

**Commissioners Meeting
December 16, 2024**

Present: Mark Koors, Jeremy Pasel and Tony Blodgett

The Commissioners December 16th meeting was opened by President Koors who welcomed 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 Pastor Luke Koors then offered a prayer.

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

Mr Pasel made a motion to approve the December 2nd meeting minutes, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Blodgett moved to approve the minutes for the December 10th Executive Meeting, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to approve the claims, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel made a motion to approve the December 6th payroll of \$409,200.07, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Highway Superintendent Todd Houk gave his 2-week report: highway crews continue to do general maintenance – dura-patching, sign maintenance, bridge maintenance while he works on plans on which culverts to replace as well as replacing 2 bridges in 2025.

Tim Kramer, County Building Inspector gave his report for December 2 – December 13: he conducted portions of 22 building inspections, another person checked the wiring – which only 11 of those 22 passed – he found problems on the other 11; he received 1 property complaint which he consulted **County Attorney Chad Smith** on and Mr Kramer will continue to monitor that property; he's contacting/talking to contractors to explain what he expects and he will not approve any structure not meeting codes. He asked the Commissioners for a policy to assess penalties when blatant violations "are corrected" using trickery/deceit, which is not fixing the problem(s) correctly to pass inspection. Mr Kramer has talked/discussed some 'inspection concerns' with Greensburg's Building Inspector Marc Hellmich and also plans to take some classes/training sessions to expand on his experience in construction.

Circuit Court Judge Tim Day told Commissioners the **JRAC Board** has met twice regarding the opioid settlement funds; there is a total of \$520,333.86 between the restricted fund and the unrestricted fund. The \$370,545.54 in the restricted fund has criteria attached for uses which is mostly for substance abuse related programs, while the distribution of the \$149,788.32 in the unrestricted fund is at the Commissioners' discretion. Commissioners had approved \$132,081 of opioid settlement monies for the new Wellness Court programs.(note- it was stated in the meeting \$135,000 but the September 18, 2023 Commissioner minutes stated the \$132,081) Judge Day said an application process will go live in January for the public- groups or individuals- to apply for funds. A recovery network of professionals brings folks to us for the substance abuse treatment program they put on. Probation, Community Corrections, Home Detention, the Wellness Court and the residential treatment homes use that program. A benefit of using these professionals is they only bill the insurance companies which takes our departments listed above out of the money collecting end. **Abby Harry, Director of Community Corrections**, reported the JRAC Board has approved supplementing **Hickory** up to \$60,000 which pays for 1 clinician and Community Corrections will supplement/fund the 2nd clinician. Hickory is still doing assessments for the public, they also go to the jail and come to the office. They run 2 relapse prevention groups, maintain wellness court and will continue to maintain current services if Corrections is able to supplement a position. Mrs Harry said this JRAC's one-time ask for the \$60,000 from the Opioid Settlement monies. Mr Blodgett made a motion to accept the recommendation from JRAC for up to \$60,000 from the Opioid monies, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Judge Day asked that the \$60,000 be in a different appropriation from the Wellness Court's \$135,000.

Recreation Sports Coordinator Rob DeHoff recognized **Parks and Recreation Director Teresa Kovacich for her 40 years** working for the Parks Department. He told Commissioners the Park Board did okay using Brad Schutte as a contractor to skim surfaces off the back 4 diamonds, cut curb down, regrade and resod; he wanted to make sure the Commissioners are okay with this work – they are okay with it. The Parks Board received 3 quotes for this work

and Mr Schutte’s was the lowest for the amount of work listed on the quote. This work will be paid with funding from the **RDC** (County Redevelopment Commission). The turf is to be delivered on January 6th; should have the front 4 diamonds ready for the turf before that date and hoping to have the project finished in time for the Spring Rec leagues in April.

County Attorney Chad Smith has not received any comments on the **Biosolids Ordinance 2024-14** since the first reading at the December 2nd Commissioners meeting; he opened the public comment part of today’s meeting. Larry Heger asked what prevents people diluting the product and then applying to a property. The ordinance calls for a sampling of the biosolid material to be applied on Decatur County land, be submitted to an independent testing laboratory to determine the amount of PFAs contained in the biosolid material. The testing of soil falls under **IDEM’s** jurisdiction. Mr Pasel moved to adopt the biosolid ordinance, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Carrie Fitzpatrick with Green Sign Company who has been working with Sean Durbin- Decatur County Board of Health to get a digital sign at the annex building, 315 South Ireland Street. Ms Fitzpatrick told Commissioners in November Green Signs had submitted a variance application to the City of Greensburg for a sign due to the R-2 zoning. She worked with Mr Durbin on the design and getting the budgeting approved. The Commissioners received a certified letter from the City of Greensburg, addressed to the **Jail Building Corporation**, notifying them the public hearing for the variance application was on the City’s Board of Zoning Appeals December 3rd docket at 7:00 pm. They had no prior notifications nor any notice from Mr Durbin. Mr Durbin said he did send Mr Koors the designs and he did sign off on the designs. The Commissioners had previously told Mr Durbin to wait on the sign until they had decided on the redesign/expansion of the parking lots. **Greensburg’s Building Commissioner Sarah Hamer** told Commissioners anyone may apply for a variance with the owner’s approval. Ms Fitzpatrick said the new sign will need additional power before any work begins on the parking lots. Mrs Hamer told Commissioners the zoning on the annex property should be ‘institution or government’ B-2. Mr Blodgett made a motion to move forward with applying for the sign variance, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Paige Sansone with Baker Tilly Municipal Financial Advisors presented the **County’s Comprehensive Financial Plan for 2022 – 2029**. The County’s financial picture is good overall, assessed values are growing so property tax rates have decreased since 2020. County Departments are doing their part by working within their budgets/revenues.

