

**Decatur County Commissioners**  
**May 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 referenced a recent Call for Projects that had been discussed at a prior meeting and informed the commissioners that it is for additional funding on existing projects, not for beginning new projects. Bridge 2 funding was used for Bridge 18, so Mr. Mohr filled out an application for replacement funding. Mr. Mohr reported that the Bridge 19 deck has been poured and will be tarped according to INDOT standards for 7 days and that it looks good. The Bridge 25/Adams closure date is about a week away. The department wants to pave a few tenths of a mile beyond the structure to a point where they paved a few years ago to complete the road. There is a box structure that needs some work done. There is a property owner contesting the department's drainage analysis. The Superintendent has had four different hydraulic specialists run the numbers and the pipe they are planning on using is the correct one. The taxpayer is concerned it is a waste of money.

Mr. Mohr presented a renewal contract with a rollover of 2011 pricing from O'Mara. Mr. Mohr feels the pricing is the best deal available and has spoken to the council already. The Council gave a "Gentleman's Agreement" that they would support Mr. Mohr if he received the option to pursue the rollover pricing. Mr. John Richards moved to sign the contract for 2011 prices to rollover to 2012, Mr. Jerome Buening seconded. The motion carried. Mr. Nobbe requested if Mr. Mohr goes back to council for additional funding that the Commissioners be kept informed about which funds are being utilized. Commissioners did sign the contract.

Mr. Mohr discussed some correspondence referring to utility relocation permission that referred to the wrong county. Mr. Mohr will work with Decatur County REMC to correct the information.

Mr. Mohr also reported on Bridge 2. Jerome has the information brought in last meeting. Scott Hornsby, representing R.W. Armstrong, was at the meeting to present the Commissioners with a supplemental contract. He explained that because the project was originally approved for a rehab and after a study, it was deemed more feasible to do a replacement, the contract needed to be revised. That was the reason for the addendum/amendment. Page 2 required signatures which the Commissioners provided after Mr. Buening moved to accept Amendment 1 for the Bridge #2 contract and Mr. Richards seconded it. Mr. Nobbe thanked Mr. Hornsby for coming.

Mr. Buening asked whether the culvert by Bridge 25 could be paid thru TIF funds. Mr. Mohr thinks that it should fall under the same jurisdiction as the prior work paid for with TIF funds in that area.

There was some discussion of different phases of work in the TIF area and whether the council has been made aware of construction costs. Mr. Mohr stated that if the highway budget could recoup the cost of pipe and stone that would be great, but if not, it will come out of the blacktopping budget.

Mr. John Richards requested that Mr. Mohr check on 60 East where there is a washout along the edge of the road, just north of 700 S. Mr. Richards worries with traffic on the road that someone will try to pass and go off the edge. Mr. Mohr will check on it.

**Jenni Hanna – Rotary Club** - On behalf of the Rotary Club, Ms. Hanna is requesting permission to use a small portion of the parking lot southeast of the courthouse for a fundraising project with Shares Shredding on Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 – 2:30. The shredding company allows businesses and individuals to pay a small fee to have documents shredded and will give portion of the proceeds to the Rotary Club. Ms. Hanna will fill out a "Request for Use of Facilities" form and turn it in to the Auditor's office. County Attorney Peg Polanski asked Ms. Hanna to have the shredding company provide proof of insurance. She will work with Bryan Robbins to make sure the event coordinates well with the Farmer's Market.

**Harold Sample – Veterans Service Officer** provided a report of last month's activities. There were 18 runs with 20 veterans last month. Albert Friend is the coordinator and driver and Russell Wilson is finishing up his training to be a driver. Jim Todd has asked if the county would utilize another van and provide drivers and coordination to Lawrenceburg facility. Mr. Sample will provide a report every other month.

**Mayor Gary Herbert** – Commissioner Nobbe thanked the Mayor and the City for providing some fill dirt from the watershed project to the fairgrounds

**Teresa Scudder- Clarksburg**, Commissioner Nobbe brought everyone up to speed on what has been taking place in regard to a piece of property in Clarksburg. Mrs. Scudder was planning on purchasing a parcel from an individual and

it turned out that the county actually owned it. After some researching, it was determined that the county had purchased the land so that an old building could be torn down. The county bought the lot in question from Earl and Mary Baker, owners of record at the time. If the county wants to sell, it has to be offered for sale. It doesn't need to be assessed because the current assessed value falls under a certain amount. Advertisement should include what price the county expects to be offered. Mrs. Scudder explained how the person she was planning on purchasing the parcel from had taken care of the property under the assumption that he owned it. It turns out that he only bought the one 28 foot lot and assumed he had bought the two lots together. He has taken care of the property as if it were his during this time. An aerial map of the property in question was viewed by the Commissioners. Mr. Buening questioned what the procedure would be when bids were submitted. Ms. Polanski will research and provide the Auditor with the information to run the advertisement. It was decided to ask for \$2500 in the ad. Mr. Jerome Buening moved to sell the property, advertising it at \$2500. Mr. John Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mrs. Scudder's contact information was obtained.

