

Commissioners Meeting

August 15, 2016, 8:00 a.m.

Present: John Richards, Jerome Buening and Rick Nobbe

President John Richards called the meeting to order.

The August 1st meeting minutes were corrected and approved as corrected.

The accounts payable claims and payroll claims were reviewed and approved to be paid.

Assistant Highway Superintendent Tim Ortman reported the drainage projects are almost completed; now the Highway personnel are prepping some roads for paving.

Area Plan Director Krista Duvall didn't have anything to report for today's meeting.

Visitors, Recreation and Tourism Director Gary Herbert explained he had recently learned the revenues received from the local hotels for the **Innkeepers Tax** is confidential- is not for public information. After talking to one of the **Public Access Counselors**, Mr Herbert was told if the Commissioners and Council members would sign a 'confidentiality agreement' he could share details on which hotels have paid and how much they've paid of their Innkeepers' Tax collections to the County Treasurer. Each Commissioner signed the confidentiality agreement, so Mr Herbert gave them the income report. Mr Herbert asked permission to set up a 'display area' for information on local events, places to visit in the north entrance of the Courthouse. The Commissioners were fine with his request. Mr Herbert will be attending a joint meeting with **EDC, Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Greensburg** in hopes of coordinating efforts of attracting people and businesses to Decatur County. Mr Nobbe asked about forms for grant applicants- Mr Herbert said he is working on those forms, thinking maybe there should be different levels of grants. Bill Smith has been working with him on the grant forms.

Beginning December 1st, 2016 the **U.S. Department of Labor's** final rule regarding changes to white collar overtime exemption will go into effect. Emails were sent to Elected Officials and Department Heads requesting information whether their employees are "exempt from earning overtime" or "non-exempt" where they may earn overtime to be paid or use it as comp time. Elected officials and Department Heads are encouraged to write job descriptions for each of their employees and ensure their employees know and understand what's expected of them. Mr Richards stated he would like to make Highway Superintendent Mark Mohr and Assistant Highway Superintendent Tim Ortman County employees, changing from appointing each annually. **County Attorney Drew Young** suggested **County Building Inspector Kenny Buening** should also be a County employee instead of being appointed annually.

Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission Patty Jackson opened bids for construction and HVAC work for seven properties in the **County's Housing Rehab Project**. **Ertel Construction and Jackson Construction** (no relation to Ms Jackson) were the two bidders for the construction work on seven properties. **Louden Heating and Air, Dobson Comfort Solutions, Jackson Construction, Grant's Pro and Stier's Heating and Cooling** submitted bids on three properties for HVAC work. Ms Jackson asked the Commissioners if they would take all bids under advisement so she could check with guidelines to see if the construction bids would need to be 'rebid' since there were only two entities bidding. She did say it was difficult getting contractors to bid this late in the season. They agreed to take the bids under advisement.

Mr Young has put together a letter for the Commissioners to send to each Township Trustee concerning noxious weeds and invasive weeds on Indiana owned property as well as private property. Information may be reviewed on our county website under the "**Weed Control**" heading. Currently, Decatur County does not currently have a **Weed Control Board**.

Cynthia Bowen is contracted by the Decatur County Commissioners to assist in updating the **County's Comprehensive Plan**. Ms Bowen is being assisted by Adam Peaper on this project. The final draft of the Comp Plan was scheduled to be reviewed at a September 6th Comp Plan Meeting; then in late October – November a final plan would be presented to the County Commissioners for final adoption. In reviewing the final draft plan, Ms Bowen and Mr Peaper discovered/realized the 'make-up' of the Decatur County

Area Plan Commission is out of compliance with IC 36-7-4-200 series and has been since 2012 or 2013. Currently the **APC** consists of ten members being appointed by various entities: County Commissioners, County Council, School Corporation, City Council, and Greensburg Mayor; while the **County Surveyor** and **Purdue Extension Agent** are on the **APC** by virtue of their office. Ms Duvall did notify the **APC attorney, Melissa Sholle**, of this information in mid-June of this year. Ms Sholle has not yet officially notified the **APC members** of this problem. Ms Bowen presented the Commissioners a list of requirements for voting members on an **Area Plan Commission: 1 member appointed by County Commissioners; 1 member appoint by the County Council; 1 representative of school corporation; 1 member appointed by the County Commissioners- must be either Ag Extension Agent or County Surveyor; 1 citizen member appointed by County Commissioners who is in unincorporated area of county or resident of the county who owns real property in unincorporated area; 1 citizen member appointed by County Council who is in unincorporated area of county or resident of the county who owns real property in unincorporated area and 1 voting member of the Advisory Council on Town Affairs.** Ms Bowen stated this situation needs corrected immediately and definitely before the final recommendation/adoption of the **updated County's Comprehensive Plan**. Mr Ortman stated the current **APC** should be dissolved and some of those appointees may be "reappointed" or not whatever those making the appointments decide. The recommendation is the **APC** should a seven-member board plus one to three non-voting members from the **Greensburg Area Plan and/or Greensburg City Council**. Mr Ortman will send a letter to the four incorporated town boards (Millhousen, New Point, St Paul and Westport) directing them to select a representative for their **Advisory Council on Town Affairs**.

Mr Young informed the Commissioners the lawsuit filed against Joseph Bell, Jerry Bell and **Bell Precision Rifles** and **Hurricane Creek Whitetails** has resulted in a requested meeting for discussion "to come into compliance" with items detailed in the lawsuit. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 17th, at 10:00 a.m. in Meeting Room 141 in the Courthouse.

With nothing else to come before the Commissioners, Mr. Buening moved to recess, Mr. Nobbe seconded and Mr. Richards concurred. Meeting recessed.

The next Commissioner meeting will be September 6th, 2016 at 8:00 a.m.

John Richards, President

Attest _____

Date: _____

