

## Commissioners Meeting

November 20, 2023

### Present: Mark Koors, Jeremy Pasel and Tony Blodgett

Mr Koors welcomed everyone to the Commissioner's November 20th 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.

Sheriff Bill Meyerrose led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; Pastor Ray Sweet then offered a prayer.

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

Mr Blodgett made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for November 6<sup>th</sup>, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to approve the claims, Mr Blodgett seconded, and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to approve the Payroll for November 10<sup>th</sup>, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

**Highway Superintendent Todd Houk** told Commissioners countywide bridge maintenance continues; the milling project on Old US Highway 421 is about finished and approaches on Bridge 236 (East Central Avenue, near Greensburg Junior High), have been paved and the sidewalks and hand rails on bridge walls hopefully will be done by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr Houk has received 5 letters of interest for the **County Bridge Inspection for 2025 – 2028: Beam Longest and Neff, Butler Fairman Seifert, United Consulting and Clark Dietz**. He and **Assistant Superintendent Tim Ortman** are reviewing the Pazer ratings to decide whether to do an hma overlay or chip and seal on proposed projects to be submitted for the **Community Crossing Grants 2024-1** in January. The local call for **Bridge 141** is out and due by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. **United Consultants** provided some budgetary numbers- \$4,000,000- that with Federal funding the County could complete the project spending \$822,000. Mr Houk asked Commissioners to sign the final commitment letter, a certified letter of ADA and Title 6 compliance to submit with the scope of work to complete the Bridge 141 application. The completion date for the new Highway Garage should be mid-December. Mr Koors presented **GM Developments' Pay App #14 - \$1,051,862.33** - for work on the new garage. Mr Pasel made a motion to approve the Pay App, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred. This will be passes on to the **County's Redevelopment Commission** for payment. Mr Koors received the application for financing the Highway's grader for 4 years at nearly the same as the previous lease, but it stated monthly payments and the Commissioners prefer to pay yearly.

In the past 2 weeks, **County Building Inspector Kenny Buening** completed 36 building inspections, issued 7 new building permits with plan reviews and issued 2 red tags- 1 for building a lean-to without a permit and the other for a breaker hole in a panel box. He received 2 complaints – one for trash and debris which the property owner was in the process of cleaning it up when Mr Buening stopped to check out the property; the 2<sup>nd</sup> complaint was a property owner was moving 2 sheds/buildings near the Highway Garage and those were in the flood plain. Mr Buening said the property owner in Letts has not cleaned up his property, so this matter will be turned over to County Attorney Chad Smith.

Commissioners sent **Parks and Recreation Director Teresa Kovacich** information on a tractor at **Stone's Farm Service** that only has 2 hours on it. Mrs Kovacich said the Park Board will discuss this at their meeting tonight.

Mr Pasel is working on a draft for new Fair Board By-Laws; Mr Koors cautioned him on using the "Fair Board" name as the **Decatur County Fair Board** is a 501 3C entity still in existence. Mr Pasel suggested the Commissioners provide funding for that board until they are self-sustaining. The Fairgrounds' budget is supported by monies received from groups renting the Fairgrounds, building rentals, winter storage rentals, vendors renting spaces during the 4-H Fair and Fair sponsors. Those funds are receipted into the County Treasury and claims are approved by the Commissioners.

Mr Blodgett gave updates on last week's **Solar Eclipse Committee** meeting: a \$15,000 - \$20,000 budget which would include \$5,000 for insurance for the 3-day event. He suggested the profits or proceeds go to replacing funds from the County, then divide any remaining monies between the organizations

contributing to the event. He also stated no profits go to the Fairgrounds. Mr Pasel wants visitors to enjoy our community, but prefers not to push the budget too high as it could be cloudy resulting in no big turnout. Some expenses would include a band, sound system, insurance, clean-up and maybe a petting zoo. Sheriff Meyerrose asked who will cover the overtime costs for his department. The Commissioners' EDIT fund would be a possible source of funds. Mr Pasel and Mr Koors agreed the budget should not exceed \$20,000 and see where that gets us. Mr Blodgett said Tourism has donated \$5,000 to deposit help the committee defray expenses.

**EDC Director Bryan Robbins** told Commissioners he had a good trip to Japan last week and is looking forward to doing it again in a couple of years. He met with officials from Nipro, 2 divisions of Resonac, Gecom and Honda. Mr Robbins traveled to Japan with officials from Jennings, Jackson, Bartholomew, Clark and Floyd Counties who are part of the South-Central Region. **Barnes and Thornburg** is tweaking the **Economic Development Agreement** with **Fletcher Power** for the Council's next meeting. Mr Pasel reported a group met, discussed projects including the Fairgrounds and Park Road and did submit those to the READI Group for consideration.

**The next Commissioners meeting will be December 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 pm in Room 106.**

With nothing else to come before the Commissioners, Mr Pasel made the motion to recess, Mr. Blodgett seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. Meeting recessed. Mr Koors wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

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

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