

Commissioners Meeting

December 4, 2023

Present: Mark Koors and Tony Blodgett; Jeremy Pasel joined the meeting via zoom

Mr Koors opened the Commissioner's 4th quarter evening 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.

Dana Parker led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; Mr Koors then offered a 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 November 20th, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to approve the claims, Mr Blodgett seconded, and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to approve the Payroll for November 24th, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Highway Superintendent Todd Houk told Commissioners countywide bridge maintenance continues; the milling project on Old US Highway 421 has been completed and Bridge 236 (East Central Avenue, near Greensburg Junior High), is complete and the sidewalks and hand rails on bridge walls hopefully will be done so bridge can be opened on December 1st. A 'walk-through' is scheduled for December 5th at the new Highway Garage and Commissioners are planning to hold an open house on December 20th for all to come see the new facility. Mr Houk has submitted the Bridge 141 commitment letter to **INDOT** for review. Mr Houk and Assistant Highway Superintendent Tim Ortman have completed the Paser ratings for the County's roads in order to choose which roads to include for submission for 2024 Community Crossings Grants due January 2 – 31, 2024. Addressing the 55 miles of roads with a Paser rating of 4 utilizing a polymer modified chip and seal application, has an estimated cost of \$28,000 per mile. Roads with a Paser rating of 3 requires an asphalt overlay with an estimated cost of \$116,000 per mile. The old Highway Garage will be open December 9th, noon to 2:00, for anyone interested in seeing it before the December 16th Auction at 10:30 am.

County Building Inspector Kenny Buening completed 26 building inspections, issued 5 new building permits with plan reviews and issued 1 red tags for building a lean-to style porch without a permit since the last Commissioners' meeting. He is reviewing expired building permits; visited the Clarksburg property and it's mostly cleaned up and he received a subpoena from the attorney for Westport. He is meeting the Fire Marshall at the new Highway Garage to test systems.

Area Plan Director Krista Duvall presented 4 ordinances from the **Area Plan Commission: Ordinance 2022-22**, petitioner Wayne Kirtman requesting to rezone 2.99 acres from A1 to A2 for the purpose of building a single family detached dwelling. Mr Pasel moved to approve Ordinance 2022-22, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. **Ordinance 2022-25**, petitioners David and Heather Gray requesting to rezone 2.99 acres from A1 to A2 for the purpose of building a single family detached dwelling. Mr Pasel moved to approve Ordinance 2022-25, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. **Ordinance 2023-7**, petitioner Steven Hart requesting to rezone 2.99 acres from A1 to A2 for the purpose of building a single family detached dwelling. Mr Pasel moved to approve Ordinance 2022-7, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Those present on the APC Board all voted yes on these ordinances. **Ordinance 2023-17**, petitioners Tim and Kim Rentals LLC/Paul Stone requesting to rezone 1.417 acres from A1 to B2. Mr Pasel moved to approve Ordinance 2023-17, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. The APC Board all voted yes on this ordinance with Paul Stone abstaining. Ms Duvall presented **Ordinance 2023-30** to change or modify the membership of the **Area Plan Commission**. Currently an ordinance requires the **County Extension Educator** to reside in Decatur County. State statute does permit the County Extension Board to appoint an 'agriculture related representative' who resides in Decatur County to the APC. Mr Blodgett moved to approve Ordinance 2023-30, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Economic Development Commission Director Bryan Robbins and Rick Nobbe, representing the **Broad Band Task Force**, asked Commissioners to help facilitate the expansion of broad band by establishing a

geographic area as an *Infrastructure Development Zone* in the unincorporated areas in the county thereby allowing tax abatements for business personal property to be available for 6 years after the adoption of the ordinance per Indiana Code. The READI Broad Band project just showed Decatur County is interested and letters of support from the County Commissioners and Council would score extra points when applying for grants. The proposed ordinance will be advertised and will be on the Commissioners' next meeting agenda.

Commissioners received a letter from the **Decatur County Memorial Hospital Board** requesting Larry Rueff be reappointed to that Board and Dennis Fogle be appointed to replace Pat Crusier. Mr Pasel moved to reappoint Mr Rueff, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Pasel made a motion to appoint Mr Fogle to the Board, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Blodgett moved to reappoint Dr Nicole Boersma as Chief of Staff at DCMH, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Commissioners reviewed the proposed 2024 Holiday Schedule and after some discussion Mr Blodgett moved to postpone a decision until their next meeting, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Auditor Chadwell shared concerns on the **Commissioners' 2024 meeting schedule**: the second meeting of each month is set to be an evening meeting and the County Council meets the third Tuesday of each month at 9:00 am. This will cause a hardship for the Auditor's Office in issuing payments for claims approved by the Commissioners the same morning as the Council meets. Commissioners decided to switch their evening schedule to their first meeting of each month to evenings, 6:00) and the second meeting (third Monday) of each month would start at 8:00 am.

Commissioners are working with **Hickory Mental Health** to be a provider replacing **Centerstone**.

Mr Koors invited everyone to the open house at the new Highway Garage on December 20th, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

The next Commissioners meeting will be December 18th beginning at 8:00 am in Room 106.

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

Attest: _____

Date: _____