

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

May 3, 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 May 3, 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 April 19, 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 April 2021 were as follows: Recorder \$30,964.; Health Department \$27,527.01; Auditor \$0.00; Clerk \$39,002.42. 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:

Additional Appropriation Request – Berg requested Additional Appropriations in the amount of \$825,000 in the MVH funds as follows: Paint - \$5,000; Stone – \$185,000; Bituminous - \$165,000; and Paving Projects - \$470,000. He also requested \$850,000 from the LRS funds as follows: Stone - \$75,000; Bituminous - \$235,000; Bituminous - \$235,000; and Paving Projects - \$540,000. This will fund the Sealcoat and patching projects along with the asphalt overlays of CR 600 West, Northwood Village, Ellsworth Road, CR 430 South, CR 420 South and CR 170 East.

Sign Release of Claims Form- Following the Small Claims hearing on the non-paid statement for damages and repairs made to a guardrail, the defendant is liable for payment of \$1,455.23. The claim will be paid by his insurance company; however, a signed release of claims with indemnity is required. A motion was made to approve signing the release, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Road Repair Status- Base repair is continuing on compromised areas for the next several weeks with preparations for paving to begin in June.

Taylor Hollow Road- Commissioner Blessinger requested an update on the status of the road. Currently, repairs are being done and it is being determined if installing blacktop can be justified due to the cost.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER’S REPORT

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

2021 Community Crossing Matching Grant - Dubois County was awarded \$628,114.89 for the 2021-1 Grant. This will fund the repaving of Jasper-Dubois Road, Division Road, and 575 East. Wendholt intends on applying for the 2nd round with the project that was not awarded. This bid packet will be bid on June 7th with the other four in-house paving projects.

INDOT S.R. 56 Unofficial Detour - A project manager from INDOT contacted us. They will be closing S.R. 56, approximately 730’ west of 925 East. It is scheduled to be a 14-day closure. They asked us to figure out the avenue the local traffic will utilize while the closure is going on. We have decided that it will be CR 925 East and Cuzco Road West. INDOT has submitted an MOU for the Unofficial Detour which Wendholt recommends for approval. Wendholt will video tape the roadway in case any damage occurs during the closure. A motion was made to approve the unofficial detour, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

C.R. 600 West RR Crossing – INDOT submitted an invoice in the amount of \$35,099.30. This would cover the County’s 10% portion of the addition of Crossing Gates, Lights and Signals to the railroad crossing. Norfolk Southern has approved their portion of the agreement as well, so the project will continue to proceed forward. A motion was made to approve paying the claim, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

1797 W. Haysville Rd. West Erosion Issue – Issues with erosion covering the roadway with mud is happening at 1797 W. Haysville Rd. West. Wendholt has spoken with the resident on the phone in March concerning the matter and has asked him to correct the issue by seeding his yard and covering it with straw. Nothing has been completed and after the rain last week, it happened again. Wendholt spoke with SWCD; however, they were unable to assist because it is happening during the construction of a residential structure which is exempt from erosion control practices. This is a major safety hazard and if not corrected, could become a serious issue, as well as being a mess on public vehicles. A plan is needed to have this resident correct the erosion on of his property. A discussion on possible options was discussed.

RE: HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT BID OPENINGS

It being 8:30 a.m., the time advertised for the receipt of bids for the purchase of a Sanitation truck chassis, a compactor body for that chassis, a single axle dump truck chassis, a dump body and hoist for the dump truck, a flatbed ton truck and an SUV for the County Engineer for use by the Highway Department, the following bids were thereupon received, opened and read aloud:

| Project | Bidder | Cost | Trade-In | Final Cost |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Sanitation Chassis | Sternberg’s | \$72,815.00 | \$ 500 | \$72,315.00 |

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|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| | Ruxer's | \$68,700.00 | \$ 750 | \$67,950.00 |
| Sanitation Compactor Body | Pyramid Equipment | | | \$83,225.00 |
| Single Axle Chassis | Sternberg's | \$72,046.76 | \$15,500 | \$56,546.76 |
| | Ruxer's | \$67,900.00 | \$ 2,500 | \$65,400.00 |
| Dump Bed & Hoist | IMPCO | | | \$14,704.62 |
| | Elpers | | | \$14,818.67 |
| Flatbed Ton Truck Chassis | Sternberg's | \$58,477.00 | \$20,000 | \$38,477.00 |
| | Bob Lueger's | \$50,000.00 | \$21,000 | \$29,000.00 |
| Full Size 4x4 SUV | Sternberg's | \$42,537.66 | \$ 4,000 | \$38,537.66 |
| | Bob Lueger's | \$46,200.00 | \$ 5,000 | \$41,200.00 |

The bids were taken under advisement and will be awarded on May 17, 2021.

RE: WTH AGREEMENT

A Data Exchange Agreement was presented for approval between Spencer County and Dubois County to exchange data GIS layers to aid in mutual public safety response. A motion was made to approve the Agreement, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATION CHANGE

Solid Waste Management District Director Carla Striegel-Winner appeared to request a classification change and increased job description for the Operation Manager position. A motion was made to move the classification from LTC IV to LTC V, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

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, March 1, 2021, April 5, 2021 was presented to remain in effect at this time and will expire on May 3, 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.

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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, 21-03, 21-05, 21-08 continues to be in effect at this time and will expire on June 7, 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 3rd day of May, 2021.

RE: GROW SOUTHWEST INDIANA WORKFORCE BOARD APPOINTMENT

A motion was made to appoint Huntingburg Mayor Steve Schwinghamer to serve on the Grow Southwest Indiana Workforce Board, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: 2022 HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN

Mark Shrack, Gallagher, and Human Resource Generalist Markie Rhodes appeared to present changes for the Employee Health Insurance plan for 2022. A motion was made to approve the requested changes as presented, was duly seconded and carried unanimously as follows:

Dubois County Wellness

| | |
|--|---|
| Deductible (with Health Screen) | Deductible (Without Health Screen) |
| \$500 Individual | \$900 Individual |
| \$750 Family | \$1,150 Family |
| Out of Pocket Maximum (with Health Screen) | Out of Pocket Maximum (Without Health Screen) |
| \$1,250 Individual | \$1,650 Individual |
| \$2,500 Family | \$2,900 Family |

- Increase non-health screen participants by \$150 in all categories.

| | | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|------------------|--|
| | 2022 Employee Premium Contributions (2 Paychecks per Month) | | | |
| | Health Screen | | No Health Screen | |
| Employee | \$12.50 | Employee | \$20.00 | |
| Employee + 1 | \$29.16 | Employee + 1 | \$40.40 | |
| Family | \$31.25 | Family | \$46.25 | |

RE: 2022 LIFESPING AGREEMENT

HR Generalist Markie Rhodes presented the Employee Assistance Program Agreement for 2022. A motion was made to approve the contract, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

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RE: 4-H COUNCIL EQUIPMENT REQUEST

Tyler Kissel, 4-H Council Board member, appeared to request use of County Highway Equipment during the 4-H Fair Week in July. Kissel was instructed to coordinate use of the Grader, Dump Truck and Trailer with Highway Supervisor Steve Berg. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

President Blessinger reported on the findings of the Committee formed to plan for the uses of the American Rescue Plan Act as follows: Revenue Loss Replacement, Broadband and Internet Infrastructure Improvements, Water and Sewer Infrastructure, Public Health Enhancements, Economic Development and Recovery, and Inter-local or Regional Transportation Initiatives. Work continues on the Ordinance which will be presented at a future meeting.

RE: HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Administrative Director Shawn Werner presented the 2020 Annual Report for the Health Department.

RE: HEALTH DEPARTMENT ATHENA COMPUTER SYSTEM

Administrative Director Shawn Werner provided information on the Athena Health electronic records system.

RE: COVID-19 VACCINATION UPDATE

Administrative Director Werner provided an update on COVID-19 statistics: Dubois County Residents 13,726 fully vaccinated - 29,558 have received at least one dose. The Health Department is averaging 180 vaccines per day. The Department is using the drive thru daily unless high winds or rain. Werner is looking at possible modifications to accommodate wind, rain and cold.

RE: VETERAN MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

Chris Knies and Ken Schuetter, Dubois County Veterans Council, appeared to request use of the Courthouse properties on Saturday, May 29, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for the Annual Memorial Day Observance. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: COVID-19 and 1A & 2A SANCTUARY FOR CONSTITUTION

Dr. Richard Moss, MD appeared to present his opinions on the COVID-19 Pandemic, becoming a Sanctuary for the Constitution and Voting Reform. He presented his writing entitled *America in Crisis: A Red State Manifesto to Defend the Nation and Our Rights*.

RE: 2A SANCTUARY COUNTY

A follow-up discussion was held on the previously presented Sanctuary County presentations of the Second Amendment.

RE: EMS AMBULANCE COORDINATOR

Commissioner Blessinger received the resignation of EMS Coordinator Suzan Henke effective May 1, 2021. A motion was made to appoint Ryan Young to fill the unexpired term from May 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

RE: EMPLOYEE TRAINING

Chief Deputy Sheriff Chris Faulkenberg requested closing the Courthouse and Courthouse Annex on June 18, 2021 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. for employee training. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

Clerk Amy Kippenbrock appeared to request the copier from the Records Library be declared surplus/junk. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. Custodian Scott Hopf presented 7 file cabinets and a piece of desk top glass to be declared surplus. A motion was made to declare the items surplus, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

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RE: ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL SCHOOL REPORT

Auditor Morton presented the Annual Congressional School Report. A motion was made to approve the report as presented, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: PETITION TO CANCEL PROPERTY TAX

Pursuant to Indiana Code 6-1.1-36-7, County Attorney Greg Schnarr presented a Petition and Order to Cancel Property Tax on Parcel No. 19-06-35-400-002.000-002 (Formerly Parcel No. 19-06-35-400-007.000-002) which is real property owned by Dubois County. Taxes to be removed are in the amount of \$2,187.88. A motion was made to approve the Petition/Order, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: ELECTRONIC MEETING PROCEDURES

County Attorney Schnarr is preparing procedures for meetings via electronic communications as approved by Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-3.5.

RE: DUBOIS COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

A public information meeting will be held on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the Courthouse Annex Commissioner/Council Room.

RE: BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TRAIL

Commissioner Brames provided an update on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail project. A public information meeting will be held on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 5:30 in the Jasper Cultural Center Atrium.

RE: MASK MANDATE

Commissioner Hostetter proposed removing the mask mandate from County facilities for those that have received both vaccinations and have completed the two week period following the second vaccination. A discussion was held but no action was taken at this time.

RE: FUTURE MEETINGS

The next regular meeting will be held on May 17, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex.