

**Commissioners Meeting**  
**August 21, 2023**

**Present: Mark Koors, Jeremy Pasel and Tony Blodgett**

President Koors welcomed everyone to the Commissioners' August 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

Bill Meyerrose led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; Pastor Ray Sweet then offered a prayer.

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

Mr Pasel moved to approve the August 7<sup>th</sup> minutes, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Blodgett moved to approve the claims, Mr Pasel seconded, and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Blodgett moved to approve Payroll for August 4<sup>th</sup>, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred; Mr Blodgett then moved to approve the August 18<sup>th</sup> Payroll, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

**Highway Superintendent Todd Houk** told Commissioners the **CCMG-22 paving projects** on County Roads 700 West, 500 North, 350 West and 420 West are completed; crews are working on County Road 300 North, between County Roads 400 East and 950 East. Bridges on County Road 1000 W and County Road 950 East are being prepped for membranes. The replacement project for Bridge 236- East Central Avenue- is progressing; the City of Greensburg is replacing sidewalks from the bridge out to the High School, as part of this project. **County Attorney Chad Smith** presented Commissioners with the Dust Pad Agreement for any property owner wishing to share costs- 50/50 -with the County; Mr Houk will calculate costs before work is done to give to the property owner so they have the option to agree or not. Mr Pasel made a motion to approve the agreement, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Pasel moved to approve the **Payment Application #11, \$292,475.21**, submitted by GM Development for the new County Highway Department. Mr Blodgett seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. This pay app will be forwarded to the **Decatur County Redevelopment Commission** to issue payment. Mr Blodgett moved to approve Strand and Associates' invoice for \$7,980 for July's construction services for the Highway Garage Final Design and Construction Services. Mr Pasel seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

In the past 2 weeks, **County Building Inspector Kenny Buening** completed 52 building inspections, issued 8 new building permits with plan reviews and 7 building permits were renewed. Mr Buening is working on expired building permits, then calling property owners to let them know. He did a drive through at Lake McCoy; he did speak to a resident who was working on cleaning up the property. He told Commissioners **Washington Township Trustee Beverly Rivera** has a formal bid to remove houses on the properties which Washington Township owns at Lake McCoy. South, so no letter will be sent.

**County Clerk Janet Howell and Election Deputy Patrici Louagie** told the Commissioners the Marion Township Advisory Board member Gretchen Stone has resigned due to moving out of Marion Township. The Democratic Chairman did not fill the position within 30 days, so now the Commissioners will need to appoint someone and no political party affiliation is required for their appointment. Mr Koors will contact Marion Township Trustee Elizabeth Fry for any recommendations. Mrs Howell presented a quote of \$1,072.73 from **Levensteins Abbey Flooring** to replace the carpet where sliding shelves were removed in the Clerk's Office. Mr Blodgett moved to approve this invoice be paid out of the Cumulative Capital Development Fund. Mr Pasel seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

**Area Plan Director Krista Duvall** presented the Friend alley closure petition that was tabled at the Commissioners' August 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr Blodgett moved to approve **Ordinance 2023-8**, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Ms Duvall has mailed the draft of the water drainage ordinance to the Area Plan Commission, the Tech Review Committee and the Commissioners for review and comments. The water drainage ordinance will go before the APC at their September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr Pasel moved to approve County **Ordinance 2023-13b** which amends the school zone speed limit to 25 miles per hour when children are present; Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. This school zone speed limit is located on County Road 420 West for South Decatur Elementary.

Mr Pasel moved to approve the **Health Services Agreement with Southern Health Partners** providing necessary health care for inmates of the Detention Center; Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. The base cost is \$208,380 for a 12-month period.

The discussion of ending health insurance coverage for the County Council and Commissioners was reopened with Mr Koors restating the health Insurance Committee only recommended eliminating insurance as each Commissioner or Council person's term ended . Current Third-Party Administrator (TPA) Dunn and Associates is recommending giving a stipend in the range of \$10,000 to \$12,000 in lieu of insurance. The discussion has now evolved to include the County Coroner and County Surveyor as some also see those positions as part-time. Elected officials are not required to track hours worked and are on-call 24/7; so, what classifies as part-time? Coroner Doug Banks asked would a stipend be taxed. Surveyor Andy Scholle stated he's 1 of 5 lowest paid surveyors in Indiana. Democratic Chairman Chris Ramey said he can't get candidates to run and feels it would be worse if health insurance was not an option. Mr Pasel shared Mr Ramey's concern about attracting future quality candidates, so he isn't looking to completely do away with health insurance for Council, Commissioners, Coroner and Surveyor and would like to see more information about a health insurance stipend. Mr Pasel moved to table this health insurance discussion to the next Commissioners' meeting on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr Blodgett seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel shared information from Adult Probation Officer Matt Hoeing about a money shortfall in the **Court Services** health insurance appropriation. Mr Koors said there would be a shortfall in 2024 not 2023 and Council has told Mr Hoeing he need to rearrange his budget. Commissioners decided to leave it be for now.

The future of the current Highway Department facility was the next topic. In 2022 the Commissioners decided to sell that property and use the proceeds toward paying the County's share of the new facility. Mr Pasel said EMA is needing a storage building, Animal Control needs space as does the coroner, so he believes remodeling the current facility is cheaper than building new for those departments. Mr Blodgett said Community Corrections needs more space due to the County's 3 Courts and programs; also, the Sheriff needs a building for evidence storage. Mr Koors said there is some parties interested in buying the current facility.

Mr Pasel is working is Mr Smith, County Attorney, on a social media policy for the Commissioners' Facebook page.

**EDC Director Bryan Robbins** reported he had a good meeting with IEDC; held business retention meetings and again asked for ideas as project options to prep for READI 2.0 submission. Mr Robbins and Greensburg Mayor Josh March will be traveling to Japan in November to visit Japanese businesses who employ many in Decatur County, such as Gecom, Reasonac, Honda, Nipro and their suppliers. Mr Robbins did extend an invitation to 1 member of County Government; the plane ticket could be \$7,500 or more plus lodging putting the estimated cost for one person \$10,000 to \$12,000. Commissioners do pay/support the EDC \$60,000 annually, but aren't seeing any businesses coming to the County outside of Greensburg.

Mr Koors read a letter from the Bread of Life thanking the Commissioners and Council members for their donation in memory of Marilyn Thackery, Auditor Chadwell's mother.

**Greensburg-Decatur County Chamber of Commerce Director Dawn Lowe** thanked Mr Koors for attending the Century Award to the Chamber at the Statehouse.

County Recorder Dottie Robbins thanked the Commissioners for tabling the health insurance as elected officials are more than part-time employees.

Mr Blodgett announced there is a meeting next Tuesday at Lake McCoy with IDEM.

Doug Banks asked about a \$12,000 quote from Cameron's to trim trees around the Courthouse; Mr Koors will do some checking with other vendors.

**The Commissioners next meeting will be at 6:00 pm on September 5, 2023.**

With nothing else to come before the Commissioners, Mr Pasel made the motion to recess, Mr Blodgett seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. Meeting recessed.

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

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