

**Commissioners Meeting
May 1, 2023**

Present: Mark Koors, Jeremy Pasel and Tony Blodgett

President Koors opened the May 1st, 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.

Sheriff Bill Meyerrose led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; Pastor Luke Koors 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 April 17th meeting minutes, 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** should complete the countywide bridge inspection in the next couple of weeks, they will then upload that data into the **Indiana Bridge Inspection Application System (BIAS)**. He will receive that final report in the next few weeks. **County Attorney Chad Smith** will write a resolution letter for the Commissioners to sign for the **2023-1 Community Crossings Grant cycle**; also, Mr Houk needs a signed copy of the Commissioners' April 17th meeting minutes to send in with the **VRC** document to **INDOT for the 2023 Community Crossings Grants**. He has ordered the school signs setting a 25 mile-per-hour speed limit school zone **South Decatur Elementary School**. Highway crews closed parts of County Roads 200 South and 700 West due to a failing culvert pipe which requires a special -ordered pipe. Commissioners and Mr Houk have received many telephone calls regarding the closure of County Road 200 East, north and south of East State Road 46. Highway crews placed barricades to prevent semi-trucks using it due to State Road 46 being closed for bridge replacement in front of **Levensteins Abbey Carpet**. Mr Houk told Commissioners if they re-open County Road 200 East, then **INDOT** will not reimburse the County for damages due to detoured traffic. Commissioners asked Mr Houk to 'stagger' the barricades to allow those property owners access to their fields. Local businessman Jim Wenning said there are no detour signs/information for drivers traveling west on State Road 46 and on East Main Street going out of town so they could plan alternate routes. **Levensteins** is a retail business which has been hurt by this lack of road signage. It was decided to use **Emergency Management's** temporary sign boards to alert drivers that no semi-trucks are permitted on County Road 200 East, both north and south of East State Road 46. Paul Bunting stated the barricades may also be a problem for Emergency Services. Commissioners decided to stagger the barricades for local traffic, both north and south parts of County Road 350 East at East State Road 46. Highway bids for stone, asphalt and pipe are due to the Auditor's office by 9:00 am, May 12th; bids will be opened at the Commissioners' May 15th meeting.

Area Plan Director Krista Duvall asked Commissioners to correct/amend their April 3rd meeting minutes regarding **County Ordinance 2022-18**. The **Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)** gave petitioners Maurice and Wendy Bohman a favorable recommendation to vacate a subdivision in Saltcreek Township which in turn did not require the Bohman's to seek a rezoning of that vacated subdivision. The April 3rd minutes stated the Commissioners approved a rezoning of 10 acres from A-1/A-2 to B-2. Commissioners only approved the vacation of the subdivision at their April 3rd meeting.

Mr Pasel moved to approve the April 28th payroll, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

County Building Inspector Kenny Buening completed 24 inspections, issued 12 new building permits with plan reviews and 1 red tag issued for bottom posts of stairs not installed correctly and weren't set in concrete. He did send 2 letters citing the County's Nuisance Ordinance.

Human Resource Director Patty Hensley gave the April hiring report: 2 full-time employees were hired- one for the Detention Center and one for Communications and 2 part-time seasonal employees were hired for the Parks and Rec Department. Currently there are 3 jobs postings- another seasonal position

for Parks and Rec, one part-time for the Health Department and a full-time position for a Juvenile Probation Officer. **Tom Schabel, Public Employees Retirement Plan (PERF)** will be here May 15th for employees interested in learning more about PERF.

A Facebook page for Decatur County was discussed as a good way to get feedback on various topics as well as offering transparency. One question is who controls it and what to do about non-constructive comments. Mr Pasel will begin working on a policy to handle the comments to be reviewed at a future meeting.

County Sheriff Bill Meyerrose had one reply to his request for proposals for a water softener for the **Detention Center**, excluding the kitchen area- **QPH** submitted a quote of \$55,950 for the installation of a new duplex water softener. Commissioners agreed to table this purchase until there is a second or more bids/quotes and also asked for monthly costs of salt for a water softener. Sheriff Meyerrose suggested using **Special Purpose Jail Fund** to pay for the new water softener. The next topic was the landscaping around the Detention Center: the 60 shrubs and 28 other plants have not been maintained in addition to more mulch needed. He contacted 3 different landscaping vendors and only 1 responded. Sheriff Meyerrose suggested removing the shrubs, plants and replacing the mulch with river rock for a cost of \$5,278.14, so no future maintenance costs. The cost to trim shrubs and plants plus mulch is \$3,738.79, with future maintenance costs. He would prefer Commissioners hire a professional to do this work instead of using inmate laborers. Mr Blodgett suggested getting **Community Service people** to do the work and he is in favor of keeping shrubs as it was quite an investment putting in the shrubs, plants and mulch. Chad Smith said it's widely used as a portion of the Diversion Program. Sheriff Meyerrose will see if there's an option to borrow tools for the Community Service people to use for this project. He also agreed to pay for mowing the lawn around the Detention Center out of the Commissary Fund. Administrative Office Supervisor Ashley Wilson asked for an ordinance to allow the \$150 charge for anyone requesting a copy of specific video to put receipted into the Sheriff's Training Fund.

Mr Pasel moved to approve Trena Royer's Request for Use of the Westport Covered Bridge for a September 2nd wedding. Mr Blodgett seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Koors asked Sheriff Meyerrose to investigate vandalism- writing on the bridge, then he plans to have a crew from the Highway Department to paid the interior of the bridge.

Economic Development Director Bryan Robbins reported the **Regional Development Authority group** is putting together an application for the **State** approved **READI 2.0**. The RDA is in the process of applying to the IRS for their Tax Identification Number (TIN).

Greensburg-Decatur County Chamber of Commerce Director Dawn Lowe announced gift cards will be available for purchase this week for the Local Card program, which is a partnership between the Chamber and Main Street Greensburg.

Mr Blodgett moved to approve the \$2,330 quote for **AGM** to repair the leaks around several windows in the Courthouse. Mr Pasel seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

Parks and Recreation Director Teresa Kovacich reported after peeling back the pool liner, substantial concrete damage was found in the deep end areas of the swimming pool; in the shallow end the concrete is also cracked.

Deputy Coroner Doug Banks asked about updates on the windows for the Court Services Building; Mr Koors said Commissioners are waiting on estimates on a couple of line items. Mr Banks plans to rearrange the Coroner's Office once the window work is completed. On a different topic- there's a weed problem on the lawn next to the Detention Center and he asked if the Commissioners plan to take bids for spraying the lawn and said he would email a quote.

County Assessor Dorene Greiwe told Commissioners the Form 11's for property values for the 2023 pay 2024 property taxes have been mailed. She reminded all Form 11's only stated the assessed value of a property, it does not state the amount of property taxes.

Mrs Kovacich said Council's Deanna Burkart, Bill Metz and she traveled to see Frankfort's new pool and did speak to the contractor. Frankfort's new pool is a \$10 million project and is very similar to what the Parks Department wants to do.

Mr Blodgett has visited several departments introducing himself and asking what they think needs done to their respective offices. He also has spoken to Sheriff Meyerrose about the current firearms policy in the Courthouse and plans to work on a draft to update it.

The Commissioners next meeting will be at 8:00 am on May 15th, 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: _____