

Commissioners Meeting
May 17, 2021 8:00 a m

Present: Mark Koors, Jerome Buening and Chuck Emsweller

President Koors opened the May 17th Commissioners 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.

County Attorney Ken Bass led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, Reverend Janet Hodson then offered a prayer.

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

Mr Emsweller moved to accept the May 3rd meeting minutes, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Minutes are approved.

Mr Bass has worked with Sean Durbin, Health Department, who agreed to withdraw his claim for \$28,000 for a website design. **EMA Director Brad Speer** will resubmit this claim since the web design work is for **EMA**. This new website will have a link to the **Board of Health**. Mr Bass advised the Commissioners since this claim is on the docket and Mr Durbin has withdrawn this \$28,000 claim from the docket, they do not need to take any action. Mr Buening moved to approve the accounts payable claims, Mr Emsweller seconded the motion with the amendment and Mr Koors concurred with the amendment.

Highway Superintendent Mark Mohr announced bids for the **Community Crossings Grant 2021-1** will be opened at 9:00 am at the Commissioners' June 7th meeting. Bid specs will be available online and in the Auditor's office. **United Consulting** closed Bridge #116, on County Road 400 South, west of Southwest 60, due to a major undercut pier, found during a routine bridge inspection. Highway crews have placed signage and gravel to stop anyone trying to use the bridge. **United** stated this bridge is repairable; Mr Mohr's question is do the Commissioners want an open limit bridge or keep it at the 16-ton limit? A used pickup truck, Ford tractor, an old EMA box-bed and a generator were sold through sealed bids. Work on the County Road 880 East project continues: all structures are in place, ditch work is next, then final grading to close out this project. Pipe work and bridge replacement work continues on County Road 700 West before the 'road overlay' from Burney to Westport is done as part of the 2020 Community Crossings Grant.

Area Plan Director Krista Duvall presented 2 ordinances for the Commissioners to review and approve/deny. **Ordinance 2021-3, petitioners Jacob and Sara Driver** requested to rezone 2.99 acres from A1 to A2 for the purpose of constructing a single-family dwelling. This property currently owned by Rebecca Mobley. The APC Board unanimously voted to approve 2021-3. Mr Buening moved to approve Ordinance 2021-3, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred. **Ordinance 2021-4, Kevin Schott** petitioning to rezone 2.99 acres from A1 to A2 for the purpose to construct a single-family dwelling. The APC Board also unanimously voted yea on 2021-4. Mr Emsweller moved to approve Ordinance 2021-4, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Building Inspector Kenny Buening emailed his 2-week report to Mr Koors to read in his absence: completed 52 building inspections, 11 new building permits were issued plus plan reviews and a red tag was issued for a shelter being constructed near a pond without a permit. He sent a letter to a property owner building living quarters in a pole building and alerted Alan Crosby due to no septic permit. He will draft letters to send to 4 property owners in response to complaints. Mr Bass said he and Kenny met to look at the burned-out property at Lake McCoy in order to determine who to add as defendants in the lawsuit.

Rick Anderson of Johnson Melloh Solutions told Commissioners JMS will perform an analysis on all of the County's utility costs, at no charge. As utility costs continue to rise, governments and businesses are looking for alternative options. Mr Emsweller made a motion to move forward, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Anderson will email a 'request list of utilities' to the Auditor's office.

Decatur County Redevelopment Commission President Don Schilling presented Resolution 2021-7 for the Commissioners' approval. The RDC adopted this 3rd addendum in order to give funding to the **Greensburg Community Schools** for pre-school programming and to support employers in the economic development area. Mr Buening moved to adopt Resolution 2021-7, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Emsweller moved to accept **Assured Partner's** 2021-2022 renewal proposal for property and liability insurance. Mr Buening seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

