

**Commissioners Meeting**  
**February 17, 2025**

Date & Time: 2025-02-17 08:00

Location: Courthouse Meeting Room

Attendees: Jeremy Pasel, Gabe Nobbe, Brian Wenning

**Opening**

- **Welcome and Formalities**
  - Meeting commenced with a welcome by Jeremy Pasel
  - Title VI forms available for attendees.
  - Pledge of Allegiance led by Sheriff Meyerrose.
  - Prayer led by pastor Ted Chalk of United Methodist Church

**Review and Approval of Minutes, Claims and Payroll**

- **Minutes from February 3rd**
  - Reviewed by Commissioners.
  - Motion to approve was made by Gabe Nobbe, seconded by Brian Wenning and Jeremy Pasel concurred.
- **Claims Review**
  - Motion to approve claims was made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe, and Jeremy Pasel concurred.
- **Payroll for the Week of February 14, 2025**
  - Total payroll amount: \$406,723.71
  - Motion to approve payroll was made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe and Jeremy Pasel concurred.

**Highway Department Updates by Todd Houk**

- Regular maintenance and patching are ongoing, with some roads requiring milling and gravel due to damage.
- LTAP provided free drainage training, which was well-received and included trench and safety topics.
- A high lift was rented for tree trimming, addressing low-lying limbs in critical areas.
- Recent ice and snow conditions led to road closures and efforts to clear roads for school openings.
- **Bidding Process for Supplies**
  - Bids for various supplies, including asphalt, pipes, and fuel, are being prepared.
  - The bid process begins on the 17th, with packets available at the highway department or auditor's office. Bids are due by March 17th.

**Area Planning Updates by Doug Westerfeld**

- **Request for Van Transfer**
  - The Board of Health's unused van is requested to be transferred to Area Plan for the Decatur County Revitalization Project.
  - The van will have magnetic plates for identification. It has over 100,000 miles, and there are concerns about potential maintenance costs.
- **Decision**
  - The motion to transfer the van was made by Brian Wenning, seconded by Gabe Nobbe and Jeremy Pasel concurred.

**Ball Diamond Complex update by Rob Dehoff**

- USSA will provide \$20,000 for fencing, reinforcing their partnership.

- **Community Foundation and Project Phases**
  - Discussions with the community foundation to fund the back end of the Phase 3 project are ongoing.
  - Concerns about the local girls' softball league schedule were addressed by spreading out construction to keep some fields usable.
- **Interest Rates and TIF Board Concerns**
  - The interest rate for funding is higher than expected at 6.8%.
  - The State Board of Councils' approval allows for further discussions with the TIF board.
- **Camper Hookups Inquiry**
  - Inquiry into the number of camper hookups needed for tournaments is ongoing.

## **Grant Updates**

- **Multihazard Mitigation Plan**
  - The plan must be rewritten every five years, with funding running through Decatur County. The match is in-kind.
  - A \$30,000 federal grant through the state for Decatur County.
- **Contract Approval**
  - A motion to approve the contract was passed unanimously.

## **Chamber of Commerce Membership**

- **Membership Decision**
  - The decision to join the Chamber of Commerce with a \$130 membership plus a \$25 programming fee was approved.
- **Benefits**
  - The membership includes job posting on the website and access to the events page.

## **Safe Streets for All**

- **Zero Fatality Resolution**
  - The Safe Streets for All program is a federal grant aimed at studying State Road 3 from Newcastle, focusing on the section from 70 to 74.
  - Decatur County's involvement is relatively small, with Rushville and Rush County having the largest sections.
  - The county's financial contribution to the study is estimated between \$30,000 to \$35,000.
- **Zero Traffic Fatality Resolution**
  - As a partner in the program, Decatur County must adopt a zero traffic fatality resolution for its section of State Road 3.
  - The resolution emphasizes the county's commitment to eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2050.
  - The resolution was approved by the board of commissioners, marking a step forward in the study process.
- **Benefits and Implications**
  - The study aims to address traffic congestion and semi-traffic issues between 70 and 74.
  - The ultimate goal is to present the study findings to the state to highlight necessary improvements.
  - The resolution is a prerequisite for participating in the study, with no immediate additional obligations.

