

## Commissioners Meeting

May 20, 2024

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

Mr Koors who welcomed everyone to the May 20<sup>th</sup> Commissioners 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.

Tim Ortman led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; Pastor Terry Canfield then 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 May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to approve the May 17<sup>th</sup> Special Session 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 Pasel moved a motion to approve the \$367,259.78 for the May 10<sup>th</sup> payroll, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

**Todd Houk, Highway Superintendent**, reported **LTAP** came in to conduct training for aerial and fall protection. Highway crews continue to grade gravel roads, surveying, sign maintenance, mowing, patching and ditching. An entry level range course has been set up in the parking lot for driver training. The RFP's and LOI's for Bridge 131, County Road 200 South and County Line Road, are being scored in order to make a selection. The fuel bids were re-advertised with a bid opening at the Commissioners' June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Also, the Community Crossings Grant bids will be advertised with a bid opening at the Commissioners' June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr Houk is working on the contract for the **2025-2028 Bridge Inspections** which has to be submitted to INDOT by May 31<sup>st</sup>. He has hired a contractor to address the roadsides for last year's CCMG roads which have insufficient stone shoulders. There will be some instances a stone shoulder cannot be put down where it might impede water flow or ditch is right next to roadway. The Highway crews will finish fixing potholes and striping the roadway near the Love's Truck Stop after INDOT completes work on their part of the road.

The **Fletcher Power/Aypa Power representative Ian Evans** answered questions the Commissioners had regarding the road usage agreement for County Road 400 North. There are pre-determined routes for trucks and equipment going to the site. The decommissioning agreement is still being discussed. Commissioners will review the proposed agreement and vote on it at their June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**County Building Inspector Kenny Buening** reported his activity for the past 2 weeks: 38 building inspections were completed; 10 new building permits with plan reviews were issued and he received 2 complaints – one for multiple un-plated vehicles on property and failure to get permits for remodeling a house and garage after a rezone was approved. Mr Buening has drafted letters to send to 10 different Lake McCoy residents notifying they are in violation of a county ordinance. He will also send letters to some Burney property owners as a result of complaints received.

**Animal Control Director Minde Myers** asked Commissioners for permission to buy an incinerator from a retired veterinarian in Rushville to replace a dumpster. The cost is \$2,400 plus the cost of a gas tank and the vet will install it. She also would then like to start offering pet cremation to pet owners which would be future income. Mr Pasel moved to approve buying the incinerator for \$2,400 with a second motion with the understanding a fence will be put around it, Mr Blodgett seconded both and Mr Koors concurred.

**County Assessor Dorene Greiwe** asked Commissioners for permission to do a rental car from Enterprise, for herself and 2 Deputies to travel to a State-Called Conference in Fort Wayne. The government discount cost is \$392 for 4 days. She said the County's Personnel Policy doesn't address this topic. Assured Partners Kevin Krekeler told Commissioners the County's insurance would cover this because it's in the course of official capacity. Mr Blodgett moved to approve, Mr Pasel seconded, also stating no gas receipts and Mr Koors concurred.

**County Extension Director Chris Fogle** presented his 'working quarterly report' detailing program activities, 4-H enrollment and hours put in by the Extension volunteers. He introduced **Katherine Niese, Community Wellness Coordinator**, who's working on changes for nutritious food access.

**Director of Community Corrections Director Abby Harry** shared some stats for the first quarter of 2024: completed 144 risk assessments as required by law; 51 clients on House Arrest, post disposition; 15 clients who have transferred to other counties but are still monitored by Decatur County; 2 pre-trial clients; 7 Wellness Court participants; 1 client on Day Reporting; 5 clients in the Community Transitional Program to help their transitioning process from DOC back to community and there are 170 clients pending supervision. Mrs Harry told Commissioners programs through the Court Services has saved the County \$743,470 in 2022 and \$495,180 in 2023 by the clients not being in custody.

