

**Commissioners Meeting
December 7, 2020 8:00 a m**

Present: Rick Nobbe, Jerome Buening and Mark Koors

Decatur County Commissioner Rick Nobbe called the December 7th Commissioners meeting in session; he then announced Title VI forms are available for anyone who would like to fill out and turn in at the Auditor's office.

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

Mr Nobbe requested some corrections/changes to the November 16th meeting minutes: Mr Buening moved to support Area Plan's decision to not approve Decatur County Ordinance 2020-25, add Communication Director's last name- Free; remove 'the housing TIF district' from the paragraph about Mayor Marsh asking the County to partner with the City on their proposed project for Park Road and department heads can decide whether to keep departments open or move to appointments only per the Governor's Executive Order 2020-48.

Mr Koors moved to approve the November 16th Commissioners' meeting minutes as amended, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Nobbe concurred.

Mr Buening moved to approve the claims as presented, Mr Koors seconded and Mr Nobbe concurred.

Highway Superintendent Mark Mohr reported the project on County Road 400 South and South West 60, which is one of the Community Crossings Grants, has been completed. Highway crews continue working on driveway approaches on County Road 800 South to Greensburg; also addressing 'drop off shoulders' on a couple of roads; the pipe project on South West 60 and County Road 900 will not be paved until next spring; 3 pipes will be replaced on County Road 300 South just off of State Road 3 South and a pipe on County Road 700 East, just south of New Point, is also scheduled to be replaced. The Highway's Community Crossing Grants Asset Plan has been submitted and approved.

Area Plan Director Krista Duvall presented **Decatur County Ordinance 2020-13**; petitioner Robert Phelps is requesting to rezone 2.99 acres from A1 to A2 for the purpose of constructing a single family detached dwelling. Mr Koors moved to approve Ordinance 2020-13, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Nobbe concurred. Mr Nobbe asked Ms Duvall if the ordinances related to the Comprehensive Plan would be presented to the Commissioners at their December 21st meeting. Ms Duvall said she would do her best. Mr Koors stated he's wants to start a **Drainage Board** in 2021 to address some drainage issues in the County. In Bartholomew County, the complaints go to the Area Plan Office who takes those to the Drainage Board who then would make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.

In the last two weeks, **Building Inspector Kenny Buening** has completed 70 inspections and issued 11 new building permits plus plan reviews and he issued 3 red tags for electrical permit needed to be upgraded to a remodel; a remodel job being done without a permit and an old meter base with exposed wiring and holes in the conduit. He met with **Washington Township Trustee Christian Rust** regarding properties at Lake McCoy; Kenny plans to revisit properties where weeds were to be cut/removed to reassess whether he should send letters to those residents. One Lake McCoy property owner told Mr Rust he no longer plans to pay property taxes and he doesn't plan to tear the unsafe structure down; so, he told him 'just take it'. It will have to go through the normal 'tax sale process' before any change of ownership. In following the County ordinance, Kenny will send a certified letter to Joshua Fields, owner of a property in Sandusky. **County Attorney Ken Bass** told Commissioners their lawsuit for this same issue against Mr Fields is still pending. Kenny stated he believes Mr Fields is incarcerated in the local jail. Mr Bass reminded Commissioners that any expenses the County incurs to clean the property up will be added to the property tax bill. **Clinton Township Trustee Ronnie Bruner** has 3 more properties he'd like Kenny to look at and take pictures.

Greensburg City Mayor Josh Marsh asked Commissioners if they have any follow up questions regarding the City's request for an interlocal agreement for Decatur County to partner for their **Park Road project**. This \$20,000,000 multi-year project would begin at County Road 200 West continue to South Broadway Street and would include reconstructing/widening Park Road, gutters, sidewalks, a multi-purpose trail, lighting and address some drainage issues. Mayor Marsh is asking the County to apply to the **INDOT** for a \$5,000,000 grant which requires a 20% match, \$1,000,000, from County funds. The City would apply to **INDOT** at the same time, but separately, in order to have enough funds. Mr Koors has received many phone calls against the trail due it

being 30 feet from peoples' front doors; no one has told him they'd support this project. Mr Buening questioned the scope of this project; also, what if the project gets bogged down/delayed after the County has paid their part? **Greensburg City Engineer Ron May** explained the City would pay the bills and the County would reimburse the City as the County's 20% of the \$5,000,000; with the remaining 80% coming from **INDOT**. After much discussion, Mr Nobbe asked for a motion to enter into an interlocal agreement by Decatur County and the City of Greensburg for the development and implementation of related projects for Park Road and the financial stuff that goes with it. Hearing none, Mr Nobbe stated that motion dies.

