

**Commissioners Meeting
March 15, 2021 8:00 a m**

Present: Mark Koors, Jerome Buening, & Chuck Emsweller

President Koors called the meeting for March 15th to order and 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.

County Sheriff Dave Durant led all in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; Reverend Greg Redd then offered a prayer.

(Meeting minutes and claims are emailed to each Commissioners on each Friday before their Monday meeting)

Mr Emsweller moved to accept the March 1st meeting minutes, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Minutes are approved.

Mr Buening moved to approve the accounts payable and payroll claims as presented, Mr Emsweller seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

Area Plan Director Krista Duvall presented 4 rezoning recommendations from the **Area Plan Commission:**

Ordinance 2020-28 - petitioners Eric and Kelsey Amberger requesting to rezone 2.99 acres from A1 to A2 for the purpose of constructing a single family detached dwelling. The APC gave a favorable recommendation. Mr Emsweller move to accept the recommendation of the APC, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Ordinance 2020-2 – Michael Krieger requested to rezone 2.99 acres from A1 to A2 for the purpose of constructing a single family detached dwelling. The APC gave a favorable recommendation. Mr Buening moved to approve Ordinance 2020-2, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred. **Ordinance 2020-26** – Steve Snyder also requesting to rezone 2.99 acres from A1 to A2 for the purpose of constructing a single family detached dwelling. The APC gave a favorable recommendation. Mr Emsweller moved to accept the recommendation, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred. **Ordinance 2021-1** – Jessie Cameron requesting to rezone 2.483 acres from A2 to B2 for the purpose of building self-storage units. The APC did not make a favorable recommendation to accept this change; all Board members present voted to deny the rezone. Ms Duvall stated several neighbors voiced concerns about traffic, just the overall look of their neighborhood. Mr Emsweller moved to accept/reaffirm the APC's unfavorable recommendation Mr Cameron's petition, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Building Inspector Kenny Buening reported a total of 31 building inspections were completed, 17 of those by him and 14 of those were completed by Ms Duvall while Kenny was on vacation; 17 new building permits have also been issued. He will address the 2 complaints on his desk this week.

On Eagles Wings 5K Event spokesperson Patrick Wells requested the Commissioners allow the usual 5K route to be closed to traffic on the morning of this event; not sure if this will happen but still want to plan for it. The Highway Department puts up signage letting traffic know ahead of time, the road will be closed 8:00 am to 11:00 am for the 9:00 event time. Mr Buening moved to approve, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Property owner Ralph Means is petitioning for the Commissioners' approval to vacate Mechanics Street, between Lots 81, 83, 84 and 86, in the town of St Omer. He and neighbor Jerry Auger were not aware there is a platted 60' street between their properties. Mr Auger said his property has been in the family for over 149 years and he always thought that 'strip of land' was his. Ms Duvall said the Tech Review Committee has reviewed the properties and are ok with the street vacation. She went on to state as a rule streets and allies should not be vacated, but in this instance it's ok. There are no utilities located on this property. Mr Buening moved to approve **Decatur County Ordinance 2021-3**, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

The Commissioners have received a request from **Decatur County Memorial Hospital CEO Rex McKinney** to be reimbursed from **CARES Act** monies the County was reimbursed for our COVID related expenses. Mr McKinney said the Hospital faced a variety of challenges during the pandemic: the \$1,000 a day expenses of running the COVID clinic, purchasing an \$11,000 freezer to store the COVID vaccine, the antibody clinic and the general expense of purchasing the personal protection equipment (PPE). No staff nor physicians were furlough during this time and he would appreciate any financial support. Mr Koors said that **DCMH** has set an example for other counties to follow and he thanked Mr McKinney and **Sean Durbin at the Health Department** for all of their

efforts. Commissioners and Mr McKinney have agreed upon the amount of \$280,000. Mr Emsweller moved to approve the Hospital's money, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred. The **Decatur County School Corporation** also asked for over \$65,000 reimbursement for the school corporation. Revenues at both school's athletic departments were zero due to no fans/gate receipts. They settled at \$50,000 plus \$10,000 for the **South Decatur Athletic Department** and \$10,000 for the **North Decatur Athletic Department**. Mr Buening moved to approve the stated amounts, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Commissioners agreed since the **Greensburg Community Schools** are in **Decatur County**, they would offer \$20,000 to the Corporation and another \$5,000 to the athletic department. Mr Koors met with **Greensburg Mayor Josh Marsh** who agreed the **City** will give \$10,000 to the **Greensburg School Corporation** with \$5,000 of that going to their athletic department. Mr Emsweller moved to accept, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred. **Letts Fire Department Chief Matt Morrow** and the Commissioners agreed to share \$9,900 from the County's CARES Act reimbursement monies, mostly for supplies and fuel. He reported their ambulances provided 48 back-up calls to the **Hospital's EMS** calls as well as 59 stand-bys from March - December 2020. The year-to-date for 2021 is 27 back-up calls and 12 stand-bys. Mr Emsweller moved to accept, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Koors told each entity these requests have to receive the County Council's approval at their April 20th meeting; then the checks will be mailed.

Mr Koors announced the **public comment meeting has been cancelled** for the proposed intersection change at West Main Street/ State Road 46 and the State Road 3 Bypass, out by Lowe's Pellets and Grain at 5:30 pm on March 25th at the EOC Meeting Room (315 S Ireland). He asked **WTRE and the Greensburg Daily News** to get this information out to the public. **Mr Koors, Mark Mohr, Greensburg Mayor Josh Marsh and City Engineer Ron May** met with **INDOT** in Seymour last week on the proposed *Michigan Left*. **INDOT** listened to their concerns and has agreed to 'go back to the drawing board' for their proposed changes.

Commissioners have a purchase agreement to buy a 43-acre property, to relocate the Highway Department, south of the Airport. This will be a 1031 exchange, purchasing the property from **Bex Farms** for the price of \$585,000. Auditor Chadwell confirmed the funds are in the correct locations to complete the purchase. **County Attorney Ken Bass** stated the appraisals are completed; the proper procedures have been followed. Mr Buening wanted the public to know most of the purchase price- \$400,000- will come from funds received for the Pipeline Settlement, so not tax dollars. Commissioners do plan to sell some of this property to the **Power of the Past group** once this deal is closed. Commissioners plan to sell the current Highway Department property at 1301 E Base Road to help offset the expenses of purchasing this property. The County TIF district has made a commitment to help pay to build the new facilities, but they are not permitted to purchase land. Mr Buening moved to consummate the deal, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Koors and Mr Bass will work with Attorney Doug Amberger of **Southeastern Indiana Title Services** to complete the proper paperwork for this sale.

American Legal Publishing was contracted to provide a new code of County Ordinances with yearly updates provided by the Auditor's office. This contract provided 20 copies of the county ordinances plus annual updates; online access to view the ordinances is also included. The yearly updates cost around \$2,000 even if the County does not request 20 copies due to more people using/searching for documents online.

Public Safety Network Director Josh Tressler presented the approved contract with **Comcast** for the new phone system in the Courthouse, Highway and Health Department, for Mr Koors' signature.

Mr Koors thanked all for coming to this morning's meeting.

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

The next Commissioner meeting will be 8:00 am on Monday, April 5th, 2021, in Room 106.

Attest: _____

Date: _____