

**Commissioners Meeting
September 5, 2023**

Present: Mark Koors, Jeremy Pasel and Tony Blodgett

President Koors opened the September 5th Commissioner 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.

Kenny Buening led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; Pastor Greg Redd then offered a prayer.

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

Mr Pasel moved to approve the August 21st minutes, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Mr Pasel moved to approve the Executive Session minutes for August 21st, Mr Blodgett 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 1st, Mr Blodgett seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Highway Superintendent Todd Houk told Commissioners the **CCMG-22 paving projects** have been completed; County Road 200 West going back to the new Highway Garage is next on the list to do. Work on Bridge 236 (near Greensburg Junior High) is continuing and the sidewalk from the Junior High to the High School is nearing completion. The sidewalk is the City of Greensburg's part of this bridge project. Mr Pasel asked Mr Houk to have his mowing crews cut back overgrown vegetation before the 'S curves' on the west end of County Road 550 North. Mr Houk will contact homeowners along that area to make sure there aren't any 'ornamental shrubs'.

In the past 2 weeks, **County Building Inspector Kenny Buening** completed 63 building inspections, issued 14 new building permits with plan reviews and 3 red tags- 2 for electrical connections in the box and the 3rd was a complaint of a remodeling project without a permit plus a possible septic problem, so he contacted the sanitarian with the Health Department. Mr Buening attended a meeting with IDEM at Lake McCoy. He plans to ask County Attorney Chad Smith to move forward with litigation concerning a property in Sandusky. Mr Blodgett stated he has visited the Smith property on County Road 80 South and there have been substantial improvements as the vehicles were moved away from the road so he will ask our County Attorney to wait as there are still 2 – 3 cars. Mr Buening plans to check on the property, after the September 9th Tox-Away Day, in St Omer to see if items have been removed. A complaint about a property in Clarksburg was called in to Patty Hensley, Human Resources Director.

Sheriff Bill Meyerrose requested the Commissioners to table his request to modify the foreclosures' ordinance until their next meeting.

Rick Anerson, Veregy, gave the final pricing of \$2,649,335 to replace the HVAC, replace windows with window wall construction so reducing the number of windows, all new LED lighting and install solar array to offset electricity consumption at the Annex/Court Services/old Washington School building. Mr Anderson said the next step is to get the contract approved/signed; he also stated this is a turnkey project so there will be no change orders. This will be a 6–8-month project. The solar panels have a 25-year warranty, but it will be approximately 13 years before the County would start seeing any savings/benefits in doing this proposed project. Commissioners agreed to table this discussion until they figure out a way to finance the project since Veregy is not currently set up for the Buyer-Owner-Transfer financing.

Mr Pasel hopes to have more details before sending out RFP's (request for proposals) to vendors for putting the new County Logo on vehicles and clothing.

Greensburg Junior High students Anita Wissell and Todd Dwenger asked for the Commissioners' approval to host the annual "See you at the Pole" event on September 27th at 7:00 am. This is an event

supported by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes as the entire world would be praying at the same time. Mr Blodgett moved to approve the request, Mr Pasel seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Commissioners will hold an executive session on September 11th, 2023, at 9:00 am for a joint meeting with the insurance committee and the current Third-Party Administrator Dunn and Associates.

Mr Blodgett told Burney resident Jamie Alverson the County is investigating complaints received about cars, not plated, sitting on his property. Mr Alverson stated the cars do run.

In 2022 the Commissioners were planning to sell the current Highway Department facility once it was vacated. Mr Blodgett asked how to solve the future needs of other departments since he believes the County could utilize those buildings, but how do you cover the \$2,500,000 shortfall of paying for the new Highway buildings. The BOT contract is now set at \$11,500,000; TIF has promised \$9,000,000. BOT GM Development is willing to finance up to 5 years, but the terms are not set until after the County takes possession of the new facilities, after November 1st. Mr Pasel pointed out interest rates are high on financing. Commissioners agreed they need more information in getting appraisals/values on the old Highway facilities and the old jail lot; the other option is to sell these properties at auction. The County TIF is willing to listen to EMA's \$350,000 request for a new building.

REMC CEO Brett Abplanalp told Commissioners are working on the feasibility of fiber in the community and is hoping Senate Bill 560 allows Counties to establish infrastructure development zones which exempts facilities from property taxes. The second item Mr. Abplanalp spoke about is the **Next Level OCRA Grants- \$80 million from the State and \$816 million across the State for B Grants**; the State has not yet announced a date. He urged the Commissioners to help with supplying data for addresses to show which areas are underserved or not served by broadband. The **IDEC** is putting on a webinar at 2:00 pm on September 12th at the REMC, Commissioners and Council are invited.

Human Resources Director Patty Hensley gave the August report for 3 full-time, new hires: 1 in the Prosecutor's Office, 1 in the Detention Center and 1 on the Detention Center; 1 part-time new hire in the Auditor's office.

EDC Director Bryan Robbins has been working on a lot of things that will be coming to fruition which he can't speak to for the moment. He will be going on a "site selector trip" to help keep our region in the forefront. He asked the Commissioners as well as the Council members for their input in finalizing what projects qualify to submit for the READI 2.0; he has received the regulations for these and what can be used as matching funds.

Deputy Coroner Doug Banks asked if any decision has been made concerning the County health insurance coverage for the Coroner and Surveyor. Mr Koors said there is an Executive Session set for September 11, 2023, at 9:00 am for Commissioners to receive health insurance information.

Mr Blodgett said Mrs Hensley should have a bid in a couple of weeks to replace the elevator in the Courthouse. The ARPA Committee has set aside funds to cover those costs. Mr Blodgett suggested installing a 'lift' in one of the stairwells during the time there won't be an elevator. Mr Koors said the Courts would need to make accommodations for their dockets during the 8-week replacement. It will take 8 months to receive the elevator and parts once it's ordered. The 2nd topic Mr Blodgett brought up for discussion is the April 8th Solar Eclipse events in Decatur County. An event planning group would like to use the Fairgrounds on April 7th and 8th. The EMA and community are preparing for this event as well. Some predict around 30,000 people will come to Decatur County for the Eclipse and Mr Blodgett requested the Courthouse to close on April 8th as the Sheriff's Personnel will be stretched to cover events during those few days; also requested the Courts clear their calendars for that day. The Extension Office could be used as Central Command and keep First Aid out near the Fairgrounds. It is predicted Decatur County will experience 3 minutes, 45 seconds of darkness on April 8th at approximately 3:00 pm.

Tox-Away Day is September 9th, 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Fairgrounds.

The Commissioners next meeting will be at 8:00 am on September 18th, 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: _____