

**Commissioners Meeting**  
**August 19, 2024**

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

Mr Koors welcomed everyone to the August 19<sup>th</sup> Commissioners meeting; 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.

Bill Metz led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag then a prayer was offered by Pastor Ted Chalk.

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

Mr Blodgett moved to approve the August 5<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes; Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Houk answered questions the Commissioners had on some Highway claims. Mr Blodgett made a motion not to pay ABC Farm's invoice for \$4,700 and invite him to the next meeting to explain the invoice. Mr Pasel seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. The appearance/condition of the Courthouse lawn was discussed and Mr Pasel was told by Steve Frensemeier- Sycamore Advisory Group, the weeds on the Courthouse lawn would be taken care of in a week but that didn't happen. County Attorney Chad Smith will review the contract before the Commissioners take any steps to terminate it. Mr Pasel moved to approve the August 16<sup>th</sup> payroll of \$384,756.47, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Blodgett noted the work at home showed backup in the payroll report.

**Todd Houk, Highway Superintendent**, told Commissioners his department did complete a fire safety training with Greensburg Fire Department. He reported crews continue routine maintenance: grader patching ahead of Community Crossings Grant, still bushwhacking and bushhogging vegetation plus doing this for 'line of sight' as requested by the schools. patching holes, sign maintenance. He has submitted all of the documents to **INDOT** for the Bridge Inspections and also for Bridge 141 and he also has submitted a request for federal aid dollars for these projects. Mr Houk will email the Commissioners the final cost for the stone shoulders on last year's Community Crossings Grant roads. A property owner in St Maurice called Mr Houk about stone from the chip and seal road project ending up a few feet into his yard and so Mr Houk asked **Assistant Superintendent Tim Ortman** to talk to the contractor **Pavement Solutions** about doing a better job keeping the stone out of people's property. Mr Houk met with Chris Oaks who gave insurance information to a couple of people with chipped windshields.

In the past 2 weeks, **County Building Inspector Kenny Buening** has completed: **44** building inspections, issued 11 new building permits/plan reviews and renewed 2 building permits. He received 2 complaints – no permit for a building on runners and a home in disrepair. Mr Smith reported the pool and deck on a property line has been abated. A property owner asked what needs to be done to make a neighbor trim the tree limbs hanging over the property line and another called about a farmer planting crops too close to the property line. He still needs to check on properties at Lake McCoy and Burney. Mr Buening has mailed about 10 letters to some Burney residents about a month ago; a house with 3 apartments at 313 West Mulberry Street in Westport is remodeling to have only 2 apartments and he checked on the Smith property owner, who has started to cleanup the property, still has a week to complete that cleanup. Commissioners asked Mr Buening to follow-up on complaints on the Robert Peterson property at 1764 South County Road 800 East.

**Area Plan Director Krista Duvall** presented **Ordinance 2024-11**, petitioner **Jacob Johnson** requesting to rezone 2.99 acres (1 lot) from A1 to A2 for the construction of a single-family dwelling, the property is owned by Walter and Debra Johnson. The APC report showed the 7 members present all voted yes. Mr Pasel made a motion to approve **Ordinance 2024-11**, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Smith presented **Ordinance 2024-11** addressing the visibility obstructions at intersections using State and Federal guidelines and with Mr Ortman's help. This ordinance provides authority to the Highway Department, when receiving a call regarding visibility obstruction at an intersection, they must give proper notice to the property owner to remove the obstruction within 10 days after the date of notice; if the property owner fails to remove the obstruction, this ordinance allows the Highway Department to remove the obstruction at the owner's expense. Mr Pasel moved to approve the ordinance as written, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Ordinance 2024-11 will be legally advertised twice in the **Greensburg Daily News** and recorded in the **Recorder's Office** for public access.

**Circuit Court Judge Tim Day and Superior Court Judge Matt Bailey** told Commissioners the **Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council (JRAC)** met and discussed **JRAC** being put in charge/administrator of the opioid settlement

