

**Commissioners Meeting
February 20, 2023 8:00 a m**

Present: Mark Koors, Jeremy Pasel present and Chuck Emsweller via zoom

President Koors opened the February 20th Commissioner meeting by welcoming everyone; 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; a prayer was offered by Reuben Kissel.

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

Mr Pasel moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting and Mr Koors seconded.

Mr Pasel moved to approve the accounts payable claims and Mr Koors seconded the motion.

Todd Houk, Highway Superintendent, reported crews are still working on bridge maintenance, clearing brush for a 'line of sight'. He received a call from the Town of St Paul about stumps sticking up next to a bridge near Hidden Paradise outside of St Paul, as well as the damaged guardrail. Crews will address the stumps and guardrail when the bridge is closed for patching the bridge deck. They continue to do hotbox patching, miscellaneous shop work, grading gravel roads and doing some surveying. Mr Pasel received a call about a railroad crossing on County Road 550 West; he did get the railroad crossing number which he will forward to Mr Houk. **INDOT** has not returned Mr Houk's call regarding the damage done to County Road 350 West due to both the south and north bound lanes on the Bypass being closed at the same time, to lay railroad tracks for **Lowe's and Reed's**. He did get a contact name for the signage company hired by the railroad and will request repair funds from the railroad company.

Mr Emsweller moved to approve the February 17th payroll, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

An invoice for \$1,144 was paid from the **Jail Pod** appropriation in the **Cumulative Capital Development** fund, should have been paid from the **Court Services** appropriation. Mr Pasel made a motion to approve the transfer, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

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

Director of Community Corrections Abby Harry presented her annual Department of Corrections report. Court Services' average daily case load was 60.1 (ankle monitors) for 2022; 85 successfully completed that program while 24 did not. The day reporting program averaged 2.75 people with no one successfully completing the program. There were 1,367 home visits conducted, using contact standards; 1,121 PDT and drug screens conducted with 29 testing positive. The Community Services department, on average, was assigned 59.08 individuals with felonies, and 69.42 individuals with misdemeanors. Currently there are 60 on ankle monitors.

Elections Deputy Clerk Patricia Louagie introduced **Steve Shamo with MicroVote Corporation** who told Commissioners due to the **Secretary of State** requiring each voting machine to have a paper trail for audit purposes for the 2024 General Elections, new voting cases/booths will be needed. The new booths are 1' x 2' x 40" tall and weigh 50 pounds, so additional storage space is needed- about a total of 200 square feet. These booths should be delivered the end of 2023 or early in 2024. Mr Shamo recommends contracting a bonded vendor to transport the booths and voting machines to each poll. The auditability after each election will depend on the highest level of a 'paper trail'. Fifty-six of Indiana's ninety-two counties use the MicroVote System.

Clerk Janet Howell's Deputies are required to be trained on the State's new **INVEST (Child Support) System** which is set to go live in May, 2023. The State advised her to close the office since everyone has to be trained, which is set for Tuesday, April 18th through Thursday, April 20th. The training is via zoom and each person needs to concentrate- no distractions. **Absentee Voting will only be available via the Travel Board on those 3 days which is permissible due to only cities and towns have elections in 2023.** Mrs Howell will advertise via the newspaper, radio, county website and Facebook to alert the public to the days her office will be closed. Commissioners are ok with the request as long as there's ample advertising.

The annual meeting for the Decatur County Public Records Commission is scheduled for 9:00 am on March 10th, 2023 in the Circuit Court Room.

The required Certificate of Insurance Liability has been submitted by Joane Cunningham for the **United Fund's Annual Strawberry Festival**. Mr Pasel made a motion to approve the request to use the Courthouse lawn for the Strawberry Festival, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to approve renewing the 65-month lease with **Pinnacle Mailing Products**, Mr Emsweller seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. Pinnacle will replace the current postage machine.

Parks and Recreation Director Teresa Kovacich told Commissioners the Allen Memorial Swimming Pool needs to be either renovated or replaced due to a failing liner (a new pool liner cost approximately \$129,000) and crumbling concrete. **Parks' employee Jodi Biddinger** is a certified pool operator who told Commissioners the pool needs comprehensive pressure testing, new gutters and piping, in addition to a new main drain. Mr Biddinger believes the issues with leaks last summer may be due to some foundation issues because of the leaks. Commissioners have not had a formal discussion with the County Council; they do agree not to put new funds after bad. Mrs Kovacich also told Commissioners the water slide has 'aging issues' as it was installed in 1986. The **READI Group and the ARPA Committee** continue to visit surrounding area pools that have undergone renovation and updating; have put together a proposal for a new aquatic center which will may take up to 2 years to complete. Mrs Kovacich said other pools make money once there's attractions/features for all ages. Mr Emsweller moved to leave the pool closed for this year, Mr Pasel seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel made a motion to pursue fixing the Armory with the **Acculevel bid**, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Bids were received from: **Bruns-Gutzwiller** \$225,000 which included outside brick work; a company from Columbus \$180,000-range and **Acculevel** \$48,300 which includes floor leveling, close the north door ramp and basement garage door, waterproofing the foundation, putting in a new sump pump and drainage system, burying tile from the downspouts to the creek and putting in an egress window for the basement on the west side for an extra escape route.

Human Resources Director Patty Hensley read out loud a proposed **Recruitment Policy** to set out a procedure for filling a new position or vacant positions. The goal is to have all departments follow the same steps in the hiring process which includes making the public more aware of employment opportunities. Auditor Chadwell questioned why resumes would first go to Mrs Hensley before a Department Head/Elected Official would even know about or see them. The **Sheriff's Department and Communications-Dispatch** may be exempt from this policy if it is a matter of critical safety. Mr Pasel said can address tweaks later and Mr Emsweller said he believes the policy should say there must be a complete background check done. Mr Emsweller moved to adopt the Recruitment Policy with that, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Koors stated this policy goes into effect immediately.

Mr Pasel moved to approve **Pay Application #5, \$1,275,045.53**, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Pay App #5 will be sent to the **County Redevelopment Commission** for their review and approval in accordance with their agreement to fund the building of the new buildings for the Highway Department.

Emergency Management Director Brad Speer presented a quote from **Strand Associates** for a preliminary study for a cold storage facility. The County RDC has agreed to pay \$21,500 for this study. Mr Pasel moved to approve Strand's quote, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Commissioners agreed to roll over **Peine Engineering's** contract for the HVAC in the Courthouse.

Commissioners will ask the Council to schedule an Executive Session where both boards could discuss Veregy's proposed energy improvements at the Court Services Building.

The Commissioners next meeting will be at 6:00 pm on March 6th, 2023.

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

Attest: _____

Date: _____