Jenny Holden of Level 365 was present for questions the Commissioners might have about her proposal for a 'cloud-based' hosted phone system in county offices with the exception of the Detention Center and the Communications Center.

Mr Nobbe presented a request by **WTRE** for funding to purchase equipment to continue broadcasting city and county meetings and any emergent situations that might arise. The total request is \$3,072. **IFA** has additional monies for counties to request reimbursement for expenditures related to the Coronavirus, but those must fall within 'safety awareness' parameters. He will ask **Veronica Schilb of Barnes and Thornburg** if this equipment would qualify as safety awareness. Mr Koors stated this equipment would be owned by the County but we shouldn't get in the habit of buying equipment for businesses.

Due to several complaints, **County Sheriff David Durant** plans to do an audit in 2021 on what levels of access (8-4 Monday through Friday, 24/7) employees have for the Courthouse. He stated convenience and security doesn't always work together. The **Indiana National Guard** contacted Sheriff Durant to inquire about leasing space during the construction of their new building. He asked if the County charges the National Guard, should he also charge the **Indiana State Police** for the office they utilize. Sheriff Durant presented his 'State of the Sheriff's Office' for 2020.

After contacting 22 other counties, **Jail Commander Dana Parker** found that Decatur County is the only county who doesn't have a full-time maintenance person(s). Preventative maintenance is key to more costly repairs in the future. Local vendors like Dave Geis have other customers so he can't always come when needed. In addition to their regular duties, Commander Parker and jail personnel have to deal with electronically controlled doors that get stuck, cleanup bodily fluids from inmates fighting or just creating messes so they have to be moved while jailers clean it up the messes. These daily problems are creating morale issues among the jail staff. Sheriff Durant is willing to pay a maintenance salary, \$50,000 - \$60,000 for one year out of his Commissary Fund, but the benefits for this position would have to come out of county funds. Commissioners asked Sheriff Durant to send them a general job description and they will support him at the County Council's December 15th meeting.

Joan Moore said she has spoken to Commander Parker about inmates not getting TVs, medications and the high cost of Commissary items; so, she wanted come before the Commissioners representing inmates at the Detention Center. Commander Parker answered her stating inmates break the TV's, tear up mattresses, scratched 'checker boards' on a very expensive stainless-steel tables, basically destroying county property. Sheriff Durant told Ms Moore the jail is not a hotel and the County can't give inmates everything they want. Inmates also need to change their actions so they don't keep coming back to jail. Inmates are housed safely and legally.

Commissioners reviewed the janitorial contract with **Minutemaids** for the Courthouse, Highway Department, Extension Office, Health Department and the Court Services Building (old Washington School). It is a 2-year contract, beginning January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2022, for an annual fee of \$93,704. Mr Koors moved to approve the 2-year contract with Minutemaids, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Nobbe concurred.

Mr Nobbe reported the County has received the total reimbursement of \$869,298 as set out in the Cares Reimbursement Act. \$86,000 is now available to Decatur County for communications as related to the coronavirus.

Commissioners reviewed the nepotism letters submitted by several departments. All departments were notified via email on October 1st and given an October 15th deadline.

Mr Nobbe plans to ask Council to approve using county monies from the CARES Act reimbursement to support paying for a freezer, vaccine administration and support personnel for **Decatur County Memorial Hospital** as these relate to the coronavirus.

Public Safety IT Director Josh Tressler will send the Commissioners a summary on the 3 proposals for upgrading the phone system in county offices with the exception of the Detention Center and the Communications Center. Commissioners will make a decision at their December 21st meeting.

Commissioners asked Mr Bass to continue serving as County Attorney and he said he would be honored and willing to continue as County Attorney.

County Clerk Adina Roberts presented a renewal contract between her office and **Dossett Consulting** for the Commissioners' approval. After reviewing the contract, Mr Koors moved to allow Mr Nobbe to sign the contract and Mr Buening seconded the motion.

EMA Director Brad Speer told Commissioners the **Indiana Criminal Justice Institute** has awarded a \$59,000 grant to the County. He will send more information to the Commissioners as he receives it.

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

Attest: _____

Date: _____