Commissioners have updated the **EDIT** (Economic Development Income Tax) **Plan** to add partial funding for salary/benefits for the new Area Plan Director and payment of promissory note for the new Highway Department. Mr Pasel moved to pass the revised EDIT plan, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Commissioners reviewed the 2025 Payroll and Claims schedule.

2025 Board Appointments by the Commissioners: **Animal Control Board – Ashley Hungate** **County Attorney- Chad Smith**
Board of Health – Dr James Howell **Parks and Recreation Board – Scott Richards**
Veterans Service Officer – Mike Baumgartner **Visitors/Tourism Board -- Darren Covington** **SIRPC**
(Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission) – Brian Wenning **RDC (County Redevelopment Commission) – Chris Bower, Brian Keith and Don Schilling**
ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Commission) – Mike McCoy **DCMH Hospital Board – Dr Jami Rayles**
Mr Blodgett nominated Mr Pasel to the EDC (Economic Development Commission) and Mr Koors seconded. **Mr Blodgett nominated Mr Pasel to the READI Team and Mr Koors concurred.** **JRAC (Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council – Brian Wenning**
County Health Insurance Committee – Gabe Nobbe

Mr Koors read the list of offices the County Attorney represents: Auditor, Assessor, Recorder, Treasurer, Sheriff, Highway Department, Animal Shelter, Human Resources, Clerk and Decatur County EMA. Mr Koors recommends rehiring Chad Smith for 2025, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Pasel agrees.

Mr Koors nominated Mr Pasel for President of the Commissioners in 2025 and Mr Blodgett seconded.

Mr Pasel moved to accept the ARPA Agreement for \$110,000 & \$57,215, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. The ARPA monies are for the Courthouse: 3 lift chairs in the event the elevator is not available, replacing the old HVAC and roof over the original part of the Courthouse.

Mr Blodgett moved to approve adding security cameras on the north side (Washington Street) of the Courthouse, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred. The estimate from **MAD Technical Services** is \$3,225.

Mr Pasel will contact department heads who still have not submitted all of their certificates for taking the required Internal Controls training. The Commissioners were written up a second time by the **State Board of Accounts** for not having documentation employees had completed that training. The Commissioners must submit a report they are in compliance otherwise the SBOA will assess fines.

Mr Pasel moved to hire a new **Area Plan Director**, M Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Koors said this person does not want this out in the public until they can notify their current employer who is out of town until Friday.

EDC Director Bryan Robbins reported \$10,000,000 of **READI 1** monies have been distributed in 2024 and hopes to close READI 1 out by the end of 2025. There were 2 interviews for the Lily portion of the READI 2 funds and those went well. On the EDC side, he invited all to the **Opportunities Expo in February** at the Junior and Senior High Schools to showcase job opportunities in the County.

Mr Pasel presented plaques as he thanked Mr Koors and Mr Blodgett for the work they’ve done for our county. He then welcomed incoming Commissioners Brian Wenning and Gabe Nobbe.

Mr Koors thanked his wife Gail, his family, his son who offered prayers before several meetings, he worked with 5 other Commissioners, Patty Hensley, Janet Chadwell, Council members and all the pastors that came to offer prayer before the Commissioner meetings.

Mr Blodgett thanked the Republican Caucus who put him in as Commissioner; he didn’t realize the amount of time it takes to sit on a dozen or so Boards; he thanked Mr Koors for all of the work he’s done including the Fairgrounds Committee. He plans to stay involved after being a commissioner.

Mr Koors announced a retirement party will be held for Auditor Chadwell on December 20th , 1 – 3 pm at the Auditor’s Office.

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and hopes everyone in Decatur County has a Happy New Year!

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

The next Commissioner’s meeting will be January 6th , 2025, beginning at 6:00 PM in Room 106.

Attest: _____ Date: _____