law enforcement, estimated would be around \$166,000 in avoided law enforcement booking and incarceration expenses. Now, that's not, I don't know what the fixed costs of the jail is, or the soft costs. This is basically just the booking fee, and the estimated cost to stay at the jail of \$50 for one night. Right? So, that would be avoided as well. So, our target, as you can kind of see in the business plan, and I won't go through, we're a homeless services agency provider. We are not a mental health organization. So, our sobering stabilization was always going to be within a medical criterion, and anyone that had some really major issues; psychological, behavioral, were never going to be able to stay in our four to seven beds. They still would have been referred probably to the emergency department anyways. Had they come to our place and stabilized, first is avoid law enforcement time, ambulance rides that the guests aren't paying for, emergency department visits that the guests aren't paying for, the compassion fatigue on law enforcement officers, first responders, emergency department personnel, dealing with the same people over and over. We would still be able to limit all of that, but for those cases that couldn't stabilize, would still need far more treatment and help. We would just link them. So, we would avoid and divert all those expenses, \$10,000 a day, but we would provide, you know, some follow up in case management, if it's, you know, just sobering intoxication we would link to ECHO. We deal with that every day. But, major issues we would then link to Southwestern, Deaconess Cross Pointe, Brentwood Springs, anyways, because our beds would never be able to stabilize those beds. But, we're lucky enough that our community will have that opportunity, for this population that we were never going to be able to help either. So, now we will be able to do that. We are going to have a crisis response vehicle to do some pickups, but they were just going to be for transport purposes. We could not respond to a crisis. They would have to be stabilized already. But, lucky, in addition to what we want to do, that's going to happen. So, as I invite Katy up here, the idea would be is where we would have had five beds, five or six beds, we now, as a community, you know, five or six beds doing this, still saving 10 grand a day, we would have more than five, up to 10 or 12, with her help, on a large continuum, and potentially saving even more. So, I'll let her kind of explain what they're doing, and then if you have any questions for me after that, or do you have questions now?

Commissioner Musgrave: Your funding now, this is funded?

Jason Emmerson: No.

Commissioner Musgrave: And, what is the funding that you need for this?

Jason Emmerson: So, total funding to operate?

Commissioner Musgrave: Annual.

Jason Emmerson: Annual funding to do a four night a week, capturing most people, which would have EMT triage, we would have peer support, we would have professionals still doing these things would be \$325,000 a year. And, that gives it, that would be \$1,500 a day, but a daily cost avoidance of \$12,000.

Commissioner Musgrave: You do know that the recent American Rescue Act is sending the City over \$60 million, and this is an allowable request from this fund. So, I hope that you're getting your request into the city.

Jason Emmerson: I am excited to build a collaborative group of stakeholders across governments, hospitals, homeless service providers, law enforcement to fund this now and indefinitely. So, yes, but in other communities these efforts, or efforts like this, it is a partnership. And, you know, we came forward, you know, as a local non-profit agency seeing a problem that affects our people, and we wanted to solve it. We, you know, we chased after some grants, you know, we want to build a collaboration and coalition to make it work and sustain it. So, yes, but also you as well.

Commissioner Shoulders: Well, Jason, thank you so much. You said that Katy is also here with Southwestern? Katy, the floor is yours.

Katy Adams: Hi, thanks for inviting me. I'm Katy Adams. I'm the President/CEO of Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare, which is our community mental health center here. I'm pleased to report that Vanderburgh County has received, through Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare, a federal grant through Health & Human Services SAMSA, for \$3 million over two years. What that does for Southwestern is it allows us to expand our services to become a certified community behavioral health center. So, to be certified, we need to expand our services to include a mobile crisis team, a crisis stabilization unit, and also primary care. So, just to give you an idea of what this is going to look like, starting in June we're going to have a mobile team available 365, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, available to deploy. We'll have a van, a wheelchair accessible van to go to individuals' homes, to shelters, to communities, wherever the crisis is with professional staff to help intervene with that crisis. We'll be co-responding with law enforcement to avoid unnecessary booking in the jail, or emergency room utilization. Our crisis team will be able to do the psychiatric intervention, access to a psychiatrist, access to a family nurse practitioner, and also this crisis stabilization unit, which is going to be in the Mulberry Plaza building, which used to be Mulberry Center. There will be a five-bed unit there that's just an overnight unit. It's not meant to be an inpatient hospitalization. If there's a level of dangerousness, they would either go to the Deaconess Crosspointe or St. Vincent's or some kind of psychiatric unit. But, we do believe that there's a large number of folks in crisis in our community that really just need a night or two of a safe place to be to stabilize. So, an example would be one of our clients who perhaps is having a psychotic episode, is not dangerous, does not need to be in the hospital, but we're doing a med change and they're about ready to be evicted because of how loud and disruptive they are at night. So, they can come stay in our shelter for a few days, while we work those things out, and they can keep their apartment. That would be one example. Another would be somebody who's had a traumatic experience that needs to be in a supportive environment. This would be a place to do that. We'll have peers and trained staff overnight to work with these individuals. So, between the mobile crisis team, we'll be connected to the soon 988 number, whenever the State rolls that out, to have psychiatric intervention 24/7-365, as well as this stabilization unit. It's five beds, and, again, I see us being a great partner with the shelters in the community. I see us doing, as Jason mentioned, the specialized work with those in psychiatric crisis. Any questions?

Commissioner Musgrave: So, you'll be working on, not the same population, but a similar population, if you will, stratify the groups that need this kind of care? You'll be dealing with the folks with mental illnesses and the United Caring Services and the Evansville Mental Health Commission facilities will be dealing with people who are having addiction issues and need a place to, a quick overnight place to recover from those? So, your grant funding

isn't a duplication, but more of a side by side when you're dealing with these difficult populations. So, your funding, you might not be able to absorb their annual need for \$300,000, is that what I'm being told here? Because you're dealing with the mental breakdown, those episodes.

