

Commissioners Meeting

December 18, 2023

Present: Mark Koors, Jeremy Pasel and Tony Blodgett

Mr Koors welcomed everyone to the Commissioners last meeting for 2023; he then announced Title VI forms are available for anyone who would like to fill out and turn in at the Auditor's office.

Chad Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; then Paster Jay Vanderbur offered prayer.

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

Mr Pasel made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for December 4th, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Koors asked the \$100 per diem pay for Danny Peters be removed/struck from the claims docket. Mr Pasel moved to approve the claims with that change, Mr Blodgett seconded, and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to approve the payroll for December 8th, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Highway Superintendent Todd Houk reported bridge maintenance continues, grading gravel roads and two culverts are scheduled to be put in. He received notification from INDOT who will run a pilot program for the 2024 Community Crossings Grant by increasing the maximum grant to \$1,500,000, so the County's match would be \$500,000 instead of the previous amount of \$333,325. Mr Houk extended invitations to the surrounding counties and the schools for the December 20th Highway Garage Open House. Mr Pasel and Mr Blodgett questioned Mr Houk on issues drivers are having with the various levels of 'drop offs' on several county roads. A road near the town of Adams has a 12-13" drop off while some others are 3" or less. Mr Koors said most county roads are 18' wide and they'd like to get those to 20' wide; the problem the terrain does prohibit adding the stone shoulders at the preferred width. It costs \$7,000 to put down one mile of a stone shoulder.

Mr Koors presented **Pay App #15** - \$1,622,102.67 - from **GM Development** for work completed to November 30, 2023. Mr Pasel made a motion to approve this pay app, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Pay App #15 will be forwarded to the **County Redevelopment Commission** for their approval to issue payment. The cost of work completed is \$9,302,775.26, less retainage of \$464,495.26 for the total of \$8,838,280 billed for the new Highway Department. Mr Pasel moved to approve the \$6,783.64 invoice from **Strand Associates** for construction-professional services for November on the Highway Garage. Mr Blodgett seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. The Commissioners will pay for this out of one of their budgets since it exceeds the amount the RDC agreed to pay.

Steve Ruble with Strand Associates told Commissioners he was informed by the contractor on the new Highway garage, the construction schedule has been extended to May 31, 2024 (from February 28, 2024) due to the lead-time on the generator. Mr Ruble said since there wasn't a penalty or bonus built into the contract with **Maxwell Construction** and there has been difficulty getting things for this whole project; he presented Amendment 2 for \$11,000 to Strand's Task Order 22-01 with the County. This changes to contract from \$770,600 to \$781,600. Mr Blodgett moved to approve the change order, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

County Building Inspector Kenny Buening completed 38 building inspections, issued 11 new building permits with plan reviews and 4 permit renewals. He continues to review expired building permits; received a complaint on a remodel without a permit and upon a site visit was told the lumber is for a roofing project. Mr Buening revisited the property on County Road 850 South, as requested by County Attorney Chad Smith, to take pictures of the property since the Court has issued a judgment allowing the County to go in and cleanup. Mr Buening will give Commissioners the specs for standards he has for properties so they can send out requests/quotes for cleaning up properties in violation after the Courts issue judgments.

Sheriff Bill Meyerrose has been working on purchasing 18 in-car dash cameras for his road deputies. **Lieutenant Rob Goodfellow and Administrative Supervisor Ashley Wilson** worked a grant from the **Indiana Criminal Justice Institute** and a \$194,762.88 has been awarded to purchase the dash cams. The

total cost for 5 years for the **Axon** dash cams, service contract which included storage and warranty is \$222,069.60. Sheriff Meyerrose will ask Council for \$6,826.88 in each of his 2025 - 2030 budgets to pay the service contract for the 5th year not covered by the ICJI Grant. These dash cams will interface with the Deputies' body cams. Mr Blodgett moved to approve installing the dash cams in the county vehicles, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Sheriff Meyerrose will present the 2023 semi-annual Commissary Report at the Commissioners' meeting in January 2024.

