

**Commissioners Meeting  
December 6, 2021 8:00 a m**

**Present: Mark Koors, Jerome Buening and Chuck Emsweller**

The December 6<sup>th</sup> Commissioners meeting was opened by President Koors 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.

Kenny Buening led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; Pastor Janet Hodson then led all in a prayer.

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

Mr Buening moved to approve the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Emsweller moved to approve the claims, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Buening moved to approve the November 26<sup>th</sup> payroll, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

**Mark Mohr, Highway Superintendent**, has submitted the Federal Aid-INDOT applications before the December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:00 pm deadline and both applications have been accepted. Updates on current projects: the concrete box culvert on County Road 500 East is completed; **O'Mara Contracting** has finished the contracted patching and paving work; backfill on culvert projects is done. Mr Mohr has a quote of \$91,504.03 from **JM Ballard** to repair the flood damage to the lower part of the **Westport Covered Bridge**, also the rotten wood on both ends of the bridge. An alternate addendum of \$28,632.41 includes repairing the upper part of the siding, reseal the shaker shingles and repainting. Another cost of \$26,034.81 to have a lift to do scaffolding may be required if temporary right-of-way isn't acquired. There is approximately \$55,000 between the County's Covered Bridge Fund 1134 and the Westport Covered Bridge Donations Fund 4105. The balance of funding will come from the Highway Fund. Mr Buening moved to approve both the \$91,504.03 and the alternate, \$28,632.41 as well provided we can get the right-of-way. Mr Emsweller seconded the motion of spending approximately \$120,000 and Mr Koors concurred. Commissioners agreed to give Mr Mohr the authority to sign the contract with JM Ballard. JM Ballard does guarantee the repair work will be completed before the **June Westport Bridge Festival**. Mr Mohr will notify the Post Office about dates the Westport Covered Bridge will be closed so the mail carriers can plan alternate routes. Mr Buening commented on the 'big chunk' of funds- \$965,796.50- for construction needed in March 2027 for part of the county's financial commitment for **Greensburg's Park Road Project**. The County's costs for the preliminary engineering phase- \$115,895.58 due May 2022 thru June 2026; the right-of-way phase- \$92,115.22 due July 2025 thru October 2026; the utility phase- \$82,250.00 due April 2026 to September 2026 and the inspection phase- \$120,724.56 due March 2027 thru December 2027. The County's expected costs of this shared project is \$1,376,781.86.

Mr Emsweller moved to approve **Decatur County Ordinance 2021-22**, vacating an alley in the town of Adams, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Charlie Ketchum initiated the petition and neighbors Tom and Kathy Phillips had no objections. This ordinance vacates the alley running north and south between Lot 2 and Lot 3 Adams R & W Ad; also vacating the alley running north and south between Lot 1 Adams R & W Ad and Lot 70 and Lot 71 Adams Original Plat.

**Area Plan Director Krista** did not have any new information on the Drainage Board.

In the past 2 weeks, **Building Inspector Kenny Buening** completed 65 building inspections, issued 17 new building permits including the plan reviews and 5 red tags were issued: a coverage front porch project, construction of a deck and construction of a pole barn all started without building permits; also, a meter was wired wrong at one resident and another final inspection found no GFI or carbon monoxide detectors. The complaint regarding vehicles and trash on County Road 850 South- owner is in the process of cleaning up and moving the vehicles.

**County Sheriff Dave Durant** emailed the Commissioners on November 30<sup>th</sup> to share a study done by Bill Wilson, an expert on jail staffing to show that the Detention Center is actually understaffed, but he will not address that today. He told Commissioners the detention staff are deputies, sworn by the Sheriff, and those jobs are very different than other county employees' responsibilities. After some discussion

about staffing issues, Mr Emsweller moved to table this request for longevity indefinitely. Mr Buening seconded the motion saying he agrees with Mr Emsweller and would argue the Highway Department's jobs also are not like other positions in county government. Mr Koors believes instead of a flat \$200 per service year, go through the entire county payroll for full-time employees and do \$.15 an hour longevity rate. Sheriff Durant said he would pay the \$24,000 out of Commissary Funds if the Commissioners would approve the longevity pay for his Detention Staff. Mr Koors doesn't disagree, so he is not voting. Motion carries to table this longevity topic indefinitely.

