

**Commissioners Meeting**  
**August 5, 2024**

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

Mr Koors opened the Commissioners' August 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

Danny Peters led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag then Pastor Dennis Spears offered a prayer.

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

Mr Pasel moved to approve the July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes; Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to approve the minutes for the July 22<sup>nd</sup> Executive Session, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

The minutes for the August 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Session stated the reason for the session was a matter of employee relations but the session was for a discussion on property per the Indiana Code stated in the minutes. Mr Pasel moved to approve the amended minutes, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Blodgett questioned the \$1,314.50 claim for transporting 33 head of cattle by the Animal Control Department. Animal Control Director Minde Myers told the Commissioners the owner had surrendered the cattle which were transported to the ABC Farm owned by David Alvey. After some questions and answers, Mr Blodgett moved to approve all of the claims, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Blodgett noted no employee worked from home the past 2 pay periods. Mr Pasel moved to approve the July 19<sup>th</sup> payroll of \$371,658.77, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Pasel then moved to approve the August 2<sup>nd</sup> payroll of \$388,635.74, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Blodgett asked if one's payee's amount included the exempt status payout, yes it does.

**Highway Superintendent Todd Houk** reported crews continue routine maintenance: grader patching, patching holes, sign maintenance, spraying vegetation. The stone shoulders are done on last year's Community Crossings Grant roads. The **2024-1 chip 'n' seal** started today and he has submitted the **2024-2** application for balance of available funding. Mr Houk asked Commissioners to allow the cost of a 'road cut permit' to be raised from \$35 to \$350 to cover the asphalt costs. Typically, it takes 4 inches of asphalt to fill a road cut plus the length of the cut. Mr Blodgett moved to approve the increase to \$350, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Commissioners signed the "notice to proceed" so **Pavement Solutions** can start doing the chip 'n' seal for the 2024-1 road projects. Commissioners also signed the contract with **United Consultants** for the countywide bridge inspection for 2025-2028 as mandated by the Federal Highway. This is an 80/20 grant with the county paying the 20%. There are 180 bridges in the county with an average age of 55 years. Mr Houk and Assistant Tim Ortman suggested the Commissioners apply for **INDOT's Notice of Funding Availability Grant**, just like on Bridge 141, to begin replacing a bridge each year – it will take 5 years to 'get a bridge through the system'. **INDOT** has given Mr Houk the name of a contractor to see how he can help the County get reimbursed from the Railroad who is not wanting to pay/reimburse for damages done to County Road 350 West when they closed both directions of traffic to put in the 'rail spur' to Lowe's in 2022. Mr Pasel asked Mr Houk for a list of everything he uses CINTAS for; Mr Houk's reply was uniforms, safety, 2 x AEDs, eyewash stations; the monthly cost for 2 x AEDs is \$290 with a 3-year contract.

Mr Koors read the emailed report from **County Building Inspector Kenny Buening**: 68 building inspections were completed, 24 new building permits were issued and plan reviews. He received 2 complaints- an extension cord to a pool with kids plugging things into it, but upon inspection the pool is ground-fault with circuit control and did not find any extension cord. The Burney Baptist house has been completely removed; the McKinney house is in the process of being demolished and David Israel claims the house at 1183 South County Road 845 West will be demolished and no word yet from James Moss. This week Mr Buening plans to reinspect properties at Lake McCoy to determine next steps whether to abate those turn them over to County Attorney Chad Smith. The lady with a pool at State Road 3 South will move the pool and deck, get the proper permits, once she speaks to the Health Department to know the required distance from the septic field. Mr Blodgett thanked Area Plan Director Krista Duvall and Administrative Assistant Debbie Martin for the new inspection forms which helps the Commissioners follow what's going on, when it's happening and how it's happening. Ms Duvall said this form is part of a new file

system to help Mr Buening address any phone call or complaint. Mr Pasel made a motion to go ahead and purchase the Ford Explorer for \$5,000 from Court Services to be paid out of Cum Cap, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

**Health Department Director Sean Durbin** shared some updates happening at the Health Department. He presented the Plan to help the County meet the requirements of the **Help First Indiana** initiative, largest grant we've received from the State of Indiana. This grant included an intern provided by the **Indiana Department of Health** through **AmeriCorps** who helped put the Plan together. He highlighted how proud he is of the team at the Health Department: now there is a Population Health Division and an Environmental Health Division. In the last 2 years new people have joined the Department. **Elissa, Environmental Health**, is certified in food management- could instruct that course providing opportunities for restaurant owners, certified to operate a public pool and/or inspect it; completed blood borne pathogens course so she can inspect tattoo parlors; started first phase of vector control spraying so she did spray the Fairgrounds for mosquitos before the Fair; worked with the County Solid Waste Office to pick up trash on Earth Day and a new food ordinance has been approved which meets State requirements that inspections are based on risk rather than several times a day. The new septic person has taken several advanced septic trainings and is more familiar with complicated systems. Testing water at Lake McCoy continues as well as testing streams that feed into Lake McCoy. The Population Health Division includes Preparedness, Vital Records and Nursing Division. One person has obtained her LPN license and is working for her RN; another has been certified as a Medical Assistant, both have received these certifications while working full time. The nursing division is now offering lead testing and STI testing to the public. **Toni Kellems serves as the Public Health Nurse** and has been certified as a car tech for child car seats, Safe Sleep, is a Stop the Bleed Instructor, Catch My Breath – tobacco use, and is a CPR Instructor. Mr Durbin is working to be a certified lead assessor. A dedicated full-time **School Liaison** person is now a prescriber to Decatur County Community Schools for AED pads, Albuterol and Epinephrine. She also investigates suicides and infant death cases as required by the State; is just starting the **I Wanna Program** to reduce obesity and heart disease through education; Mrs Kellems and Medical Assistant Amanda are also certified in **Stop the Spread** – infection control within facilities as well as the population. The Health Office can now issue birth certificates to anyone born in Indiana, so folks don't have to travel to the county where they were born.

**Sheriff Bill Meyerrose** asked the Commissioners about repairing the compressor, which has now failed 3 times and Koch's are still trying to figure out why it keeps failing. He has 2 quotes: from **Koch's for \$6,001.56 and Koors Heating and Cooling - \$8,708**. Mr Pasel moved to go with **Koch's** quote to be paid out of maintenance in the Special Purpose Jail Fund, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors voted nay. Sheriff Meyerrose presented 3 quotes for sealing coating the Detention Center parking lot: **Seal Tight - \$5,760 (brushed); Chris' Seal Coating - \$6,300 and Globe Asphalt - \$8,610**. Mr Koors asked Sheriff to check on the insurance liability certificates for these companies. Mr Pasel moved to award job to Chris' Seal Coating, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors did not vote.

**Washington Township Trustee Beverly Rivera** asked Commissioners if they would 'take ownership' of the 4 warning sirens in the county, which the previous Washington Township Trustee had installed. The City of Greensburg owns the warning sirens within the city limits, so it makes sense the Commissioners should own those 4 in the county. She has spoken to EMA Directo Brad Speer about no weather sirens at the Fairgrounds. Mr Pasel moved to accept the 4 warning sirens as county property and assume the REMC electric bill 964 E State Road 46, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

**County Attorney Chad Smith** said the Commissioners have given notice to potentially sell the seized 81 goats and 4 horses after the Judge signed the order of seizure some time ago. The Commissioners have not formally decided what to do with those animals. The **Humane Society** did award the Animal Control a \$4,700 grant to pay for one month of boarding and feed which will reimburse \$4,700 already paid out of the **Animal Shelter Restricted Donation Fund** in May. **Animal Control Director Minde Myers** may have to pay July's bill out of the Restricted Fund, then monies from the sale of the goats could 'repay' the Restricted Fund. She also said the Commissioners need to look for rescues for the horses as she feels those are pets. All of the goats were not healthy in May and are improving but all are showing symptoms of CL, a highly transmissible bacterial disease between sheep and goats but is not transmissible to humans. Mr Blodgett said he is okay with horses going to rescue and the goats go to auction, but the horses are to go to rescue very quickly but not **ABC Farms** cannot rescue horses. Mr Smith told Commissioners that under the statute they could declare there isn't a market for these horses due to their condition and then not dispose of them at a public sale. Mr Koors said the County has spent \$15,000 on animals the owner would not take care of, it's the Commissioners' job to find them a home and by law that public auction is the swiftest way to find them a home and his vote is to send them to auction on Saturday morning at Knightstown Livestock Auction. Mr Pasel agrees with Mr Koors' motion, with the caveat for the horse that needs to be put down be seen by a veterinarian who would determine whether euthanization would be best. Mr Blodgett seconded the motion and Mr Pasel concurs.

Danny Peters told the Commissioners there isn't a vendor who will take a dead horse; it costs \$350 to have Bausback's move a dead animal to the landfill.

Mr Pasel said ample opportunity has been given to everyone, the public to review and ask questions about the proposed Fair Committee By-Laws. Mr Blodgett asked about Page 2, Section 3 citing public notice of meetings is not the same as for elected officials' meetings; he believes it should be a 5-day notice and the Committee should publish the minutes for transparency. Next, Page 3, Section 5, the Treasurer should publish fiscal budgets. He said the Committee's budget should always be tracked for revenues and expenditures plus be reviewed by the County Council, so strike the self-staining. The claims will continue going through the same/current process. Commissioners will continue to submit budget request for the Fairground Administration part of the budget and oversee Jake Bauer duties, day to day, week to week to prepare for plus oversee the winter rentals- Page 1, Section 2. Rental revenues will need to be separate Mr Pasel made the changes on his laptop. Mr Koors believes the Committee Meetings should be set, just like the Commissioners' meetings, on a set date each month and publish early enough so public can attend, ask questions. The proposed by-laws designate the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month except in July and December. Mr Blodgett moved to approve the new (with tonight's changes) Fair Committee By-Laws and Mr Pasel seconded the motion. Mr Pasel will email HR Admin Patty Hensley the revised document to print so the Commissioners can sign it tonight. He hopes to have the committee appointed before December to give ample time to begin planning the 2025 Fair.

Commissioners cited all of the things Mrs Hensley and Mr Koors do behind the scenes concerning maintenance mainly at the Courthouse and Annex in addition to the costs of several maintenance contracts. They concluded it may be more cost efficient to hire a maintenance person; so, will work a job description at their next meeting. The shingles over the center of the Courthouse needs replaced this year and maybe the HVAC in the Annex. Mr Koors said the generators for the Highway and Health Departments were added to the **Gen Set** 3-year maintenance agreement.

**Economic Development Commission Director Bryan Robbins** told Commissioners EDC's Annual Meeting went well and are reaching the 65% of all allotments for READI 1.

Mr Pasel has received the revised agreement from **Baker Tilly** for \$35,000, for the financial review of the County's financials and a comprehensive 5-year projection plan; he needs a signature so it can be emailed back to them. Mr Koors signed the agreement which was voted on at

The July 22<sup>nd</sup> Executive Session was for the discussion of an employee relations which included 2 options. Mr Pasel said at this point it is most appropriate for separation between the employee (that was discussed) and the County, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

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

**The next Commissioner's meeting will be August 19<sup>th</sup> , 2024, beginning at 8:00 AM in Room 106.**

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

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