

**Commissioners Meeting
December 19, 2022 8:00 a m**

Present: Mark Koors, Jerome Buening and Chuck Emsweller

President Koors welcomed everyone to the last Commissioners meeting, December 19th, of 2022; he then announced Title VI forms are available for anyone who would like to fill out and turn in at the Auditor's office.

Jail Commander Dana Parker led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; Pastor Ray Sweet, Jr then offered a prayer.

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

Mr Buening moved to approve the December 5th meeting minutes, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Emsweller moved to accept the accounts payable claims, Mr Buening seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Buening moved to approve the December 9th payroll, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Highway (Interim) Superintendent Todd Houk told Commissioners there is a **J D Adams leaning wheel grader** on Larry Pumphrey's property which he would like to donate to display at the new Highway Garage. Mr Pumphrey asked should the County decide to get rid of it, they return it to him. Highway crews are continually working on County Road 350 West due to the railroad crossing project on the State Road 3 Bypass. Mr Houk has contacted the Railroad Traffic Control and INDOT to request funding due to the changes INDOT made to traffic control. He was told **INDOT** has an official detour routing traffic using State Road 9 to I-74, which few if any are using that detour. Mark Mohr said originally both lanes of the bypass were not to be closed at the same time. Bridge 73 on County Road 150 North and 950 East is complete, but only open to local traffic. Crews have completed some ditch work on County Road 300 South, west of US Highway 421. Raising part of County Roads 400 East at County Road 480 South has been completed as well as drainage work. Trucks and crews are preparing for the predicted winter weather due by the weekend.

Krista Duvall, Area Plan Director, did not have anything to report.

In the past 2 weeks, **Building Inspector Kenny Buening** completed 28 building inspections, issued 8 new permits and plan reviews, and issued 3 red tags and those violations have been corrected. Mr Buening resent a letter to the property owner of a nuisance property. He has started some inspections on the new highway garage.

Rick Nobbe asked Commissioners to donate the Highway Department's tractor and mower which are slated to be sold. **IDEM** annually inspects the old landfill and they expect the tall weeds/brush to be kept mowed. He then asked Commissioners and Council to consider putting a committee together to help the process along to offer broadband to Decatur County residents. REMC is looking to offer their customers broadband. There is an estimated cost of \$42 million to put fiber across the community. The Feds have a broadband map which focuses on the under-served communities.

Mr Emsweller moved to reappoint **TJ Greiwe to the Board of Health**, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred. There was some confusion on Ms Greiwe's term, but **Dr Jim Howell, Health Board President**, told Commissioners she was appointed to replace Alice Hardebeck and finish her term; so that Board position would need to be appointed for a 4-year term.

Mr Emsweller moved to appoint **Janet Miller to the Animal Control Board**. Mr Buening opted not to second the motion. Mr Koors seconded the motion. Mr Buening thanked Kristi Jarvis for her service on the Board.

Mr Emsweller moved to reappoint **Paul Stone to the Area Plan Commission**. Mr Buening seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Emsweller moved to reappoint **Tom DePalma and Claude Livesay to the Lake Santee Regional Waste & Water District**. Mr Buening seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Emsweller moved to reappoint **Darren Covington to the Tourism Board**, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

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

Mr Buening moved to reappoint **Nick Wallpe to the Decatur County Corrections Advisory Board**. Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Buening moved to appoint **Ashley Hungate to the Corrections Advisory Board**, Mr Emsweller seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

Steve Ruble, Strand and Associates, presented **Change Order #1 for the Park Road Water Main** project contract. The change order includes extending the casing under a widen part of County Road 200 West, under the cul de sac; a 20' driveway needs asphalt paving; there are 'adds and deletes' increasing the total project cost from \$371,319 to \$386,619. Mr Buening moved to approve Change Order #1, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred. The **Area Plan Commission** is requesting a survey be done on Begg's property as a result of the property exchange. The contractor for the new Highway Garage is now estimating a 14-month construction schedule instead of the original 12-month schedule. Mr Ruble is also requesting an additional \$14,000 to cover the additional 2 months plus \$1,300 for the survey.

Mr Emsweller moved to approve **Application for Payment #3- \$276,995.26**; submitted by contractor **GM Development Companies LLC** for the construction of the new Highway Garage to be presented to the **Decatur County Redevelopment Commission** for approval to be paid. Mr Buening seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Buening moved to approve signing the contract for the sale of the jail pods, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred. The buyer did pay \$25,000 in October as 'earnest payment' and may pay another \$25,000 to extend the contract another 30 days into 2023; Commissioners are hoping he pays the \$975,000 balance due by December 30, 2022, otherwise the earnest monies are forfeited.

Mr Emsweller moved to encumber the 2022 budgeted \$220,000 for Mental Health, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred. **Centerstone of Indiana** has not answered the Commissioners' and Council's questions concerning Centerstone's services to Decatur County residents.

Mr Emsweller moved to elect Mark Koors as President of the Board of Commissioners. Mr Buening seconded the motion. Mr Koors said he would be honored to be President one more year.

Mr Buening moved to appoint **Todd Houk as the permanent Highway Superintendent**, effective January 1, 2023, Mr Emsweller seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

Julie Gullyer, Regional Manager for Farm Bureau Inc, reiterated the need for broadband in our community. She is asking everyone to do the 'speed test' on the **FCC Map Challenge Communication Plan** website which offers individuals an opportunity to influence how federal dollars are spent on the vital internet infrastructure.

County Attorney Chad Smith is tracking distribution of the Opioid Settlement funds due to Decatur County since we were part of the multi-state litigation case.

Mr Koors presented retiring **Highway Superintendent Mark Mohr** with a plaque for his 27 years of service. In the past 5 years, the County received nearly \$5 million dollars from the **Community Crossings Grants** program for road projects as a result of Mr Mohr and Tim Ortman applying to INDOT for those grants.

Mr Koors then presented a plaque to retiring **Commissioners Jerome Buening** for his 20 years of service; he appreciated working with Mr Buening.

The Commissioners next meeting will be January 3rd, 2023, at 8:00 A.M.

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

Attest: _____

Date: _____