

**Commissioners Meeting
February 21, 2022 8:00 a m**

Present: Mark Koors, Jerome Buening and Chuck Emsweller

The Decatur County Commissioners' February 21st, 2022 meeting was opened by President Koors who welcomed 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.

Dave Durant led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; Pastor Luke Koors then offered a prayer.

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

Mr Emsweller pointed out the "Commissioners next meeting should be February 21st, not March 7th"; he moved to accept as amended, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

The February 18th payroll was not available for review to be approved.

Commissioners questioned cell phone + data reimbursement to certain county employees. Mr Emsweller move to approve the payment of the claims, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mark Mohr, Highway Superintendent, reminded Commissioners of the March 7th bid opening for stone, fuels and culvert pipe at 9:00 am. He attended the Council's February 15th meeting to request additional funds to purchase several pieces of much-needed equipment; currently he's putting together specs for a boom mower. Highway crews continue patching potholes due to the freeze-thaw weather. **Parks and Rec Director Teresa Kovacich** contacted Mr Mohr about a sink/suck hole just off of County Road Northeast 80 going into **Oddfellows-Rebekah Park**. Highway crews filled the stormwater manhole and by the next morning the gravel had been sucked in; they then 'dye-flushed' to see where the water is coming from/going to. Mr Mohr said the manhole has 3 inlets with clay tile and to fix the problem would require someone with a trench box to 'go out 10' and put in solid PVC pipe; also get rid of the thoroughfare the high school kids use with a gate at both ends. Mrs Kovacich asked **Greensburg Street Commissioner Mark Klosterkemper** and he recommended **Schutte's or O'Mara's** to fix this problem. **Arbor Grove** was notified their water usage is way up by the **Greensburg Water Department**. Commissioners agreed the County will have to fix this problem before spring when public starts using the park. Mr Mohr and Mrs Kovacich will work together on a plan to fix this.

Mr Koors has a meeting today at 2:00 pm with Tom Bruns and Engineer Jim Lewis to look at problems at the Armory: there's a severe foundation problem- the north wall has moved out 3" and sunk almost 4". They will decide if this is a scratchable or if fixable, it will be a high-dollar fix.

Area Plan Director Krista Duvall didn't have anything to report.

Building Inspector Kenny Buening sent his report to Mr Koors to read at today's meeting: completed 44 building inspections, issued 6 new building permits and plan reviews; attended a gas pipeline safety class at Lawrenceburg and joined a webinar on tornado awareness and safety; issued 3 red tags- construction of boat dock without a county permit, a boat dock without a roof edge under the shingles and a panel box without Romex connectors over the wiring entering the top of the panel box.

Sean Durbin of the Health Department said the Health Department has moved to their new location in the **Court Services Building, 315 South Ireland Street**. They are fully operational with the exception of the fax machine which involves **Great Plains Communications** and there are some needed repairs. They had the carpets cleaned and due to some water intrusion through the threshold the carpets are stained again; attempted to move the office counter from the old building but it's just bad, need a new one. Mr Durbin requested an outdoor digital sign for all departments located in the building; also, a sign to identify their part of the building. Carpet in one office is ripped, nasty, needs replaced, blinds have mildew, there's flaking paint probably due to old mold stains and there's rust/mildew stains on the outside of the building. Commissioners asked Mr Durbin to get some quotes for the signage and find someone to do the other work. He will contact **EMA's Brad Speer** about housing the mosquito sprayer since it can't be left outside. **Dr James Howell, Board of Health President**, said Dr Mary McCullough has to agreed to be the full-time County Health Officer. Mr Buening moved to appoint Dr McCullough as the County Health Officer, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Emsweller moved to appoint Dr Mary Fogler to fill Dr McCullough's vacated seat, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Robin Carmer told Commissioners there were some miscommunication issues between her and the **Area Plan Office** regarding her **Hillbilly Coroner project**. She went 3 times before the **Board of Zoning Appeals Board** regarding construction of a building where she was told there needs to be a residential area of the building in order to meet the A2 zoning requirements. **County Sanitarian Alan Crosby** told her to apply to the **State** for a new septic. The building does have a 'store front' because Ms Carmer decided it would also house a farmer's market/gift shop, so the **State Fire Marshall** said if the building is over 3000 square feet, it must have a sprinkler system which would require removing some walls and ceiling to install that. She has postponed the final building inspection hoping to get some help from the Commissioners. Commissioners suggested she file a petition with the State Fire Marshall's office not to put in sprinkler system due to hardship- low water pressure. Ms Duvall suggested Ms Carmer file a petition to rezone the property to B1 classification and complete steps to get the final inspection. Mr Emsweller said the State does offer an expedite route, but it's not cheap. A big concern of Ms Carmer's is if she does what the State requires, the BZA may deny her request for rezoning and she's spent \$30,000 more on this. **Greensburg-Decatur County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Dawn Lowe** has also been working to help Ms Carmer as Decatur County is a business-friendly community.

County Sheriff Dave Durant and Sergeant Rob Goodfellow asked the Commissioners to close County Road 250 West between Base Road and Vandalia Road, May 26th to June 6th so the department may conduct **Emergency Vehicle Operations Training** for all shifts. Those affected by this temporary closure- 1 resident and 2 farmers- will be contacted prior to those dates so they may plan travel accordingly. Commissioners decided to make a decision until their next meeting after those affected have been contacted.

Sheriff Durant asked Commissioners to "un table" his longevity request as he thinks this is a good thing for all county employees, elected officials are not included in his request. He cited there is a 53% average statewide turnover in law enforcement and you can't buy experience in a government setting. It would up to each official/department head to include longevity in their annual budget request to the Council. Commissioners agreed to wait until the Salary Committee submits their report-recommendations to the County Council before acting on Sheriff Durant's request for longevity.

Mr Koors read the 2 bids for lawn care for the Courthouse, the Highway Department and the Court Services. Commissioners will review and award the bid at their March 7th meeting.

COURTHOUSE

	Sycamore Advisory Grp	Banks Lawn Care	
Mowing & trimming the lawn...ea			
mowing	\$120.00	\$140.00	
Spring fertilizer	\$395.00	\$250.00	**
Spring weed program	\$125.00	\$172.00	**
Crabgrass control program	\$130.00	\$267.00	
Fall fertilizer/weed program	320/250	\$280.00	
Spring & Fall landscape bed maintenance	\$325.00	\$200.00	
Shrub & mulch program	\$2,500.00	\$1,025.00	

HIGHWAY

Mow & trim all grass	\$100.00	\$75.00
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SOUTH IRELAND- WASH SCHOOL

Mow & trim all grass	\$225.00	\$170.00
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**Banks offered to charge \$295 if could combine to early April

Mr Mohr asked Commissioners if the clearing snow on the sallyport is included in their agreement. Currently his department clears only the sidewalks. Commissioners said to add the sallyport to Highway's snow removal list. He will check with EMA about borrowing their Kobota since it has a blade.

The Commissioners next meeting will be March 7th, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.

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

Attest: _____

Date: _____