

**Commissioners Meeting  
July 3, 2023**

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

The July 3<sup>rd</sup> Commissioner 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.

Chad Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; Administrative Pastor Steve Frensemeier then offered a prayer.

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

There are 2 corrections to be made to the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes: in Todd Houk's report, add that Bridge Inspectors prefer cattle flood gates not be fastened to bridges and Mr Pasel received a call concerning the paving of County Road 480 East. Mr. Blodgett moved to approve the June 19th meeting minutes as amended, Mr. Pasel seconded, and Mr. Koors concurred.

Mr Koors asked why the Health Department was paying for an EMA sign- the Health Department is using one of their many grants. Mr Blodgett made a motion to approve the claims, Mr Pasel seconded, and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to approve Payroll for June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Mr Blodgett seconded, and Mr Koors concurred.

**Highway Superintendent Todd Houk** reported Highway crews were busy clearing roads due to the storms this past Thursday through Sunday. He had a property owner complain about a tree branch, cut from owner's fallen tree, being put back on the property owner's property. Crews continue spraying weeds and bush whacking as part of bridge maintenance; also cleaned up the old Jail PODS site. Mr Houk continues trying to convince the sign company, hired by the railroad, to reimburse the County for traffic/road damages to South County Road 350 West because that company failed to comply with the advertised 7-day closure per side of the State Road 3 Bypass to install a railroad crossing. Mr Houk introduced **Andy Siding, with John Deere**, who answered the Commissioners' questions regarding leasing versus purchasing the current 2 leased graders. Mr Siding said to buy those graders would be \$171,438.12 each and that would not include any warranties; new graders would be \$415,243.33 each and would include a service contract for 36 months in addition to warranties. The estimated delivery on ordering new graders would be October, maybe later. The average yearly hours on the current graders are less than 500 hours each (10,000 service hours lifetime per grader), so Commissioners want to purchase the current graders and asked Mr Siding to check on the 3-year cost of a preventative maintenance contract and get those numbers to the Commissioners. The current lease expires late September or October.

**County Building Inspector Kenny Buening** completed 20 building inspections, issued 14 new building permits with plan reviews and 1 red tag in 4 days he worked since the Commissioners' June 19th meeting. Mr Buening issued a red tag and retracted it as it was a portable chicken coop being placed on posts on cinder blocks. **Area Plan Director Krista Duvall** completed 20 building inspections in the 6 days while Kenny was on vacation. He will be sending letters to property owners who need to clean up their properties in the town of Burney; also, he will send a letter to a property owner in Clarksburg after receiving information from the Health Department. There have been no improvements made to the Smith property, if anything it might be getting worse. Commissioners agreed **County Attorney Chad Smith** should send a letter to property owners, giving a date the property is to be cleaned up by; if no improvement, then file a lawsuit.

**Decatur County Sheriff Bill Meyerrose** told Commissioners he is \$13,795 short in purchasing a replacement vehicle for the truck recently totaled in an unfortunate accident. The new Durango price tag is \$47,120; the insurance company paid \$28,325 for the totaled truck and the Sheriff sold a 2014 Chevy Tahoe for \$5,000. Mr Pasel made a motion to go ahead and pay the \$13,795 out the Commissioners' Plan and Implementations appropriation, Mr Blodgett seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

**Human Resources Director Patty Hensley** reported 6 part time/seasonal workers were hired in June; 1 full time for Animal Control; 1 full time for Security. She gave a shout out to the Commissioners, Council and the Fair Committee for all the work and time put in to make the 2023 Fair- July 13 – 19 a success. Mr Koors asked that in the future all shredding the company should be called to come to the Courthouse and not transport government papers to the Fairgrounds.

Four asphalt bids for the 2023-1 Community Crossings were opened and read by Mr Houk. Bid totals were: **Paul Rohe Company- \$1,515,074.36; DC Construction Services- \$2,015,323.24; Globe Asphalt- \$1,660,648.42 and Dave O'Mara Contractor- \$1,324,641.62.** Separate bids were submitted for the hot mix furnished and applied, milling and patching and hot and cold mix F.O.B. Commissioners agreed to ask Mr Smith to review the bids to insure the correct forms were submitted. Mr Koors also reminded everyone the F.O.B can be awarded to different bidders than the CCG projects.

Mr Koors opened the 3 bids for portable toilets for the **2023 Fair: Port-A-Let's Sanitation- \$2,000; Mozingo Sanitation- \$2,000 and Best Way Disposal Inc- In-Kind contribution to the Decatur County Fair Committee.** Mr Pasel moved to contact **Best Way** and accept their bid, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

The new mandate for the **Board of Health** includes adding another member to the Board, which comes as a recommendation from the Mayor of Greensburg. Mayor Marsh recommended Suzie Johannigman be appointed by the Commissioners. Mr Pasel made that motion, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Blodgett moved to appoint Ashley Hungate to the **Animal Control Board**, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Mrs Hungate is on the County Council and Commissioners agreed she could abstain on votes related to the Animal Control Department.

**Economic Development Director Bryan Robbins** attended a **READI 2.0 meeting** in South Bend. The State is setting aside \$500,000,000 for this which requires a 4 to 1 patch meaning 3 private and 1 public match. Projects/applications will be accepted beginning early December into January, 2024. **The READI Group** will assess the remaining projects from READI 1.0 plus gather new, larger projects for our region to create a portfolio as this is a competition for those READI 2.0 dollars. **The Annual Economic Development Commission Meeting is July 13<sup>th</sup>, 9 – 11 am.**

**Greensburg-Decatur County Chamber of Commerce Director Dawn Lowe** announced our Chamber was selected as a finalist for Chamber of the Year at recent annual Business Association Meeting; also looking forward to their annual golf outing in August.

Mr Pasel made a motion to select-award the highway bids for asphalt and F.O.B. at their next meeting, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

**The Commissioners next meeting will be at 8:00 am on July 17, 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. Mr Koors wished all a Happy Fourth of July. Meeting recessed.

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

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