

**Commissioners Meeting
June 5, 2023**

Present: Mark Koors, Jeremy Pasel and Tony Blodgett

President Koors opened the June 5th, 2023 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.

Highway Superintendent Todd Houk led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; Pastor Dawn Barnes then offered a prayer.

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

Mr Pasel moved to approve the May 16th meeting minutes with addition to the stone bids being added, Mr. Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to approve payment of the claims, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Highway Superintendent Todd Houk reported Highway crews continue to mow, patching, doing berm work on stone roads and bridge maintenance. **United Consulting** reported a critical finding on Bridge 70 on 50 N. Bridge had to be shut down. Mr. Houk recommends to close permanently and make the road a dead-end road. Commissioners and Mr. Houk will continue discussion on whether to close bridge or repair. Mr. Koors ask Jon Clodfelter with United Consulting if they had a cost to bring bridge up to code. He stated that it is a significant amount of money and will work on getting it before next meeting. Asphalt bids for Community Crossing Grant 2023-1 is ready for advertisement for 2024. Newspaper will run advertisement on 6/13 and 6/20. Bids will be opened on July 3rd, 2023 and will be due to the Commissioners by 8:30 a.m. that morning. There were no bids on pipes. **Civilcon** agreed to roll over 2022 cost for 2023. Mr. Blodgett asked what can be done to bring in more interest. Mr. Koors stated that sub-contractors are busy and not looking for work right now. Mr. Houk will reach out to businesses to make sure they are aware of the bid process. The next topic from Mr. Houk was the Grader Lease is up. He stated they like to lease due to the technology stays up to date along with maintenance program. They have two different options; roll over for another 3 years and keep the same grater or upgrade to a '24 model. West Side /John Deere buys back equipment that are at the end of their lease. Mr. Houk will get with SIRPC to start a traffic study on 150 S Co. Rd to lower speed to 30 mph.

County Building Inspector Kenny Buening completed 73 inspections, issued 23 new building permits with plan reviews, 4 permit renewals and 2 complaints. He received a call about a property nuisance in St. Omer. The owner of the property talked to Mr. Buening about cleanup process and plans to continue clean up and build a fence. However, this clean up has been going on for 3 years now. Mr. Blodgett asked Mr. Buening to set a hard deadline and send a letter and to keep moving forward. Mr. Blodgett moved to file an abatement on the property, Mr. Pasel seconded, Mr. Koors concurred.

Animal Control Director Minde Myers presented adding a shelter vet on contract that will do spays, neuters, health checks and vaccines to the shelter pets. She has gathered all the necessary financial information needed. Ms. Myers has found a veterinarian retiring and purchased his equipment with the Petco Love Grant. Ms. Myers is asking approval to move forward with signing a contract that would allow the new veterinarian to be on site 2 – 3 days per week. Ms. Myers will start looking for more grant money for newer equipment. There are around 31 Counties in Indiana that have started using their own Veterinarians. They do have the space to move forward. Commissioners all agreed that this sounds like a good decision and to move forward.

Decatur County Sheriff Bill Meyerrose asked for approval to renew the contract with **Accurate Controls**. They handle the key, video, and audio systems. Mr. Koors asked them to give a 10% discount if they sign the 3-year contract. **Mr. Meyerrose gave the updated Commissary** total being \$57,000. Mr. Koors would like to see another column added for usage notes. **Water softener update** – still just at 1 quote. The discussion of the **landscaping** at the new Detention Center continued. They have not had any maintenance done on them since they were put in. The discussion is should they tear it all out and put river rock down or pay to have them trimmed. Mr. Meyerrose chooses to tear everything out.

Commissioners agree to allow Mr. Meyerrose to do what he thinks is best. The funding for the work will be paid out of Commissioners budget.