Katy Adams: Well, you know, it's hard to know what (Inaudible) you're going to have, other than the data that Jason shared. But, I do know that, for us, we see our unit as definitely different than what the United Caring Shelter has. The individuals that we're envisioning would not do well in the environment that Jason has. This is more of a trauma informed care kind of setting. It's kind of quieter, it's more personal, more private than a shelter setting could ever be. So, there's individuals that just do not do well in shelters. Instead they choose to live in tents. So, this would be more catered toward individuals that would feel safe with us, versus in a shelter environment. So, it's hard to know if it's, you know, how many people there are. But, it's hard to imagine that ten beds in our community isn't a good thing versus five.

Commissioner Musgrave: But, both of the organizations have a goal of not incarcerating people who are having these problems. So, you are both seeking to do jail diversion.

Katy Adams: Yes. Yes, and as a mobile crisis team, we would go out and co-respond with law enforcement. And, it would be kind of a team effort in deciding does this person need to go to jail, or this person really just needs psychiatric help. You know, we're going to leave that to the law enforcement experts as to whether or not there's a charge here, versus whether or not we believe we can restore that person. Any other questions?

President Shoulders: I don't.

Katy Adams: We're really excited, so, thank you for the opportunity to tell. Again, it will be June, and the shelter will be open probably in November. So, there will be more coming.

President Shoulders: Katy, thank you so much. Amy, thank you. Jason, thank you. I know you had a lot of folks here in support of this. Please keep in touch with us. Keep us informed, we will circle back soon, and really appreciate your time and attention today in being here. Thanks again to CAJE.

#### **Frontier Geospatial: Old Courthouse Geosync Site Presentation**

President Shoulders: Okay, our other discussion item is the Frontier Geospatial, Old Courthouse Geosync site presentation. Mr. Philip Bernard is here. Did I pronounce that correctly?

Philip Bernard: Yep.

President Shoulders: Okay, do you go by Phil or Philip?

Philip Bernard: Philip, please.

President Shoulders: Philip? Okay, the floor is yours.

Philip Bernard: Thank you very much. I am Philip Bernard, Frontier Geospatial. We're a local mapping and GIS company. We deal with everything from small utilities to mapping coal mines and quarries with UAV's. With our Geosynch Cloud product, we're able to combine those into one, one thing. We were able to map the Old Courthouse as a bit of a community service to show our capabilities. So, what we're seeing here is a drone captured photo of the Old Courthouse property. And, the blue dots are cell phone pictures that we took, and we pulled the location information from the pictures metadata. And as we zoom in, we can zoom all the way in to where we can read the individual names on the World War II monument, etcetera. In addition to mapping the outside of the Courthouse, we went indoors with an internal laser scanner. So, we look like the Ghostbusters wandering through the hallways of the Courthouse wandering all the rooms, doors, hallways that sort of thing, and off of that we were able to build floorplans. Those floorplans are spatially correct, so we can put these into any GIS program and they fall right into place. We were also able to take 360-degree photos inside. Let me turn off that.

President Shoulders: Wow!

Philip Bernard: We also have 360-degree photos inside. And, then we also have our 3D Point Cloud that was used to generate the floor plan. So, as we look here it takes a second to load. There we go. So, this is, again, data generated from our drone flight. So, we get a 3D Point Cloud that's accurate to plus or minus an inch on the horizontal and vertical scales. And, we've laid that over the top of our internal laser scans that we've collected as we walked the halls. Again, these 3D Point Clouds are accurate to just a few centimeters, so, down the road, if you're looking to do remodeling, we have all this data in its raw format. We can get that to any architects planning to do any kind of work inside. It gives them a heads up on the location of all your current walls, doors, major pieces of infrastructure that we were able to see as we walked the building. So, we're offering this service to anybody who is interested. We're hopefully going to be working with the Building Authority scanning the Civic Center and the Courts building. We've made a proposal to them a few months back, and they are reviewing it. We're also looking to integrate this data with our new ground penetrating radar services we're offering. So, we'll be able to locate utilities as they come into buildings. Anomalies supposedly on this property there's graves of the McGary family who founded our town.

Commissioner Musgrave: Did you say you found the McGary's grave? Or you're looking for the McGary grave?

Philip Bernard: We would like the opportunity to look for.

Commissioner Musgrave: Look in the parking lot of the old jail.

Philip Bernard: Yep, we're just getting used to that technology, and I think that would be an interesting thing to look at. But, all of that data that we collect we can put into a site like this and it becomes a one stop shop for building management and overall asset management of the property. So, thank you for your time. If you want to look at this data yourself, Geosync.cloud is the site.

Commissioner Musgrave: Could you say that again more slowly?

Philip Bernard: Geosync, g-e-o-s-y-n-c.cloud. And, it's got a user name and password currently. The user name is och@frontiergeospatial, och for Old Courthouse and frontier geospatial is f-r-o-n-t-i-e-r-g-e-o-s-p-a-t-i-a-l, and the password is courthouse, all one word, all lower case.

Commissioner Musgrave: Could you be sure and send that to the staff—

Philip Bernard: Absolutely.

Commissioner Musgrave: -- Kristin Comer, and have her put the link on our homepage, so that, with the username and password, so that members of the public can go and see this?

Philip Bernard: Absolutely. So, any questions?

Commissioner Musgrave: Thank you very much.

President Shoulders: Just thank you. This is pretty amazing. Commissioner do you have anything to add?

Commissioner Hatfield: Looks good man.

Philip Bernard: Thank you very much.

Commissioner Hatfield: Good job.

President Shoulders: Philip, thanks for the time, and thanks for the presentation.

Philip Bernard: My pleasure.

