

SECOND REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MAY 18, 2020

The second regular meeting of the Dubois County Commissioners was held in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex in Jasper, Indiana, beginning at 8:30 a.m. (EST) on May 18, 2020. 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. The meeting was also streamed live on the Dubois County Government Facebook page.

Minutes of the May 4, 2020 meeting of the Commissioners were approved as presented. 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:

Large Item Dumpster – Berg proposed the implementation of a Large Item Dumpster Service for use by Dubois County residents at the newly reorganized Ferdinand dumpster site. This service will be provided if the program runs smoothly and does not create additional problems. Operation of the box is designed to be simple in nature with just a few regulations which include:

- Unloading assistance will not be provided.
- A fee of 8 stickers or \$12 per item, regardless of size. No Exceptions - Not Negotiable.
- No recyclable items accepted.
- Only household residential waste accepted.
- No construction debris accepted.
- No appliance that at one time came with a power cord.
- No items will be left outside of the box when full.

A motion was made to approve the program, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. The program will begin on June 1, 2020.

Ferdinand Dumpster Site Reorganization – The new fence and gates have been installed. Concrete pads have been poured for placement of the new Oil Shed which will hold the new oil container and for the new trash compactor which is scheduled to be installed tomorrow. The compactor should be in use for the site opening on Thursday.

Sanitation Part Time Help - Staffing is beginning to be a concern for the sites. We had an attendant leave again and are currently dealing with 4 vacancies. We have been juggling what few floaters we have left and highway staff. My concern is the higher cost for a highway employee and over the course of time if we lose anyone else. We may need to look into hiring some part-time temporary staff until the COVID-19 issues pass.

Additional Appropriations – Berg will be attending the County Council meeting to request additional appropriations in the Solid Waste Sticker fund for \$20,000 for Highway Reimbursement and in the MVH Restricted Fund for \$150,000 for chip seal paving.

CR 800 West – We managed to locate some useful concrete walkways and beams to use as erosion control measures for low portions of the road. Work is continuing.

Solar Sources Progress – Solar Sources has plan estimates together for the proposed runaround on Portersville Road West however Ed Hartzburge is planning a meeting with Company management to put together the business plan that we have asked for. He will contact me soon.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

Bridge #264 (Newton Street in Jasper City Limits) – Following discussion, a motion was made to approve the low bid of \$81,771 from LAN, LLC. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Small Structure Inspection – The Consultant is done doing the field work and is currently in the process of logging the information and load rating 3 structures. They inspected approximately 1/3 of the total structure in their contract. We should receive the report within the next month or two.

We have received an invoice from SJCA, in the amount of \$25,785.90. I have reviewed the invoice and recommend it for approval. A motion was made to approve payment, was duly seconded and carried.

Unofficial Detour (State Road 56, Sendelweck Curve) – The Department has been in discussions with INDOT concerning the corrections of the Sendelweck Curve. INDOT will be closing State Road 56 during the construction and will have an official detour route to handle traffic. Local traffic will utilize the County Roads to get

around the closure. INDOT understands that and has created an agreement so that if a road is destroyed due to the additional traffic, they will assist with repairing it. A motion was made to approve the detour as presented, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. The agreement was presented for signatures.

450 N – Blessinger noted a concern from a family that would like signage on an area where speeding occurs. Current policy is not to place speed limit signage on chip/seal and rock roads.

RE: CAIRSTONE – BIOTEL – HEALTH INSURANCE

Mark Shrack, Angie Pfaff and Nancy Wilson of Cairnstone appeared to discuss the health insurance claims for the first 6 months of the plan year. The status of the Dubois County Employee Benefit Trust was also discussed.

Angie Pfaff provided information on the Biotel - Active Care diabetic program for employees. Currently, the program is not providing reports and information as requested. A new service, Living Connected, is being considered.

RE: PSC BROADBAND INTERNET OCRA GRANT SUPPORT

Indiana's Next Level Connection 2 Broadband Grant Program has been announced and PSC is hoping to provide fiber-based Internet/Phone services to rural/unserved census block areas in Dubois County. PSC has invested significantly into deploying fiber optic-based infrastructure for thousands of subscribers both within and outside of its cooperative territory, and believes that both State and Federal grant programs will now allow them to offer high quality, high-speed broadband services to many more unserved Dubois County residents who desperately need these services for work, school and quality of life. As part of the application process for Next Level 2 funding, the State has asked for letters of support from community leadership. A motion was made to sign the letter of support, was duly seconded and carried.

RE: 911 CELL PHONE TOWERS

The contracts for rental of the 911 towers are due to expire in 2021. Commissioner Blessinger will review and provide more information at future meetings.

RE: JUSTICE PROJECT

The County entering into a lease purchase agreement with a non-profit building corporation was discussed.

RE: REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

An informal complaint was received from Haysville. No action was taken.

RE: FIRE PREVENTION ORDINANCE

EMA Director Tammy Humbert and Celestine Fire Chief Ryan Wineinger appeared to follow up on the Fire Prevention Ordinance presented at a previous meeting. A draft of the ordinance was discussed at length. The County Attorney will work on the final draft with the Fire Chiefs which will be presented to the IDHS for review and approval. Once approved by the State, the Ordinance will be reviewed and adopted by the Commissioners before implementation.

RE: CARES ACT – COVID 19 FUNDING

The CARES Act and FEMA grant funding for the COVID 19 pandemic was discussed. EMA Director Humbert and Auditor Morton are currently working on the grant information.

RE: 2020 CENSUS

Dubois County currently is at 77.2% and is 15th in the nation for responding to the Census.

RE: JUSTICE PROJECT

Due to the COVID 19 crisis and uncertainty with future funding, Commissioner Brames presented the idea to place a pause on the design development phase to see how the economy responds to the health crisis. A discussion was held. The County Council will meet to discuss funding on May 18, 2020.

RE: FUTURE MEETING

The next meeting will be held on June 1, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex.