

**Commissioners Meeting
September 18, 2023**

Present: Mark Koors, Jeremy Pasel and Tony Blodgett

The September 18th Commissioner meeting was opened by Mr Koors who welcomed 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.

Todd Houk led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; Pastor Luke Koors then offered a prayer.

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

Mr Blodgett moved to approve the September 5th minutes, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

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

Mr Pasel moved to approve Payroll for September 15th, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to approve the Executive Session minutes for September 11th, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Todd Houk, Highway Superintendent, has submitted the calculation sheets for the **CCMG-22 paving projects** to INDOT and those have been approved; **Assistant Highway Superintendent Tim Ortman** is working the asset plan for the **2024 Community Crossings Grants**. Crews have put down the base on County Road 200 West going back to the new Highway Garage. Abutments are set on Bridge 236 (near Greensburg Junior High) and the sidewalk from the Junior High to the High School is progressing. The sidewalk is the City of Greensburg's part of this bridge project. Mr Houk has a traffic count set for County Road 600 South at the intersection of County Road Southwest 60 to gather data whether a stop sign is warranted off of County Road 600 South. He announced there are 2 Highway employees retiring: **Lester Hobbs, who has worked for 45 years and Richard Garrison who has worked 35 years for the Highway Department**. Mr Koors thanked those employees for their years of service. Mr Houk will advertise to hire 2 drivers with CDL licenses. Mr Blodgett asked what the Highway's standards are for the 'line of sight' and should they create an ordinance addressing that. Mr Pasel asked whether Mr Houk plans to put stone shoulders on the newly paved portion of County Road 300 as some areas have almost a 5 inch drop off. The traffic count report for Park Road, out by the Greensburg Country Club Golf Course, will be forwarded to **County Attorney Chad Smith** to write the speed limit ordinance. Mr Houk has received the notice to proceed for the preliminary engineering, right-of-way and utilities for the bridge on County Road 200 South, just past County Road 700 West; letting for that bridge is set for 2025. Commissioners and Highway employees are hoping to show the public their new facilities sometime around November 1st, 2023.

Mr Pasel moved to approve the \$15,150 invoice from **Strand and Associates** for Professional Services for July for the Highway Garage Final Design and Construction Services. Mr Blodgett seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Blodgett made a motion to approve the \$507,150.37 Pay App 12 to **GM Development for the Highway Garage** project. Mr Pasel seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. These invoices will be forwarded to the **Decatur County Redevelopment Commission** to issue payment.

In the past 2 weeks, **County Building Inspector Kenny Buening** completed 48 building inspections, issued 21 new building permits with plan reviews and 2 red tags- both for construction of pole barns without the building permits. He visited the St Omer property after Tox-Away Day to see whether the property owner finished cleaning up the property and he is happy with the cleanup so he's closing the case. He hopes to work on letters to send to property owners from a list Mr Blodgett requested. Mr Buening did check on the property in Clarksburg which may require additional visits; nothing has been done to cleanup the property in Sandusky and there are multiple issues to address in Burney, hopefully in October.

Mr Blodgett moved to allow the **Sheriff's Department** to charge the \$200 as permitted by statute, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred. The \$200 fees will be receipted into the **Sheriff's Pension** fund. **Sheriff Bill Meyerrose** presented a **Work Release Program Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** between the Decatur County Sheriff's Department and the Decatur County Court Services concerning

the financial obligations of the work release program. The work release with GPS has a daily fee of \$35 plus an initial fee of \$100 to be collected by **Court Services**. It will be the responsibility of the Sheriff's Department to invoice \$20 (\$15 to Court Services) of the basic fee plus \$50 (\$50 to Court Services) of the initial fee each month to Court Services. Mr Pasel moved to approve the **Work Release Program MOU**, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Abby Harry, Assistant Director of Court Services/Director of Community Corrections and Matt Hoeing, Director of Court Services working with **Superior Court Matt Bailey** have established a **Wellness Court** to support treatment and medication for those criminals leaving jail to reconnect with families and kids. This is a 2.5-year program which currently has 4 participants. Mr Hoeing told Commissioners the **ARPA Committee** will be used for the first year of this program which takes a burden off of the County General Fund and they need to look past the first year; so, they are asking to use \$132,081 (\$110,000 for salary + \$20,081.00 for the program/supplies) of the **Restricted Opioid Fund- 1237-** to hire a probation officer which would allow up to 15 participants in this program. Mr Blodgett move to approve the current restricted funds of \$132,081 with the caveat the \$110,000 for salary and benefits would be set aside for 2025 and the \$22,081 may be used for supplies/programming currently. Mr Pasel seconded the motion.

Mr Pasel presented the 'requests for bids' specs for vendors wanting to submit bids for apparel featuring the new county logo and also for putting the new logo on county owned vehicles. The specs will be advertised in newspaper with an October 2nd bid opening. The **ARPA Logo Committee** will do the unveiling of the county logo by email and the successful bidder will have a one-year agreement for the apparel.

Mr Blodgett made a motion to create a Social Media account utilizing the guidelines suggested and Mr Pasel seconded the motion. Mr Pasel then moved to adopt the guidelines that were submitted for social media and Mr Blodgett seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. The social media guidelines/policy is the 4th updated policy and will not be used for emergency notices as the EMA will be using **Code Red** for those types of notices.

Mr Blodgett moved to table the decision whether to sell or keep the current Highway Garage until the next meeting, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Koors shared some preliminary numbers for the 2023 Fair at \$86,000 but the pre-sale ticket deposit wasn't in a lump sum of \$58,100 so Auditor Chadwell will check on this and let Mr Koors know. Mr Pasel opened a discussion about creating a new Fair Board as he has concerns with the Commissioners putting on the Fair since elections can change support and there needs to be continuity going forward. Mr Blodgett is in favor of this plus creating a set of By-Laws and a process for auditing the financials for a Fair Board. He also wants volunteer hours documented, place a value on services. Mr Koors believes the Commissioners need to be heavily involved in the 4-H Fair as it is a great asset which needs to be taken care of. He cautioned all when creating a Committee/Board about how it's done.

Mr Blodgett moved to approve **Ordinance 2023-21** vacating 3 half alleys in Milford, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

The next topic open for discussion is whether to close the Courthouse for the April 8th Solar Eclipse. Mr Blodgett stated closing all day will help the Sheriff's Department because the 4 Courthouse Security Officers could be deployed elsewhere. There will be weekend activities leading up to April 8th which in itself will require lots of overtime for law enforcement as well as emergency services. Commissioners will make a final decision at their next meeting.

Human Resources Director Patty Hensley didn't have anything to report.

Greensburg-Decatur County Chamber of Commerce Dawn Lowe gave a report for EDC Bryan Robbins regarding the READI Group: planning is on-going as the State's parameters are being defined and the applications will be due early next year with a cost/fee per partner. There is a **Reality Store** scheduled for September 26th at the Greensburg Junior High School to give students a taste of what life is really like.

Elections Deputy Patricia Louagie asked if the Commissioners have appointed anyone to the Marion Township Advisory Board; they have not yet.

County Treasurer Diane Wenning announced the Tax Sale will be Friday, September 22nd at 10:00 am; there are less than 40 parcels on the list.

Lawn care bids are set to be advertised in 2024.

The Health Insurance Committee is waiting on renewal numbers; so, this topic will be discussed once those are received and reviewed.

The Commissioners next meeting will be at 8:00 am on October 2nd, 2023.

With nothing else to come before the Commissioners, Mr Blodgett made the motion to recess, Mr Pasel seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred. Meeting recessed.

Attest: _____

Date: _____