

SECOND REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

June 21, 2021

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 June 21, 2021. Present were Commissioners Chad A. Blessinger, Nick Hostetter and Elmer Brames. Also present were County Auditor Sandra L. Morton, Highway Supervisor Steve 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 June 7, 2021 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:

Sanitation Department Staffing – Interviews were conducted. Joseph Buechlein and Ron Drew were recommended for hire pending pre-employment processing. A motion was made to approve the hires upon completion of the administrative process, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Highway Department Staffing – Applications are being accepted for the District #2 driver and District #3 excavator through June 25, 2021. Interviews will be held in July.

Sealcoat Scheduling – The invoice for the Aspen Application came in better than expected and are working to have another application later this summer.

Additional Paving Discussion – With the combination of good sealcoat numbers and good paving numbers from the paving bids, funds will be available for additional projects. Since the Community Crossing awards left some roads unfunded in this round, plans are to resubmit later this year. This has left a gap in road care for District #3. Possible plans for a wedge project on CR 500 East, north of CR 900 South and another on CR 500 East, north of CR 650 South; HMA resurfacing on CR 400 West, between 750 South and Old Road 64; and resurfacing of CR 630 South between Old Road 64 and 500 West. Consensus was to proceed.

Roadside Mowers – Prior to 2018, the mowing staff consisted of three District tractors with side mount Bush Hog mowers that would mow only a double pass within 8 feet of the edge of the road and two Boom mowers, one in the northern half of the County, the other in the South, that were operated by extra staff. These Boom mowers enabled the department to keep tree limbs back, mow high banks, and most importantly open viewing of intersections. When the Bush Hog mowers became expendable, the decision was made to replace them with Boom mowers. Now men who are already mowing can also keep back the limbs, mow banks and clear intersections during their routes which saves time, fuel and manpower. This enabled the department to delete one tractor from the fleet and free up an extra man. The extra Boom mower is used monthly to keep high traffic roads cut. The Boom mowers are much more like an excavator and require a higher skill set to operate. Berg requested changing the mower operators from the Truck Driver classification to Operators. The wage classification would still be LTC V. Operators are paid at a higher rate per hour than the truck drivers and would be implemented in the 2022 budget. Consensus was to recommend the changes.

Solid Waste Additional Appropriation – Due to the illness of the sanitation truck driver, the highway staff has been filling the position until his return. Additional funds will be needed in the Highway Reimbursement in the amount of \$20,000. A motion was made to approve the appropriation pending County Council approval, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Transfer of Appropriations – Berg requested approval to transfer \$4,000 from the MVH Restricted Geotextile to MVH Restricted Paint line item for striping. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Chip Seal Overlays and Repair – Due to the rainy weather, the chip seal overlays have been delayed. The department is currently performing CSOL Work on Duff Road Southeast.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

Community Crossings 2021-2 – Plans are being made to apply for the second round of Community Crossings funds for County Roads 900 South, 100 West, 1000 South and 1075. Estimates were adjusted to better fit the bids that were submitted in the last round. A financial commitment letter was presented for approval and signatures. A motion was made to approve the letter and for Commissioner Blessinger to sign, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Paving Project 21-11 – Wendholt requested approval to advertise for another paving project for County Road 630 South from 500 West to Old Road 64 - approximately 1.50 miles and County Road 400 West from Old Road 64 to 750 South – approximately .80 miles. The bids will be taken on July 19, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at an estimated cost of \$205,133.46.

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INDOT Contract DocuSign – A discussion was held on creating an Ordinance or Resolution that would designate either one Commissioner or a Designee giving authority to sign an INDOT Contract via DocuSign after the Contract has been approved at a Board of Commissioners meeting. The County Attorney will prepare the document naming the County Engineer as the Commissioner Designee.

RE: DUBOIS COUNTY PARK BID OPENING

It being 9:00 a.m., the time advertised or receipt of bids for improvements to the Dubois County Park, the following bid was thereupon received, opened and read aloud:

Jasper Lumber \$1,046,230.00

The bid was taken under advisement.

RE: PATOKA VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

A letter was received from the Patoka Valley Amateur Radio Club (PVARC) stating their participation in the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Field Day event which runs from 2:00 p.m. Saturday, June 26, 2021 to 2:00 p.m. Sunday, June 27, 2021. The ARRL Field Day is an annual nationwide exercise that tests amateur radio operators and equipment, and their ability to operate under adverse conditions such as those that may occur during a disaster.

The Club meets monthly on the second Tuesday at Headquarter Restaurant in Jasper at 7:00 p.m. EST. The public is welcome to attend.

RE: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT COMMITTEE

Commissioner Blessinger provided an update on the actions of the ARPA committee.

RE: 2022 BUDGET- SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

Judi Brown and Brenda Sermersheim reappeared to request changing the Resource Specialist from a part time position to full time and eliminating the Project Technician and Technical Specialist part time positions. A discussion was held. A motion was made to approve the creation of a Full Time Position pending County Council approval, was duly seconded and carried 2-1. Commissioner Blessinger was the dissenting vote. Discussion was held on terminating the part time positions; however, consensus was to wait for a decision from the County Council. A motion was made to classify the wage for the Full Time position created as a PAT III. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: JASPER DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

Jasper Mayor Dean Vonderheide requested financial support for the Jasper Downtown Revitalization project which is expected to cost approximately \$5,000,000. Repairs for the Courthouse Monument was also discussed. Consensus was for the County to partner with the City of Jasper in some capacity.

