

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MARCH 1, 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 March 1, 2021. Present were Commissioners Chad A. Blessinger Nick Hostetter. and Elmer Brames. Also present were County Auditor Sandra L. Morton, 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 February 18, 2021 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 February 2021 were as follows: Recorder \$27,153.08; Health Department \$17,374.21; Auditor \$0; Clerk \$29,343.84. 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.

RE: HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

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

ASSISTANT CLERK INTERVIEWS –29 applications for the Assistant Clerk were received. Interviews were conducted. Berg recommended hiring Micaela Spayd to begin on Monday, March 8, 2021. A motion was made to accept the recommendation, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

5 YEAR EQUIPMENT ROTATION – The Five-Year Rotation Plan was presented to the Council which was in favor of the plan and were in support of contributing \$155,000 to assist funding the plan.

WHITE STALLION INCIDENT – On Friday, the Highway Department was informed that trucks were hauling coal out of the Shamrock Mine. As White Stallion failed to submit their final payment installment, they were in breach of the Road Usage Agreement where they are bonded to haul materials out of the mine. Having not satisfied the Agreement, they forfeited their right to use the Haul Road without an Active Bond. Since the bankruptcy has taken place everything has shut down where there existed no issue on the Haul Road use. Berg spoke with the County Attorney prior to contacting the Sheriff, where the Sheriff and Supervisor, with the best interests of the County in mind, went to the mine and terminated traffic. It was discovered that they were hauling on and off for nearly a month. It was decided later in the day, with legal council's recommendation, that the mine could continue to operate.

Dumpster Site Collection Sites – Discussion was held on the possibility of purchasing land for the sites instead of leasing. No action will be taken at this time.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

C.R. 600 West Railroad Crossing - INDOT has presented an updated contract. It has been reviewed by the Engineer and the County Attorney. Wendholt recommends approving the contract. A motion was made to approve the agreement, was duly seconded and carried.

Bridge #14 & #94 Redesign Proposals - The proposals were presented at the last meeting for review. A motion was made to approve the Design Agreement with SJCA in the amount of \$177, 660, was duly seconded and carried.

2022-2025 Countywide Bridge Inspection - Will be advertised soon. RFP was sent to INDOT and they will advertise the project.

Dubois County Bridge #143 - A crane will be set on Wednesday to set beams.

Overweight or Oversized Vehicle Ordinance – Wendholt is working on creating the 2021 Ordinance for Overweight / Oversized Vehicles.

RE: 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; January 4, 2021, February 1, 2021 was presented to remain in effect at this time and will expire on April 5, 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.

DUBOIS COUNTY, IN
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, January 4, 2021, February 1, 2021 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 April 5, 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 1st day of March, 2021.

RE: 2020 COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT

Auditor Morton presented the 2020 County Annual Report. A motion was made to accept the report as presented, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: DUBOIS COUNTY PURDUE EXTENSION

Lisa Wilson, County Extension Director, introduced Chelsea Brewer, Health and Human Sciences Educator for the Agency who began employment in November 2020.

RE: MEETING RECESS

The Commissioner's meeting was called into recess at 9:00 a.m.

RE: TRASH COURT - ORDINANCE VIOLATION

The time being 9:00 a.m., Trash Court was opened to review the ordinance violations against Rob Slotten located at 5404 East Walnut Street, Dubois, Indiana.

Solid Waste Management Director Carla Striegel-Winner and Code Enforcement Randy Boehm presented evidence of non-compliance. Mr. Slotten was in attendance and addressed the Board on the changes he intends to make to the property. A discussion was held.

A motion was made to impose judgment against Mr. Slotten with a fine of \$600 and require him to remedy the violations located at the property. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Mr. Slotten will reappear on April 5, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. to provide evidence that the violation has been remedied and should have the fine paid in full.

Trash Court was adjourned.

RE: MEETING RECONVENED

The Commissioner meeting reconvened at 9:39 a.m.

RE: COVID-19 REMEMBRANCE

Chris Waltz appeared to request creating a county-wide memorial or event to commemorate those who lost their lives to COVID-19, and as a healing point for those grieving families left behind that were denied proper closure. It will also honor the men and women as caregivers and front-line workers

during the pandemic. Several ideas were presented. A motion was made for Mr. Waltz to form a COVID-19 Memorial Committee, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: 2020 CENSUS

Census Coordinator Mary E. Beckman presented information on the 2020 Census. A Thank You was received from the Census Complete Count for the work completed in Dubois County. Final census counts are expected soon.

RE: BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TRAIL PROJECT

Commissioner Brames provided an update on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Project.

RE: OCRA COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES GRANT

The Grant has been approved in the amount of \$127,743 and is currently being reviewed by the County Attorney. Commissioner Blessinger was authorized to sign the grant documents.

RE: FUTURE MEETING

The next meeting will be held on March 15, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex.