

Commissioners Meeting

July 1, 2024

Present: Mark Koors, Jeremy Pasel and Tony Blodgett

Mr Koors opened the July 1 Commissioners meeting by welcoming everyone; he then announced Title VI forms are available for anyone who would like to fill them out and turn them in at the Auditor's office.

Todd Houk led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a prayer was offered by Commissioner Mark Koors.

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

There was one correction to the June 17 meeting minutes. In discussion of Ordinance 2024-9 (alcohol ban ordinance), Mr Pasel noted that a violation would be an *infraction*, instead of a *Class B Misdemeanor* infraction.

Mr Pasel moved to approve the June 17 meeting minutes; Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to approve the \$372, 780.53 June 21 payroll, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Blodgett commented that there were some work from home hours documented. This included 2 employees, one with 6 hours and the other with 12 hours.

Mr Blodgett noted a past due balance on the mowing claim & made a point that the War Memorial was looking grown up and not taken care of. Mr Blodgett made a request to ask about the issues of weeding and trimming the War Memorial when asking about the past due balance before making any payments. Patty Hensley, HR, also noted she has reached out three times to the company regarding the War Memorial.

Mr Koors questioned a highway department claim made to Bobcat of Indy for several reoccurring charges of \$7,395 and \$4,407.10. Mr Houk, Highway Department, stated that this was an internal misfiling mistake from the first of the year of a monthly, reoccurring charge for rental of equipment. The amount of claims this period was to catch up and get the account current.

Mr Pasel had a question on the GOVCONNECTION claim for \$44, 904.71. He noted after looking at the claim, this was for a Microsoft Licensing fee. Josh Tressler, IT, was present and noted that this is an annual charge for updates, but the amount will likely increase next year. Mr Koors confirmed that this is not something that is paid for from IT's budget, but the Commissioner's budget.

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

Highway Superintendent Todd Houk reported crews are grading roads, pothole patching, and mowing & bush whacking on the county roads. Several calls have come into the department regarding line of sight issues and this is only going to get worse as the corn gets taller. Mr Houk also commented that there is a mason that typically works on the stone arch bridges currently out by the cemetery near East Street (Bridge 237) doing some work. The CCMG grant did not max out on the first call for the chip & seal; there is about a half million left on the grant and Mr Houk and Mr Ortman are currently working on 2024-2 for a 2 million dollar grant. Crews are also completing shoulder work on 200 W near the highway department. Lastly, Mr Houk noted he is working on the draft contract to INDOT for Bridge 141, this will be in review by INDOT to make sure all numbers align and will be presented to commissioners soon, the quarterly reports for INDOT are due this month to INDOT & Mr Houk is working on completing the 2025 highway budget.

The CCMG and fuel bids were presented after being taken under advisement from the last meeting. For CCMG, Evergreen Roadworks LLC came in at \$1, 527, 700.90, Pavement Solutions Inc at \$1, 443, 151.70 and Globe Asphalt at \$1, 604, 397.30. All bids included proper paperwork and were in order. Mr Pasel questioned the research behind Evergreen and Pavement Solutions, as Globe Asphalt has been the company typically used in the past. Mr Houk reassured that from multiple professional resources both companies do a good job, as well as Globe Asphalt. Mr Pasel made a motion to accept the bid for Pavement Solutions, being the low bid of \$1, 443, 151.70. Mr Blodgett seconded, Mr Koors concurred.

There was only one fuel bid received, that of Premier Ag. Mr Pasel made a motion to accept the Premier Ag bid as presented, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Blodgett noted that last year a Line of Sight Ordinance was in the works so that when crews went out to mow these areas, there was an ordinance that supported the job. Chad Smith, County Attorney, stated that this ordinance is in the works, but got pushed back due to more pressing issues, but will have it ready at the next meeting.

Mr Pasel asked Mr Houk to confirm the total miles of roads for the county. Mr Houk stated from memory there are 636 total miles of road including roughly 73 gravel, 2 concrete, 1 unimproved and 561 asphalt.

