

Commissioners Meeting

February 3, 2025

Date & Time: 2025-02-03 6:00 P.M.
Location: Courthouse Meeting Room
Attendees: Jeremy Pasel, Brian Wenning, Gabe Nobbe

Opening

- Welcome and Formalities
 - Meeting commenced with a welcome by Jeremy Pasel
 - Title VI forms available for attendees.
 - Pledge of Allegiance led by Dawn Lowe.
 - Prayer led by Terry Canfield from the First Church of God.

Review and Approval of Minutes, Claims and Payroll

- Minutes from January 21st
 - Reviewed by Commissioners.
 - Motion to approve was made and seconded.
 - Motion carried unanimously.
- Executive Session Minutes from January 27th
 - Reviewed by Commissioners.
 - Motion to approve was made and seconded.
 - Motion carried unanimously.
- Claims Review
 - Motion to approve claims was made and seconded.
 - Motion carried unanimously.
- Payroll for the Week of January 31st, 2025
 - Total payroll amount: \$404,509.79.
 - Motion to approve payroll was made and seconded.
 - Motion carried unanimously.

Highway Department Updates (Todd Houk)

- Maintenance and Training
 - Ongoing maintenance activities: sign maintenance, pothole patching, bushwhacking, bridge maintenance, and surveying layout.

Truck Procurement (Todd Houk)

- Discussion on Purchase
 - Discussion on purchasing a new truck offered by Selking, initially ordered by Shelby County but declined.
 - Truck cost: \$106,000 with additional painting and equipment costs totaling approximately \$167,000. Funds will be taken from the Local Road and Street (LRS) appropriation.
 - Plan to replace an older truck and use the new one for curb measuring and snow plowing.

Rollover Bids Discussion (Todd Houk)

- Bid Letters

- Two rollover bid letters were presented for approval or denial: one from Premier Ag for fuel and another from Globe Asphalt for milling and patching.
- Gabe Nobbe expressed a preference for annual bidding over rollover bids to ensure competitiveness and cost-effectiveness.
- Decision on Rollover Bids
 - A motion was made and seconded to not allow bids to roll over this year, applying to all bids.
 - The motion was carried unanimously.

Approval of Atom Chemical Document (Todd Houk)

- The Atom document for maintenance was reviewed.
- Recommendation to accept a chemical service bid for the boiler system at \$1,875 annually.
- A motion was made to approve the Atom chemical document.
- The motion was second and carried unanimously.

Highway 421 South Project (Todd Houk)

- The project involves several bridge closures. The project is expected to start in October 2025.

Railroad Reimbursement

- The railroad issue has been turned over to their attorney. Further action may involve sending a letter from Chad.

Tree City Homeschoolers Field Trip

- Tree City Homeschoolers proposed a field trip to the highway department in March or April.
- Commissioners felt that would be a great opportunity but would like waivers signed.

Jail Mental Health Services and Contract Amendment (Sheriff Meyerrose)

- Provider: Southern Health Partners
- Current Contract: Includes four hours a week of mental health counseling.
- Endowment: Lilly Endowment received by the Foundation.
- New Position: Full-time Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) included.
- Amendment Request: Remove mental health counseling from the contract.
- Decision: Motion to approve the amendment was passed unanimously.
- Reallocation: Funds to be moved to cost pool overruns for hospital visits not covered by the contract.
- Cost: \$9,464 annually for mental health services.
- Contract Start Date: October 1st each year.

Parks Department Update on Ball Diamonds (Rob Dehoff)

- Project Status and Timeline
 - Completion Goal: April 5th, weather permitting.
 - Project Timeline: Completion of the front four diamonds is anticipated by April 1. A decision on the back four is needed by the second meeting in February or the first meeting in March.
 - ARPA Funds: \$345,000 allocated to the Parks Department.
 - Current Allocation: Redirect funds from RDC, leaving a \$209,000-\$210,000 shortfall for the back 4 diamonds.
 - Cost of Turfing: Estimated at \$676,000 for the back four diamonds.
 - Payment Terms: No payment expected until December 15th, 2025.
 - Funding Options: Community foundation, grants, and other repayment methods.

- Anticipated Revenue: Adjusted annual revenue projected at \$207,000.
- Current Bookings: 15 tournaments are booked with U-Triple-S-A, a mix of baseball and softball. Eight tournaments scheduled through July are nearly sold out.
- Long-term Agreements: Discussions with Tim Foster and Jason Kleber about securing a long-term deal for 15 to 20 tournaments annually over the next four to five years.
- Rob Dehoff suggested exploring bonds, city assistance, and repayment through revenue generated at the complex.
- Jeremy Pasel emphasized the city's responsibility under the old ordinance to cost-share for parks and recreation, highlighting the cost-benefit to the Rob Dehoff mentioned anticipated revenue from additional tournaments as \$50,000 per year, breaking down to approximately \$12,500 per tournament.
- Rob Dehoff estimated total revenue per tournament to be between \$22,500 and \$27,500, including concessions.
- Discussion on using ARPA funds for the project.
- Emphasis on ensuring projects is fully funded before proceeding.
- Exploration of liberal financial terms with PNC Bank and other partners.
- Proposal for fencing to improve logistics and security at the complex.
- Estimated cost from Indiana Wire is \$18,576.
- Plan includes windscreening and securing entry points.

