

Commissioners Meeting

March 4, 2024

Present: Mark Koors, Jeremy Pasel and Tony Blodgett

President Koors welcomed everyone to the Commissioners' March 4th meeting; he then announced Title VI forms are available for anyone who would like to fill out and turn in at the Auditor's office.

Kenny Buening led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; then Pastor Jerran Jackson offered a prayer.

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

Mr Pasel moved to approve the February 19th minutes, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel made a motion to approve the claims, Mr Blodgett seconded, and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Koors presented an invoice for \$16,497.50 from **Access Mobility**, the balance due for the 3 life chairs installed in the Courthouse. Mr Blodgett moved to approve the invoice to be paid, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to approve the March 1st payroll of \$353,096.40, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Highway Superintendent Todd Houk reported Highway crews are busy mowing, patching roads, grading gravel roads and finishing the last of the 'move in' tasks at the new place as well as cross-training in job duties. He reported crews are adapting to the new **AOD** payroll system as this is the 2nd payroll they've used the new system; he is continuing conducting interviews for the 4 open positions and a new hire started working today. Mr Houk told Commissioners no one from the town of Westport has contacted him about any drainage problems near any county bridges in Westport.

In the 2 weeks since the Commissioners' last meeting, **County Building Inspector Kenny Buening** has completed 48 building inspections, issued 13 new building permits with plan reviews and a permit renewal. He spoke to the property owner about the County Road 1000 South property who told Mr Buening he's had a family medical emergency so he will check back in a couple of weeks on the condition of the property. Another visit to the Smith property on County Road 850 South didn't show much change- 3 trucks were still near the road and the house in Letts is in the process of being demolished. Mr Blodgett suggested creating a fine (fees) schedule and amending the nuisance property ordinance so not to go straight to the Courts, but Mr Buening said that is already in the ordinance.

Sheriff Bill Meyerrose presented Commissioners with his **2024 Annual Jail Report**. He asked for the Commissioners' approval to close County Road 250 West, between West Base Road and County Road 240 Northwest for **EVO** (Emergency Vehicle Operations) training which is State required training exercises. It is more economical to conduct this training locally than driving to Indianapolis to use the State's training course and other local agencies also train at that time/location. Sheriff Meyerrose said Lieutenant Rob Goodfellow has spoken to the neighbors in that area to let them know which roads will be closed for that week. Mr Blodgett moved to approve the road closure, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Parks and Recreation Director Teresa Kovacich told the Commissioners the lease for **Kohler Park**, between the Adult Co-Ed Softball League and the Parks Department expired in 2023 and has not been renewed. Mrs Kovacich had heard the Commissioners were discussing replacing those ball diamonds with the 4-H equine barn and asked them to not include Kohler Park in their improvement plans for the County Fair Grounds – to leave it as it is now. An average of 14 teams uses those ball diamonds beginning in April, continuing into October; 220 players participated in last year's summer league while 180 players played in the fall league. The **Special Olympics group** - 70 to 80 people - used that area on Wednesdays and several teams practice there throughout the week. Several people were present to show their support for the co-ed teams needing/relying on that location and the generosity of the Parks Department and the Greensburg High School allowing the use of their fields. One lady told Commissioners having a place to teach youth how to play softball/baseball is huge since many kids do not participate in the "elite travel teams". Mr Koors said the **READI 2.0** grant awards are to be announced in April, so nothing is happening this year to Kohler Park.

Allison Beck, Main Street Greensburg Director, asked Commissioners to approve her **Request for Use of Facilities for the Farmers Market** even though Franklin Street will be closed beginning in April for reconstruction. A \$2500 grant has been secured from **Duke Energy** to pay fees for vendors as there are 29 vendors who depend on these sales for income. She also said moving off of the Square, losing visibility, would take a year or more to recover/regain the public's participation. Ms Beck shared diagrams where the vendors would set up, using the entire south parking/drive and the south lawn of the Courthouse. The main concern the Commissioners have is parking for customers and vendors while businesses around the square need parking for their patrons. Commissioners approved the **United Fund's** request to use the south side of the square on Friday, June 7th for their **Strawberry Festival**, so vendors with the Farmers Market may have to make some adjustments. Ms Beck told Commissioners she would be happy to move if the congestion from the Farmers Market gets to be too much for downtown. Mr Blodgett made a motion to approve **Main Street Greensburg's Request for Use of Facilities for their Farmers Market**, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to appoint Scott Richards to the **Parks Board**, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Ben Buening is stepping down from the Parks Board.

Lawn Care bids have been advertised, due to the Auditor's Office by noon, March 15th and will be opened at the Commissioners' March 18th meeting.

Mr Pasel made a motion to approve **Ordinance 2024-2, Asset Capitalization Policy**, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

County Attorney Chad Smith stated in order for the Commissioners to be notice compliant – IC 5-14-1.5-5a - they will reconvene on **March 6th at 1:00 pm** to approve the paperwork/necessary steps for the **OCRA Grant of \$500,000** which has been awarded to the **Decatur County YMCA**, with Decatur County as the 'pass-through agent'. The 1:00 pm meeting will be an open meeting, **Shannon McLeod, Priority Project Resources and Diane Hart, YMCA CEO** will attend this meeting. Mr Pasel stated the meeting will be posted on **YouTube and Facebook**. The OCRA Grant is the only item on the March 6th agenda.

The next Commissioners meeting will be March 18th, 2024, beginning at 8:00 am in Room 106.

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

Attest: _____

Date: _____