In the past 2 weeks, **County Building Inspector Kenny Buening** completed 28 building inspections and 7 inspections completed by Krista Duvall while Mr Buening was out on vacation; 15 new building permits with plan reviews were issued and one permit renewal was approved. There was one red tag issued for not having GFI receptacles in a bathroom and kitchen and no smoke detectors. The homeowner contacted the electrician and the issues were corrected and a certificate of occupancy was issued. Several nuisance properties at Lake McCoy are being cleaned up and while visiting Lake McCoy, a property owner showed Mr Buening a property where there was a sink hole where a trailer was buried. The property owner was concerned that there needed to be more dirt to fill the hole. Mr Buening was going to contact the Washington Township Trustee to possibly correct the issue. Mr Buening also stated that a burn house is being cleaned up and brought up that he needed to find out if the properties that letters were sent to were going to be on the Tax Sale and if this was a concern before being handed over to Chad Smith, county attorney. Mr Blodgett stated that we should wait and see what happens at the Tax Sale for those specific properties before moving forward. Mr Buening will get with the Treasurer to confirm if any properties are included in the sale. Mr Buening stated he still plans on visiting Burney to speak with some property owners about their progress. Mr Blodgett questioned the previously mentioned sink hole property at Lake McCoy and if it was on township owned property. Mr Buening thought the buried trailer was on a site that was recently sold by the township but wasn't sure whose responsibility it was to correct this issue of the sink hole. Mr Pasel posed the same question & also questioned when this trailer was buried. Mr Buening will find out if the property was sold or if it is still owned by the township and if so, if a trailer was buried during their cleanup. Mr Koors added thoughts that only clean up happened during Washington Township's work and nothing was buried.

Sheriff Bill Meyerrose will speak at the next meeting on a compressor for the jail. Mr Koors stated that the current compressor at the jail has been replaced once already and that the Sheriff is going to check on a warranty on the current one or if we need to go to a different brand.

Philip Deiwert, Visit Greenburg, came to the Commissioners to discuss the Summer Concert Series and the policy and procedure that should be followed with the recent Alcohol Ordinance. The upcoming concert dates are: Friday, July 19, Saturday, August 24 and Saturday, September 28. The current *Request for Use of Facilities Form* on the county website only refers to the courthouse grounds and not the parks. Mr Deiwert also questioned proof of insurance, since his department is a county agency, or if additional insurance is going to be needed. Mr Pasel asked if a statement of insurance is being collected from vendors participating in these events, Mr Deiwert stated historically they have not collected insurance from vendors. Mr Pasel made a request that a proof of insurance is something that should be done in the future for vendors participating in these events. Mr Pasel commented that the Request for Use of Facilities Form will get updated, but in the meantime to use the current one available by crossing out Courthouse and replacing it with the Park. Mr Koors noted that the park insurance most likely does not cover the use of alcohol since alcohol is prohibited in the parks. Therefore, insurance will be needed to cover the alcohol portions of these events.

Minde Myers, Animal Control came to the Commissioners with invoices that need to be paid from the large animal seizure several weeks ago and she is not sure where these invoices need to be paid from. In May, Animal Control seized 81 goats and 4 horses from someone in the county. These animals are now under the daily care of Animal Control and there are feed, vet and boarding bills that are stacking up. Miss Myers stated that the original owner did not pay their bond and the total amount owed for the month is roughly \$7,800-\$7,900. Miss Myers was under the impression that if the owners did not pay their bond within 10 days (June 14) that the animals become county property. County Attorney Chad Smith noted that a *cause of action* has been filed and that there is a statute regarding the posting of a bond for care. The owners have hired an attorney, and this is now a matter of the prosecutor's office and not the county. A motion to seize has been filed and this case is continued to July 22, 2024. Since the prosecutor's office has agreed to the continuance, the 10-day seizure mentioned earlier can't happen and we (county/Animal Control) have to make it to July 22 to determine which direction this is going to go. Miss Myers stated that the animals are not in good condition and that this situation was handled by the State Veterinarian to determine the body score of the animal to then leave up to the local Animal Control if the animals would be brought into our care. Regarding funding, Mr Pasel asked if the *sheep escrow account* was still available. Chad Smith reassured the commissioners that those funds are now ours (county) and could possibly be used. This account totals \$4,950. Miss Myers has contacted the Humane Society of the United States about a possible grant to cover some of these funds and was successful in being awarded a grant of \$4,700 to help cover the first month. Mr Blodgett asked if the funds in *Animal Control Restricted and Un Restricted* donations could be used for this matter. Miss Myers was under the impression that these funds are used for *shelter animals* only. Both Mr Pasel and Mr Blodgett noted that with \$4,700 being awarded from the grant and \$4,950 coming from the sheep escrow account we should have enough to cover the first month. The commissioner's requested that a sale needs to be lined up for July 22, so

