

## Commissioners Meeting

April 15, 2024

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

President Koors opened the Commissioners' April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting by 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.

Todd Houk led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; then Pastor Jay Vanderbur offered a prayer.

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

Mr Pasel questioned the April 1<sup>st</sup> minutes stating the requested dollar amount by Court Services Director Matt Hoeing was \$40,335, not the \$45,345 as reflected in the minutes. Auditor Chadwell stated the \$45,345 was taken from the recording. Mr Pasel moved to approve the minutes, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. (Note: Auditor Chadwell did go back and listen again to the recording, Mr Pasel was correct)

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

Mr Blodgett moved a motion to approve the April 12<sup>th</sup> payroll, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

**Highway Superintendent Todd Houk** reported Highway crews are still grading gravel roads, ditching, patching, mowing and patching roads. Mr Houk and Assistant Superintendent Tim Ortman are working on a draft for the fuel rebidding. The RFP's have been advertised for the Bridge 141, County Road 1000 West off of County Road 600 South, with a May 9<sup>th</sup> due date for 'letters of intent'. Mr Houk is working Josh Tressler, IT Director, on an affordable GPS tracking system since the current one is outdated. Having the GPS trackers in vehicles and equipment show location of people and equipment which provides a safety net plus a theft locator. Mr Houk does have the budget to cover the costs for the software system which monitors the trackers. The trackers/system would possibly benefit the Sheriff's Department and Animal Control. Mr Blodgett said Commissioners had decided in their August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting last year to temporarily close Bridge 70 as the costs to replace it was \$2,500,000. Mr Houk had told Commissioners in their last meeting the costs to replace that bridge, in-house, would be in the \$300,000 to \$400,000 range. After reviewing budget projected revenues for the next 10 years, Mr Blodgett said Bridge 70 needs to remain temporary closed due to an expected shortfall in revenues for the next 10 years. Commissioners discussed again the 'drop off' issues when roads are widened and paved shoulders are not affordable. Mr Koors said as farm and commercial equipment gets wider, wider roads are needed and there's only so much real estate to work with. Mr Blodgett suggested striping the road edges. He also Mr Ortman's suggestion to start a committee including a Commissioner, Council person and Highway personnel to review projected revenues, bridge and road projects and replacing old equipment and vehicles to formulate a sustainable budget for the next 10 years.

In the past 2 weeks, **County Building Inspector Kenny Buening** has completed 34 building inspections, issued 14 new building permits with plan reviews, 1 permit renewal and 2 red tags - 1 for no carbon monoxide detector in an attached garage of a new home; 1 for an exposed ground wire in a meter base; both red tags have been corrected. He has entered 29 names and properties in his *Burney Complaint* file; next step is to visit each property, take pictures and assess the danger level whether it be trashy nuisance or unsafe structures. He still needs to contact **Washington Township Trustee Beverly Rivera** to meet her at Lake McCoy to check out some trashy properties and possibly properties with hazardous materials. He will also check to see if someone is living in a barn at Lake McCoy per information shared by **Health Department Director Sean Durbin**.

**Area Plan Director Krista Duvall** presented 4 rezoning ordinances for the Commissioners' review. **Ordinance 2024-6, petitioner Donald Volk** requesting to rezone 2.99 acres from A1 to A2 for purposed of constructing a single-family dwelling. The 8 APC member present unanimously approved this petition. Mr Pasel moved to approve Ordinance 2024-6, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. **Ordinance 2024-3, Leising Excavating** petitioned to rezone 16.48 acres from A1 to I1 for future business expansion and this is within Article 12 Industrial Districts and must follow the County's stormwater ordinance. **Ordinance 2023-11, petitioners Barry and Jill Moorman** requesting to rezone 1.5 acres from A1 to A2 for the purpose of building a single-family dwelling. The 6 APC members present unanimously approved this petition. Mr Pasel made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-11, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. **Ordinance 2024-4, petitioner Jason Wagner** requesting to rezone 1.5 acres from A1 to A2 for the purpose of constructing a single-family dwelling. The 8 APC members present unanimously approve this petition. Mr Pasel made a

motion to approve Ordinance 2024-4, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Ms Duvall announced the June 5<sup>th</sup> BZA meeting will be held at the Greensburg High School Auditorium.

**Parks and Recreation Director Teresa Kovacich** told Commissioners the parking at **Rebekkah Park** needs upgraded and **Greensburg's Director of Public Projects Zach Wirrig** added the current design is not safe for kids using the Park. Mr Wirrig said the current design will not accommodate the increased parking needs once Greensburg's walking trails are completed and Greensburg's current trail project does not have funding available at this time to fund any expansion/upgrade for parking. He did say there may some available funding toward the end of the trail project if costs are less than budgeted. He asked Commissioners if they would pick the number of parking places, 45, 79 or 85, from the Trail Packet he handed out earlier. Commissioners agreed the 79 spaces with a \$299,650 cost is the best option for the cost.

**Steve Ruble with Strand Associates** presented *Change Order #1 for the new Highway Garage* project which is a deduction of \$1,082,838.90 from the origin \$11,500,000 not to exceed BOT, leaving the total cost of the project at \$10,417,161.10. He is still waiting on 2 pieces of equipment to be delivered and put in place. Mr Pasel moved to approve Change Order #1, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Koors said GM Development Greg Martz is currently working on finance options and he will present those to the Commissioners in the near future.