Stellar Program and Indiana Placemaking Activation Program (Bryan Robbins)

- Overview
 - Bryan Robbins introduced a collaborative initiative involving the EDC, the City of Greensburg, the Chamber, Main Street, Greensburg Tourism, Parks and Rec, and the Foundation. This group has been meeting monthly since 2017 to explore various projects.
 - The current project is through the Indiana Destination Development Corporation, called the Indiana Placemaking Activation Program. The goal is to mark photogenic areas in Decatur County with signage and create a map. Places such as the Walking Trail, Rebekah Park, Westport Covered Bridge, ECT. The signs will be 10 by 12 inches.
 - Gabe Nobbe requested to see examples of the signs before final approval but agreed to proceed with the condition that signs can be altered if necessary.
 - A motion was made and seconded, and the proposal was approved unanimously.

Decatur County REMC Fiber Project (Brett Abplanalp)

- Introduction
 - Brett Abplanalp, CEO of Decatur County REMC, requested a support letter from the commissioners, emphasizing the local benefits and nonprofit model of the BEAT application.
 - The fiber project began 3-4 years ago with member surveys and feasibility studies, revealing Decatur County as the 11th worst connected county in Indiana.
 - Phase one of the project involves a \$4.9 million grant and a \$11 million build, covering 1,400 passings.
 - Grant Requirements: The grant mandates serving all members within a census block, which may include customers from other utilities.
 - Motion Passed: A motion was made and seconded to approve a letter of support for Decatur County REMC. The motion carried unanimously.

Former Jail Site Development (Chris Stephen)

- Real Estate Transfer and Development Plans
 - Survey Completion: A survey has been completed, providing an adequate legal description for the real estate transfer.

- Development Proposal: Iron Man Construction submitted a proposal for a four-story multifamily housing complex on the site.
- Parking and Landscaping: Plans include converting a city-owned lot into a parking area, with design considerations for landscaping as per UDO requirements.

Rebecca Park Multi-Use Trail (Chris Stephen)

- Project Status and Funding
 - Trail Construction: The project is ready to proceed with construction, utilizing Next Level grant funding.
 - Property and Easements: A portion of the trail crosses county-owned property, but no easement is required. A motion was made to approve the construction on county property.
 - Abatement Details: A \$30,000 abatement was agreed upon, with \$15,000 paid by the city to the county.

Area Plan Director and ADA Coordinator (Doug Westerfeld)

- New Appointment
 - Introduction of Doug Westerfeld: Doug Westerfeld was welcomed as the new Area Plan Director.
 - ADA Coordinator Role: Doug requested to be assigned the responsibilities of ADA Coordinator, which was approved by the commissioners.

Maintenance Vehicle Lights

- Vehicle Modification
 - Light Installation: Discussion on installing yellow and white lights on a maintenance vehicle acquired by the Sheriff's Department. The commissioners were in favor of the installation for enhanced visibility.

Chamber of Commerce Membership Discussion (Dawn Lowe)

- Membership Benefits and Options
 - Non-Profit General Membership: Rate: \$130 annually, starting at sign-up and valid for 12 months.
 - A new one-time member fee of \$15 applies.
 - Enhanced Marketing Upgrade: Additional \$25 annually.
 - Sponsorships offer additional support for the Chamber's 374 member businesses and events like Ag Day Breakfast, Women in Business Conference, Annual Golf Outing, and Annual Dinner.
 - Representatives from the county government can be added to manage job postings and other membership activities.
 - The topic will be revisited in two weeks for further discussion.

YMCA Roof Project (Commissioners)

- Project Overview
 - Partnership between the commissioners and the YMCA.
 - Total contract sum: \$1,276,900.
 - Current pay application: \$135,258.71.
 - Funds are drawn down to Decatur County and then passed through.
 - Motion to approve the transfer of funds was made and seconded, with unanimous approval.

Animal Control and Safety Concerns (Sherry Pervis)

- Incident Report
 - A pit bull has been involved in multiple aggressive incidents, including attacks on other dogs and threatening behavior towards a mailman.

- The owner has ignored multiple violations and civil judgments.
 - Neighbors are fearful while outside.
- Animal Control Board Involvement
 - The board's approval is required for animal control to act.
 - Multiple tickets have been issued for dog running at large, with fines increasing for each infraction.
 - Legal Recourse: There is a concern about the lack of immediate legal recourse for dealing with a dog that is attacking other dogs and potentially people. The current city ordinance does not allow for chasing animals running at large, making it difficult to capture such dogs.
 - Legal Advice: Minde Myers mentioned that they now have access to legal advice through the county attorney, which is helping them understand the legal actions that can be taken.
 - Frustration and Delay: The issue has been ongoing since October, causing frustration among the community members. There is a need to expedite the process to prevent potential harm.
 - Emergency Meeting: There is a suggestion to hold an emergency animal control board meeting to expedite the process, although state law requires three-day notice for such meetings.

The next Commissioner meeting will be held on February 17th, beginning at 8:00 A.M. in Room 106.

Attest: _____

Date: _____