## Air Balance and HVAC Service Agreement

- **Air Balance Project**
  - A quote from Peine for air balancing seven fan-powered boxes was received at \$6,870.
  - The project includes measuring airflow, modifying diffusers, and adjusting controls to improve temperature regulation.
  - The focus is on the second-floor magistrate child support area, where extreme temperatures have been problematic.
- **HVAC Service Agreement**
  - A service agreement with Peine was discussed, with quarterly billing of \$3,021 and an annual total of \$12,084.
  - The agreement aims to maintain the HVAC system and address issues like power loss affecting the JACE system.
  - The importance of maintaining service records and ensuring system checks was emphasized.

## Building Maintenance

- **Exterior Maintenance**
  - Issues with caulking on the building's exterior, including stone, brick, and windows, were identified.
  - A quote from Bruns and Gutzweiler for \$161,000 was received, but additional bids are needed due to the cost.
  - The maintenance is expected to address water leaks and improve heat and AC efficiency.

## Caulking and Maintenance Issues

- **Caulking Replacement**
  - Discussion on the type of caulking to be used for maintenance.
    - **Materials:** Options between urethane and silicone were considered.
    - **Durability:** Silicone is not affected by UV rays, unlike urethane.
    - **Historical Context:** Original work was supposed to last 7-10 years, done in the 1990s.
    - **Bid Specifications:** Current bids suggest a lifespan of 20 years.
- **Bidding Process**
  - Need to call for bids as the project is over the financial limit requiring solicitation.

## Road Conditions and Maintenance presented by Dr. James Howell

- Gravel roads are poorly maintained, leading to potholes and mud.
- Proposed solution: Chip and seal to improve road quality and reduce maintenance costs.
- Community impact: School buses and local traffic affected by poor road conditions.
- **Funding and Planning**
  - Limited funds available for road improvements.
  - Consideration for including the road in future funding rounds.
- **Broader Infrastructure Concerns**
  - Roads not built to handle heavy agricultural traffic.
  - Need for a comprehensive plan to upgrade county roads to support agriculture.

## **Maintenance Position**

- **Recruitment Process**
  - Numerous applications received for the maintenance position.
  - Ready to start interviewing candidates.

## **Executive Session Planning for Interviews**

- **Interview Scheduling**
  - Discussion on setting up an executive session for interviews for the maintenance position.
  - Consideration of combining interviews for the maintenance and veterans positions in one day.
  - Decision to set up interviews for the veterans position next week to allow time for contacting applicants.
- **Veterans Position**
  - No applicants yet for the veterans position; two recommendations from Mike are pending outreach.

## **Use of Facilities Request**

- **Strawberry Festival**
  - Request for use of facilities for the annual Strawberry Festival on June 6, 2025, with setup on June 5.
  - The event supports 16 community partners through the Decatur County United Fund.
  - Coordination needed with the farmer's market, which occurs on the same day.
  - Brian Wenning made a motion to allow United Fund to use the courthouse, Gabe Nobbe seconded and Jeremy Pasel concurred

## **Economic Development Updates**

- **Projects and Initiatives**
  - Opportunity to expose points and participation in meetings with Jeremy regarding the Fairgrounds project.
  - Greensburg Learning Center project awarded to All for Kids, adding approximately 190 openings for children.
  - Conversion of a wing of the Learning Center for childcare, with coordination with Greensburg High School's early learning pathway.
- **Housing Study**
  - Approval of a housing study for the entire county to address planning, affordability, and housing types.
  - Discussion on aligning the housing study with the comprehensive plan to address multiple issues.

## **Sheriff's Department Updates**

- **Annual Jail Inspection**
  - Successful jail inspection
- **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)**
  - Request for commissioner representation on the CIT hiring team.
  - Jeremy Pasel made a motion to appoint Brian Wenning as the commissioner representative on CIT, Gabe Nobbe seconded, motion carried.

**Miscellaneous**

- **Snow Plow Experience**
  - Invitation extended to drive with a snow plow driver, highlighting the experience as enlightening.

The next Commissioner meeting will be held on March 3rd, beginning at 6:00 P.M. in Room 106.

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

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