

## Commissioners Meeting

February 19, 2024

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

President Koors opened the February 19<sup>th</sup> Commissioners meeting by welcoming everyone; he then announced Title VI forms are available for anyone who would like to fill out and turn in at the Auditor's office.

Teresa Kovacich led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; then Pastor Greg Redd offered a prayer.

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

Mr Koors asked if anyone had any additions or corrections to the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Mr Houk said he had reported crews were out grading roads and Mr Blodgett said in Kenny Buening's report a court order had already been issued to remove vehicles from the Smith property. Mr Pasel moved to approve the minutes with those amendments, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel made a motion to approve the claims, Mr Blodgett seconded, and Mr Koors concurred.

Commissioners had agreed in November 2023 to finance the balance of the 2 leased road graders in 6 semi-annual payments. **John Deere Financial** has been sending monthly invoices which isn't what was agreed upon. Mr Pasel moved to approve paying the 6-month amount due (\$8,671.65 x 6 = \$49,570.50) and sending a check today. Mr Blodgett seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to approve the February 2<sup>nd</sup> payroll, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Blodgett moved to approve the February 16<sup>th</sup> payroll, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

**Highway Superintendent Todd Houk** reported Highway crews were out working all weekend for the snow event; all employees are now trained and certified on excavating around/near pipelines and **Health Department Director Sean Durbin** visited the Highway Department to conduct CPR training. Mr Houk has submitted bid specs for stone, fuel and pipe to the Auditor's office to advertise. He is conducting interviews for 4 positions and there will be another opening in March. Mr Blodgett asked Mr Houk if he has received the storm water study from Westport identifying 3 county bridges as 'choke points' causing water backups; also, where are those 3 bridges on the list to address?

In the past 2 weeks, **County Building Inspector Kenny Buening** has completed 27 building inspections, issued 10 new building permits with plan reviews and received 3 complaints: the first is a repeat offender on County Road 1000 South who asked for 2 weeks to get it cleaned up; the second was on a nuisance property where there are many vehicles, trash and junk – he plans to visit the property in the near future and the third property is at Lake McCoy which is also owned by the same owner as the nuisance property – someone is living in a barn. Mr Buening and Area Plan Director Krista Duvall did visit the Lake McCoy property. Mr Buening was assisted by Mr Blodgett in setting up a "complaint spreadsheet" for tracking purposes. He attended a seminar at **High Point Orchard** on gas leaks. Mr Pasel received a call regarding shipping containers and trash on a property just south of the old Highway garage. The **Department of Natural Resources** is looking at it due to that property being in a flood zone while the **Indiana Department of Environmental Management** is okay with it as it is less than one acre.

**Election Deputy Clerk Patricia Louagie** asked Commissioners to increase the poll workers' pay: training pay would go from \$10 to \$25; the meal allowance would go from \$25 to \$35 and add \$20 as an incentive pay for those doing the poll setup on Monday night before elections. These recommendations were signed by the **County Election Board** (Ryan Maddux, Jennifer Sturges and Count Clerk Janet Howell). Deputy Louagie is working with the local high schools ( Hoosier Hall Pass) in recruiting young people to work the polls and she still needs folks to serve as alternates or the upcoming Primary Elections. Mr Pasel moved to approve the Election Board's recommendations, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

**Parks and Recreation Director Teresa Kovacich** presented some results from the "Come Swim with Us" survey which had 1,048 responses: Water slides, spray toys and play structures and a toddler zone, zero depth/beach entry and a lazy river are the highest priorities. Those responding have also visited neighboring pools and strongly support a new pool facility in Decatur County. The survey included the

*question how likely would you use a new pool facility* and 33.94% were very likely to and 24.19% not likely to. Mr Pasel asked Council President Danny Peters how is the Council planning to fund a new pool project. Mr Peters stated the Commissioners need decide the project costs, then approach the Council for funding. The current county funds are obligated in the 2024 budgets with little or no reserves. Future projects to be budgeted include the Park Road Project, replacing several bridges in the County and upgrading building structure items at the Annex as well as the Courthouse. The new pool project is not affordable without a food and beverage tax according to Mr Pasel. Mr Blodgett stated he doesn't want to move forward with expending \$15,000 for a design from **R L Turner** if we can't find more than \$3,000,000 for a pool. Mrs Kovacich will ask the **Park Board** to approve paying the \$15,000 design fees out of the Parks' budgeted pool appropriation.