we are prepared if the animals are determined our property, we can get them somewhere before more monthly charges start accumulating. Miss Myers also stated that there is roughly a \$500 donation from the sheep seizure that could also be applied toward this situation. Mr Blodgett made a motion that once the \$4,700 grant has been applied to the first month bills, we then use the sheep escrow account to pay for the balance of the month, Mr Pasel seconded, Mr Koors concurred.

Josh Tressler, IT brought a lease agreement to enter into for IT systems and equipment. Mr Tressler discussed this matter previously with the County Council about the budget process and how this lease agreement would work. Mr Tressler stated that IT was looking into replacing their core structure equipment at the end of 2025 and into 2026. At the end of 2023 the main software vendor used for all equipment was purchased by a global company and prices would increase 400-500% just for the software licenses alone. The final, executable lease agreement was received earlier in the week to sign by the President of the Commissioners along with a witness with signature authority. This will be a 3-year lease with semi-annual payments to help with budgeting. Mr Koors questioned if the current equipment was paid out and Mr Tressler re-assured that it was. Mr Pasel added that fiscally this contract is the right move and both Mr Koors and Mr Blodgett agreed. Mr Pasel made a motion to enter into the contract, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Commissioner Jeremy Pasel stated that at the last Commissioner's Meeting a draft of the **proposed Fair Committee by-laws** would be released to receive some feedback and input from the public. After being publicly displayed, Mr Blodgett received a question if there would be an application or interviews to apply for this committee. Though there is no "application," Mr Pasel does have a list of several names for consideration. Mr Blodgett noted that a resume would be beneficial to have for some background information on the interested parties and to make sure the right individuals are being chosen for the position. Christopher Ramey, current committee member, noted that there was a question from Facebook on if the money would still be run through the county, Mr Pasel re-assured that it would be. Lastly, Mr Ramey noted there was nothing else but positive comments regarding this matter. Mr Pasel will make a few alterations based on the discussion and a vote can be taken on the matter at the next meeting.

Port-a-Let bids for the 2024 Decatur County Fair were opened; there were 2 total bids. Port-a-Lets Sanitation turned in a total bid of \$2, 450 which included 20 units to be cleaned daily. The second bid, including proof of insurance, came from Mozingo Sanitation totaling \$4,600 for 20 units, cleaned daily and including hand sanitizer. Mr Koors questioned if the advertisement for port-a-let bids included a copy of insurance to be obtained. There was no recall. Mr Blodgett offered we reach out to Port-a-Lets Sanitation, being that the bid was significantly lower, and ask for a copy of insurance. So long as Port-a-Lets Sanitation agreed to provide a copy of insurance, Mr Pasel moved to accept the bid, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Annex repairs and improvements- Mr Pasel stated a number of problems have occurred with the HVAC system at the annex and the commissioners have discussed this topic quite some time; it is time to make movement on these issues. It appears the HVAC system is aging significantly and needs repair. Mr Blodgett felt that we needed to improve the units as they go out and start working on a larger project of parking and asphalt. Mr Pasel agreed that parking needed to be addressed as well as the HVAC and windows. Mr Koors offered the county get quotes, but Mr Blodgett noted a scope of work should probably be completed first and then price windows/HVAC. Mr Pasel added that asphalt would be beneficial where there is currently gravel around the annex. Mr Blodgett agreed but noted that EMA is still working on getting a building, which TIF is currently taking under consideration, and this gravel lot was an option for placement of the building. Mr Blodgett stated that the front end of the building and parking could be seen as Phase 1, including movement of the sign closer to the street with all departments in the annex listed, and HVAC and windows could be Phase 2 and complete this as a 3 Phase Project. Mr Pasel stated that starting out, he would like to see a bid be required to replace the required HVAC units and Mr Blodgett stated that EMA is currently in the process of this. Mr Koors noted that in the process of getting these quotes, the units need to be placed on the ground and off the roof for accessibility reasons, but agreed we need to get moving on the issue. Mr Blodgett added we need to get in touch with an architect first, as we should have a drawing before moving forward. Mr Pasel stated we need to get designs for the parking lot and then quotes for the HVAC companies, Mr Blodgett added that then we can then put out for GC's for the windows and building. Mr Koors offered to reach out to HWC regarding the matter and have a possible plan of action from them for the next meeting.