Economic Development Commission Director Bryan Robbins presented **Ordinance 2023-33** for the Commissioners review and approval. This ordinance designates a geographic territory as an **Infrastructure Development Zone** to establish facilities and technologies used in the deployment and transmission of broadband service. Mr Pasel made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-33, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Robbins then presented the **Economic Development Agreement between the County/Commissioners/Council and Fletcher Power** which sets up the abatement structure and stipulations which has been reviewed by **Barnes and Thornburg**. The 100% abatement is for 10 years, so on the 11th year mark the real and personal property owners will pay property taxes. Mr Pasel moved to approve and accept the terms of the agreement, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Council President Danny Peters thanked Mr Robbins for working the past two years on this.

Mr Pasel and Mr Koors told **LandProz Broker Jared Baird and Auctioneer Brian Owens** they were surprised and disappointed in the low bid- \$530,000 - for the current Highway Department at December 16th's Auction. Mr Pasel made a motion to turn down the \$530,000 bid and Mr Blodgett seconded the motion. Mr Owens told Commissioners it is common courtesy to give the current highest bidder an opportunity to counter the Commissioners' rejection of the \$530,000. County Attorney Chad Smith stated the Commissioners do not have to do anything else. Mr Blodgett and Mr Pasel signed the 'bid was rejected' on the purchase agreement. Mr Peters said he thinks the Commissioners made a mistake as Mr Owens did everything he could to sell the Highway property.

Two bids were received for refurbishing the elevator in the Courthouse: **Mid-American Elevator - \$99,775 and Otis Elevator - \$125,000 - \$140,000**. Mr Koors said there is a long lead time for some parts and the bids do not include costs for the electrician and the fire panel. The **ARPA Committee** has earmarked funds for this project. Commissioners will need to provide chair lifts or something to get folks to the second floor during the time the elevator will be unavailable. Mr Pasel moved to accept **Mid-American Elevator's** bid, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Greensburg/Decatur County Chamber of Commerce Director Dawn Lowe gave her 2023 Annual Report, January 1st to October 31st.

Priority Project Resources Inc Director Shannon McLeod asked Commissioners to sign **Resolution 2023-31** authorizing her to submit the **YMCA's** application to the **Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs** for a grant to replace the roof on the YMCA building. Ms McCleod opened the "public hearing" for any questions or comments. The YMCA will provide the required 10% local match plus another \$490,000 for a total match of 50% since it's they asking for \$1,000,000; while the County is a pass-through sponsor with no financial obligation. Mr Pasel moved to approve the Resolution as written and authorizing Mr Koors to sign it upon review by Mr Smith. Mr Blodgett seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Mr Pasel moved to reappoint **Brad Schutte to the Area Plan**, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

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

Mr Pasel moved to reappoint **Chad Smith as County Attorney**, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to appoint **Maurie Goodwin and reappoint Greg Coffin to the Lake Santee Regional Waste and Water Board**. Mr Blodgett seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to reappoint **Shelley Hadler and Jeff Whitaker to the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals**, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to reappoint **Brian Keith, Chris Bower and Don Schilling to the County's Redevelopment Commission**. Mr Blodgett seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to reappoint **Mike Baumgartner as Veteran’s Service Officer**, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

All three Commissioners serve on the Solid Waste Management Board.

Mr Blodgett moved to reappoint **Mr Pasel to the Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission** and Mr Koors seconded the motion.

Mr Pasel moved to reappoint **Daniel Fayette to the Tourism Board**, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Commissioners reviewed the proposed A or B 2024 Holiday Schedule. Mr Blodgett moved to include New Year’s Eve – December 31st to proposed “B” 2024 Holiday Schedule, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to approve the 2024 Commissioners’ Meeting Schedule, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. The first meeting of each month will start at 6:00 pm; the second meeting of each month will start at 8:00 am.

Mr Blodgett made a motion Mr Koors remain as President of the Commissioners and Mr Pasel seconded the motion.

Commissioners discussed which county vehicles needs the new County logo; also, as vehicles are traded those would get the new logo.

Mr Pasel continues working/amending the by-laws for the Fair Committee as he has received input from several individuals. He is also setting out an appointment process for the committee members.

Mr Koors wished everyone a Merry Christmas!

The next Commissioners meeting will be January 2nd, 2024, beginning at 6:00 pm in Room 106.

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

Attest: _____

Date: _____