

Commissioners Meeting

August 7, 2023

Present: Mark Koors, Jeremy Pasel and Tony Blodgett

President Koors welcomed everyone to the Commissioners' August 7th 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.

Dana Parker led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; Mr Koors then offered a prayer.

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

The meeting minutes for July 17th incorrectly stated that Mr Koors recused himself in voting to award **Dave O'Mara Contractors** the **Community Crossings Grant 2023-1**, Mr Koors concurred in that vote. Also, Mr Koors did recuse himself when awarding the bid for FOB – furnished and applied. Also, in that meeting Mr Pasel made motion to accept the FOB bid submitted **Globe Asphalt** and Mr Blodgett seconded the motion. Mr Pasel moved to approve the July 17th minutes as corrected, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel made a motion to approve the claims, Mr Blodgett seconded, and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to approve Payroll for August 4th, Mr Blodgett seconded, and Mr Koors concurred.

Todd Houk, Highway Superintendent, reported the State Road 46 bridge project, just east of the Highway Garage, was completed ahead of schedule which should take the extra traffic off of County Roads 100 South, 200 South, 350 East and East Base Road. County Road 100 South had the most wear/damage but it is on the 'to pave' list so it's all works out. **INDOT** videoed the existing condition County Road 350 East and East Base Road before the State Road 46 East project was started; so, they will return to video the 'after' condition. **INDOT**, Mr Houk and the Commissioners will meet to determine a dollar amount needed to 'put the roads back to the previous condition'. The **CCMG-22 paving projects** on County Roads 700 West, 500 North, 350 West and 420 West are completed. Two waterproof membranes will be installed/placed as part of the continuing bridge maintenance on a bridge on County Road 700 West and County Road 200 just past Vandalia Road; also, bridges on County Road 1000 W and County Road 950 East are being prepped for membranes. He checked with other counties regarding crops blocking 'line of sight' at intersections and roadsides and learned Rush County doesn't mow roadsides and Shelby County has the same issues but so far, those landowners are mowing their roadsides. Property owners who Mr Houk has contacted have taken care of the mowing. Mr Houk received a request for the Highway Department to 'put down a dust pad' and was given an old 'dust pad agreement' between property owner and the county to share the costs fifty-fifty. Commissioners tabled this discussion to allow time for County Attorney Chad Smith to review the agreement. The replacement project for Bridge 236- East Central Avenue- is underway; the City of Greensburg is doing the adjacent sidewalks as part of this project. **INDOT's** road count for County Road 150 West showed 589 cars a day, with an average speed of 26-34 miles per hour and there were around 40 cars traveling 42 plus miles per hour later that evening. Traffic peaked at 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. **Bridge 70**, on County Road 50 North, needs to be repaired or closed per a preliminary Bridge Inspection report and **INDOT**. County Road 50 North was used as a 'run around' while replacing Bridge 73 on County Road 150 North, between 950 East and 850 East; then maybe permanently closing Bridge 70. Residents impacted by the proposed closure should be contacted before a final decision is made. Replacing Bridge 70 is estimated to cost \$2.5 million which would be a Federal Aid project with the 80/20 cost sharing plus if realignment is needed, that would drive up the costs. Mr Houk prefers if Commissioners choose to replace Bridge 70 to do it in-house. Mr Blodgett moved to close Bridge 70 and post "Dead End Road" signs to be compliant with **INDOT** but keep the bridge in the inventory giving Mr Houk time to investigate costs to repair it. Mr Pasel seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. Andy Seiding with **John Deere** answered the Commissioners' questions on purchasing new road graders versus buying the current 2 graders. The road graders are on a 3-year lease which has been renewed, making it a 6-year lease. Mr Seiding stated an option is to go to a 5-year lease on new graders. Commissioners agreed buying out the lease makes sense, but Mr Houk will need to budget for PM (preventive maintenance). Westside Tractor Sales representative suggested the Commissioners budget more for long-term for purchasing new graders because when time comes to replace these graders that will be 10 years of pricing difference. Mr Blodgett moved to purchase the current graders' lease, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Commissioners need to purchase lease by late October. Mr Pasel moved to adopt **Ordinance 2023-13** setting a school speed limit at South Decatur Elementary. Mr Blodgett seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Blodgett moved to approve paying **Pay App #10- \$478,007.06- to GM Development** which will be sent to the **Decatur County Redevelopment Commission** for payment. Mr Pasel seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. The new Highway Department is currently under-budget and should be ready to move into by mid-October.

