

*Draft*

**Commissioners Regular Meeting  
February 17, 2020 8:00 a m**

**Present: Rick Nobbe, Jerome Buening and Mark Koors**

The Decatur County Commissioners February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting was called to order by President Nobbe; then he announced there are Title VI forms available for anyone wishing to fill out and submit to the Auditor's Office.

Mr Buening asked for the February 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes be amended regarding Elevatus' proposal "not to exceed \$26,200 for building plans and documents to be submitted to the State for relocating the PODS to the new jail site." [Elevatus' second proposal would cost 'not to exceed \$26,200' for relocating the modular units (PODS) to the new jail site.] Mr Buening made a motion to approve the February 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes as amended, Mr Koors seconded and Mr Nobbe concurred.

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

**Mark Mohr, Highway Superintendent**, reported work is continuing on removing trees through some curves along County Road Southwest 60, before paving, which will provide better sight distance for motorists. He is in the process of obtaining right-of-way to remove/fix a 'blind intersection' at County Roads SW 60 and 600 South. Property owners are cooperating- making that a safer intersection. A multi-pipe drainage project, near Downeyville, has begun. It's been a problem area due to lots of trees- leaves; so that should be completed this week. Highway employees continue doing ditch work and hand patching on roads due to the freezing and thawing. Mr Mohr has sent out "Requests for Proposals" (RFP's) for the 2021-2024 Bridge Inspection, as required by **INDOT**. Bids for stone and fuel will be advertised for an April 6<sup>th</sup> bid opening during the Commissioners' regular meeting.

**Brian Wenning**, on behalf of the **On Eagles Wings'** organization requested part of County Road 60 East-Millhousen Road, be closed on the morning of August 29<sup>th</sup> for the 8<sup>th</sup> annual 5K run/walk. They plan to use the same route as last year and with the Highway Department putting up signage well in advance of the event, motorists can avoid that area that day. Commissioners gave their approval.

**Superior Court Judge Matthew Bailey and Circuit Court Judge Tim Day** shared statistics on Decatur County's 'severity of need' for a **Magistrate Judge** to help with the number of court cases. They believe a full-time Magistrate, which is paid by the State and is not elected, is needed to insure those arrested go before a judge in a timely manner. Judge Bailey presented a letter to State Senator Erin Houchin, Chairperson of the Interim Study Committee on Courts and the Judiciary, requesting a Magistrate Judge for Decatur County. This letter needs to be received by interim study committee before the end of the 2020 legislative session. Once the interim study committee gives their approval, a bill would be authored by one of Decatur County's State Representatives at the 2021 Legislative Session. The best-case scenario would be a magistrate judge would begin January 1, 2021. The County would be paying for a Court Reporter, which includes equipment- office, salary and benefits. Commissioners will 'look at room options' for a Magistrate Court, possibly space vacated by the Sheriff once his offices move into the new jail facility. Mr Koors moved to approve requesting an 'interim study' to add a magistrate judge/court, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Nobbe concurred.

**Area Plan Director Krista Duvall** didn't have any rezoning ordinances to present. The rough drafts of updated ordinances to become 'in compliance' with the **County's 2016 Comprehensive Plan** will be posted on the County website and copies will be available at the Library. There will be a 30-day period for public input; then she will take the draft to the Area Plan Commission on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

**County Building Inspector Kenny Buening** reported he completed 32 building inspections, issued 8 new building permits and 1 homeowner doing a remodeling project was red tagged due to no record of a septic system being on the property. Kenny and Ms Duvall attended a pipeline safety seminar in Seymour; he also attended a 'blue on blue' safety training at the Sheriff's Department.

**County Sheriff David Durant** announced public tours will be given at the new Detention Center on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4 pm to 8:00 pm. This is not the official opening the Detention Center; he wanted to allow the public to tour the facility before inmates are moved in. Mr Nobbe would like to invite/recognize people who were instrumental in making this project a reality: **Rick Hall of Barnes & Thornburg, Matt Eckerle of Baker Tilly, Jeff Lyness and Chris Grabosky of Maxwell Construction, Mike Gouloff and Tony Vie of Elevatus Architects and many more.** Sheriff Durant will present requests for 3 grants at the Commissioners' March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting: **1) Cops Hiring Grants** which is \$250,000 over the next 3 years to hire 2 Deputy Sheriffs. After the 3 years expire, the County

budget would be paying those officers salaries, benefits, vehicles, etc. **2) Policing Grant** to be used to track sex offenders. **Administrative Assistant Ashley Wilson and Lieutenant Chris Hellmich** work daily on this task and it does involve some overtime. This grant will help pay some of the OT **3) Decatur County Community Foundation** \$25,000 Grant will help purchase a **Tru Narc** hand-held tester which will test up to 490 substances.

**Jail Commander Dana Parker and Assistant Jail Commander Wakenda Doles** presented details about 'classifying inmates' for moving into the new Detention Center. Commander Parker stated due to the configuration of the cells plus the stricter inmate classifications, he will be out of spaces/beds for minimum security males. Moving the PODS to the new Detention Center are key to easing this problem.

Sheriff Durant introduced **Teresa Ruble, Director of The Speranza House**, who believes faith-based programs help reduce recidivism. Mrs Ruble said the 10 women who have/are going through this 'piece of rehabilitation' are learning living in balance, budgeting classes, parenting, building/having a home which most have never been taught these basic life skills. She believes moving the PODS for programs may help produce productive citizens instead of destructive citizens. The PODS offer separation from those inmates who do not wish to change their life's direction. Mr Buening agrees this County's greatest assets are the Faith-based groups.

Commissioners have discussed/looked at costs to move the PODS; value of PODS if sold; costs per bed in PODS versus costs per bed to build an addition to the Detention Center in the next few years; if additional staff would be needed. Commander Parker stated additional staff would not be needed should the PODS be moved to the Detention site. Chris Grabosky stated a 111 beds wing/addition would cost about \$83,000 per bed for a total between \$10 - \$15 million dollars; additional staff would be needed since they cannot 'control' from the new control center. The cost per bed in the PODS, including the \$700,000 to move would be about \$40,000. Mr Nobbe stated this information will be shared with the County Council at their regular meeting tomorrow- these decisions will impact a lot of lives. Mr Grabosky stated 1.5 years would be needed to build a jail addition versus moving the PODS may require only a 6-month duration.

**County Extension Agent Jeff Hermes** introduced recently hired Sara Dunlap as the **4-H Extension Educator**.

Mr Nobbe signed the claim to allow payment to **Bradshaw Specialties** from the **ORCA grant** for the remodeling of the **Children's Advocacy Coalition** office building. Commissioners also approved a corrected claim-payment made to **Pauly Jail** when payment should have been made to **Anthony Anderson Corporation**.

Commander Parker shared information from Mr Grabosky that there is a 1-year warranty on everything in the new Detention Center. Contracts with Vendors/contractors will also be needed for preventative maintenance for equipment.

Commissioners will approve their 2020 Capital Improvement Plan (EDIT) at their March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

**County Attorney Ken Bass** told Commissioners Judge Day should sign the order today for the Commissioners to obtain title/deeds for the unsold tax sale properties. A sale date will be set once costs the County has incurred are calculated which has to be advertised.

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

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

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