Commissioner Musgrave: Great community service that is being done for everyone. The Old Courthouse is much loved.

Philip Bernard: Yes.

Commissioner Musgrave: And, people will find this to be a very interesting use of this tool.

Philip Bernard: My favorite, just want to say, my favorite part, this is the sub-basement. So, we did this work in mid to late October, so they had the Catacombs all set up. Luckily, I wasn't the one tasked with this, logging all of this, but you can see the maze layout and you've got the tunnel leading to the old jail. So, if anyone wants to cheat on the Old Catacombs maze they can come to the site and see the path and get the way in and out. So, again, thank you all very much.

#### **Health Department: COVID 19 Vaccination Update**

President Shoulders: Okay, on to the people's business. Our first action item we have is with the Health Department. Our friend, Mr. Joe Gries, is here. He's got a couple of different items, starting with our vaccination COVID-19 update. I think everybody wants to hear that.

Joe Gries: Good afternoon, Commissioners. Yeah, I wanted to share just some new things that have been occurring here recently with the State, with the Health Department. Currently the State has distributed the new Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which has received emergency use authorization. Vanderburgh County Health Department received 300 doses of that vaccine. We will be utilizing that in situations where a one dose is more easily administered, rather than two. So, we have plans to go out to the Vanderburgh County Jail next week. We are, we will get with the Commission on Homelessness to provide vaccine to some of our homeless population. We also will be working with our homebound. There are a lot of folks that have barriers to transportation and can't get out of the house. So, we are already, have already started that process. We're working with EMS to administer some of that vaccine. So, that Johnson & Johnson is really going to help us. And we hope to receive more very soon. We announced today that we will be working with the Greater St. James Missionary Baptist Church, they are allowing us to use their Community Recreation and Education Center on April 7<sup>th</sup> and again on May 5<sup>th</sup>. We have 350 doses of Moderna that we'll be administering there. Their leadership has really been a great help, and we appreciate the opportunity to be a resource to help increase vaccinations within our, people of color within our community, and see those numbers really increase, hopefully over the next several weeks. We also received an additional 200 doses of Moderna this week, which we will continue, we increased our allotment, the State has increased our allotment with the Moderna vaccine. And, as you'll find out here in a minute, we are working with Deaconess to also administer additional clinics throughout the city and the county, utilizing some of their vaccine. So, a good partnership there. And, if you have any questions about that?

President Shoulders: You don't? Thank you, Joe.

#### **Health Department: Naloxone Distribution Grant**

Joe Gries: Okay. Next is our Naloxone distribution grant. This grant is something that we've been receiving the last few years. Naloxone allows some of our first responders to bring people back when they have overdosed from opioid type drugs. And, so, we'll be receiving, I believe it's around 600 doses of Naloxone that we'll provide to City Police, Sheriff, Fire, first responders throughout the city and county. So, we just need your signature on that grant.

Commissioner Musgrave: Motion to approve.

Commissioner Hatfield: Second.

President Shoulders: We have a motion and a second. Madelyn, the roll call please.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Musgrave?

Commissioner Musgrave: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Hatfield?

Commissioner Hatfield: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: President Shoulders?

President Shoulders: I am a yes as well. The motion passes.

**(Motion approved 3-0)**

**Health Department: MOU with Deaconess: Vaccination Clinics**

President Shoulders: What else do we have, Joe?

Joe Gries: The last thing is, again, a memo of understanding with Deaconess Health System. This will allow us to utilize some of their vaccine that they have received, and with the Health Department personnel, some of their personnel, reach out to more locations throughout the city and county, possibly do drive up vaccination sites, which has been very successful throughout the State. I don't know if you saw, but at the Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, they did 16,000 in four days. It was pretty successful. I don't know how you do that many in four days, but they got it done. So, I don't know if we can do that many, but we're going to try to do as much as we can.

President Shoulders: Thanks a lot.

Commissioner Musgrave: Motion to approve.

Commissioner Hatfield: Second.

President Shoulders: We have a motion and a second. Madelyn, the roll call please.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Musgrave?

Commissioner Musgrave: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Hatfield?

Commissioner Hatfield: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: President Shoulders?

President Shoulders: I am a yes as well. The motion passes.

**(Motion approved 3-0)**

Joe Gries: That's all I have. So, thank you.

Commissioner Hatfield: Thanks, Joe.

President Shoulders: Joe, thanks so much for your time today. Thanks for all you're doing. It seems like our numbers are, our vaccinations are really going well, and I think they continue to outpace the State, I believe, correct? Yeah, so thanks for all you and Dr. Spear and your entire team are doing, as well as our healthcare providers, front line workers and so on. Thank you.

**First Reading of CO.03-21-006: An Ordinance Amending Vacation Time Policies**

President Shoulders: Our next item is the first reading of CO.03-21-006. This is an ordinance, this is a first read, but this is an ordinance amending the vacation time policies of the Vanderburgh County code.

Commissioner Musgrave: Are you looking for a motion to waive the second reading?

President Shoulders: Are you making—

Commissioner Musgrave: Mr. Jones, is that what was looked for on this ordinance?



Commissioner Hatfield: Is this first reading or second reading is the question? It's a first reading? Okay.

Commissioner Musgrave: I'm just looking at the notes and it seems to indicate, motion to approve CO.03-21-006 on first reading and we'll have the second reading at our next meeting.

Commissioner Hatfield: Second.

President Shoulders: I have a motion and a second. Madelyn, the roll call please.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Musgrave?

Commissioner Musgrave: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Hatfield?

Commissioner Hatfield: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: President Shoulders?

President Shoulders: And, I am a yes as well. The motion passes for the first read.

