

COMMISSIONERS MINUTES 5-29-97

A SPECIAL MEETING WAS HELD BY THE COMMISSIONERS ON MAY 29, 1997 AT 3:45 P.M. IN DAVID GLICKFIELD'S LAW OFFICE, 605 S. WASHINGTON STREET, MARION, INDIANA 46953.

IN ATTENDANCE WERE COMMISSIONERS DAVID GLICKFIELD AND WALTER WOOD, COUNTY AUDITOR JUDY CARMICHAEL AND HENRY HOENIG OF THE CHRONICLE-TRIBUNE.

THE MEETING WAS IN REGARD TO COMPLAINTS FROM MR. HOENIG CONCERNING THE COMMISSIONERS HOLDING MEETINGS AND NOT FOLLOWING THE OPEN DOOR POLICY.

DAVID GLICKFIELD STATED HE HAD STUDIED THE CODES AND DECIDED THAT ANYTIME TWO OF THE COMMISSIONERS WERE TOGETHER IT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A MEETING AND THE AUDITOR SHOULD BE PRESENT TO RECORD THE MINUTES OF ANY BUSINESS DISCUSSED. HE FURTHER STATED THAT WHEN THE COMMISSIONERS WERE MAKING ON-SIGHT INSPECTIONS HE DIDN'T FEEL IT WAS NECESSARY TO HAVE THE AUDITOR TAKE NOTES.

WALTER WOOD DISAGREED, AND STATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE NOTES TAKEN ANY TIME THEY WERE TOGETHER, DISCUSSING OR CONDUCTING COUNTY BUSINESS.

MR. HOENIG AGREED WITH THE COMMISSIONERS THAT NOTES SHOULD ALWAYS BE TAKEN. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THE USE OF A TAPE RECORDER. HE SAID WHENEVER ONE MEETING IS RECESSED AN ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE MADE AS TO WHEN THE COMMISSIONERS WILL RE-CONVENE.

MR. HOENIG ALSO STATED HE WOULD LIKE TO "CLEAR THE AIR". HE STATED HE WAS NOT ACCUSING OR SAYING THE COMMISSIONERS WERE INTENTIONALLY TRYING TO HIDE THINGS. HE SAID "DAVID, YOU GOT ON ME ABOUT THE ANGUISH THE ARTICLE CAUSED YOU, BUT I'M JUST SAYING THERE'S MEETINGS BEING HELD TO DO COUNTY BUSINESS WITH NO NOTICE AND WITH NO MINUTES TAKEN". HE FURTHER SAID "IT SEEMS STRANGE TO ME THAT A FORMAL PROPOSAL ON DONATING GROUND TO GEORGE JR. REPUBLIC WAS PRESENTED IN THE OPEN MEETING ON MAY 19, 1997 WITH NO PRIOR MEETINGS BEING ON RECORD CONCERNING THIS PROJECT.

DAVID GLICKFIELD STATED THE COMMISSIONERS HAD MET WITH OTHER REPRESENTATIVES FROM GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC, ALONG WITH JEFF SCOTT, AT DINNER ONE EVENING. THE PROJECT WAS DISCUSSED AT THIS TIME.

HENRY SAID "YOU'VE BEEN MEETING WITH JEFF SCOTT ON A REGULAR BASIS".

DAVID SAID MOST OF THE DISCUSSION WITH JEFF SCOTT HAD BEEN WITH HIM OVER THE TELEPHONE. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE JUDGES AND CINDY VIRONET HAD RECOMMENDED THE PROJECT WITH GEORGE JUNIOR STATING IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR THE JUVENILES AND GOOD FOR THE COUNTY.

DAVID STATED HE BELIEVES THERE IS A COMPLETE DIFFERENT SET OF CODES FOR THE COMMISSIONERS CONCERNING THE OPEN DOOR POLICY, BUT THAT HE HAD NOTHING TO HIDE, AND DID NOT CARE IF THE PRESS WAS AT HIS MEETINGS.