**County Attorney Chad Smith** presented the **Park Alcohol Ban Ordinance** to the Commissioners for a first reading; it will be posted and the second reading will be at the Commissioners' June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Mr Koors read the last 3 paragraphs: *"Now, Therefore, the Board of Commissioners of Decatur County Indiana, do hereby declare: 1) That, unless specifically otherwise allowed under Indiana Law, all alcoholic beverages, as defined by Indiana Code 7.1-1-3.5, are prohibited from any and all park and recreation properties owned and/or controlled by the Board of Commissioner of Decatur County that are, in any fashion, utilized as a public entertainment facility. 2) Any and all requests for a temporary vendor designation to participate in an event or festival held within a designated refreshment area seeking to obtain said designation for park and recreational facilities owned by the Board of Commissioners of Decatur County, shall present the request directly to the Board of Commissioners of Decatur County before said designation and use of property shall be granted. 3) Pursuant to Indiana Code 7.1-5-8-4, violation of this Ordinance is a Class B misdemeanor punishable by up to 180 days in the Decatur County Jail and a fine of up to \$1,000.00."*

**Assured Partners Managing Director Kevin Krekeler** asked for a formal approval of Liberty Mutual's proposal for the county's property and liability insurance coverage for May 22, 2024 to May 22, 2025. Mr Pasel moved to approve the proposed property insurance presented at the last meeting, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to approve the reported \$20,741.38 plus the \$323.97 in interest earned in the **Congressional Township School Fund**, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Commissioners signed the report which will be emailed to the **Indiana Department of Education**.

**Economic Development Commission Director Bryan Robbins** reported he is continuing work on the new economic agreements; there is possibility of an equine center locating in Shelby County. He will be meeting with the IEC to discuss READI 2.0.

**Greensburg/Decatur County Chamber of Commerce Director Dawn Lowe** reported registration is still open for the June 27<sup>th</sup> Women in Business Conference; registrations are also open for the Chamber Annual Golf Outing on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. She reminded everyone the Chamber has job postings on the website and there were over 3,200 views in the first 4 months of 2024.

**911 Dispatcher Leigh Ann Dashiell** told Commissioners the AC stopped working last week is Dispatch, Koors Heating and Cooling Tech changed out the thermostat and added freon; told her there is a leak. Mr Blodgett asked Mrs Dashiell to get a quote to repair/replace the leaking unit.

Mr Blodgett emailed out potential policy changes in the Personnel Handbook after the last Commissioners' meeting: adding HR to the complaint chain of command for non-elected departments, specifically going into to Chapter 6.4.2 reporting a complaint sexual harassment and the security of the premises with firearms in the Courthouse. He researched previous policies which prohibited County officials or employees from having firearms on County properties other than the legislative state allowing firearms stored in vehicles and wanted to put this out for further discussions or changes. Chapter 7, Problem Resolutions, in the Personnel Handbook would also need to add HR in the complaint chain. Sheriff Bill Meyerrose stated the Personnel Handbook needs to mirror the Sheriff's Security Plan for the Courthouse. Mr Pasel made a motion to approve both of the policy changes. Mr Smith has reviewed the proposed changes, he did consult the Sheriff on the restriction of firearms and the policy has not been updated since HR was added. Mr Blodgett asked that a time and a date of change/adoption be added to the bottom of each page in the handbook to depict the most current version. Mr Krekeler suggested 'adding permission for employees to use own personal car for County business' and make sure they have enough/full-coverage insurance. Mr Pasel asked Mrs Hensley to send out email to department heads asking how often personal vehicles are being used.

**County Clerk Janet Howell** told Commissioners the current voting machines are over 20 years old and she received a lot of complaints on how slow the machines are. She has asked the ARPA Committee for funding. The cost would be over \$193,000 for 67 machines plus the expense of battery backups.

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

**The next Commissioners meeting will be June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, beginning at 6:00 pm in Room 106.**

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

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