

**Commissioners Meeting  
July 17, 2023**

**Present: Mark Koors, Jeremy Pasel and Tony Blodgett**

President Koors opened the July 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

Dr James Howell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; Pastor Jerran Jackson then offered a prayer.

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

Mr Blodgett moved to approve the July 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting minutes, Mr Pasel seconded, and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel made a motion to approve the claims, Mr Blodgett seconded, and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Blodgett moved to approve Payroll for July 7<sup>th</sup>, Mr Pasel seconded, and Mr Koors concurred.

**Todd Houk, Highway Superintendent**, told Commissioners the maturing cornfields are creating 'line of sight' problems for motorists since some farmers refuse to cut the corn back near intersections. Highway crews continue spraying weeds, bushwhacking, bush hogging and in-house bridge maintenance placing heavy rip-rap. The 'traffic road counters' are to be placed on County Road 150 West this week; the results should be posted on **INDOT's** website to review. One of the road graders is broken down and Mr Houk is dealing with John Deere telling him the County owns the road graders when those are currently on a lease contract. Mr Koors recused himself for the vote on which bid to accept for the Community Crossings Grant 2023-2 since Globe Asphalt is a bidder. Mr Pasel moved to accept the **CCMG** bid proposed by **O'Mara**, Mr Blodgett seconded the motion. Mr Pasel moved to approve the **Strand and Associates** invoice for \$12,100, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. The invoice is for June's professional services for the final design on the new Highway garage which will be forwarded to the **Decatur County Redevelopment Commission** for payment.

**County Sheriff Bill Meyerrose** presented 3 bids/proposals for medical care at the jail: **Advanced Correctional Healthcare- \$417,999; Southern Healthcare Partners- \$208,000 and Quality Correctional Care -\$151,095**. Sheriff Meyerrose recommends contracting with Southern Healthcare in part for the treatment of heroin addicts plus the higher level of mental health services provided. **Paula Holden, Southern Healthcare**, told Commissioners the mental health issues are not stand-alone issues and often involve health issues. He recommends the Commissioners give the required 30-day written notice to **Quality Correctional Care** the County is ending the current contract. Mr Pasel moved to accept **Southern Healthcare's** proposal, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Pasel moved to adopt **Ordinance 2023-11-** \$150 charge for FOIA requests for body cam recordings, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Sheriff Meyerrose presented the semi-annual Commissary Report to the Commissioners.

**County Recorder Dottie Robbins** asked Commissioners to approve renewing the contract with **CSI** for redaction services and support for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027. Mrs Robbins has monies in **Fund 1160 ID Security** to pay for the contract. Commissioners agreed to sign the contract renewal.

**Dr James Howell, Board of Health President**, asked Commissioners to appoint a replacement for Health Board member Nick Peters who resigned after letting his license to expire and Senate Enrolled Act 4 which changes the number on the County Board of Health. Dr Howell recommends Commissioners appoint Matt Weber, who is a pharmacist at the Decatur County Memorial Hospital, to replace Mr Peters and Cathy Simons, who is a nurse. Mr Pasel moved to appoint both Mr Weber and Ms Simons to the County Board of Health. Mr Blodgett seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

**County Building Inspector Kenny Buening** completed 18 building inspections, issued 18 new building permits with plan reviews, renewed 1 new building permit and issued 2 red tags- both for buildings without permits. Last week he met with a concerned property owner about nuisance properties in Burney, drafted 4 letters to be sent today regarding those properties in Burney; also drafted a nuisance letter to a property owner in Clarksburg which will be mailed today. This week he plans to follow-up on

letters sent to property owners in Sandusky and St Omer; also, visit properties at Lake McCoy to determine the most dangerous properties and draft letters to those owners. Two remodeling projects in St Paul were found to be without permits so Mr Buening plans to visit those this week. A Morton building converted to store bulk salt for the purpose of repackaging to sell as water softener was reported to IDEM due to the interior walls not being inspected for those purposes. Currently the building is locked up and no activity has been observed by Mr Buening. **County Attorney Chad Smith** did send the residents of the Smith property a letter notifying them to respond to the letter; otherwise, he will file a lawsuit next Monday or Tuesday stating the property would be cleaned up and those associated costs would be added to the property tax bill. The main issue with this property is the vehicles along the side of the road blocking the line of sight for motorists.

**Area Plan Director Krista Duvall** presented 2 rezoning ordinances: **Ordinance 2023-10**, petitioner Adam Smith is requesting to rezoning 2.99 acres from A1 to A2 for the purpose of constructing a single-family detached dwelling. Those APC members present all voted yeas. Mr Pasel moved to approve Ordinance 2023-10, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. **Ordinance 2023-8**, petitioners Allen and Anita Jones are requesting to rezone 2.99 acres from A1 to A2 for the purpose of constructing a single-family detached dwelling. Those APC Board present all voted yea. Mr Blodgett moved to approve Ordinance 2023-8, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Ms Duvall plans to take the Drainage Ordinance to **APC's** September meeting.

**County Treasure Diane Wenning** shared concerns about unpaid property taxes when properties are transferred by a deed; she did not find anything in the Indiana Code to require this. She asked Commissioners to consider adopting an ordinance to prevent transfers when property taxes are owed. The County is not collecting tax dollars due to issues with properties/ownership and ending up on Tax Sales.

**Nate Harter**, representing the **County Health Insurance Committee**, spoke on the question whether part-time elected officials should be receiving health insurance coverage. The Committee believes it should be discussed whether these benefits should be extended or eliminated; ultimately not the Committee's call- it is a County Commissioners' decision, but they are recommending ending health insurance for the Council and Commissioners to the Commissioners. Elected officials serve '24/7 availability' and this may hinder someone running for these two bodies if health insurance coverage isn't an option. Mr Blodgett moved to table this insurance discussion and wait for feedback from elected officials and set a definition of part-time. Mr Pasel supposes he'll second the motion. Mr Koors said this discussion is table until their next meeting.

Mr Blodgett updated all on the water samples taken from Lake McCoy by **Health Department Executive Director Sean Durbin**, had an ecoli count of 16.3 which is safe to swim in. **The Lake McCoy Committee** is currently in a fact-finding phase on how best to sell properties purchased on tax sales and resolutions for the 2021 ITEM and DNR issues with the closed waste treatment plant. A public meeting at Lake McCoy is scheduled for 2:00 pm, August 6<sup>th</sup> at Scott Doles residence, 4355 East Sunny Lane.

Mr Pasel has written a **Social Media Policy** for a County Facebook page which he will send to HR Administrator Patty Hensley and County Attorney Chad Smith for their opinions.

**Greensburg-Decatur County Chamber of Commerce Director Dawn Lowe** asked anyone interested in being on the READI 2.0 steering committee to contact EDC Director Bryan Robbins.

**The Commissioners next meeting will be at 8:00 am on August 7, 2023.**

With nothing else to come before the Commissioners, Mr Pasel made the motion to recess, Mr Blodgett seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. Meeting recessed.

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

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