

**Commissioners Meeting
September 20, 2021 8:00 a m**

Present: Mark Koors and Jerome Buening

Everyone was welcomed by President Koors to the September 7th Commissioners 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.

Jail Commander Dana Parker led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; Pastor Jerran Jackson then offered a prayer.

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

Mr Buening moved to approve the minutes for the September 7th meeting and the September 9th Executive Session and Mr Koors seconded the motion. Both minutes are approved.

Mr Buening moved to approve the claims and the September 17th payroll for county employees. Mr Koors seconded the motion. Claims are approved.

Mark Mohr, Highway Superintendent, reported the Community Crossings Grant project on County Road 850, between County Road 700 West to the Bartholomew County line is completed; also, County Road 700 has been wedged to the Highway and both bridges are finished- O'Mara should complete the paving next week. The deck has been poured on Bridge 239, Washington Street bridge in Greensburg, so this project should be completed by the November 1st deadline. **Dave Richter and John SanGiorgio of United Consulting** presented the **2021 Bridge Inventory report**. There are 184 bridges, longer than 20', in Decatur County that are required to be inspected every 2 years. Mr SanGiorgio said 9 bridges require load-limit postings and he cited the 'top 5' bridges placed on the replacement list and 4 bridges on the rehabilitation list. **INDOT and the Federal Highway** have changed the 'rating criteria' so Decatur County Council will need to increase the tax levy for the Cumulative Bridge fund.

Area Plan Director Krista Duvall didn't have anything to report. Ms Duvall will again ask the Drainage Board to meet on a matter concerning Troy Benges's property.

Mr Koors read **Building Inspector Kenny Buening's** report for the past 3 weeks: Kenny has completed 35 building inspections, issued 16 new building permits including the plan reviews and issued 1 red-tag for a meter base not in conduit. Kenny did receive a complaint on a property in Adams

County Attorney Chad Smith summarized his recommendation to the Commissioners on awarding the bid for the **2026 Reassessment Contract**. He found only 1 bidder did everything the specs required. Mr Buening moved to enter into a contract with **Ad Valorem** for the 2026 Reassessment and Mr Koors seconded.

Bradford Huntington and Associates have filed a petition to vacate an alley running east and west between Lot 32- parcel #16-12-16-120-013.000-009 and Lot 33- 16-12-16-16-130-001.000-003 Burney's Ad. There is a garage sitting in this alley. Mr Buening moved to approve **Ordinance 2021-16**, vacating said alley. Mr Koors seconded the motion.

Rich Johnson of JMS reviewed the proposed energy savings of \$89,460 of the operating fund, in the first year, if the County would install solar energy at the Highway Garage, Court Services building and the new Detention Center. **JMS Engineer Mark Frost** stated most of the initial installation \$1,762,608 costs are at the Court Services; solar heat and lighting could also be added to the Courthouse building. Commissioners suggested scheduling an executive session for educating both the Council and Commissioners on funding such project.

Mr Buening moved to approve the **Request for Use of Facilities at the Animal Shelter** to have a fund raiser on October 23rd, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Mr Koors seconded the motion. **Kevin Krekeler of Assured Partners** told Commissioners no additional insurance coverage is needed for this event.

Rick Sasser, Commander of the Guardians of Liberty, asked the Commissioners to adopt an ordinance establishing Decatur County, Indiana as a Second Amendment Sanctuary County. Mr Sasser had email the ordinance to Mr Smith to review before today's meeting. Mr Smith stated all elected officials have taken an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Indiana. There is a separation of powers and this ordinance asks the Commissioners not to follow some laws which is beyond the Commissioners' scope of power. **County Sheriff Dave Durant** stated the ordinance tends to be

symbolic and we want to make sure we don't violate the Constitution. According a few County Sheriffs an 'agreement' instead of an ordinance would not violate either Constitution. Mr Sasser asked Mr Smith and Sheriff Durant to rewrite his ordinance. Mr Buening stated the Commissioners are not going forward with this because the Constitution is in place. Mr Koors agreed with Mr Buening; he thanked Mr Sasser for his presentation.

Mr Buening has received a letter from a property owner across from the Sandcreek Baptist Church on South US 421, asking if there is a noise ordinance for the area. He will do some further investigating.

Commissioners will decide if they will redistrict any Council or Commissioners' districts once they get the 2020 Census Report.

Commissioners are discussing adding an Administrative Assistant position to their budget to help with several responsibilities such Fair Grounds, Human Resources, maybe a few other responsibilities. This was tabled until Chuck gets back.

Mr Buening moved to approve the **Otis** repair bill, \$6,929.31, for removing oil waste from the elevator pit. Mr Koors seconded the motion.

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

The next Commissioner meeting will be 8:00 am on Monday, October 4th 2021, in Room 106.

Attest: _____

Date: _____