**(Motion approved 3-0)**

<p><b>Public Hearing &amp; Final Reading of CO.V-03-21-002: An Ordinance to Vacate a 12' PUE at 601 Lemay Drive</b></p>
---

President Shoulders: Our next item is a public hearing and final reading of CO.V-03-21-002. This is an ordinance to vacate a 12-foot public utility easement at 601 Lemay Drive, I believe is how it's pronounced. Yeah, I have a motion to open the public hearing, and then I believe we have some folks here to speak, but motion to open the hearing first please.

Commissioner Musgrave: So moved.

Commissioner Hatfield: Second.

President Shoulders: Okay, a motion and a second. Madelyn, the roll call please.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Musgrave?

Commissioner Musgrave: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Hatfield?

Commissioner Hatfield: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: President Shoulders?

President Shoulders: I am a yes. The motion passes.

**(Motion approved 3-0)**

President Shoulders: I believe Scot from Cash Waggner is here. Scot, your name, your group and the floor is yours.

Scot Buedel: Scot Buedel with Cash Waggner and Associates. We did a lot line adjustment for Scott Bowman, and he's here with me today if you have any questions. We did a lot line adjustment for him, moved his property line down. So, for ten years he's had the impression that he's owned that property free and clear, and it was his to do with what he wanted. As you can see the driveway went up, it's existing today, it turned into his house, and he was wanting to build a new garage, so he started that process of building that garage and he realized the public utility easement was still in place. He contacted us to get that taken care of and get that released. We've got all of the letters back from the utilities, everybody that needed to be notified, and nobody had any objections to the requested vacation.

President Shoulders: Okay, anything else to add, Scot, before we continue with this? No? Thanks for being here. Any remonstrators with us here today? Remonstrators? Okay, any Commissioner comments or questions? No? Okay.

Commissioner Musgrave: I'll make a motion to approved CO.V-03-21-002, a petition to vacate a 12 foot PUE at 601 Lemay Drive on final reading.

Commissioner Hatfield: Second.

President Shoulders: Okay, a motion and a second. Madelyn, the roll call please.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Musgrave?

Commissioner Musgrave: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Hatfield?

Commissioner Hatfield: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: President Shoulders?

President Shoulders: I am a yes as well. The motion passes as stated.

**(Motion approved 3-0)**

<p><b>Final Reading of CO.03-21-004: Amending Ch. 10.24.060: Weight Restrictions on Certain Bridges</b></p>
---

President Shoulders: Our next item is the final reading of ordinance CO.03-21-004. This is amending weight restrictions 10.24.060, the weight restrictions on certain bridges. This was a first read last time, and this is the final read. I ask for a motion.

Commissioner Musgrave: So moved.

Commissioner Hatfield: Second.

President Shoulders: We have a motion and a second. Madelyn, the roll call please.

Commissioner Hatfield: Public comment?

President Shoulders: Oh, sorry, any public comment on this one? Public comment? I don't believe so. Madelyn, the roll call please.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Musgrave?

Commissioner Musgrave: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Hatfield?

Commissioner Hatfield: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: President Shoulders?

President Shoulders: And, I am a yes as well. That motion passes.

**(Motion approved 3-0)**

<p><b>Public Defender: Professional Services Agreements: Special Public Defenders (10) &amp; Appeals Attorneys (6)</b></p>
--

President Shoulders: Our next item is with the Public Defender's Office. I don't believe anyone is here from the Public Defender, but these are just two agreements<sup>1</sup>, the first one is for professional service for Special Public Defenders—

Commissioner Musgrave: Motion to approve.

---

<sup>1</sup> There are actually 16 agreements total.

President Shoulders: --and I ask for a motion to approve. Okay.

Commissioner Hatfield: Second.

President Shoulders: A motion and a second. Madelyn, the roll call please.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Musgrave?

Commissioner Musgrave: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Hatfield?

Commissioner Hatfield: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: President Shoulders?

President Shoulders: And, I am a yes as well. That motion passes.

**(Motion approved 3-0)**

President Shoulders: The other piece to this is an agreement for professional service for Appeals Attorneys.

Commissioner Musgrave: Motion to approve.

President Shoulders: I have a motion, I ask for a second.

Commissioner Hatfield: Second.

President Shoulders: We got the second. Madelyn, the roll call please.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Musgrave?

Commissioner Musgrave: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Hatfield?

Commissioner Hatfield: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: President Shoulders?

President Shoulders: And, I am a yes as well.

**(Motion approved 3-0)**

<b>Midwest Behavioral Health Professional Services Contract</b>
---

President Shoulders: Our next item is letter F, with the County Auditor's Office. This is a Midwest Behavioral Health for professional services contract. This is a three-year contract with Midwest Behavioral Health, this is an option for departments to use when the need arises to get a second opinion as related to FMLA. I ask for a motion to approve.

Commissioner Musgrave: So moved.

Commissioner Hatfield: Second.

President Shoulders: We have a motion and a second. Madelyn, the roll call please.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Musgrave?

Commissioner Musgrave: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Hatfield?

Commissioner Hatfield: Second, or yes.

Madelyn Grayson: President Shoulders?

President Shoulders: And, I am a yes as well. The motion passes.

**(Motion approved 3-0)**

**Purdue Co-Op Extension: 2021 Contractual Services Renewal**

President Shoulders: Our next item is letter G. This is the Co-Operative Extension of 2021 contractual services and MOU with Purdue Co-Operative Extension. This is January through December of this calendar year, 2021, for \$84,055.

Commissioner Musgrave: Motion to approve, and everybody get your 4-H projects ready.

President Shoulders: Exactly.

Commissioner Hatfield: Second.

President Shoulders: A motion and a second. Madelyn, the roll call please.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Musgrave?

Commissioner Musgrave: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Hatfield?

Commissioner Hatfield: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: President Shoulders?

President Shoulders: I normally don't approve anything with the word Purdue in it, but I will today. Just a little joke there. Yes.

