

**Commissioners Meeting
September 19, 2022 8:00 a m**

Present: Mark Koors, Jerome Buening and Chuck Emsweller

President Koors began the Commissioners' September 19th 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.

Jail Commander Dana Parker led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and County Sheriff Dave Durant then offered a prayer.

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

Mr Emsweller moved to accept the September 6th meeting minutes, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Buening moved to approve the accounts payable claims, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Greg Martz, GM Development Companies LLC, Steve Ruble, Strand Associates Inc and Jeff Lyness and Clint Crocker of Maxwell Construction were present today to answer any questions the Commissioners might have for the 'Public Works Campus Project'. Mr Martz said the 'scoping period to come up with a guaranteed budget' for the new highway garage campus. The design is complete, received the bids, next step is the financing. The guaranteed budget is \$11,500,000 and will not run over-above this amount. Winterization costs are included in that amount and the timing is working out perfectly so that cost may not be used, so that savings will be returned to the County. The **Decatur County Redevelopment Commission** will fund approximately 75%- approximately \$6,000,000 cash up-front and an additional \$3,000,000 over the next 5 years. The Commissioners will finance the remaining \$2,500,000 through a bond and are working with **Baker Tilly** to secure those finances. The draw schedule is set for next spring, early summer. Mr Koors opened the floor to the public for any questions/comments on this project; with no questions he closed the public hearing. Mr Buening moved to approve a budget of \$11,500,000 maximum for the new highway facility. Mr Emsweller seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

Highway (Interim) Superintendent Todd Houk wanted to thank Bill Rethlake- **Greensburg Daily News** for the story he wrote about the ash trees on private property, leaning toward county roads, posing a hazard should they fall. Highway crews continue working on stone shoulders for completed paving projects; also mowing corners for sight distance at intersections for school buses. Highway Assistant Superintendent Tim Ortman and Mr Houk have started the process for projects when they apply for the **Community Crossings Grants 2023**. A drainage issue in Burney is scheduled to be corrected by putting in new pipes and some tile.

Area Plan Director Krista Duvall presented 4 ordinances for the Commissioners' review after the Area Plan Commission's approvals: **Ordinance 2022-18, Kyle McLeod**, requesting to rezone approximately 2.99 acres from A1 to A2, for the purpose of constructing a single family detached dwelling. Mr Emsweller moved to approve Ordinance 2022-18, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred. **Ordinance 2022-21, petitioner Jason Caswell**, requesting to rezone approximately 2.99 acres from A1 to A2, for the purpose of constructing a single family detached dwelling. Mr Buening moved to approve Ordinance 2022-21, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred. **Ordinance 2022-4, petitioners Trent Westmeyer and Morgan Eden**, requesting to rezone approximately 2.99 acres from A1 to A2, for the purpose of constructing a single family detached dwelling. Mr Emsweller moved to approve Ordinance 2022-4, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred. **Ordinance 2022-17, petitioners Nutrien Ag and Joan Koors**, requesting to rezone approximately 11 acres from A1 to I1, for business expansion. This petition includes 4 parcels. Mr Buening moved to approve Ordinance 2022-17, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Since the last Commissioners' meeting, **Building Inspector Kenny Buening** has completed 32 building inspections, issued 5 new building permits and plan reviews, 3 permit renewals and issued 3 red tags-needed GFI's in a kitchen and bathroom; on final inspection a carbon monoxide detector was needed in

a garage and a GFI was needed on a kitchen island and the 3rd was a meter base ground wire not in conduit. All code violations were corrected. A property owner in Burney is happy about the tile to be put in by the Highway Department. Mr Koors will give Kenny an address for a house that burnt 2 years ago in Alert, it's all grown up. Neighbors are complaining it's affecting the sale of their property.

County Attorney Chad Smith asked Commissioners to amend their motion to sell a property in St Omer to Anita Diederich for \$1,200. Ms Diederich may or may not longer be interested in purchasing the property. Mr Emsweller moved amend the September 6th motion and allow the property (16-05-02-110-012.010-001) to be sold to anyone who comes up with the \$1,200 first. Mr Buening seconded the motion and Mr Koors concurred.

There are 2 other companies interested in submitting estimates/quotes for repairing the Courthouse Tower Clock; making a total of 3 quotes which the Commissioners will review at their October 3rd meeting.

New Directions had submitted a **Request for Use of Facilities** for the southwest corner of the Courthouse Lawn for a 'domestic violence display. The request is for 30 days which is longer than the regular timeframe the Commissioners usually approve. Mr Koors will call Kelly Wampler to let her know. **Brian Walterman** submitted a **Request for Use of Facilities** for the southeast corner of the Courthouse lawn for a turkey dinner, with proceeds going to **Jaylen Strong**; he did not have a set date for the event. Commissioners will approve after a date is established and the certificate of liability is submitted.

Economic Development Commission Director Bryan Robbins reported the **READI Group** is ahead of schedule; he will be attending a conference in Chicago .

Mr Emsweller moved to approve the September 16th payroll, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

The property for creating a cul-de-sac at the end of County Road 200 West for the new Highway Garage campus needs resurveyed, creating a new legal and tax id so Commissioners can 'do an equal/even property swap' with Charles and Diane Beggs.

Emergency Management Director Brad Speer told Commissioners the State did send monies to reimburse the County for one-half of the EMA's 2021 salaries.

Economic Development Commission Director Bryan Robbins told Commissioners he attended the **Midwest Conference in Chicago** last week. **READI** projects continue to come in. He continues working on the framework to create a **Regional Development Authority** and hammering out the incentives for the battery storage company.

Greensburg/Decatur County Chamber of Commerce Director Dawn Lowe said applications for the Community Awards for 2022. The Chamber awards the Entrepreneur of the Year, a Small Business Grant Award of up to \$1,000 and the Don Horan Community Leader of the Year award. Those may be found on the Chamber's website and nominations are open until October 7th. The awards will be given out at the **Chamber's Annual Dinner on November 18th**. A Cash Bash Scholarship Fund Raiser is also held at the Annual Dinner. Each of the 3 high schools are given \$1,000.

Purdue Extension Educator Christopher Fogle introduced Nora Bruns who started September 1st as the 4-H Educator. The 3rd position- Ag Educator- is still open. Commissioners welcomed Ms Bruns to the community.

County resident Bill Fenley asked Commissioners to take care of some of his lawyer expenses incurred in due to his objecting to the **Petition 2022-7 by Robin Carmer for Hillbilly Corner**. Mr Fenley doesn't think he should have to had to hire an attorney and something needs to be done about 'special exceptions' granted by the **Area Plan Commission** as those infringe on a property owner's rights. Mr Smith told Mr Fenley the APC has their own attorney. Mr Buening thought the process works- the **Board of Zoning Appeals** gave the exception; also, the APC's attorney is the one to ask instead of hiring an attorney. Roger Fenley asked Commissioners how many times was a business allowed to go in a residential area, similar to what's happening here. He said Ms Carmer did the process backwards; doesn't make any sense. Commissioners said it happened, it's over. Mr Fenley just wanted to ask Commissioners for his expenses before he does anything else.

The Commissioners next meeting will be October 3rd, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.

With nothing else to come before the Commissioners, Mr Emsweller moved to recess, Mr Buening seconded and Mr. Koors concurred. Meeting recessed.

Attest: _____

Date: _____