proceeds. **Director of Court Services Matt Hoeing and Abby Harry- Director of Community Corrections** recently attended a conference where they learned a lot of counties are using the **JRAC Boards** for that purpose. **JRAC** would develop an application process to be added to the county's website and notifying the public via the media, these funds are available. The **JRAC Board** would review/vet the applications, come to one of the Commissioners' monthly meetings to advise who has applied, what JRAC thinks of the application and how much is being requested. Judge Day said there would not be any transfer of funds to **JRAC**, the Commissioners would have complete discretion/control of these funds. Mr Blodgett made a motion to approve JRAC to assist the Commissioners in managing those funds and suggest the proper avenues to spend that better, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Judge Day told Commissioners the **Public Defenders Board** consists of 3 members who help administer the public defender contracts, but currently only has 1 member; the State, the Courts and the Commissioners each have an annually appointment. He has asked Gracie (Maxwell) Shonk to serve on this board as the Commissioners' appointee; he is waiting for her reply. Mrs Shonk currently works at the Community Foundation and does some training/programming for the Juvenile Probation. Mr Pasel made a motion to appoint Gracie Shonk to the Public Defender Board pending her acceptance of the Judge's offer, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. The Commissioners will have several board appointments to the Community Corrections Advisory Board for 2025 and Judge Day is recommending Tom Hunter for reappointment for the 'education administration' requirement; other positions open for appointment/reappointment include a crime victim, mental health administrator and 2 lay persons.

**Animal Control Director Minde Myers** gave a recap of what's going on at the Shelter in the last month:  
Animals surrendered/strays--- in Greensburg: 33 cats and 11 dogs in the County: 21 cats and 17 dogs  
Animals surrendered by owners – Greensburg: 7 dogs and 2 cats in the County: 6 dogs  
Year to date--- in Greensburg: 196 cats and 98 dogs in the County: 138 cats and 98 dogs  
Strays--- in Greensburg: 4 dogs and 31 cats in the county: 11 dogs and 21 cats  
Two citations were issued and paid. There were 12 runs in the City and 11 in the County; year-to-date there were 81 runs in the City and 58 runs in the County. In July there were 24 cats and 15 dogs adopted; year-to-date there have been 157 cats and 97 dogs adopted; there are 79 cats and 86 dogs currently being fostered; there 5 cats euthanized due to sickness ... year-to-date 27 cats and 19 dogs have been euthanized; 3 cats and 6 dogs were sent to rescue groups with a year-to-date 122 cats and 64 dogs being 'rescued'. There were 12 dogs returned to their owners, year-to-date 2 cats and 52 dogs, while there are 13 cats and 14 dogs on the 'wait list to surrender'. Ms Myers told Commissioners the Shelter stands at an 88% Life Save rate, if they can keep the rate at 90% for 6 months, they qualify as a "no kill shelter" which qualifies them for additional grants. Commissioners asked Ms Myers if the adoption fees cover the spaying and neutering expenses because those user fees should, not tax revenues. Commissioners thanked Ms Myers for the update, it was very informative.

**Sheriff Bill Meyerrose, 911 Board representative**, presented a contract for \$7,200 with **Ritter Strategic Services LLC** to assist in the recruitment process of a new 911 director and to perform an efficiency assessment of the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). He asked Commissioners to approve this draft contract which is to be paid from the Statewide 911 Fund 1222. The 911 Board has received 30 applications and only 4 meet the minimum requirements. Commissioners all agreed this is the best way to find the best candidate. He will ask the Council for the funding at their August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Economic Development Commission Director Bryan Robbins** told Commissioners he hopes to have the **Canaan Agreement** at the next Commissioners meeting; is working on application deadlines for the **LEI (Lily Endowment Funds)** to fund part of the **READI** program. Shelby County and Decatur County are co-applying for some of the \$250 million to be awarded for childcare in the region.

**Greensburg Decatur County of Chamber of Commerce Director Dawn Lowe** invited the public to the **ribbon cutting** for the **"Bicentennial Ally 1822"** on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 to 6:00 pm.

Mr Pasel gave an update on the meeting he attended last week in Rushville in which **Lochmueller Group, DCCM** and **HWC** working with **USI** gave presentations on what each could provide for the **Safe Streets for All Study/Project**. Each of the 3 counties (Henry, Rush and Decatur) in this project have different needs from the study and he hopes to hear who was selected this week.

The **September 4<sup>th</sup> BZA meeting will be held at the Greensburg High School Auditorium, 1000 East Central Avenue, enter through Door 1S**. Ms Duval did confirm that anyone who had signed up to speak at the August meeting, will be given a chance to speak, then **RWE** will have the opportunity for rebuttal. Folks may sign up to voice opinions and new information must be submitted 5 days before the meeting. Ms Duvall announced the landfill will on the agenda for clean renewable energy- capturing methane gas.

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 September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, beginning at 6:00 PM in Room 106.

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

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