

Commissioners Meeting

November 6, 2023

Present: Mark Koors, Jeremy Pasel and Tony Blodgett

Mr Koors opened the Commissioner's November 6th 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.

Patty Hensley led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; Pastor Mike Bartlett then offered a prayer.

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

Mr Pasel made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for October 2nd, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Blodgett noted the 30 mph speed limit signs noted in the October 16th minutes should state *installed at South County Road 150 West beginning at West Park Road as set by Ordinance 2023-23*. Mr Pasel moved to approve as amended, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

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

Mr Pasel moved to approve Payroll for October 27th, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Todd Houk, Highway Superintendent, gave his report: the deck and approaches have been poured on Bridge 236 (East Central Avenue, near Greensburg Junior High), paving work on those approaches should start this week Mr Koors said the completion date is set for November 22nd; bridge maintenance continues, also mowing, patching and berming roads and speed bumps on Old 421 Highway were milled. **Globe Asphalt** has paved the parking lot at the new Highway Garage. Commissioners have not scheduled an open house for the public; they were given a 'substantial completion date of December 1st, 2023'. The **2024-1 Community Crossing Matching Grant Call for Projects** begins January 2, 2024 for the 2024 to be paved in 2025. There's a local call for bridge projects so Mr Houk and Mr Ortman will meet with **United Consulting** as some of those projects may be designated as Federal Aid. Three railroad crossings in New Point were upgraded. Mr Blodgett wanted the public to understand when Highway crews works on roads for water drainage, that may create a 'drop off' at the edge of the road, so fix a problem may create another problem. United Consulting is working on the professional engineering and acquisition of right-of-way for Bridge 131 on County Road 200 South, let in March 2023 and is in 'the system' for 2028 or 2029. The current Bridge 131 is a historical bridge so it will be sold or stored as required by INDOT. He has received calls on roads damaged by the Greensburg Airport Project but the City and County did not have any road use agreements.

County Building Inspector Kenny Buening completed 72 building inspections, issued 13 new building permits with plan reviews, issued 5 permit renewals and 2 red tags- 1 for building a lean-to without a permit and the other a ground wire not in conduit in the meter base. He received 2 complaints about construction projects without permits; upon checking he saw both were on runners/portable so no permit required. He visited the Smith property on County Road 850 South, the same vehicles have not been moved and 4 are unlicensed, but the line of sight is much better for drivers. Commissioners agreed it's been long enough, so **County Attorney Chad Smith** will proceed with filing documents in Court.

County Treasurer Diane Wenning reminded everyone the deadline for paying **Fall Taxes** is Monday, November 13th as the Courthouse will be closed on November 7th for **Election Day** and November 10th in observance of **Veterans Day**.

Parks and Recreation Director Teresa Kovacich had emailed the Commissioners 2 quotes for a new tractor to replace their 1996 **John Deere** tractor. Their budget includes monies for a mower but not a tractor. Parks employee Jody Biddinger said the old tractor has 2800 hours and it is also used for loading and unloading items. Commissioners agreed the purchase should come out of the Parks' budget, not the Commissioners' budget and good used agricultural tractors with low hours are available. Mr Blodgett said he's not ready to decide today; he needs to research/digest this request as well as talk to someone. Commissioners suggested 'building up' the *Parks Capital Non-reverting Fund* for future capital expenses.

Mrs Kovacich said the restrooms at Rebekkah Park need upgrades, so she'll probably be asking for an additional to cover those costs and there are some monies budgeted for the pool which she could use.

The **2024 Holiday Schedule** was presented to the Commissioners; Mr Koors would like to trade **Columbus Day** for the **April 8th Solar Eclipse Day** and Mr Pasel asked about **New Year's Eve**. This will be on the next meeting's Topics.

Mr Blodgett would like to close the Courthouse to the public on April 8th, but still make it a work day so employees could work for Emergency Management; he hasn't discussed this with department heads yet.

Mr Pasel would like to see 50% **Commissioners' 2024 Meeting** schedule be evening meetings. Commissioners agreed to make their 2nd monthly meeting begin at 6:00 pm.

Mr Koors reminded everyone the Council will hold a public hearing for the proposed food and beverage tax tonight at 6:00 pm at the EOC Meeting Room at the Annex.

Commissioners discussed how to spend monies/cover expenses for the **Solar Eclipse** events until revenues are receipted into County Funds. Mr Blodgett said **Tourism** has pledged \$5,000 to help cover expenses; flea market vendors have been invoiced for booths and there will be 80 primitive tent camping sites and 50 camper spots available to rent. Mr Pasel said folks are calling to pay to reserve parking spots. Mr Blodgett asked how Commissioners want to budget for a band and sound system for the Saturday event. Commissioners will contact **Assured Partners NL** for costs for insurance coverage for events on county property.

Mr Koors announced the **2023 Fair Report: total income of \$122,593.40; expenses of \$71,273.36 for a profit of \$51,320.04.**

EDC Director Bryan Robbins getting ready for his trip to Japan; had a site visit with a local Japanese company looking to expand so he'll follow up with the company in Japan. Discussion and economic agreements are nearing completion for the battery storage company. He continues to be very busy going into 2024.

Greensburg-Decatur County Chamber of Commerce Director Dawn Lowe announced the Chamber and guests are meeting with **Ivy Tech College** today at 11:30 am to share their market research studies for the April 8th Solar Eclipse in Greensburg. This meeting is to help local business owners prepare for the projected influx of people coming that weekend: best practices, safety for business personnel. Traffic is expected to be locked up, so how do we help the ag related businesses who can't shut down and those trucking in and out of the county on a daily basis. Mrs Lowe reminded all about the **Chamber Annual Dinner** is November 17th at 6:00 pm at the Heritage Hill Event Center.

The Commissioners next meeting will be at 8:00 am on November 20, 2023

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.

Attest: _____

Date: _____