**Chris Stephen, member of the Decatur County Vote Center Study Committee** told Commissioners by making Decatur County a Vote Center County is showing financial stewardship and increases the accessibility for voters. Other members of this Study Committee are Ryan Maddux, Jeremy Pasel, Chris Ramer, Jennifer Sturges and County Clerk Adina Roberts. Voters may choose any of the Vote Center poll locations as opposed to the current rule they must vote in their precinct on Election Days, or come to the Courthouse to vote absentee. Mr Stephen stated the proposed Vote Center plan has 11 poll locations and will have 2 satellite locations in New Point and St Paul. It is the Executive Branch-Commissioners' task to secure the locations for voting and will always have the ability to change precincts, unless the laws change. Mr Emsweller asked if the group has done a study for internet providers and what is their emergency plan. Mr Stephen asked Commissioners to allow the Study Committee to move forward so they can hold the Public Hearing. Mr Emsweller stated if the Commissioners give up control, how many years before there's only 1 Vote Center? Mr Stephen answered stating the plan can't be changed without the amendment process. Ms Duvall said she believes the Vote Centers are great. Election Deputy Robin Hahn told Commissioners any amendment to the Vote Center Plan has to go to the State's Election Division for approval. Mr Buening moved to pass **Resolution 2021-19** to establish the **Decatur County Vote Center Plan**. Mr Emsweller voted no and Mr Koors seconded Mr Buening's motion. Motion passes. **County Attorney Chad Smith** stated the number of members on Election Board does not track with the Vote Center Plan.

Mr Emsweller moved to accept the proposed 2022 Holiday Schedule, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Commissioners approved the proposed 2022 Commissioners Meeting schedule and the 2022 Payroll Schedule.

Communications Director Erika Free presented 2 MOU's (memorandums of understanding) between the County and the City of Greensburg. The first MOU is the interlocal agreement for 911 due to taking Josh Tressler out of 911's budget. Mr Emsweller moved to approve the 911 Services MOU, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors seconded. The second is for the new 2022 IT Department with Josh Tressler as the Director, to also be shared between the County and City. Mr Buening moved to approve the IT MOU, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

**A Request for Use of Facilities** for the hours of 10:00 am to 9:00 pm on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 was submitted by Greg Redd, representing the First Baptist and First Christian Churches, for the **Annual Trunk or Treat Event**. He is requesting the use of the Courthouse lawns on the South, West and East Sides and all three sides will be blocked for this event. Mr Buening moved to approve this request and Mr Emsweller seconded the motion.

Information on software sold by **Data Pit Stop** was emailed to the Commissioners prior to today's meeting so they had time to go online to see some features offered. Data Pit Stop offers packages for balancing excise tax, tracking fixed assets as well as public access to financial data and tax statistics data. These various software packages would greatly benefit the Auditor's office, as well as the Treasurer's office. Mr Emsweller moved to approve the agreement with Data Pit Stop, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Emsweller moved to reappoint **Mike McCoy** to the **Alcoholic Beverage Commission**, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Buening moved to reappoint **Todd Mauer** to the **Area Planning Commission**, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Buening asked Chad Smith if he would serve another year as County Attorney and he agreed to another year.

Mr Buening moved to reappoint **Mollie Fry** to the **Decatur County Memorial Hospital Board**, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Buening moved to appoint **Malcolm Myers** to replace Darren Evans on the **DCMH Board**, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Emsweller moved to appoint **Tami Williams** to the **Hospital Board**, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Emsweller moved to reappoint **Larry Kiernan** to the **Lake Santee Regional Waste and Water District**. Mr Buening seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

**County Assessor Dorene Greiwe** told Commissioners **Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals (PTABOA) members Shelly Hadler and Jeff Whitaker** have agreed to be reappointed.

Mr Buening moved to reappoint **Mike Baumgartner** as **Veterans Service Officer**, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

All three Commissioners serve on the **Solid Waste Management District Board**.

Mr Buening agreed to serve as the Commissioners' representative on the **Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission**.

Mr Buening moved to reappoint **Brian Keith, Chris Bower and Don Schilling** to the **Decatur County Redevelopment Commission**. Mr Emsweller seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Buening said the Vernon Fork Water District is dormant as it has served its purpose, but are not disbanding at this time.

Mr Emsweller received an email from County Treasurer Diane Wenning concerning moisture in her office; there is black mold behind a bulletin board and they are requesting a drain for the dehumidifier as they have to empty it at least a couple of times a day. Mr Emsweller said Steve Enneking will do the painting and Mr Koors asked Mrs Wenning to contact Dave Geis about installing a drain for their dehumidifier.

Future plans for **Economic Development Commission Director Bryan Robbins** include getting broadband certified for Decatur County. Mr Koors and Mr Robbins hope they will be contacted before Christmas on which applicants will be awarded the **READI Grants**.

Commissioners will review the required Nepotism statements from each county department at their December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Several departments are requesting a template or uniform letter so all they have to do is sign it.

**The Commissioners next meeting will be December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 8:00 am.**

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

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

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