HR Director Patty Hensley gave the May update. There have been 6 new hires. 2 Detention Center, 2 Park & Rec, 1 Clerk, 1 Prosecutor Intern. PERF meeting held on May 22nd had a good response. Website update, she has been gathering info from offices and forwarding to the new developer. Compensation Committee has decided to reach out to **Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele & Associates** for consultation. The quote is not to exceed more than \$44,000 for job classifications, compensation study and building job descriptions. One half will be paid in 2023 and one half in 2024. Funding will come from the Plans and Implementations out of the Commissioner Budget. Mr. Blodgett moved to approve hiring Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele and Associates, Mr. Pasel seconded, and Mr. Koors concurred. Mr. Pasel would like to see Mrs. Hensley bring forward any handbook questions/changes as they come up instead of waiting for several topics to build up.

Jill Spaulding and Amanda Wilson with St. Vincent PHI Stat Flight presented a County wide opportunity to cover all Decatur County residents of any out-of-pocket expenses for air medical. The cost is \$6.00 per person for a grand total of \$61,056 annual fee. Mr. Blodgett asked for a detailed spreadsheet of flights, how many were requested versus how many flew, and how many were turned down for various reasons. Mr. Pasel asked for more time, the other commissioners agreed to table the discussion.

Washington Township Trustee Bev Rivera had Lake McCoy questions. She asked Commissioner for their help on what she should tell concerned citizens. Washington Township does not want to keep the properties that are owned by them. The Conservancy was set up in 1991 by the Circuit Court case #16C019001MI20 to pay the Bond and maintain the lake and Dam, not to clean up properties. The Conservancy owns the lake. **Area Plan Director Krista Duvall** stated that the original plat does not have any lot dimensions for starting points to have the area surveyed. The plats would have to be dissolved and started over. At this time, each property would have to be surveyed to put on a septic system. Every property owner would have to be willing to have their dimensions dissolved and redone. Mr. Blodgett suggested the start of a committee with everyone involved to work toward a solution. Mr. Pasel said it should start with Building Inspector Kenny Buening to identify the bad conditions and contact owners to start cleaning up. Mrs. Rivera does want to make the area safe without displacing anyone. Mr. Koors asked to appoint Commissioner Tony Blodgett, Building Inspector Kenny Buening, Health Director Sean Durbin, and Township Trustee Bev Rivera to a Lake McCoy committee. The Committee may appoint any other members as needed.

Milford resident Richard Friend and Cathy Taylor brought forward to have 2 alleys vacated. They have taken all steps needed by starting petitions and sending certified letters to adjoining neighbors. Alleys are being maintained by the homeowners. Mr. Friend owns property on both sides of the alley in the back of their house. Ms. Duvall feels like this one will be okay to close. The side alley is being disputed by a neighbor who says he owns the property. Area Plan Director Krista Duvall has concerns of any utilities in the alley and possibly land locking property owners behind them. All involved took time to look over a map to make sure they were all on the same page. Ms. Duvall stated that undeveloped alleys are there for future utilities, fiber optics, etc. Commissioners' final decision today is that they do not have enough information to decide. They will discuss it at the next meeting.

Mr. Pasel discussed **lighting at the Fairgrounds**. He is asking for authorization to replace lighting in the Livestock Barn at a cost of \$12,500. Mr. Blodgett made a motion to approve, Mr. Pasel seconded, and Mr. Koors concurred. Motion approved.

Request of Use of Facilities by Mainstreet Greensburg for Friends of Fred Food Trucks on June 17, 2023, including all downtown and the County owned parking lot. Hours will be from 1:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Commissioners have already approved but need to include the parking lot. Mr. Blodgett moved to approve, Mr. Pasel seconded, and Mr. Koors concurred. Motion approved.

Request of Use of Facilities by On Eagles Wings on August 26, 2023. Millhousen Rd. Mr. Blodgett made the motion to approve, Mr. Pasel seconded, and Mr. Koors concurred. Motion approved.

With the passing of Chuck Emsweller, Commissioners would like to purchase a vinyl bench with a plaque in Chucks memory to have at the Fairgrounds. Mr. Blodgett made the motion to purchase, Mr. Pasel seconded, and Mr. Koors concurred. Motion approved.

The Commissioners next meeting will be at 8:00 am on June 19, 2023.

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

Attest: _____

Date: _____