County Surveyor Andy Scholle asked for the Commissioners' guidance on drainage and regulated drains. Problems arise when a property owner dams a waterway which in turn floods another's property. He told them the current drainage ordinance is geared more toward development and doesn't address waterways in farm land. There are currently 3 watersheds in northern Decatur County from regulated drains in Rush County. Decatur County Commissioners (prior to Mr Scholle being elected County Surveyor- 2006) gave Rush County full jurisdiction on those 3 watersheds. Mr Bass previously had reviewed Indiana Code on regulated drains/watersheds and concluded the County would have to commit major dollars to pursue regulated drains due to surveying, mapping, engineering and excavating costs in addition to maintaining those drains. One argument against creating regulated drains is the discussions/disagreements between neighbors should be civil matters and leave the County out of those; let the Courts decide. Mr Koors said **Christopher Burke Engineering** suggested regulated drains when working on the **City Park Dam** reconstruction project. Property owners who are served by the regulated drains are assessed fees each year to offset costs of those drains. Mr Scholle and Ms Duvall asked how should the County proceed? Hire consultants, get people who know how to start, what steps to take for such a task? Mr Koors stated his intent is not to have 100 miles of regulated drains, he believes this should not be a civil matter and field drainage is not the Highway Department's problem. The Drainage Board needs to come up with a policy, with some teeth in it, how to remedy the drainage problems. The current drainage ordinance does need 'tweaked' and Mr Bass cautioned all to be careful in choosing the terminology used when updating the ordinance. Any changes to the Drainage Ordinance would 'go through' the APC who then would 'recommend' to the Commissioners for adoption/approval.

County Treasurer Diane Wenning and Deputy Treasurer Danielle Holcomb reported their office has a funds difference of \$195,379.09 from the State Board of Accounts 2018 and 2019 Audits. Property tax vendor **LOW and Associates** has been reviewing 2020 data and found proper voids and adjustments protocol were not followed. The \$195,379.09 is in the bank and LOW recommends getting that amount into a fund, leaving it unappropriated. Mr Emsweller moved to receipt the \$195,379.09 into the County General Fund, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Mrs Wenning also stated LOW believes the bank is '\$519,037.02 long' and recommends tracking the daily balances to see if that amount stays consistent for 6 months.

Mr Koors presented the quote of \$29,000 from **Bruns and Gutzwiller** to remodel the Law Library for the new **Magistrate Court** plus an additional \$2,880 to add oak base boards for a total of \$31,880. Commissioners opted not to remove the bookshelves as only a minimal space would be gained. Mr Buening moved to approve, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Koors has received a quote from **Strand and Associates** to start the environmental study to remove the old jail; he will present that at the Commissioners' next meeting.

Commissioners reviewed a lease agreement, retroactive to 2019, with the **Washington Township Trustee** for an office suite in the Courthouse. Part D specifies only employees may occupy the office. Washington Township Trustee Christian Rust did pay 2 months' rent in 2019, so this agreement includes March, 2019 through 2021. Mr Emsweller moved to approve the lease agreement, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

The American Recovery Plan ordinance will be adopted at the next Commissioners meeting.

Economic Development Commission Director Bryan Robbins gave business people from Chicago, Atlanta and Nashville a tour of businesses in Decatur County as part of promoting our region. May 24th is the launch date for the Small Business Grants, offering up to \$10,000 per business.

Decatur County Memorial Hospital CEO Rex McKinney announced **DCMH** has received a "5 Star" rating from CMS who rates hospitals for Medicare and Medicaid. There are 455 medical facilities in the country who are rated the "5 Stars" and only 13 in Indiana. He thanked the County for their support.

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

Mr Buening moved to reappoint lay persons Tom Hunter and Brett Abplanalp to the **Corrections Advisory Board**. Mr Emsweller seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Buening moved to appoint Jaime Bridges as the Mental Health Officer on the Corrections Advisory Board. Mr Emsweller seconded the motion. Commissioners need to appoint another lay person to this Board. Mr Buening moved to appoint Juvenile Probation Officer Blake Sutton to the Corrections Advisory Board, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

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

The next Commissioner meeting will be 8:00 am on Monday, June 7th, 2021, in Room 106.

Attest: _____

Date: _____