

**Commissioners Meeting**  
**May 16, 2022 8:00 a m**

**Present: Mark Koors, Jerome Buening and Chuck Emsweller**

President Koors welcomed everyone to the Decatur County Commissioners' May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting; he then announced Title VI forms are available for anyone who would like to fill out and turn in at the Auditor's office.

Veterans Service Officer Mike Baumgartner led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; Steve Frensemeier then offered a prayer.

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

Mr Emsweller moved to approve the meeting minutes for May 2<sup>nd</sup> and Executive Sessions on May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 10<sup>th</sup>, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Emsweller moved to approve the claims, Mr Buening seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Buening moved to approve the May 13<sup>th</sup> payroll claims, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

**Mark Mohr, Highway Superintendent**, told Commissioners two **Community Crossings Grant** projects-one out by Clarksburg and the other one, down south crews are moving a creek away from the road, has been temporarily halted. Some years ago, the County poured a bridge abutment encasing a phone line. The phone company was contacted for line replacement, but they currently do not have any wire or splicers. The **RFP** has been uploaded on **INDOT's** website for **Bridge 131**, County Road 200 South. The RFPs are due in the Auditor's office by 4:00 pm on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr Mohr and Mr Koors will be 2 of the 3 scorers for those. **Greensburg Schools** have given some easements for the **Bridge 236 project** (East Central Avenue); right-of-way acquisition continues for sidewalks which is Greensburg's part of this project. Repair work, by **JM Ballard Company**, continues on the **Westport Covered Bridge**; completion date was to be before June 11<sup>th</sup> but the **Westport Bridge Festival** has been cancelled per Mr Koors. Signage is in place for the closure of County Road 250 West for the Sheriff's Department emergency vehicles operation training. Mr Mohr asked Commissioners to adopt an emergency ordinance making the 2-way intersection of County Road 400 South and County Road 550 East a 4-way stop due to this is **INDOT's** unofficial detour for bridge work on US Highway 421 South. Travelers not familiar with those county roads are not stopping at this intersection. Mr Buening made a motion, for the safety of the public, to declare an emergency and make that a 4-way stop intersection, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred. **County Attorney Chad Smith** will write the emergency ordinance. Mr Buening moved to allow Mr Mohr to purchase a new or certified used mechanic's truck, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred. The government discounts have 'gone away', non-existent on new vehicles.

Mr Koors presented reports for **Building Inspector Kenny Buening** who is on vacation this week: he completed 33 building inspections, issued 12 new building permits and 1 plan review, renewed 1 building permit and issued 1 red tag for building a screened-in covered porch without a permit

**Area Plan Director Krista Duvall** presented 6 ordinances for the Commissioners' approvals. **Ordinance 2021-17, petitioner Robert Koors** requesting to rezone 2.99 acres out of 35.787 acres, from A1 to A2 for the construction of a single family detached dwelling. Mr Buening moved to approve Ordinance 2021-17, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred. **Ordinance 2021-22, petitioner Ron Dyer**, property owner Derek Dyer, requested to rezone 3 acres out of 14.044 acres, from A1 to A2 to construct a single family detached dwelling. Mr Emsweller moved to approve Ordinance 2021-11, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred. **Ordinance 2022-3, petitioner Bryan Moorman** requested to rezone 2.99 acres from A1 to A2 to construct a single family detached dwelling. Mr Buening moved to approve Ordinance 2022-3, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred. **Ordinance 2022-6, petitioner Darryl Wolterman**, property owner Garvin Gardner, requesting to rezone one-half acre from A1 to B3 for an automobile sales business. The **Area Plan Commission** denied this petition request. Mr Buening moved to approve the APC's unfavorable vote, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred. **Ordinance**

**2022-11, petitioner Darryl Wolterman**, property owner L & P LLC, requesting to rezone approximately one-half acre from B2 to B3 for an automobile sales business. Mr Buening moved to approve Ordinance 2022-11, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred. **Ordinance 2022-13, petitioners Eric and Pam Sample** requesting to rezone 2.99 acres, out of 6.725 acres, from A1 to A2 to construct a single family detached dwelling. Mr Emsweller moved to approve Ordinance 2022-13, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

**Decatur County Bicentennial Celebration Committee Chairman John Pratt and Mary Lou Davis** asked Commissioners for financial assistance to ‘restore’ a cemetery, which has connections to the **Underground Railroad**, is owned by Judy Combs in Fugit Township. This cemetery is located on a hill in the middle of the woods; Mrs Davis would like to have a tree removed, place pavers, put up a vinyl fence and place a sign honoring the 7 people buried there who were ‘pillars’ of the underground railroad. The property owner is supportive of this project. Mr Buening moved to support this effort up to \$6,000. Mr Emsweller seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

**Joe Fleener** asked Commissioners for permission to go onto County property- part vacated Pleasant Street in St Omer- to work on a drainage issue coming from under the road and flooding the back of a property he is buying on contract from Robert Huseman. **Anita Diederich** told Commissioners she has maintained that part of the vacated Pleasant Street since 1989, has 2 utility sheds on it and was paying taxes on it until she learned it is not in her name/deed. Commissioners agreed to allow Mr Fleener on County property to fix the drainage problem. Mr Fleener has hire Andy Scholle to survey his property in July and plans to put a fence up after the drainage problem is fixed and the survey is done. Commissioners decided to ask Mr Scholle to survey the County’s sliver of the vacated Pleasant Street.

**Steve Leist and Kevin Krekeler of Assured Partners** told Commissioners they’re still working on insurance quotes for the Westport Covered Bridge. Mr Buening moved to approve the insurance 2022-2023 renewal through **Liberty Mutual and IPEP**. Mr Emsweller seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Koors told **Rick Anderson of Veregy** the Commissioners are interested in energy conservation measures for the Court Services Building at 315 South Ireland Street. Mr Anderson said the county would advertise “Requests for Proposals”, then select one of the responding companies. Mr Emsweller made a motion to move forward on this project, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

**Veterans Service Officer Mike Baumgartner** has been purchasing US and State flags for the Courthouse, Highway, Sheriff and Court Services Buildings out of the Commissioners’ budget which is only budgeted for the Courthouse. Commissioners agreed to pay up to \$1,000 for these purchases in 2022 and they will increase that 2023 budget item.

Mr Buening moved to approve the letter giving an employee a 10-day suspension without pay, effective May 17<sup>th</sup> – May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Mr Emsweller seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. The letter is to be signed by the employee and placed in the County’s personnel file.

Mr Emsweller moved to approve the **Conflict of Interest** submitted by **Animal Control Board member Steve Garrett**. Mr Buening seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Buening moved to approve the **Request for Use of Facilities** submitted by **the YMCA** for their **Rolling Bike Tour** to be held on June 25<sup>th</sup>, with setup on June 24<sup>th</sup> on the northeast corner of the Courtyard. Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Emsweller moved to approve the **2022 Annual Congressional School Report** to the **Department of Education**. Mr Buening seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

Commissioners will meet after their June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting to work on their 2023 budget proposals in County General ( Commissioners and Courthouse), Cumulative Capital Development, EDIT and Fairgrounds.

**Steve Ruble of Strand and Associates** presented the Engineering Services Agreement for the new Highway Department property. Commissioners agreed it’s best to upgrade current private main waterlines back to the new property. The ‘main’ will be built to Greensburg’s standards so the City will maintain it. The agreement is for \$39,500 for services up to bid and support project during construction. Mr Buening moved to enter into this agreement, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

**Sheriff Dave Durant** agreed to schedule Security personnel for the **May 21<sup>st</sup> Historic Tours**, in the Courthouse on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.

**The Commissioners next meeting will be June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.**

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

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

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