

**Commissioners Meeting**  
**April 19, 2021 8:00 a m**

**Present: Mark Koors, Jerome Buening and Chuck Emsweller**

President Koors welcomed everyone to the April 19<sup>th</sup> Commissioners meeting; he then announced Title VI forms are available for anyone who would like to fill out and turn in at the Auditor's office.

County Sheriff David Durant led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, then prayer was offered by Reverend Todd Smith.

(Meeting minutes and claims are emailed to each Commissioners, each Friday before their Monday meeting)

Mr Emsweller moved to accept the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Minutes are approved.

Mr Koors questioned the COVID grant claim for the web design for the Health Department. Commissioners agreed to table this and ask Sean Durbin to come to their May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to explain. Mr Emsweller moved to approve the payroll and regular accounts payable claims, Mr Buening seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

**Highway Superintendent Mark Mohr** gave updates for the past 2 weeks on several projects: Highway crews continue grading stone roads, running 2 dura-patchers, the patch box and cutting back trees with the bush-wacker. Multiple pipes have been replaced on County Road 880 East near Lake Santee and 2 more bigger ones to finish this phase of the project. Crews are working on improving multiple radiuses on County Road 700 West, a **Community Crossings Grant** paving project; this project also includes a full bridge replacement plus one bigger one. A sub-base failure on County Road 700 West due to the dairy hauling manure that's causing the road to become unstable. Highway crews will need to dig it out, put some 2's in, cap it with stone and place signage to let drivers know it's there. Mr Mohr presented 2 renewals/rollover contracts with **Globe Asphalt Paving and Dave O'Mara Contractors**. He believes anytime companies are willing to rollover contracts without going through the bid process is a win-win situation. Mr Buening moved to approve both rollover contracts and Mr Emsweller seconded the motion. Mr Koors abstained from voting. Mr Mohr has not heard any awards on the **2021-1 Community Crossings Grants**. Mr Koors told Mr Mohr that Water Plant Rd needs some stone shoulders put down.

Mr Emsweller moved to approve the other grant claims and the claims for the First Financial Credit Card payments. Mr Buening seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Koors asked the Auditor's office to stick to the cut-off date for submission of claims.

**Area Plan Director Krista Duvall** didn't have anything to bring before the Commissioners.

In the past two weeks, **Building Inspector Kenny Buening** completed 40 building inspections, issued 17 new building permits plus plan reviews and red tagged the construction of a lean-to due to no permit. He notified a property owner about the County's nuisance ordinance after receiving a complaint about vehicles in their yard. He has two court dates next week regarding property owners not complying with the County's nuisance ordinance.

Former County Attorney Drew Young asked Commissioners if they would schedule an executive session after their May 3<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting to receive information on a lawsuit initiated in 2016. Mr Young has discussed this matter with current County Attorney Ken Bass; so Mr Bass will speak on behalf of Mr Young at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive Session.

Local property owner David Gill told Commissioners the Homestead Deduction wasn't filed when he moved into his new house in July 2019. His 2020 pay 2021 tax bill was much higher than he expected, so he called the Auditor's office to ask why the homestead deduction wasn't on his tax bill. He does not have a receipt showing he had filed for this deduction. He has filed for the deduction for the 2021 pay 2022 taxes. Mr Koors said no action will be taken on the Commissioners part.

**Visitors, Tourism and Recreation Director Philip Deiwert** is pricing UTVs to use for events in the County. The Tourism Board has approved the UTV purchase up to \$15,000. This vehicle will be added to the County's property and liability insurance and the premium will be paid out of Tourism's budget. Mr Deiwert will get the

UTV titled to drive on streets. Mr Emsweller moved to allow the request, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Emsweller moved to approve **Decatur County Right to Life** request for use of facilities, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred. The group will place crosses on the southwest corner of the Courthouse lawn for the week of May 29<sup>th</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Mr Buening move to approve **Main Street Westport’s** request to hold their annual **Westport Covered Bridge Festival** on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 8 am to 8 pm. Mr Emsweller seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Mohr will close the road on Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mr Buening moved to approve the **Health Department’s** (Sean Durbin) request for a **First Financial Credit Card** to use for the **Preparedness Grants**. Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Commissioners agreed to wait to put up a fence around the new Detention Center until the future of the PODS is decided. Mr Koors had gotten an estimate of \$47,463.90 from **Indiana Wire**.

Mr Koors announced bids for lawn care would be advertised next Spring for both the Courthouse and the Court Services lawns. County Council plan to pass a resolution on April 20<sup>th</sup> which is part of the required process for the Commissioners to proceed with their purchase of property south of the Extension Office.

**Kevin Krekeler of Assured Partners NL** discussed current insurance values -- \$8,718,049 + \$169,799 for contents-- placed on the old jail. He asked Commissioners what would they replace it with if it were destroyed; maybe take it out of the blanket insurance and insure it by itself since the PODS are already insured separately? Commissioners discussed demolishing the building and sell the lot once the PODS are removed. They would advertise a pre-bid meeting at which time whatever is in the building belongs to the successful bidder for the demolition job. Mr Emsweller moved to insure the old jail at \$400,000 + \$5,000 for contents. Mr Buening seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Krekeler asked the Commissioners if they should insure the old blue bridge at the City Park since there is a lease between Greensburg and Decatur County to maintain that Park. The Commissioners do have liability insurance on the blue bridge. Commissioners asked why the \$5,989 claim for the workers comp audit. Mr Krekeler explained the police and highway departments saw the biggest payroll increases over a 3-year average during the 2019-2020 audit. Mr Krekeler recommends the County include a doctor’s “return to work” stipulation as part of the insurance renewal. A list of County Departments with available jobs for ‘work restrictions’ would be kept in the Auditor’s office. The wage difference in the jobs would be made up by the Workers Comp pay. If the employee doesn’t want to cooperate, they may be terminated. Mr Krekeler stated this would save premiums in the long run.

**Economic Development Commission Director Bryan Robbins** asked if the County is looking to adopt a Solar Ordinance. Ms Duvall has emailed information to the Commissioners on a proposed “wind ordinance and a solar ordinance” and also recommended placing a moratorium on the wind and solar installations until our state legislators close out their 2021 session.

**County Treasurer Diane Wenning** asked if part-time help is covered by the County’s blanket bond; the current blanket bond through **CAN Surety** only covers full-time employees.

Mr Koors thanked all for coming to this morning’s meeting.

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

**The next Commissioner meeting will be 8:00 am on Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, in Room 106.**

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Attest:\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_