

**Commissioners Regular Meeting  
January 6, 2020 8:00 a m**

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

The January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Decatur County Commissioners meeting was called in session by President Nobbe; he reminded all the **Title VI voluntary survey forms** are on the table in the corner for anyone wishing to fill one out and turn into the Auditor's office.

Having reviewed the minutes for the December 16<sup>th</sup> Commissioners meeting, Mr Nobbe had one minor word correction; Mr Buening moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented, Mr Koors seconded and Mr Nobbe concurred.

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

**Highway Superintendent Mark Mohr** presented a design exception to not extend the guardrail past Bridge 236 for the Commissioners' approval and signatures; the extension of the guardrail maybe a trip hazard for pedestrian traffic on the sidewalk, which is on the outside of the rail. Bridge 236 is a joint project with the City of Greensburg who is in agreement with this exception. Mr Buening moved to approve signing of the level 2 design exception on Bridge 236. Mr Koors seconded the motion and Mr Nobbe concurred. Mr Koors moved to sign the contract with **Civilcon** to rollover/extend the 2019 contract bid prices into 2020. Mr Buening seconded the motion and Mr Nobbe concurred. Mr Buening moved to sign a letter, dated December 30, 2019, to Eric Larson of **INDOT**, changing our classification of major and minor collector routes, Mr Koors seconded the motion and Mr Nobbe concurred. Commissioners agreed to allow Mr Snyder connect a drain at Meyer Engineering to the County's concrete catch basin and entrusts Mr Mohr to oversee the 'cut' in not too deep. Mr Mohr reported the work on the **Westport Covered Bridge** has been completed by **Rohe and Company** and it turned out good. Several loads of dirt are needed near the Kearney property. Mr Mohr will contact surrounding counties to see how they handle drainage issues, especially the direction of water flow. He has shared some information with Andy Scholle, County Surveyor, on these issues.

Bob Dawson and Bryan Robbins spoke to the Commissioners about **Star BioEnergy's** interest in building a 'digester' for nature's methane which the **Hulsbosch Dairy** has plenty of product (dairy manure). Mr Robbins explained this is an investment/education on top notch technology for Ag in Decatur County. **Brett Ethley and Steve Estes of Star Energy** answered some questions on transporting liquid from the digester site to 'get into the grid'. Mr Estes expects to apply in January to **IDEM** for the digester.

**Area Plan Director Krista Duvall** didn't have any ordinances to present today. Ms Duvall discussed needing another person appointed to the **Area Plan Commission** once Andy Scholle- County Surveyor is given a non-voting status on the APC since he does surveys which may come before **APC. County Attorney Ken Bass** will draft an ordinance for the Commissioners to approve at their January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, making Mr Scholle a non-voting member and giving the Commissioners one more board appointment to the **APC**.

**Building Inspector Kenny Buening** has completed 33 inspections, issued 7 new building permits and 3 projects red tagged- 2 property owners didn't have building permits to build a front porch and the other to move walls and the 3<sup>rd</sup> had exposed wires. Kenny checked on a complaint for trash on a property. He will be attending classes for the 2020 newly adopted codes and pipeline safety.

Commissioners received a quote of \$1,730 from **Peine Engineering** to provide VPN remote access for HVAC building maintenance in the Courthouse. Mr Nobbe will check with Peine to ask if the \$1730 is a one time or reoccurring cost; Commissioners will wait until their next meeting to make a decision on the VPN access.

Mr Buening moved to approve Greg Coffin and David Roa to replace Kathy Tarzwell and Frank Erdosy on the **Lake Santee Regional Waste and Water District**. Mr Koors seconded the motion and Mr Nobbe concurred. Commissioners thanked Ms Tarzwell and Mr Erdosy for their service on this Board.

Commissioners are planning to update their Capital Improvement Plan/EDIT Plan for 2020; currently the Plan includes: \$60,000 to **EDC**; \$100,000 for Highway equipment leases; \$50,000 for the Comp Plan; \$325,000 to repay Treasurer loan for Courthouse Rehab project; \$150,000 to Rainy Day Fund and \$160,000 to Build Decatur County. This topic will be on the next two Commissioners' meeting agendas.

Chief Deputy Bob Ray highlighted some changes to the **Courthouse Security Manual**; the first one, there will always be a security officer for any meetings after hours in the Courthouse, as long as folks give advance notice

to the Security officers; there will be sign-in sheets with purpose of visit stated for all visitors to the Courthouse. Mr Koors moved to approve the documents as presented by Chief Deputy Ray, Mr Buening seconded the motion and Mr Nobbe concurred. Implementation of the **Courthouse Security Manual** will be January 21, 2020.

There will be a meeting at the Sheriff’s office on January 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 am to discuss what to do with existing jail/modular PODS. **Elevatus Architecture** has offered to do so studies on this project.

Mr Bass will petition the Circuit Court on January 12<sup>th</sup> as a lawsuit to obtain the tax lien properties (unsold properties from previous Tax Sales). The one property in Westport which has a Federal Tax Lien may be sold as long as an interested buyer agrees to pay the amount of an appraisal, which is required by the IRS.

Updates to the County’s Personnel Policy were reviewed with some discussion. One change is the requirement to reduce an employee’s banked PTO (Paid Time Off) as well as reducing the cap on comp time hours. There are several employees who are ‘over’ the cap on comp time which is a fiscal liability for the County should any of those employees separate employment. Commissioners asked the elected officials in the meeting their opinions on the PTO, Banked PTO and Comp Time policies. Mr Koors moved to approve those changes as delineated today. Mr Buening seconded the motion and Mr Nobbe concurred.

Mr Buening moved to approve Decatur County Jail Requisition #18 in the amount of \$910,480.50. Mr Koors seconded the motion and Mr Nobbe concurred.

**EXHIBIT A**

| <u>Payee and Purpose</u>                | <u>Amount</u>       |
|---|---------------------|
| Bruns-Gutzwiller – App # 17             | \$196,624.04        |
| Quality Interiors Inc – App # 13        | \$19,433.97         |
| Levensteins Flooring – App # 1          | \$29,825.64         |
| Quality Plumbing & Heating – App # 17   | \$36,385.34         |
| Koch Mechanical Inc – App # 1030-15     | \$93,347.10         |
| Banta Electrical Contractors – App # 14 | \$199,832.50        |
| C & T Design & Equipment – App # 5      | \$148,935.04        |
| Pauly Jail Building Co Inc – App # 18   | \$55,242.50         |
| Anthony Anderson Painting – App # 8     | \$10,529.82         |
| MAD Technical Services – Inv # S19471   | \$2,210.00          |
| Inv # S19472                            | \$28,125.00         |
| Elevatus Architecture – Inv #19         | \$20,679.85         |
| Inv # 21                                | \$22,747.83         |
| Inv # 22                                | \$18,611.87         |
| Maxwell Construction – Inv #17          | \$27,950.00         |
| <b>Total---</b>                         | <b>\$910,480.50</b> |

**Maxwell Construction Manage Chris Grabosky** reported the jail project is over 95% complete; working the punch list this month, achieving substantial completion. The Sheriff has started training with **Accurate Controls**.

**Tourism Direction Philip Deiwert** reported the steel has been delivered for the Amphitheatre for a Spring completion date

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

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

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