HENRY SAID "HOW CAN THE PUBLIC KEEP UP IF MOST OF THE MEETINGS ARE NOT PUBLICIZED AND THERE ARE NO MINUTES.

DAVID AGAIN STATED THAT THERE IS ANOTHER SECTION IN THE LAW THAT GIVES OTHER POWERS, BUT THAT HE WILL NOTIFY THE PRESS AND WILL HAVE MINUTES TAKEN, AND THAT HE DID NOT CARE.

WALT SAID HE HAD BEEN IN FAVOR OF HAVING OPEN MEETINGS ALL ALONG.

DAVID ASKED JUDY TO PRINT A LEGAL IN THE NEWSPAPER WITH THE COMMISSIONER MEETINGS SCHEDULE. THE NEW SCHEDULE TO BE PRINTED IS MONDAY MEETINGS AT 8:30 A.M. , WEDNESDAY MEETINGS AT 9:00 A.M. AND FRIDAY MEETINGS AT 9:00 A.M. THE NOTICE IS TO SAY "UNTIL BUSINESS IS CONCLUDED".

WALT TOLD HENRY HE WOULD LIKE TO USE HENRY AS AN ALLY. HENRY SAID HE WOULD RATHER BE AN ALLY AS AN ADVERSARY. WALT SAID THERE ARE MANY TIMES HE WOULD APPRECIATE A PRESS RELEASE SO THAT THE PUBLIC CAN BE AWARE OF IMPORTANT ITEMS. HE SAID THEY WOULD BE DOING A PRESS RELEASE EXPLAINING THE "D" STREET BRIDGE PROJECT.

DAVID CALLED JEFF SCOTT ON THE TELEPHONE AND TOLD HIM THAT JUDY HAD TALKED WITH BRUCE HARTMANN OF STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS AND BRUCE HAD SAID THE COUNTY COULD NOT GIVE THE GROUND TO GEORGE JR. OR SELL THE GROUND FOR A NOMINAL FEE. HE SAID IT WOULD HAVE TO BE APPRAISED BY TWO APPRAISERS AND SOLD. JEFF SAID "THEN HOW DID BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY DO IT?" DAVID SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW.

A FEW MINUTES LATER JEFF SCOTT CALLED BACK. HE STATED THAT BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY HAD LEASED THE GROUND TO GEORGE JR.

DAVID STATED HOW THE BENEFIT OF THE LOWER PER DIEM FOR 9 YEARS WOULD END UP SAVING THE COUNTY MONEY.

THE CONVERSATION CHANGED TO A DISCUSSION ABOUT THE SULLIVAN POND (PIT). A LETTER SIGNED BY MANY NEIGHBORS OF THE AREA WAS PRESENTED. A MEETING HAD BEEN HELD WITH HERB SPITZER, CHUCK HERRIMAN, ATTORNEYS REPRESENTING SULLIVANS, AND THE COMMISSIONERS. THE COMMISSIONERS HAD REQUESTED A STATEMENT WITH A TIME TABLE OF WHEN THE PROJECT WOULD BE FINISHED. AT THIS TIME THE TIME TABLE HAD NOT BEEN RECEIVED.

DAVID GLICKFIELD SAID IF FORCED TO GIVE A DATE AND THEY BREECH ON THE DATE, THEN THE AGREEMENT BECOMES ENFORCEABLE. HE SAID HE FELT THE THREAT OF THE COUNTY NOT CONTINUING TO DO BUSINESS WITH SULLIVANS WAS WHAT MADE THEM AGREE TO A TIME TABLE. HE STATED HE WANTS TO SEND A LETTER TO ALL THOSE WHO SIGNED THE COMPLAINT LETTER STATING THAT THE COMMISSIONERS ARE DOING ALL THEY CAN DO TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. HE STATED THEY KNEW IT WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH TO PLEASE THOSE COMPLAINING, BUT AT LEAST THEY WOULD KNOW THE COMMISSIONERS WERE INTERESTED AND HAD TRIED.

THE MEETING RECESSED AT 4:30 P.M.