**(Motion approved 3-0)**

**County Clerk: Fidlar Technologies Online Services Agreement**

President Shoulders: The next letter is County Clerk. This is an official records online service agreement with Fidar Technologies. The official records online allows the public to request and pay for documents online through a link on a county website. No cost to the county for this product. Fidar would charge the end user a convenience fee of \$7.50 per transaction, in addition to the usual copy and certification fees charged by the Clerk's Office. All the requests would be fulfilled by the Clerk's Office staff. Fidar just simplifies the payment in requests for users. I ask for a motion.

Commissioner Musgrave: I would like to ask the County Clerk, I see that she's attending electronically. I would like to ask why we can't make these free to the general public, rather than charging them, it looks like about ten dollars per request. So, Clerk Hayden, if you could answer me that please. Clerk Hayden, if you're there, could you unmute yourself and respond to the question.

Carla Hayden: Can you hear me now?

Commissioner Musgrave: Oh, we can, yeah.

Carla Hayden: Hello? Okay, the fees on those are statutory. So, we could not waive the fees for the documents.

Commissioner Musgrave: Hang on just a moment. Can you turn up the volume, because I cannot hear her. Try it again, Carla.

Carla Hayden: How's that?

President Shoulders: That's definitely—

Commissioner Musgrave: Yeah, we can hear you now.

Carla Hayden: Okay, well the third time is a charm. The fees for those documents are statutory, so we can't waive the fees for the documents. There's no requirement that an end user use this to request those documents, they could still do the things that they do today. They could call in, they could come in, walk in to the office and they wouldn't have

to pay that convenience fee. It is simply a convenience fee, if they wish to request those documents online. St. Joe County has been using this for many years, and they were initially surprised that people would pay the extra to do them online, but they find it more convenient to do so. I thought maybe it would be more convenient for someone in California or something, but they said they get people in town that do the same thing. So, like I said, the fee is, as far as that goes is a convenience fee, if they wish to request documents in this manner. Does that answer your question?

Commissioner Musgrave: It would if I could understand what you were saying. There's kind of an echo feedback.

Carla Hayden: I don't know how to make this any better.

Commissioner Musgrave: I think you have to talk really slowly. I understand that there is a statutory fee for copies, but is there any reason why the convenience fee is required to be charged?

Carla Hayden: That's how the product is paid for. I'm not aware of any way that we can buy the product and do it through a regular method. I'm not sure that that would be fair to taxpayers to make them pay for the, that if that's not something they're using.

Commissioner Musgrave: I make a motion to approve, but, Carla, I still couldn't really understand why we have to charge the members of the public this fee. But, I'll make the motion to approve.

Commissioner Hatfield: You're making a motion to approve?

Commissioner Musgrave: Yes.

Commissioner Hatfield: Okay, second.

President Shoulders: I have a motion and a second. Madelyn, the roll call please.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Musgrave?

Commissioner Musgrave: I'm just going to abstain, since I'm strongly of the opinion that if it can be free, it should be free. Notwithstanding that I understand the statute requires part of this, the part that's additional to the \$7.50. So, I'm just going to abstain because I couldn't quite understand the reasoning.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Hatfield?

Commissioner Hatfield: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: President Shoulders?

President Shoulders: I am a yes as well. The motion passes. Apologies to the public that it was a little muffled there on Zoom or the virtual audio.

**(Motion approved 2-0. Commissioner Musgrave abstained.)**

<b>Fosse &amp; Associates: Old Courthouse Lease Renewal</b>
---

President Shoulders: Alright, the next letter we have is the Superintendent of County Buildings. This is a lease renewal with Fosse & Associates Architecture. I don't think Kristin is here.

Commissioner Musgrave: I'll make a motion for approval.

Commissioner Hatfield: Second.

President Shoulders: A motion and a second. By the way, this is a three-year lease renewal for Suite 100 and 101 in the Old Courthouse. The rent will be \$1,449.58 per month. That's an increase, just a touch of an increase of about seven dollars and eight cents. We have a first and a second. Madelyn, the roll call please.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Musgrave?

Commissioner Musgrave: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Hatfield?

Commissioner Hatfield: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: President Shoulders?

President Shoulders: I'm a yes. I'm sorry, \$207.08.

**(Motion approved 3-0)**

<b>County Engineer</b>
------------------------

President Shoulders: Next is our County Engineer items. Is John, there he is. John, the floor is all yours. County Engineer, John Stoll.

John Stoll: First I would like to request the award of contract number VC21-02-01, concrete repairs in Brookview Heights Subdivision to JBI Construction for \$299,960.50. They provided the low bid on the project.

Commissioner Musgrave: Motion to approve.

Commissioner Hatfield: Second.

President Shoulders: We have a motion and a second. Madelyn, the roll call please.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Musgrave?

Commissioner Musgrave: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Hatfield?

Commissioner Hatfield: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: President Shoulders?

President Shoulders: And, I am a yes as well.

**(Motion approved 3-0)**

President Shoulders: What else do you have, John?

John Stoll: The second item is a late add on. It was the MS4 Storm Water Annual Report that has to be submitted to IDEM. I just need the Commissioner's signature on it. This is not the final version with all of the attachments. I'll get that copied to Madelyn for the record, but it does need Ben's signature so we can get it submitted to the State here in the next couple of weeks.

President Shoulders: Okay.

Commissioner Musgrave: Motion to approve.

Commissioner Hatfield: Second.

President Shoulders: We have a motion and a second. Madelyn, the roll call please.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Musgrave?

Commissioner Musgrave: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Hatfield?

Commissioner Hatfield: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: President Shoulders?

President Shoulders: I am a yes as well.

**(Motion approved 3-0)**

President Shoulders: John, do you have it with you? Or does Madelyn have it?

John Stoll: I gave it to Madelyn.

President Shoulders: Okay. Alright, you might as well....do you have anything else on your items?

