

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JANUARY 4, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Dubois County Commissioners was held in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex in Jasper, Indiana, beginning at 8:00 a.m. (EST) on January 4, 2021. Present was Commissioner Chad A. Blessinger. Commissioners Nick Hostetter and Elmer Brames were present via teleconference. Also present were County Auditor Sandra L. Morton, County Surveyor Ken Brosmer, Highway Supervisor Steven L. Berg, Highway Engineer Brent Wendholt, and County Attorney Gregory S. Schnarr. A quorum was declared present and the meeting was opened for business by President Blessinger. Minutes of the December 21, 2020 meeting of the Commissioners had been previously distributed to the Commissioners and were approved as presented. The minutes were then signed. Incomes for the month of December 2020 were as follows: Recorder \$31,701.59; Health Department \$65,039.12; Auditor \$50.00; Clerk \$32,248.80. Claims against the County were examined and those found to be just, due and owing were allowed and those found to be not due and owing were disallowed, all as more fully set forth in the Claims and Allowance Docket of the County. A fund line-item correction will be made on a claim payable to Clark-Deitz for the Regional Sewer District Study.

RE: REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

This being the first meeting of the calendar year, the first order of business was the selection of officers for the Board of Commissioners for 2021. The Board's Attorney conducted the election. Thereupon, on separate nominations and motions, the following were elected as officers of the Commissioners for 2021: President – Chad A Blessinger; Vice President – Nickolas Hostetter.

RE: APPOINTMENTS

Due to the resignation of County Council President Jerry Hunefeld, a vacancy was created on the Community Corrections Advisory Board. A discussion was held. A decision will be made in February following the County Council meeting on January 25, 2021.

RE: HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Highway Supervisor Steve Berg presented the following report of Highway projects:

Road Petition - Berg is working with Lee Bilderback on a road petition for 850 W.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Highway Engineer Brent Wendholt presented the following report of Highway projects:

Bridge 143 – The bridge is progressing.

RE: LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY DECLARATION EXTENSION

A Declaration to extend the current Commissioners' Emergency Declarations dated March 17, 2020; March 23, 2020; April 6, 2020; May 4, 2020; June 1, 2020; June 15, 2020; July 6, 2020; August 3, 2020; August 17, 2020; September 8, 2020; October 5, 2020; November 2, 2020; December 7, 2020 was presented to remain in effect at this time and will expire on February 1, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. ET, but its effectiveness may be shortened or extended by act of the Commissioners. A motion was made to approve the Extension, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Local Disaster Emergency Declaration Extension

WHEREAS, the novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe respiratory illness that has rapidly spread to more than 60 countries in the world, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020, Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb issued Executive Order 20-02, declaring a public health emergency for the coronavirus disease, and has issued subsequent Executive Orders related thereto; and

WHEREAS, in response to the outbreak, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) determined that COVID-19 presents a serious health threat and currently recommends community preparedness and everyday prevention measures be taken by all individuals and families in the United States, including home isolation when individuals are sick with respiratory symptoms, coughs and fever, and home quarantine when they may have been exposed to a communicable disease from those who are healthy in order to STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Executive Order requires coordination across federal, state and local governments, first responders, private organizations and the entire healthcare structure in Indiana and activates the disaster response and recovery aspects of the state, local and interjurisdictional emergency plans of all counties in Indiana; and

NOW, therefore, we, the Dubois County Board of Commissioners, declare that a local disaster emergency continues to exist in the County and that we hereby invoke and declare those portions of the Indiana Code which are applicable to the conditions and have caused the issuance of this proclamation, to be in full force and effect in the County for the exercise of all necessary emergency authority for protection of the lives and property of the people of this County.

Reference is hereby made to all appropriate laws, statutes, ordinances, and resolutions and particularly to Indiana Code 10-14-3-29 (formerly Indiana Code 10-4-1-23).

All public offices and employees of Dubois County are hereby directed to exercise the utmost diligence in the discharge of duties required of them for the duration of the emergency and in execution of laws, regulations, and directives—state and local.

All citizens are called upon and directed to comply with necessary emergency measures, to cooperate with public officials and disaster services, in executing emergency operation plans, and to obey and comply with the lawful directions of properly identified officers.

The Dubois County Health Officer is authorized to issue orders to forbid public gatherings and implement other measures when considered necessary to prevent or minimize the spreading of the COVID-19.

The Commissioners may make, amend and rescind orders, rules and regulations necessary for emergency management purposes and to supplement carrying out the emergency management laws that are not inconsistent with orders, rules or regulations adopted by the governor or by a state agency exercising a power delegated to it by the governor, the emergency management program and emergency operation plan of Dubois County, and any such orders, rules and regulations have the full force and effect of law when filed in the office of the Clerk of Dubois County.

This declaration is an extension of the Commissioners' March 17, 2020 Declaration, March 23, 2020 Declaration, April 6, 2020 Declaration, May 4, 2020 Declaration, June 1, 2020 Declaration, June 15, 2020 Declaration, July 6, 2020 Declaration, August 3, 2020 Declaration, August 17, 2020 Declaration, September 8, 2020 Declaration, October 5, 2020 Declaration, November 2, 2020 Declaration, December 7, 2020 Declaration, and in conjunction with the Governor's Executive Orders 20-02, 20-17, 20-25, 20-30, 20-34, 20-38, 20-41, 20-44, 20-47, 20-49, 20-52 continues to be in effect at this time and will expire on February 1, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. ET, but its effectiveness may be shortened or extended by act of the Commissioners.

In witness, whereof, we have hereunto set our hand as of the 4th day of January, 2021.

RE: AUTHORIZATION LETTER – INDIANA 15 REGIONAL PLANNING

A Letter Authorizing the Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission to conduct and transcribe minutes for all public hearings for Dubois County's Application for the Community Connections for Adults with Disabilities Grant was presented. A motion was made to approve the Authorization, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: PUBLIC MEETING DECORUM

Commissioner Blessinger opened discussion on the meeting procedures and decorum. The Board of Commissioners and County Council would like to be consistent on time allotted for public comment to three minutes. A resolution may follow.

RE: OCRA GRANT – PUBLIC HEARING

Being the time advertised, a public hearing was opened. On January 7, 2021, the Commissioners intend to apply to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for a grant from the State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Community Connections for People with Disabilities Grant Program. Kelly Mitchell, SIRS, provided information on the Grant.

The floor was open for public comment. No comments were made. The Commissioner President requested permission for the ability to sign any documents related to the Grant, if needed. Permission was granted. The public hearing was closed.

RE: WHITE STALLION BANKRUPTCY

County Attorney Greg Schnarr reported on the bankruptcy status and the need to hire legal representation. Discussion was held. A motion was made to approve the preparation of an engagement letter to be drafted with Denton Bingham Greenbaum with a cap of \$9,500. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: AIRPORT AUTHORITY APPOINTMENT

A motion was made to appoint Ben Schwenk to fill out the unexpired term of Robert Johnson on the Airport Authority Board. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: WTH DATA SHARING AGREEMENT

A Limited Use Agreement request was received from WTH for data sharing of GIS layers between Dubois County and the Crawford County Community School Corporation. A motion was made to approve the Limited Use Agreement, was seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: COUNTY MILEAGE RATE

Commissioner Blessinger proposed changing the current County mileage rate. The County Attorney will research and provide guidance at a future meeting.

RE: MEETING RECESS

The meeting was recessed at 9:00 a.m. to conduct business by the Dubois County Drainage Board. The meeting reconvened at 9:07 a.m.

RE: FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting will be held on January 19, 2021, at 8:45 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex. The Board of Finance will meet at 8:30 a.m.