

## Decatur County Commissioners

May 21st, 2012 – 8:00 a.m.

Present: Rick Nobbe, Jerome Buening, John Richards

Minutes were approved as submitted.

Claims were approved as presented.

**Mark Mohr, Decatur County Highway Superintendent** – Mr. Mohr reported that the new road is cut in on 450 East and that the road base was installed last week. Weather permitting the project will be complete in a few weeks. Commissioner Nobbe asked if Mr. Mohr could present a cost breakdown and Mr. Mohr said he will submit that to the commissioners. Mr. Mohr also reported that Bridge 25 at Adams has signs posted indicating it may close as of May 21<sup>st</sup>. Milestone has an end of August deadline. This is near CR 300 North near the west end of Adams by the cemetery. Bridge 19 has the bridge work done, the approaches poured and the railings up. Prior to finishing the project, Mr. Mohr would like to schedule to run new pavement to meet where a prior project ended near Star Baptist Church so there isn't a seam at the approach to the bridge. Mr. Mohr has also shared the notice to proceed on Bridge 18 with REMC for moving the utilities and that project is still on target for an August letting.

Commissioner Jerome Buening and Mr. Mohr reported that they had met with contractors regarding the storage on bridges. Commissioners John Richards asked about some pipe work near Remmler's and some other issues near Smiley's on 700 West. Commissioner Rick Nobbe thanked Mr. Mohr for his reports and his work.

**Rick Anderson, Perfection Group** discussed whether the Commissioners would be interested in having the county participate in an energy audit that would, as an end result, provide the county with an idea of where tax dollars could be saved. Mr. Anderson discussed various energy conservation measures that different counties had utilized after his company made recommendations. He gave a rundown of his company's presence in several counties and states. After much discussion and some questions by the Commissioners, Mr. Nobbe indicated that he would contact Mr. Anderson once the Commissioners had time to discuss the issue.

**George Metz, Vice-President of the Decatur County Cemetery Commission** approached the board with a report of the commission's activities. An extensive amount of work has been done on the Old Rossburg Cemetery, Sandcreek Baptist and another old plot near Greensburg. The commission has been fortunate in finding more people interested in helping get the work done. The Westport Methodist Cemetery will be needing some work done on it. The church beside it has been auctioned off. There are currently two volunteers that are reading and repairing stones. Mr. Metz discussed some of the various problems associated with older cemeteries, cemetery associations and church ownership. There are also homeowners that have found really old plots on their land that are wanting help fixing those areas. Commissioner Buening asked what the current budget is and Mr. Metz reported that \$3000.00 was approved for 2012 but that they could use twice that amount. Mr. Metz also mentioned that it is being verified but a Revolutionary War veteran may have been located and if that turns out to be a fact, there may be some federal money available to help preserve the site. The commissioners thanked Mr. Metz for his hard work and for his report.

**Pepper Cooper – Neace Lukens** distributed property and liability insurance renewal information to the Commissioners. He reported that last year's tornado damage resulted in a lot of claims and that the county was not getting a good renewal because of that. Because the county stayed

with the company, the company was willing to quote them a renewal cost but other comparable insurances were far more expensive if the county were to renew with a different company. The cost to renew was quoted at \$238,442. The cost for 2011 was \$173,454. Mr. Cooper pointed out that his company hadn't changed their risk management fee in 3 years. He provided comparisons reports and the renewal proposal. He also gave the County Auditor insurance cards for every insured vehicle. Mr. Cooper and the other Neace Lukens representative recommended that the county renew with HCC and then consider lumping coverage with the Workman's Comp renewal in January to possibly receive a better price. Ms. Wenning will remind the Commissioners to review this possibility in late fall. Mr. Nobbe questioned Mr. Cooper extensively on the "paid losses versus incurred" portion of the renewal proposal. After much discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Cooper would return to his office and have a review done of the numbers. Mr. Nobbe was complimentary of the adjuster but said there really was no way that the county had an incurred cost of \$1,373,253. He also commented that Decatur County and its employees tried to do their best to not take advantage of the insurance company and to make responsible efforts in getting estimates and repairing damages. Mr. Cooper agreed. After more discussion, it was determined that the policy end date was today's date and if the contract wasn't signed, the county would be uninsured effective immediately. Commissioner John Richards moved that the renewal be signed for the inland marine and property liability insurance with HCC. Jerome Buening seconded the motion. The motion carried. It was then asked why the renewal was presented at the last possible minute. The Commissioners would like to have the renewal information at least a month prior to the deadline so they could review it. Mr. Cooper explained that it took all of the available time for him to gather the information that he needed to do the renewal proposal. Mr. Cooper agreed that more time should have been allowed and he will make every effort to do so in the future.

**Jodi Comer – SIRPC** appeared before the commissioners with a request for the commissioners to sign a grant submission form for the Letts Community Volunteer Fire Department. Mary McCarty has been working with Letts and the County and had asked Ms. Comer to bring the paperwork to the board for their review and signatures. The paperwork is due in by June 8<sup>th</sup>. After reviewing the paperwork and some discussion on the details, Commissioner Jerome Buening moved that the resolution for the Letts Community VFD grant application and local match commitment be approved and signed. Commissioner John Richards seconded the motion. With the concurrence of Commissioner President Rick Nobbe, the motion passed. The disclosure was signed.

**Matt Morrow – LVFD** discussed the ambulance contract and whether anything could be done to penalize the company for their failure to deliver in a timely fashion. There was much discussion and Commissioner John Richards mentioned that he had spoken with Dean Martin who assured him that the department would receive the ambulance by the end of May. Mr. Nobbe asked if Doug Banks and Matt Morrow would put together some information on paper so that the commissioners would have the pertinent information on hand if the delivery isn't made. There was reluctance to cancel the order and hesitancy to look at purchasing a used vehicle over the new one ordered. There was some suggestion on putting a penalty clause into future contracts. Mr. Morrow will keep the Commissioners informed.

**Library Board Appointment** – Commissioner John Richards moved to reappoint Ernestine McIntyre to the library board for a four year term. Mr. Buening seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Area Plan Commission – Area Plan Director Dave Neuman** made recommendations for rezoning four parcels. After some discussion, Commissioner Buening moved that the ordinances rezoning land for Jennifer Smith, Jason Maples, Kevin Kramer and Fred AmRhein from A-1 to A-2 be signed signifying approval. Mr. Richards seconded the motion, Mr. Nobbe concurred and the motion carried.

Auditor Wenning said that the Rotary Club has requested a Certificate of Insurance from Shares Shredding but that it has not been received yet so the Commissioners took no action on the request for use of the county's land. The legislation regarding the necessity of adopting an "Anti-Nepotism" policy was discussed and that is in the works.

**Sardinia Septic** – County Attorney Peg Polanski did send out a notice to the four remaining property owners that have failed to take action. She has not received a response from any of them. There was some discussion on ordinance enforcement. Ms. Polanski referenced a person with a garage not built according to zoning ordinances and that nothing has happened with that situation and that maybe action could be brought in court to collect fines that are levied. There was a lot of general discussion about what can be done to put more teeth into enforcement. No real decisions were made. Ms. Polanski will work with APC Director Neuman to see what specific details are in the ordinances.

Bids for a property being sold by the Commissioners in Clarksburg are due by June 4<sup>th</sup>.

State Representative Randy Frye presented a plaque to the Decatur County Emergency Management Agency thanking them for their response to the tornado devastation in Holton. The EMA Interim Director dropped off the plaque for the Commissioners to see.

Mr. John Richards moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Jerome Buening seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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Rick Nobbe, President

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

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