**Economic Development Commission Director Bryan Robbins** told Commissioners Greensburg's Stellar Committee still meets to talk about projects, but doesn't plan to apply for the State's Stellar Pathways Program since there are several restrictions besides not qualifying as a low-income community and the match could be up to 40%. The **Accelerate Rural Indiana Region** was awarded **\$30,000,000** from **READI 2.0** last Thursday which is higher than their last award. ARI's READI 2.0 submission included some projects left over from READI 1.0 plus other projects from focus groups. The ARI includes Rush, Shelby and Decatur Counties plus the cities of Batesville, Greensburg, Rushville and Shelbyville. Mr Robbins thanked all for their help and expertise as the group co-operatively tackles larger project. As with most government funding, there is a deadline READI monies must be committed and spent. Mr Blodgett said August is the deadline for commitment for the READI 1.0. **IDEC** will meet with the READI committee in June to select what READI 2.0 projects are most valuable; the Committee hopes to have some input in the selection process.

**Chris Ramey, President of the Friends of Greensburg and Decatur County Animal Shelter**, asked for the Commissioners approval to start a capital campaign for the construction of a new building for the Animal Control as Animal Control has outgrown the space. Mr Ramey does grant writing as a part-time job so he is planning to go for the larger available grants. This capital campaign could take as long as 3 – 5 years since it is one of a few capital projects (Fairgrounds and Pool) in the county.

**Greensburg Mayor Josh Marsh** shared information about the **Federal program - "Safe Streets for All"** – which Rushville has been awarded \$900,000 for a safety analysis of State Highway 3, starting in New Castle and ending at US Highway 421 in Greensburg. Mr Pasel has been involved in this process and hopes the County will partner once the amount of match dollars is made available. Currently there is no commitment to construction by the Federal Highway.

Commissioners had several questions concerning the recent **DORA** (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area) area set by the **Greensburg City Council** on August 11, 2023 and they hadn't been included in any discussions concerning it. Mr Pasel said he has a concern allowing alcoholic beverages in the Rebekah Park while he is not against certain events with a beer garden; Mr Koors is against alcohol around kids. Mr Blodgett stated there are restrictions set by the **Parks and Recreation Department** but Mrs Kovacich isn't sure how to monitor/enforce the no alcohol policy in any of the parks. Mr Blodgett asked about creating an ordinance prohibiting alcoholic beverages on designated properties except when authorized for specific events. Mayor Marsh stated all property owners' rights are retained in the DORA: *ie- the Branch has a sign no alcohol permitted and should someone bring one in, the manager may call City Police to remove those people*. He added any temporary vendor has to obtain permission from whoever is organizing an event and they cannot just show up and start selling whatever. **County Attorney Chad Smith** told Commissioners the State Legislators created a problem when they adopted the bill creating the DORA, but that doesn't allow the Commissioners to adopt an ordinance over riding that, but they may adopt an ordinance not allowing BYOB (bring your own booze) on County property in the DORA. Mr Smith will meet with City Attorney Chris Stephen to determine DORA at Rebekah Park as the Commissioners are property owners of that park.

Mr Blodgett shared his concerns about the construction of a waste treatment facility in Bartholomew County which is expected to spread those biosolids in Ripley, Rush, Decatur and Bartholomew Counties. He wants Decatur County to start the process to block any entity outside of Decatur County to spread those biosolids. Commissioners agreed and asked Mr Smith to create an ordinance to protect people and land in Decatur County.

Mr Blodgett moved to approve the **Kohler Park Agreement Resolution 2024-4**, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred. This resolution authorizes the Decatur County Parks and Recreation Department to use, maintain and improve Kohler Park.

Mr Blodgett moved to approve the 5-year elevator maintenance contract with **Mid-America Elevator Co**, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred. This contract saves the County about \$10,000 over the contract offered by **Otis Elevator**.

Mr Pasel made a motion to enter into an agreement with **Access Medical**, urgent care clinic next to Chili's, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. This agreement offers another option for employees and this clinic is open 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. Pre-employment services, CDL physicals are available at Access Medical. The **Work Well Clinic** is still the County's primary provider.

Mr Pasel moved to reappoint **Ashley Hungate to the Decatur County Contractual Library Board**, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

The Sheriff's Courthouse Security Plan does match the County's current firearms ordinance but not the Personnel Policy, so Mr Blodgett questioned the Commissioners' liability. Mr Smith said there's state statute giving the Sheriff authority to write a Courthouse security plan and the County's Personnel Policy cannot override state statute, so the later needs to be changed.

Commissioners agreed HR's role in our non-elected offices should also include being part of the complaint path process; they will start working on a draft for a policy.

Mr Pasel moved to approve paying the invoice in support for mowing, cleaning, etc at the old landfill, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. (Note- the invoice was for \$3500, but only \$3000 was budgeted)

Mr Blodgett moved to approve paying the \$720 invoice for the check base monitoring alarm system at the new Highway Garage, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

**Technical Director Josh Tressler** asked for the Commissioners' approval to purchase-repurpose a 2014 Ford Explorer from the Greensburg Police Department for transporting equipment between sites, not wanting to haul expensive equipment in personal vehicles. This is not a take home car. The \$3,125 cost is to be split between the Greensburg City Council and the Commissioners' Cum Cap Fund. Mr Blodgett made a motion to approve Mr Tressler's request, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Commissioners approved the disposal/removal of the old 2010 Jeep Liberty to River Metals.

**Visitors, Recreation and Tourism Director Philip Deiwert** thanked everybody for their help/contributing to the success of the Eclipse events. There were about 10,000 visitors in town on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr Blodgett reported there were no taxpayer dollars used on the Eclipse.

With nothing else to come before the Commissioners, Mr Pasel moved to recess, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Metting recessed.

**The next Commissioners meeting will be May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, beginning at 6:00 pm in Room 106.**

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