

Commissioners Meeting
April 5, 2021 8:00 a m

Present: Mark Koors and Chuck Emsweller

President Koors welcomed everyone to the April 5th 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.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mark Mohr; Reverend Nathan Muncie then offered a prayer.

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

Mr Emsweller moved to accept the March 15th meeting minutes and Mr Koors concurred. Minutes are approved.

Mr Emsweller moved to accept the payroll and accounts payable claims and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Koors believes the \$4,250 claim submitted by **Banks Lawn Care** for aeration of grass and river rock at the **Detention Center** should be paid by contractor **Johannigman Excavating**. He will speak to Johannigman about this.

Highway Superintendent Mark Mohr gave updates on several ongoing projects. On March 31st a semi-truck tried to go through the 3-ton steel bridge on County Road 50 North, broke some gussets so the bridge is closed for now. Once the bridge is inspected by **USI**, Commissioners will decide whether to replace the bridge with Federal monies at an estimated cost of \$1 – 2 million. Residents on that part of 50 North are ok with making that a 'dead-end road' from both directions, so that bridge would be taken off of the inventory list. For the past 5 weeks Highway crews have been running 3 patchers and a patch box to fill potholes with still lots of holes to fill. Final grades are being completed on a few of last year's project and work continues on the paving project on County Road 880 East near Lake Santee. A **Community Crossings Grant** paving project on County Road 700 West, Burney to County Road 1100 South includes replacing a bridge, multiple culverts and improving intersections- if right-of-way can be attained. **United Consultants** are beginning Phase I of the Bridge Inspection contract. All bridges 20 feet and over will be inspected. Mr Mohr has received numerous calls asking for county roads to be 'striped'. Passing lanes require engineering studies, which are costly as well as a maintenance issue. Also, the legal aspect- lines down the middle of the road tend to force drivers to the sides of a road or lines on the edges of road tend to force drivers to the middle of the road creating a higher chance of head-on collisions. Commissioners, in the past, opted not to stripe county roads.

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

Building Inspector Kenny Buening took a vacation day.

Rick Anderson of Johnson, Mellis Solutions, a Veregy Company, presented energy solutions for maximizing efficiency and minimizing costs operating the county's facilities. Indiana Code 36-1-12.5 guaranteed savings legislation. Solar is **JMS's** focus right now. According to Mr Johnson jails are the big energy hogs. He asked for copies of all energy invoices in order to do a utility analysis and he would also do a walk-through our buildings; at no cost. Mr Anderson encourages entities to become energy independent and asked if the Commissioners were interested, would they 'float a bond or do a 3rd party lease/loan'? He will check back in a couple of months with Commissioners to see if they want to move forward on this.

Mark Carman, representing the Tree City Fall Festival Committee, requested to use the Courthouse lawn beginning at 6:00 am on September 17th until midnight on September 18th to hold the Fall Festival. Mr Carman will have the required insurance rider for a \$1million sent to the Commissioners. He told Commissioners the agreed electrical work is being done, which the Commissioners had agreed to share costs. Mr Emsweller moved to accept and Mr Koors concurred.

Mark Fixmer of Decatur Hills presented a petition to vacate part of County Road 280 East for the future expansion of the Landfill. **Decatur Hills** has offered to put in a cul-de-sac to accommodate residents affected by this closure. Commissioners will discuss this with Jerome Buening and then make a decision on this petition.

Greg Overmyer, Indiana Department of Child Services, told Commissioners the **State of Indiana** has decided to replace the contract with **AT & T** for the dedicated data AVPN (T1) line because of costs and speed; **AT & T** currently charges \$500 a month per 92 counties. The **Indiana Office of Technology** is working with **Comcast** to bring a dedicated data line into our Courthouse. This is a 16-2 service, is a VPN so no other 'traffic' would use it.

Comcast will need to do underground boring, coming in at the west side of the Courthouse. Mr Emsweller moved to approve this request and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Koors signed the consent form.

Decatur County Clerk Adina Roberts presented **Ordinance 2021-4**, to allow the **County Election Board** to take the first step in creating vote centers. Both the Board of Commissioners and the County Council need to approve this ordinance in order for her to move forward. This ordinance would allow a study committee to start creating a plan to determine the cost and possible locations for vote centers. The County Election Board has to approve of the committee's recommendations, then public hearings may be scheduled. Vote Centers are like the absentee voting held in the Courthouse 29 days before election day; every ballot style is loaded on the voting machine so there are no restrictions regarding what precinct a voter is registered in. Mr Koors is okay with the concept. Mr Emsweller is okay with the study committee; Mr Koors votes yes. Clerk Roberts will bring the 'plan' back for the Commissioners' review. Both Commissioners signed the 'yea' on the ordinance.

Steve Leist and Kevin Krekeler of Assured Partners NL gave a brief overview of the proposed May 22, 2021 insurance renewal. Mr Leist highlighted the Workers Compensation 30% increase, the increase of the number of vehicles and the dramatic increase in cyber liability costs. **IPEP** is offering schedule credits which offsets the Workers Comp increase. The increase 'exposure' for the Sheriff and Detention Center is also reflected in increased premiums. Commissioners will review the proposal of insurance and contact Mr Leist or Mr Krekeler with any questions. Mr Krekeler told the Commissioners the lease with the City of Greensburg for the City Park expires in 2023; insurance coverage for the Blue Bridge needs to be addressed soon.

Economic Development Commission Director Bryan Robbins reported he's working with **Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (SIRPC)** on the broadband study and asked everyone to complete the "digital inclusion survey" for citizens within the 9 counties **SIRPC** serves. He also agrees there is a need for Vote Center.

Mr Emsweller moved to reappoint **Janice Mangels** to a 4-year term on the **Greensburg-Decatur County Library Board** and Mr Koors seconded.

Mr Emsweller moved to approve **Main Street Greensburg's** request to use the east and southeast side of the Courthouse lawn and also the County parking lot to hold the **Farmers' Market**, every Friday, noon – 6:00 pm, beginning May 7th through September 24th. Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Emsweller moved to approve the **United Fund's** request to use the Courthouse lawn for their **Strawberry Festival** and Mr Koors concurred. They will setup on June 10th beginning at 3:00 pm and sell strawberries and shortcake on June 11th.

County Attorney Ken Bass told **Commissioners** he was given information saying the **County Council** needs to pass a resolution stating they are interested in purchasing land- property for the relocation of the Highway Department. He shared this information with **Council Attorney Chris Tebbe** who will draw up the resolution to be adopted by the Council at their April 20th meeting.

County Recorder Dottie Robbins was given the **Fair Board's By-Laws** to record, but they do not meet the Recorder's requirements. She asked the Commissioners if they would 'ask her' to record these as presented to her. Mr Emsweller said the Fair Board is getting ready to amend these since they should follow State Statute. Mr Bass stated if the Fair Board doesn't meet the requirements, the Commissioners should not ask Mrs Robbins to record those By Laws. Mrs Robbins will call Phil Nobbe to come pick the By Law documents.

The **Decatur County Redevelopment Commission's 2020 Annual Report** was presented to the Commissioners for their information and review.

Mr Koors spoke to Sean Durbin of the Health Department regarding the Governor's mask mandate being lifted. Mr Durbin told Mr Koors he is following the Governor's recommendations.

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

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

The next Commissioner meeting will be 8:00 am on Monday, April 19th, 2021, in Room 106.

Attest: _____

Date: _____