**County Attorney Chad Smith** presented a **Capital Assets Ordinance** as requested by Auditor Chadwell who asked for time to review before adoption by the Commissioners. Mr Pasel moved to postpone this until their next meeting, Mr Blodgett seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

Commissioners discussed the **City closing Franklin Street**, possibly as early as April 1<sup>st</sup>, to begin the process of redoing the sidewalks, street and landscaping to mirror North Broadway on the west side of the Courthouse. Mr Koors stated the pre-construction meeting is this week to set the parameters of closures and completion, which is supposed to be in September before the **Tree City Fall Festival**. The County Parking Lot, corner of Franklin and Main Streets, will be open and there will be a crosswalk for employees to access the parking lot. Discussions included whether to allow the **Farmer's Market** to use the south side of the Courthouse lawn – would there be enough space or maybe we ask them to move back to the Fair Grounds for this year so we can accommodate businesses and employees. The **United Fund's Strawberry Festival** has utilized the south side of the Courthouse for a drive-through so it may work for them.

There are 4 handicap parking spaces, nearest to the ramp, on the north side of the Courthouse and 4 county employees use those. Commissioners agreed 2 more handicap spaces need to be added which will move the Sheriff's spaces down 2 spots.

Mr Pasel moved to enter in the Service Agreement with **Peine Engineering** for the Courthouse, Mr Blodgett seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. Peine has also submitted a quote - \$17,787 - to update our **JACE** system/ software, which enables Peine to monitor (offsite) the Courthouse's HVAC system, to the **AX-JACE N4**. Commissioners decided to postpone any action and Mr Blodgett will check with **IT** for any information/better explanation.

**Sheriff Bill Meyerrose** presented Commissioners with the final draft for the **Courthouse Security Plan**. Mr Blodgett made a motion to adopt the Security Plan, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Koors thanked **Sean Durbin, Board of Health Director**, for the First Aid Training for the Highway employees. Mr Durbin told Commissioners there's some serious water damage and mold on the front of their section of the Annex Building; Mr Koors asked him to get some bids for those repairs/fixes. Mr Durbin reported he's restructured the entire Health Department such as the Public Health Nurse is taking Spanish, having more Narcan training, CPR training, Epi pens for the schools, blood draws, tapping new grants and mental health work. He also has purchased an ID Printer for the County to make badges for employees. Mr Durbin also shared test results on Lake McCoy water: 2 weeks ago, the results were the highest that testing will show. So, he tested the streams outside Lake McCoy which also tested high, but couldn't locate a source.

Mr Pasel moved to approve **Resolution 2024-1** authorizing the sale of the old jail site to the **City of Greensburg Redevelopment Commission**, Mr Blodgett seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. The City's RDC plans to use the site for housing.

Mr Pasel moved to approve the **United Fund's Request for Use of Facilities for their Strawberry Festival** to use the south drive of the Courthouse on June 7<sup>th</sup>, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Koors asked Mr Smith to write a resolution per the agreement that **Best Way** would institute a tipping fee which they would pay monthly to the Auditor's Office, who would receipt that into the Highway Fund for maintaining the roads near and around the **Decatur Hills Landfill**. Best Way entered into this agreement upon the Commissioners approving the vacation of the southern 3,500 feet of county road 280 east, ending at US Highway 421; the annual amount should be approximately \$175,000.

**Sheriff Meyerrose** agreed to email the adopted Courthouse Security Plan to county employees.

Mr Blodgett announced the next **Solar Eclipse** meeting is Thursday at 3:00 pm in the EOC room. There will be an EOC setup taking place on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> and Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> and he agreed to be the 'on site Commissioner'.

Mr Koors received an email regarding an event sponsor, Pride Fest, is renting out spaces after receiving approval of the Request for Use of Facilities on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Commissioners; concern is if Pride Fest's liability insurance covers those renting the spaces, which is not typically allowed.

The stairlifts are almost finished, waiting to be inspected/approved by the State. Clerk Janet Howell asked to be notified before the elevator is shut down due to moving election equipment for absentee voting.

**The next Commissioners meeting will be March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, beginning at 6:00 pm in Room 106.**

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

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

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