

**Commissioners Meeting  
October 7, 2024**

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

The September 16<sup>th</sup> Commissioners meeting was opened by Mr Koors welcoming everyone; he then announced Title VI forms are available for anyone who would like to fill them out and turn them in at the Auditor's office.

Dr James Howell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Mr Koors 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 September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to approve the October 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive 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 to approve the September 27<sup>th</sup> County payroll of \$380,513.64, Mr Blodgett noted there wasn't a ton of employees working from home then seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

**Highway Superintendent Todd Houk's** presented his 2-week report: highway crews continue to do bushwacking, spraying vegetation; working on wings walls on some bridges and culverts as part of bridge maintenance; working on waterproof membranes on some bridges; grader patching on some roads with heavy sub-base failures; **Globe** continuing on the milling and patching. Three of the four entry level drivers now have their CDL's; highway employees have submitted certificates for taking the **State Board of Accounts** required internal controls training and all have received training on forklifts. Mr Houk has submitted the **CCMG** close-out letter to **INDOT** and is now working on his quarterly reports. He recently attended a meeting with the **City of Greensburg and USI for Phase I of the Joint Park Road Project**; Mr Houk and Assistant Superintendent Tim Ortman said the bridge on west Park Road is actually a culvert pipe so they are opting to put a second pipe next to the existing one which will double the capacity to move the water on downstream. There was also a discussion on curbing, gutters, benches and bike racks which will be decided on at a later time- that will be let at the end of 2027 or early 2028. Mr Houk told Commissioners an agreement is needed with the city for snowplowing Park Road once the curbing – gutters are in since the Highway Department doesn't have the "curb" snow plows; also, they do not have any street sweepers nor mowers for curbed roadsides. Commissioners asked him to work with County Attorney Chad Smith on an agreement. **Dave O'Mara Contractor** is scheduled to put in stone shoulders on all of the **CCMG** road projects which should correct the complaints received about 'drop off' issues. Mr Houk told Commissioners that County Road 120 East, between County Roads 300 and 500 North was damaged due to traffic being detoured off of North State Road 3 just past North Decatur High School due to a serious wreck. Mr Pasel made a motion to adopt **Ordinance 2024-12**, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. This ordinance creates a 3-way stop at the intersection of West Park Road and South County Road 200 West as a matter of public safety. Commissioners discussed putting 'stop sign ahead' signs or something on the stop signs to draw the public's attention they need to stop at that intersection. Mr Houk was contacted by a St Omer resident complaining that traffic is not observing the posted "Speed Limit 30" when traveling North Old US Highway 421.

Mr Koors read **County Building Inspector Kenny Buening's** 2-week report, in his absence: 66 building inspections were completed, issued 16 new building permits/plan reviews, 1 permit renewal and issued 2 red tags: 1) addition to building without a permit – builder came in and got a permit; 2) ground rod was put on the inside of exterior wall and must be on the outside – builder moved ground rod to where it should be. Mr Buening visited Burney properties to check on any progress from the letters he sent to owners; some buildings have been demolished and there were no changes on some of the properties. He will turn the 'no changes' over to Mr Smith next week to start the next step.

**Area Plan Director Krista Duvall** presented 2 ordinances for the Commissioners review: **Ordinance 2024-8**, **petitioner Sean McGinnis** is requesting to rezone 2.99 acres from A1 to A2 for the purpose of constructing a single-family dwelling. The Area Plan Commission (7 members were present) unanimously approved this petition. Mr Pasel made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-8, Mr Blodgett seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. **Ordinance 2024-16**, **petitioners Brian and Lori Hastings** are requesting to rezone 2.456 acres from A1 to A2 for the

purpose of constructing a single-family dwelling. The APC (9 members were present) unanimously approved this petition. Mr Pasel moved to approve Ordinance 2024-16, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

**Recreation/Sports Coordinator Rob DeHoff** asked Commissioners for their approval to upgrade 4 of the 8 ball diamonds to turf, in the Sports Complex. The ARPA Committee has pledged \$450,000 of the \$950,000 estimated cost and he is working to secure funding for the remaining amount. The goal is to bring softball tournaments to Greensburg which brings - helps fill hotels and dining establishments and he estimates a ‘return on investments’ would take about 5 ½ years. The **Parks and Recreation Department** will have control over the ball diamonds and concessions which will generate jobs needed to be filled and increased maintenance will also have to be budgeted. Mr DeHoff asked Commissioners if he should come back to the Commissioners if he can get financing “to turn all 8 diamonds to turf” and they replied to do it. He would also like to set up an office in the old pool house to be on-site during this project. The turf diamonds will need to be ‘locked down’ when not in use in order to keep them ‘maintained’ and to prevent vandalism. The 2 Kohler Park diamonds will be available to the public to use once the turf diamonds are in place. Park Board member Bryan Robbins asked Commissioners if they’re ok with the Board moving forward with the bidding process and Commissioners said yes.

Mr Blodgett made a motion to move forward and accept **Double E Roofing’s** \$24,000 estimate to replace the existing roof on the original Courthouse. Mr Pasel seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

**Economic Development Commission Director Bryan Robbins** told Commissioners he spoke to a person who is looking to put in a business associated with softball tournaments expected to come to Decatur County. He should have an agreement soon to bring to the Commissioners on the waste heat energy project which is moving forward. The **ARA** did hit the 65% mark which unlocks the funding for the **READI 2** projects but the State hasn’t built the infrastructure to release the READI 2 funds so waiting for that.

Mr Houk told Commissioners he contacted local vendors about quoting HVAC maintenance on the new Highway Department.

Local resident Sandy Nieman told Commissioners the new bridge decking on Millhousen Road is right next to their cornfield and she is concerned the heavy equipment will break off the road edges due to the substantial approach/drop off. Another concern is the 4 – 6 inches of grass left at the edge of the road when crews work on cleaning out the ditches. The grass is mounded which prevents water from getting off of the road and it makes mowing roadsides difficult at best.

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

**The next Commissioner’s meeting will be October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, beginning at 8:00 AM in Room 106.**

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

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