John Stoll: No, that was it.

President Shoulders: You might as well, do you have anything on your department head report?

John Stoll: No.

Commissioner Hatfield: Do we want to—

Commissioner Musgrave: Is this a good time to look at the bids?

Commissioner Hatfield: --do the bid opening?

President Shoulders: Yeah, let's do department heads real fast.

Commissioner Musgrave: Oh, you want to do that before the bids?

President Shoulders: Yeah, do you mind? John, thanks.

<b>Burdette Park</b>
----------------------

President Shoulders: Any other, I think we have one other department head that wants to speak. I think it was Jerry from Burdette Park. So, Jerry Grannan with Burdette wanted to provide a word. Jerry, the floor is yours.

Jerry Grannan: Thank you. Jerry Grannan, Burdette Park Director. I would like to sincerely thank all three of you for the continued guidance through all this pandemic issue. Items specifically related to the general public and parks and recreation. Because there's a lot of can of worms that gets opened with us seeing 300,000 people through a public park every year, and you're always quick to respond first to the Health Department, but we always get an answer. I really appreciate that. And, I thank you for your overwhelming support to open, safely open the Aquatic Center this year. I think our community needs it. I think everybody's going, I know everybody's been struggling to find something to do, and especially in the family entertainment industry. I'm excited about it. It's been a year, we're going to do it safely. I would like to address a few things, the phones started ringing, people are asking about season passes, admission prices yada yada. I just want to take a moment to address a few of the things of the main questions people are asking. So, publicly people can listen. 2021 pool season, it's going to cover 72 days this year, from Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, Memorial Day weekend, through Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. We typically see about 70,000 people in that two-and-a-half-month period. I think it might be a little stronger this year. We'll see. I hope so. We will remain fully compliant with all national, state, local Health Department and posted guideline procedures, specifically for public water parks. And there are guidelines for water parks. Last year was a bit early for us to comply with much of any of that, so the decision was made last year accordingly. Hopefully understand what the public can expect to experience a bit longer wait in order to social distance at certain lines, including admissions, concessions, gift shop, float stand and the slide lines. Okay, it's going to be a little longer wait. We'll have limited capacity usage and maximum allowed access to public restrooms, pool side lounging areas, and, again, it's to enforce social distancing. It's not to make people upset or to tell you that you can't use the entire facility. Our concession stands will expedite serving lines and serve only pre-packaged items this year, to include; bottled sodas, sports drinks and water, bagged chips, cold sandwiches and candy items. State posted guest capacity at Burdette Park, established by the Indiana State Spa and Pool Act is 2,500 people a day. I expect

we'll probably see about a 75% capacity, which is somewhere in the neighborhood of 1,800 plus. We really won't have a problem on any days, except Saturdays. Five-dollar Wednesday might be some problems. I think I'll lower that with a couple hundred people on a daily attendance to buffer so our season pass holders can continue to enjoy the facility all year. In other words, I think it would be a shame to hit our capacity and have six more families show up that day, with purchased season passes and we not allow them in, because we're saying we're already at the 1,800 capacity. So, we'll probably hit the threshold at like 1,600-1,650 to allow those folks to enjoy the facility. Then, lastly, I'm telling the staff answering the phones, I want the public to know we are the largest Midwest public pool at 1.5 million gallons. Our busiest days are Saturdays, and maybe if we, as families, can understand that, if we can alternate days somewhat, I mean, we're open eight days a week, you can come out another day other than Saturday. Okay, so just consider that, if it works for your schedule. We are at times of the year, aren't we?

President Shoulders: I like that.

Jerry Grannan: Anything else, just feel free to visit [Burdettepark.org](http://Burdettepark.org) or call the main office for questions.

President Shoulders: Jerry, you, thank you, and your passion is contagious. If there was ever a guy that was meant to be over Burdette Park, it's you. I want to tell you that right now. So, thanks for everything. Again, the date we open is May 29<sup>th</sup>—

Jerry Grannan: Yep.

President Shoulders: -- until August 8<sup>th</sup>.

Jerry Grannan: Yep.

President Shoulders: 72 days, and you expect, based on what you have done in the past and what you see about 75% capacity.

Jerry Grannan: About 70,000 people, and I think even if we just do 75% capacity, I think we'll surpass that.

President Shoulders: Okay. Thanks again. Anything else?

Commissioner Musgrave: Do you need approval to begin the Civic Center sale of season passes to the employees?

Jerry Grannan: Excellent idea. It hadn't come up this year, but if you would like we can go ahead, and if I get permission to approve it, to do the same thing we've done the last three years.

Commissioner Musgrave: I make a motion that we do the same thing that we've done the last several years with the season pass and the individual pass sale opportunity to county employees, and I'm going to include part-time employees in that.

Jerry Grannan: Excellent.

President Shoulders: A motion to—

Commissioner Hatfield: It's really hard for me to hear you. I don't really mind until I have to respond. Could you—

Commissioner Musgrave: (Inaudible. Not speaking into microphone.)

Commissioner Hatfield: Got it. Second.

Jerry Grannan: Excellent.

President Shoulders: A motion and a second to provide, or offer, discounted passes to county employees. Madelyn, the roll call please.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Musgrave?

Commissioner Musgrave: Yes.



Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Hatfield?

Commissioner Hatfield: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: President Shoulders?

President Shoulders: And, I am a yes as well.

**(Motion approved 3-0)**

President Shoulders: This is at Burdette Park, folks, for those that didn't....so—

Jerry Grannan: Sincere thanks.

President Shoulders: Okay. Jerry, get back to the pool, or the park. Thank you. Any other department heads here? I know there are, we've had two now, but any other department heads here to report? I don't think so, but, okay.

<b>County Attorney</b>
------------------------

President Shoulders: Yeah, now we will open the bids from County Legal. This was bids for the milling and resurfacing of county roads that we approved to open earlier in the meeting. So, David?

