

**Commissioners Meeting
August 1, 2022 8:00 a m**

Present: Mark Koors, Jerome Buening and Chuck Emsweller

The Decatur County Commissioners August 1st meeting was opened by President Koors welcoming everyone; he then announced Title VI forms are available for anyone who would like to fill out and turn in at the Auditor's office.

Interim Highway Superintendent Todd Houk led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Sheriff Dave Durant then offered a prayer.

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

Mr Emsweller moved to approve the July 18th meeting minutes, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Buening moved to approve the accounts payable claims, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Emsweller moved to approve the July 22nd payroll claims, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mark Mohr, Highway Superintendent, gave a few updates on projects: the abutments have been poured for Bridge #73 on County Road 150 North, crews doing road realignment- straightening curvature, beams to be set around September 1st. Mr Mohr told Commissioners if County Road 50 North is closed, County Road 150 North will get a lot more traffic, so improving it is a big priority. **Duke Energy** has finally completed their tree work so Highway crews can put the culvert pipe in on County Road 800 East, south of New Point. Highway crews started a **Community Crossings Grant** paving project this morning, beginning at Rock Creek then onto Millhousen Road. **USI Consultants** have been hired as engineering consultants to oversee the **Park Road Project**. **USI** is also doing our Bridge 236 (East Central Avenue, by Greensburg Junior High School) bridge inspections and that contract states the inspection cost is not to exceed \$190,000. **INDOT** requires bridge projects to be done in phases, so Mr Mohr presented this contract for the Commissioners' signatures. Mr Buening moved to approve the contract, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Commissioners then signed a cover sheet for the Bridge 236 project's preliminary plans and those already exist and were already approved.

Local resident Kenny Peters asked Commissioners for an update- progress and what can he expect on road repairs and replacement of mailboxes due to the unofficial traffic detour for **INDOT's** work on **US Highway 421 South**. Mr Peters cited ditches torn up, cleat marks in yards and mailboxes hit, replaced and hit again. Mr Mohr has called **INDOT** to come down to video the detour route for comparison to their earlier video before the unofficial detour was opened; the edge work and sub-base failures will also be factored in the repair costs. The Commissioners and Mr Mohr will negotiate with **INDOT** for compensation to bring the road back to the 'level' of what it was before, hopefully before the weather turns bad. Mr Koors told Mr Peters Commissioners will need receipts for replacement of mailboxes so they can include those costs in their negotiating with **INDOT**.

A survey for Joe Fleenor has been completed, so Anita Diederich asked if she could purchase the "pt vacated Pleasant Street St Omer" from the Board of Commissioners since it is adjacent to her property. **County Attorney Chad Smith** and Commissioners will work to get a purchase price in the next ten days.

Brian Gatewood, speaking on behalf of Main Street Westport, told Commissioners they paid the \$350 building permit fee to erect a sign for the north side of State Road 3; he is asking Commissioners to waive the \$350 permit fee for the second sign to be placed on the south side of the street. Mr Buening moved to waive the \$350 for the placement of a second sign, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Greensburg-Decatur County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Dawn Lowe presented the one-half year market report: the Chamber has provided 17 'ribbon cuttings' for new, change in ownership or relocations and they have 4500 Facebook followers. The Chamber hosts 5 major events

each year, including their Annual Meeting which is held each November. Mr Koors invited Mrs Lowe to be a part of the **Fair Committee** to help reaching out to vendors.

Area Plan Director Krista Duvall told Commissioners the **Drainage Ordinance** needs some updates. Kerry Dailey, **Christopher B Burke Engineering**, has offered a proposal which separates the ordinance into 2 documents: requirements-procedures and technical specs for engineers when there are issues. Ms Duval said the agreement to rewrite the ordinance should not be more than \$12,000 and currently there is no timeline. Mr Buening moved to approve the agreement, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred. The August 3rd **Area Plan Commission** meeting is cancelled due to the legal ads not being posted correctly, moving it to August 15th. The **Open Road Renewable Battery Storage** petition will be the only petition being heard by the **Board of Zoning Appeals** on August 3rd. Commissioners agreed parts of the **2017 (Updated) Comprehensive Plan** need to be revisited; have the discussions, talk to the community about what their ideas are of Decatur County and the future of Decatur County. Mr Buening cited the changes in technology and people's attitudes about our community. Ms Duvall will check State Statutes for what procedures need followed. The Area Plan Commission and the Commissioners should put a committee together to discuss what needs revisited.

Building Inspector Kenny Buening, in the past week, completed 22 building inspections, issued 11 new building permits and plan reviews, 2 building permit renewal and issued 2 red tags- one for a commercial building which didn't have a lighted EXIT sign above exit door nor the motion hardware- doesn't lock from the inside- on an exit door; the other red tag was issued for not having hurricane straps nor truss screws on a detached garage. Kenny received several questions from builders on different code requirements on roof sheeting and edge clips and distances. He and Ms Duvall are researching whether a freezer being installed on a commercial lot requires a construction design approval. Kenny has contacted Sheriff Durant about unlicensed vehicles on a property and he hasn't sent any letters to property owners yet.

Commissioners tabled **Link's Tavern Request for Use of Facilities** for a benefit ride on August 27th and 28th since the dollar amount on the Certificate of Liability Insurance was below the required \$1,000,000 limit.

Mr Emsweller moved to approve the transfer of the **Health Department's 2010 Jeep Liberty** to the **IT Department**. Mr Buening seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Emsweller moved to approve a three-year agreement with **Dossett Consulting LLC**, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Dossett Consulting prepares claims to the State for recovery of funds due the County from the Federal and State of Indiana governments pertaining to **Indiana Department of Child Services**.

Decatur County Recorder Dottie Robbins advised Commissioners her office will be open for searchers only on August 10th as she and her staff will be attending a District Meeting.

The Commissioners next meeting will be August 15th, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.

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

Attest: _____

Date: _____