Commissioner Tony Blodgett gave an update on the **Solar Eclipse Event** & the assistance from the Power of the Past. Mr Blodgett thanked and applauded the work the Power of the Past did with the event. Through the agreement with the Power of the Past, the county agreed to pay all expenses from the event and the remainder would go to the Power of the Past for their services and work. Currently, there is \$8,171.91 in the account and the only expense that is left is electric and water. Mr Blodgett is not sure how these expenses need to be divvied up and after calculating differences in these utilities, there is a \$227 difference in electric between April and May and \$100 for the water bill. Mr Pasel offered that a total of \$327 be subtracted from the remaining balance (\$8,171.91-

\$327 = \$7,844.91). Mr Blodgett noted that Tourism also put funds aside for this event and Mr Deiwert added that yes, \$5,000 was donated with \$1,700 being left over to be transferred to the Power of the Past. It was decided that the Power of the Past invoice Tourism for \$1,700 to get a claim paid for their services from the event. Mr Blodgett made a motion that the Commissioner's pay the Power of the Past for their efforts in running the Solar Eclipse Event, requested by public safety, to make this a \$0 event for the county, Mr Pasel seconded, and Mr Koors concurred.

Kim Carpenter, Power of the Past, brought to the board an update of adding a vendor with alcohol for their event (August 14-18, 2024). Ms Carpenter was asking approval from the Commissioner's on this vendor having alcohol and confirmed that the community building at the fairgrounds will be the location of the vendor and all alcohol consumed at the event will take place in this building. Ms Carpenter noted that The Beach Tiki Bar is the vendor and they will be paying the excise tax. The Power of the Past took out an extra insurance policy due to the addition of the alcohol vendor and this vendor is also providing their proof of insurance. Mr Koors noted that the fairgrounds insurance liability was raised from 1 million to 5 million and requested that the Power of the Past should consider the same. Mr Blodgett questioned if the alcohol ordinance covered the fairgrounds since it is not park property. Mr Koors added that alcohol at the fairgrounds is approved by the Extension Office and wouldn't be part of the ordinance. Mr Pasel concluded he foresees no issues with this addition and procedure. Ms Carpenter re-assured that there would be extra restrooms in place for this and the Commissioners thanked the Power of the Past for a job well done in April with the Solar Eclipse Event.

Safe Streets for All- Commissioner, Jeremy Pasel stated that he is waiting for the exact number, but it is around \$38,000 for the county portion toward this study. Once this number is received, the Commissioners can vote on being a member of the Safe Streets 4 All study which is a highway improvement study between Greensburg/Decatur County, Rushville/Rush County and as North as New Castle/Henry County. Mr Blodgett noted that he discussed the study with the ARPA committee, but there is no exact number of the funds that are left. ARPA meets again on July 23, 2024. Mr Pasel noted that he would like to see capital improvement projects, Animal Control and the Park Road Project be considered first for use of ARPA funds.

