

## REGULAR SESSION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HUNTINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA, TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2024

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Commissioner Tom Wall; Commissioner Rob Miller; Mayor Richard Strick; Laura Dillon, Andrews Town Council; Anthony Goodnight, Lochmueller Group; Michael Brown; Ethan Dahlon, WANE15; John Harshbarger; Karen Rice; Sharon Evids; Michael Young, Andrews Town Council; Sadiq Edo, USDA RD; Braxton Craft; Karrie Rite; Neal Synder; Kevin Rice; Laury Powell, Andrews Clerk-Treasurer; Colin Bullock, Town of Andrews; Lisa Newsome; Roger Newsome, Town of Andrews; Matthew Dillon; Kevin Krauskopf, City/County Communications; Kristina Kendall, Taft Law; Cathy Johnson; Joey Tackett; Phil Sunderman; Eric Woodmansee, AME Consulting; Jacob Cormany; Tim Allen, HCCSC School Board; Van Juillerat; Kyle Kitt; Brenda Kitt; Tammari Ingalls; Stefanie Barrioz, HR Director; Bridgett Burkhart, Office Manager

Commissioner Wall called the special meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Commissioner Wall gave an overview of the topic of discussion for this meeting which is to get clean drinking water to the Town of Andrews.

Introductions were made of the attendees from the Town of Andrews, USDA, Lochmueller Group, and the City of Huntington.

Anthony Goodnight from Lochmueller Group presented the options that were evaluated in the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER). The first project would be to regionalize the drinking water system with the City of Huntington along County Road 200 North. This alternative would increase fire flow capacity available to the Town while providing water from Huntington. Regionalization would allow the Town of Andrews to abandon their existing well field and water treatment plant which was built in the 1940's. The second project would be to replace all the existing watermains within the distribution system to lower the water loss and increase water volume throughout the Town of Andrews. This option could be broken up into multiple phases as grants are funding are available. This option would also include replacing all services, including, and more importantly, all lead or galvanized lines throughout the distribution system. This would include all private lead service lines as well. The third option, which was provided by others, would be to construct a new water treatment plant and well field south of Town. This option would not require regionalization with the City.

RTX has agreed to contract directly with Lochmueller Group to update the existing PER to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) standards. This would allow the most flexibility as grant funds are discussed. It is also anticipated that the project will be ranked #1 again on the State Revolving Loan Fund Project Priority List (PPL). This indicates that the project is the highest priority for SRF in the State of Indiana. The new PPL list comes out during the new fiscal year, July 2024.

City of Huntington Mayor Richard Strick shared that he is sympathetic to the long plight of the residents of Andrews. He stated that the City will continue to be good neighbors and do what they can to help, without the project becoming a burden on the City of Huntington taxpayers.

Commissioner Miller shared that the Huntington County Commissioners have committed funds for the project and that this meeting was to help ensure that everyone was rowing in the same direction.

Laura Dillon, Andrews Town Council President, shared that IDEM is pushing them to come to Huntington to get the water. She also stated that Andrews has an aquifer that can be accessed approximately ½ mile from the town. They have a concern that they would have no control over the water rates that would be charged by the City of Huntington – if that was the option that was chosen. Laura also pointed out that they have applied for four grants in six years and have been denied each time.

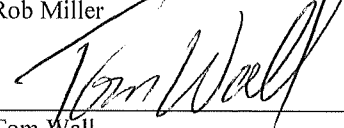
Commissioner Wall concluded the meeting by sharing that everyone is working on a way to resolve this problem. They have reached out to government officials and have their support for this project.

The meeting ended at 10:38 a.m.

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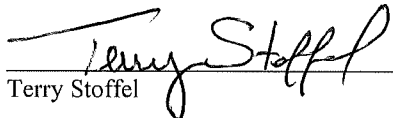
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HUNTINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA, TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2024**

  
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Rob Miller

  
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Tom Wall

ATTEST:

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Jill M. Landrum, Auditor

  
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Terry Stoffel

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HUNTINGTON COUNTY, INDIANA