County Building Inspector Kenny Buening completed 62 building inspections, issued 23 new building permits with plan reviews, renewed 5 building permits in the past two weeks. Mr Buening visited 3 properties after receiving complaints: 1st complaint stated property owner remodeling a barn, adding living quarters which property owner stated he is not adding living quarters nor a bathroom; 2nd complaint- abandoned house, which had a sticker from a mortgage company showing house was winterized in July, 2023 and the plumbing was turned off and it did not look uninhabitable; 3rd complaint- he did not find any trash at a property on County Road 150 South, so no letter will be sent. Mr Buening did a follow-up on the property in St Omer. Property owner asked for an extension of time to remove the old tires so he could take those to the September 9th Tox-Away Day- and move the vehicles from property. Commissioners agreed the tires and vehicles must be gone from that property by September 16th, 2023 (1 week after Tox-Away Day) He will send a letter informing property owner of September 16th deadline. Mr Blodgett suggested assigning a case number to each complaint received by Mr Buening due to the increasing number of complaints and tracking those. A property owner in Burney told Mr Buening he doesn't think he deserved the letter from him. Mr Buening visited the Robert Sullivan property to check to see if a garage is being constructed; then visited a property on County Road 500 South off of East State Road 46 to find 2 trailers and a camper by the railroad. The tenant on the Smith property on County Road 850 South has not make any progress in removing the vehicles from property; the property owner has been served, so **County Attorney Chad Smith** will file a lawsuit next Monday or Tuesday stating the property would be cleaned up and those associated costs would be added to the property tax.

Parks and Recreation Director Teresa Kovacich updated the Commissioners on the storm damage on July 1st at the County Park: several trees were down, more need to be taken down and one tree fell on the house occupied by Jody Biddinger. Quotes to repair the house were higher than the insurance agreed to. The total claim sits at \$49,053 right now (house, replacing swing set and green tunnel and remove some trees). Seven trees were also down blocking the Walking Trail. Mr Pasel made a motion to pay the \$10,000 deductible out of the Cumulative Capital Development Fund. Mr Blodgett seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

Human Resources Director Patty Hensley reported there were 3 new hires in July: 1 at the Highway Department, 1 at the Detention Center and 1 at Animal Control. The plans are to release the new logo and the new county website sometime in October. Indiana Wire completed moving the Election Cage to the center of the east part of the basement. Mrs Hensley thanked the Highway Department workers with helping move file cabinets, files, etc. to make way for the election cage; a lot of items went to the recycling at the Fairgrounds. A new agreement with **Shares Recycling** provides large totes to be placed in the Courthouse for recycling and electronics as part of keeping the basement in better shape.

Mr Blodgett reopened the discussion of ending health insurance coverage to include the Surveyor and Coroner along with the County Council and Commissioners. Mr Koors spoke to Dunn and Associates' Cathy Dunn and Greg Fox about giving a stipend in the range of \$12,000 in lieu of insurance. Mr Pasel feels the ability to eliminate spouses of the elected officials should be included in the health insurance discussion. Commissioners are not opposed to other options.

Rick Anderson of Veregy will present numbers/costs for the energy cost-savings project at the Court Services/Annex Building at the Commissioners' September meeting.

Property owners Richard Friend and Cathy Taylor had petitioned to vacate an alley between 2 of their properties (Lot 11 and Pt Lot 6 O P in Milford). This petition was tabled at the Commissioners' June 19th meeting. Donald Carter, an adjoining property owner, had objected at the June 19th meeting and wasn't notified of this being on today's agenda so he could attend. Mr Pasel stated Mr Friend is responsible to notify Mr Carter this petition will be on the Commissioners' August 21st agenda. Mr Friend said he would hand deliver a letter to Mr Carter.

Greensburg-Decatur County Chamber of Commerce Director Dawn Lowe reported the Chamber's 38th Golf Outing on August 4th was a big success with 345 supporting businesses. She will be attending a

recognition ceremony to accept the **Century Award** for the Greensburg/Decatur County Chamber of Commerce at the Indiana Statehouse on August 9th.

EDC Director Bryan Robbins is working to finish up the EDC agreement with the battery energy storage group. He asked for the County's list of priorities of projects for the READI 2.0 to take to meetings in preparation to submit for funding. Projects not funded from the READI 1.0 submission will most likely be at the top of the READI 2.0 list.

Mr Blodgett reported he and Bryan Robbins toured Lake McCoy with a realtor. He met with 10 – 12 residents on August 6th, had a good conversation about the trailer park and unsafe buildings. He also was told IDEM are the case handlers for the waste treatment facility and they listed Lake McCoy Conservancy as defendants; also, per the State Board of Accounts (SBOA) and the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) the Conservancy cannot spend their funds on the waste treatment plant.

The Commissioners next meeting will be at 8:00 am on August 21, 2023.

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

Attest: _____

Date: _____