ARPA/Pool Property- Commissioner Blodgett mentioned that pickle ball courts would be a good option to put in place of the pool property and that adding a parking lot in place of the current pool would be a disservice to the Parks Department. Therefore, Mr Blodgett stated his first priority would be to use ARPA funds to create an event or activity space in place of the current pool property. The pickle ball courts are a hit right now, and additional ones would be a great asset. Mr Pasel wants to be sure something is done with a higher need and net positive of the community. Mr Blodgett agreed and noted he really wanted to see ARPA funds be used toward the Parks and Recreation Department, but this is still an ARPA conversation. Commissioner Blodgett questioned Commissioner Koors if certain parties were still interested in demoing the pool, or there was also talk of the highway department completing the task. Mr Koors stated demolition would be a quick, possibly 2 day, project. Teresa Kovacich, Parks and Recreation added that the current building could stay in place and be used for future projects.

County Financial Review- Representatives from three different firms were present at the meeting to offer their services for a county financial review.

Paige Sansome, Baker and Tilly Advisory Group offered a scope of services for a financial review with an independent analysis as it is currently. Baker Tilly would take a 3 year look back at the county's financial position and really focus on receipts, disbursements and fund balances. The firm would look at trends and what has happened in the past and look at projection through 2026. Baker Tilly would look at 13 of the county's major funds with a cost up to \$25,000. This financial analysis would be a great foundation for any capital planning, according to Sansome. The turnaround time of the review would be 4-6 weeks after signing the agreement, with an option of a comprehensive plan in the future at an additional cost.

Jerry Hickman, Reidy Financial Group offered a similar plan to Baker Tilly. Their big picture project would be 3 historical years to review with income like statements/cash balances as a starting threshold including the budget year for 2024 through June 30. Five future years starting with 2025 would be included, in addition there would be multiple sections including cash and cash reserve policies within certain funds. Levy calculations projected into the future would also be included. The cost for this review would be \$15,000-\$20,000, including an initial meeting, with other additional services being offered at a cost. Reidy Financial does offer a fixed support contract for \$60,000, or a negotiable price, including 4 meetings, a copy of the entire plan in a binder and assisting with the entire budget process. The turnaround time on this financial review would be 3-4 weeks after receiving the fund material and recourses.

Jeff Peters, Peters & Franklin presented a fiscal analysis with similar components to the other two, including a 3 year historical period, the current year of 2024 through 2027. This review would include the same funds as Baker Tilly

with an addition of the Redevelopment Commission funds. Peters & Franklin will build in a small capital improvement plan with each initial analysis. This creates a great public policy document for the public to see where their tax dollars are going to. Included in this plan would also be the projection of the income taxes and different impacts of those monies as they flow through. Peters & Franklin is a small firm, but they accommodate their clients the best they can. The turnaround time for this would be a couple of months going into budget season, but the company would have a review done by the requested time of the county. The cost of this analysis would not exceed \$24,000.

Mr Pasel requested the group of Commissioner’s look through these documents and discuss again at the next meeting.

Request for Use of Facilities- Dennis Fogle with the **Fall Festival** was present and he stated that the festival will take place on Thursday, September 19 - Sunday morning, September 22, 2024. Mr Fogle sent to HR the required certificates of insurance for both this event and an event for the fairgrounds. Mr Pasel moved to approve the request for use of facilities for the Fall Festival September 19-22, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Bryan Robbins, EDC informed the board there is a meeting on July 18 & all commissioners are invited.

Krista Duvall, Area Plan Director, informed the board that there is no BZA meeting this month and there is a public meeting with the BZA and RWE Solar on August 7th. There is nothing from last month for the commissioners to approve and there is no progress on the Schabel property- this will be included in the next meeting as no property survey has been signed at this time.

With nothing else to come before the Commissioners, Mr Blodgett moved to adjourn, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Meeting adjourned.

The next Commissioner’s meeting will be July 15, 2024, beginning at 8:00 AM in Room 106.

Attest: _____

Date: _____