**Sardinia Septic** - County Attorney Peg Polanski sent an e-mail to the Commissioners regarding the Sardinia Septic system project. There are four people who have had no activity as far as replacement of their system or proof of an existing system. Mr. Richards believes one of the properties has been torn down. After much discussion, it was decided that all four had been sent certified letters from the health department. Mr. Richards reported that he had spoken with an IDEM inspector earlier in the week and the inspector had been testing Letts. The Inspector said that Sardinia looked good. Ms. Polanski said that initially, all the names of property owners in the area were listed and Allan Crosby of the Board of Health researched the records to see which properties had an approved septic system on file. If they didn't have a record on file for an approved system, then they were included in the project. Basically, the burden of proof was put back on the landowner. Mr. Buening pointed out that the other landowners that were identified in the project did comply with the request so he was hesitant to let these four properties get by without any action. One of the properties may have an IRS tax levy against it. Ultimately, it was decided to send a letter of warning to make one last effort. The commissioners deferred to the County Attorney as to what the wording should be in the letter.

### Topics

**Julie Berry** has been sent a letter to appoint Rob Duckworth as the Commissioner's representative from District 9. Andy Witkemper had been on the board.

There was an update on the **Rehab program** for low income homeowners. The Phase 2 application has been submitted. Westport committed \$1000, Greensburg committed \$6000, and the county match has been reduced to \$11,631.00. Mr. Nobbe has asked Patty Jackson from SIRPC to keep the commissioners updated.

**Melanie Maxwell – Tourism** sent notice to Commissioner Rick Nobbe that Ms. Paula Shafer of New Point was awarded the 2012 Hoosier Hospitality Award in Decatur County. She has worked at the Iron Skillet in New Point for over 20 years. Her sister Barbara was a 2010 recipient. The Commissioners appreciate her actions gaining such a prominent recognition from Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman and giving Decatur County such recognition.

**Commissioner Nobbe** discussed results of the **insurance review**. The county experienced a net decrease of \$248,639 due to the economical usage of the plan by the county employees. He also mentioned that the Healthy Fair should be coming up. Auditor Tami Wenning asked what incentive the Commissioners would like to see offered. Mr. Nobbe explained how different screening stations were required to be visited by the employees and if they successfully did four or five of the screenings, employees were eligible for a gift card. With no objections being offered, Mr. Nobbe suggested the same incentive as last year be offered. Mrs. Wenning will research what that was and do the same.

**Decatur County Right to Life** requested being allowed to place crosses representing the unborn on the courthouse lawn for a two week period. After some discussion, the commissioners reduced the amount of time but still allowed for two weekends.

**Decatur County Community Foundation** has requested a date change. Ms. Wenning did receive the Proof of Insurance. The DCCF would like to move their date to June 8<sup>th</sup> to coincide with the second Friday events held with the Farmer's Market. The commissioners didn't have a problem with the request.

Ms. Polanski reported that she had heard from Mr. Kent Irwin. He had been contracted last year to help the county update the **Personnel Policy**. There was some discussion of what the personnel policy should include. Ms. Polanski did mention that job descriptions for each position should be included. Mr. Nobbe asked if all office heads needed to be included. Ms. Polanski thought it might not hurt to have everyone involved one more time. Ms. Polanski also mentioned that recent legislation included some nepotism statutes that need to be put into place to keep the county compliant. Mr. Nobbe would prefer that Mr. Irwin be available after the next commissioner meeting and suggested around 10:00 a.m. on May 21<sup>st</sup> immediately following the regular commissioner meeting.

Mr. John Richards asked what could be done about property owners that will not work with the county on right of way issues. Some of the issues create traffic hazards that could potentially cause liability issues with the county. Ms.

Polanski will review the law and some individual lawsuits and possibly draft a short memo for use as a reference.

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: \_\_\_\_\_