David Jones: There were three bids. The first bid, E&B Paving, total for all roads combined, \$499,665.80. The second bid, J.H. Rudolph and Company, combined total of all roads, \$509,449.80. The third bid, Jerry David Enterprises, combined total of all roads, \$598,818.60. All three bids were in order.

Commissioner Musgrave: Motion to take the bids under advisement.

Commissioner Hatfield: Second.

President Shoulders: A motion and a second. Madelyn, the roll call please.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Musgrave?

Commissioner Musgrave: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Hatfield?

Commissioner Hatfield: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: President Shoulders?

President Shoulders: And, I am a yes as well. The motion passes.

**(Motion approved 3-0)**

President Shoulders: Was that the only one, David? Okay. Alright.

<b>New Business</b>
---------------------

President Shoulders: Moving forward, under new business, I have a couple of different items here. First and foremost, I'm sure many of you have seen or heard about the American Rescue Act. I will briefly touch on what it is, and then I will turn it to, yield to Commissioner Musgrave. But, to simply tell you this, last week the U.S. Senate passed the American Rescue Act. It was signed by President Biden on Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup> for \$1.9 trillion. We know a lot about it, which Commissioner Musgrave will provide, but we also are waiting a little bit on both what's called the IFA, Indiana Finance Authority, and the SBOA, the State Board of Accounts. But, on that note, I am going to pass it to Commissioner Musgrave, as she has some more information about the American Rescue Plan.

Commissioner Musgrave: Commissioners, I have here a statement that I'm going to ask that we sign about the American Rescue Plan, and the proposals that the Commission has is beginning to craft, and I will read it.

"The American Rescue Plan of 2021 prescribes investments for the betterment of the health and economic recovery of our community. Vanderburgh County will receive \$35,191,304. The Vanderburgh County Board of Commissioners respects this significant investment opportunity presented by the American Rescue Plan. Everyone in Vanderburgh County will benefit from the purposeful use of these funds."

Commissioner Musgrave: I'm going to skip a paragraph, as Commissioner Shoulders is going to take that, as soon as I read the rest.

"The Vanderburgh County Board of Commissioners holds that significant investments in the following categories would benefit the citizens of Vanderburgh County. All the figures are preliminary estimates, and they are subject to change:

- Rural Broadband- \$12.5 million
- Water & Sewer- \$5 million
- Health Department premium pay- \$25,000
- Coroner's Office premium pay- \$TBD
- Coroner's Office new construction \$2.5 million
- Revenue loss restoration to Burdette Park \$750,000 and Events Plaza- \$2,675,364
- Restoration of tax revenue losses related to COVID-19
  - Local Road & Street- \$57,310
  - Fuel Tax- \$250,080
  - Riverboat Gaming Tax Revenue- \$177,000
  - Innkeepers Tax- \$TBD
  - Local Income Tax- \$TBD
- Legal Expenses- \$TBD
- Court expansion- \$3.5 million"

Commissioner Musgrave: And, I will now turn it over to Commissioner Shoulders.

President Shoulders: Sure, well, thank you for reading that, and all your work on this, Commissioner Musgrave. I want to elaborate a tad on this, because this bill itself is almost a thousand pages, but what we do know on top of what Commissioner Musgrave mentioned is this. The amount again, \$35,191,304. I believe the city received almost, a little over \$62 million, but our portion was a little over thirty-five. The shot clock on this is from last Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup> until May 12<sup>th</sup>. It's a 60-day shot clock to determine how you will spend half of your allocation. The other, then that is provided on roughly May 12<sup>th</sup>. The other half will be allocated the following May 12<sup>th</sup> on 2022, and you must spend that amount in full by December 31<sup>st</sup> of 2024. So, we have about three and a half years to spend this \$35 plus million. I also want to state that the Vanderburgh County Board of Commissioners, we are forming a committee called the Road to Recovery Committee. We invite the President of the Vanderburgh County Council, Mr. John Montrastelle, and the Vanderburgh County Auditor to join us in designing a responsible plan for these funds. We want this to be as transparent, as open of a process as possible to the fellow taxpayers of our county. This committee will be comprised of five to seven individuals to vet the needs and laser focus on the needs, while assisting in the direction of how we most prudently spend this \$35 million, in the most fiscally disciplined, yet most prioritizing way, as Commissioner Musgrave stated. Let's not lose sight that today is a great day, we are grateful, and we are excited to publicly discuss this allocation from the Senate and President Biden. Anything else, Commissioner Hatfield?

Commissioner Hatfield: No, I just wanted to reinforce what both of you have said. I support what you've said and what is written here, and I'm sure it will take us several months to figure out what the processes are to spend the money, but this is a very good start, very good list of priorities that I think are worthy to fund out of this money. Whether or not we'll be able to or not is still to be determined, but this is a very good list and worthy of support, and I support it.

President Shoulders: Very nice. And, I just want to add that in a more generic sense, some of the items that Commissioner Musgrave talked about possible reasons we, as a county, can spend, but some generic bullet points from the bill itself, it can be used for such things, but not limited to; water and sewer, apartments or offices reflecting lost revenue due to COVID, premium pay to essential employees or grants to their employees, and so forth, and/or broadband and other things as well. So, I want to again thank Commissioner Musgrave for her proposed items. Again, in the very near future you will see a committee formed called the Road to Recovery, Vanderburgh County Road to Recovery Committee.

Commissioner Musgrave: So, I'll make a motion to adopt this statement, so that we can all sign it.

Commissioner Hatfield: Second.

President Shoulders: A motion and a second. Madelyn, the roll call please.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Musgrave?

Commissioner Musgrave: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Hatfield?

Commissioner Hatfield: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: President Shoulders?

President Shoulders: I am a yes as well. The motion passes.

**(Motion approved 3-0)**

President Shoulders: Speaking of broadband, we have Audrie Burkett here from the Economic Development Coalition to speak to us, more in detail, about our status and our follow up with broadband. The floor is yours, Audrie.

Audrie Burkett: Thank you, Commissioners. I might do just a quick test to make sure that you can hear me okay, given we were having just a little bit of trouble before. Are you able to hear me?

Commissioner Musgrave: We can hear you, and the slower you can talk, the better.

President Shoulders: Yeah.

Audrie Burkett: Okay, don't hesitate to pause me if you have trouble hearing. I'm normally a fast talker, so I will do my best to talk as slow as possible while being mindful of your Commissioner's time and the public's time. I just have to say thank you, Commissioners, for your work in looking at the American Rescue Plan, finding that broadband is an opportunity, and having the forethought to come up with a transparent way to start talking about regional recovery and the road to what regional recovery looks like. So, just first off, thank you so much for that. I know you've all been champions of broadband, and so I'm just going to share this image as a reminder that broadband is key infrastructure. It's key infrastructure that we need to move our community forward. It's needed in recovery. We have found that through COVID-19, the problem with poor access in our rural areas was exponentially increased. It's always been an issue with infrastructure in our rural areas, and we found through the pandemic that it was even more of an issue than we had originally thought. And, so what you are seeing in this image, are the key areas that we need to target. Those that responded to our survey in trying to figure out where the need is, those red pins represent households that have no access, and the yellow pins represent those that have very slow access. Vanderburgh County has two issues in particular, (1) is lack of infrastructure in the rural areas, and (2) quality of the infrastructure in our rural areas. And, so, those are two issues that we need to address, and we've talked before about how we need to develop our priority areas that you see outlined there as A, B & C. And, so this really meets the need. When we think about how many folks does this affect, in these rural areas it includes Armstrong Township, German Township, Perry, Union Township, some of the more rural areas of Scott Township, and we look at

households and not population. That's over 2,000 households that we've identified in some of these key priority areas. So, our office will continue to work to find innovative ways to bring additional broadband resources, and, so, anyway that we can be involved in the Road to Recovery Plan, we're more than happy to continue to help push that forward. Are there any questions that I can answer?

President Shoulders: I don't have any questions. Commissioners, do you have any? I just want to, again, thank you, Audrie. This continues to be a very persistent, yet rewarding potential project. I think we slowly but surely move the needle every so often, and we appreciate your due diligence, your hard work, and your positive outlook on this. And, again, I think this is another, you know, opportunity for broadband to get done. So, thank you again for being here and being with us.

Audrie Burkett: Thank you, Commissioners.

#### **Old Business**

President Shoulders: Okay, any old business we have, either Commissioner? The only thing I wanted to mention is twofold, (1) I failed to mention last meeting that also congrats to Evansville Christian School for winning the Class A Basketball State Championship. That's pretty impressive, only being a high school for a few years, and overall impressive, and (2) you know, safe travels and good luck to everyone, both playing and hosting, in the State of Indiana in this NCAA Tournament this week, but also here locally at the Ford Center with the Division II Elite Eight. So, a lot of basketball to be played in the State of Indiana, even though my Hoosiers won't be a part of it. But, congrats to all the teams that made it, safe travels and good luck to everyone.

#### **Consent Items**

President Shoulders: I ask for a motion to approve the consent items please.

Commissioner Musgrave: So moved.

Commissioner Hatfield: Second.

President Shoulders: A motion and a second. Madelyn, the roll call please.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Musgrave?

Commissioner Musgrave: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Hatfield?

Commissioner Hatfield: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: President Shoulders?

President Shoulders: I am a yes as well. The motion passes.

**(Motion approved 3-0)**

#### **Public Comment**

President Shoulders: I believe the only three people that signed up for public comment have already spoken today. Yeah, Amy, Jason and Katy. Is anyone else here on public comment? No? Okay.

#### **Recessing of Meeting**

President Shoulders: On that note, I ask for a motion to recess our emergency meeting.

Commissioner Musgrave: So moved.

Commissioner Hatfield: Second. (Inaudible comments.)

President Shoulders: Ha, ha, ha. Wow! On that note, Madelyn, the roll call please.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Musgrave?

Commissioner Musgrave: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: Commissioner Hatfield?

Commissioner Hatfield: Yes.

Madelyn Grayson: President Shoulders?

President Shoulders: Okay, and I'm a yes as well.

**(Motion approved 3-0)**

President Shoulders: Thank you all. We'll see you at our next meeting.

(The meeting was recessed at 4:06 p.m.)

**CONSENT ITEMS:**

**Commissioners:**

Approval of the March 2, 2021 Emergency Commission Meeting Minutes.

Approval of the March 2, 2021 Road Hearing Minutes.

Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare Financial Report: June 30, 2020 & 2019.

**Employment Changes:**

County Clerk (2)

Auditor (1)

Sheriff (5)

Coroner (1)

Prosecutor (4)

Assessor (2)

Circuit Court (3)

Superior Court (2)

Health Dept (3)

**County Engineer:** Department Report & Claims.

**County Auditor:** Claims Voucher Reports: 3/1/-3/5/2021 & 3/8-3/12/21021.

**Those in Attendance:**

Ben Shoulders

Jeff Hatfield

Cheryl Musgrave

David Jones

Craig Emig

Madelyn Grayson

Amy Devries

Jason Emmerson

Katy Adams

Philip Bernard

Joe Gries

Scott Buedel

Carla Hayden

John Stoll

Jerry Grannan

Audrie Burkett

Others Unidentified

Members of Media

**VANDERBURGH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

---

**Ben Shoulders, President**

---

**Jeff Hatfield, Vice President**

---

**Cheryl A.W. Musgrave, Member**