RE: RESOLUTION 2021-25 – READI GRANT

To participate in the READI Grant, the County must choose to join a regional area. Upon discussion, joining the Regional Opportunity Initiative (ROI) would best serve Dubois County. A motion was made to adopt Resolution 2021-25, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021- 25

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF DUBOIS COUNTY, INDIANA ELECTING ITS PARTICIPATION
IN THE INDIANA READI GRANT FUNDING PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) is administering the Regional Economic Acceleration + Development Initiative (READI); and

WHEREAS, this transformational initiative dedicates \$500 million in state appropriations to promote strategic investments that will make Indiana a magnet for talent and economic growth; and

WHEREAS, the IEDC will award up to \$50 million per region to be invested in projects included in a region's plan; and

WHEREAS, the IEDC has encouraged Indiana counties, cities and towns to coordinate and self-identify their proposed regions; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners desires to express its intention to join a region for the purpose of participating in the READI grant funding program.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF DUBOIS COUNTY, INDIANA, that Dubois County elects to participate in the READI grant funding program as a regional member of Regional Opportunity Initiative (ROI).

Adopted this 21st day of June, 2021.

RE: 2022 PURDUE EXTENSION

Extension Educators Chelsea Brewer and Lisa Wilson appeared to rescind the request made at the previous meeting to create a new position. Purdue University has decided to add an additional educator which will fulfill their needs.

RE: BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN

Commissioner Brames provided an update on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Public Meeting which was held on June 16, 2021 at the Old Huntingburg Town Hall.

RE: DUBOIS COUNTY CHILD PROTECTION TEAM APPOINTMENT

The Commissioners have chosen to make an appointment to the Dubois County Child Protection Team to represent the County Executive. Commissioner Blessinger will contact the Department of Child Services.

RE: 2022 BUDGET - ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Director Rob Haseman presented information on the Adult Protective Services program serving Greene, Martin, Dubois, Pike, Knox and Daviess Counties. The APS program operates under the direction of the Hub County and a supervising prosecuting attorney which is Daviess County. The program is currently seeking funding to assist with program operation expenses. Consensus was to include the program in the 2022 Commissioner budget.

RE: 2022 BUDGET – TRI-CAP RSVP

Rachel Trabant, representing Tri-Cap RSVP, appeared to request the proposed County contribution to the RSVP program. She summarized the various services provided by the Program, the number of volunteers who work in the program, and the benefits received by the residents of Dubois County. The RSVP Program is requesting \$5,000 from the County. Consensus of the Commissioners was to approve the request for \$5,000 in the 2022 Commissioner budget.

RE: RESOLUTION 2021-24

County Clerk Amy Kippenbrock presented Resolution 2021-24 stating Dubois County Commissioners support the County moving to a Vote Center County. A motion was made to approve the Resolution as read, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. A public comment period will be held before the County Election Board makes the final determination.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-24

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF DUBOIS COUNTY, INDIANA
APPROVING THE DESIGNATION AS A VOTE CENTER COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Indiana Code § 3-11-18.1, et seq. allows Indiana counties to adopt a vote center model; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Dubois County, Indiana approves the designation of Dubois County, Indiana as a vote center county; and

WHEREAS, the Dubois County Election Board has the responsibility for properly drafting a vote center plan for Dubois County, Indiana, which will take effect upon unanimous vote of the Dubois County Election Board and having the plan properly filed with the Indiana Election Division.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF DUBOIS COUNTY, INDIANA, that Dubois County, Indiana is designated and approved to operate as a vote center county, upon the required approval by the Dubois County Election Board and filing of the county vote center plan with the Indiana Election Division.

Adopted this 21st day of June, 2021.

RE: 2022 BUDGET- OLDER AMERICAN CENTER

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Carrie Dick, Director of the Dubois County Older Americans Center, appeared to request the County annual contribution of \$20,000 in the 2022 budget. She summarized the programs provided at the Center. Consensus of the Commissioners was to approve the request for \$20,000 in the 2022 Commissioner budget.

RE: 2022 BUDGET – 4H COUNCIL

Jake Memmer, Dubois County 4-H Treasurer, appeared to request continuation of County participation in the 4-H Council budget for 2022. The fiscal year budget for 2020-21 was \$268,000. The annual request for 2022 is \$125,000 from Dubois County. Consensus of the Commissioners was to approve the request for \$125,000 in the 2022 LIT-ED budget. Mr. Memmer's term is expiring, and the new Treasurer will be Maddie Giesler.

RE: 2022 BUDGET – SIRS

Kelly Mitchell, outgoing CEO of SIRS, introduced Cheryl Mullis the new CEO of SIRS. They appeared to discuss the request for \$40,000 from Dubois County, which is a small increase from the 2021 request. SIRS provided services for 132 residents, providing 40,100 service hours, placement of 13 individuals with disabilities and providing service to 137 children up to three years of age. The programs are involved in \$836,277 of payroll during 2020. SIRS have 66 employees in Dubois County. Consensus of the Commissioners was to approve the request for \$40,000 in the 2022 Commissioner budget.

RE: JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY

Due to the passing of Juneteenth, the Federal Holiday to be celebrated on June 19, a discussion was held. No action will be taken at this time to add it to the holidays observed by Dubois County.

RE: 2022 BUDGET - LIFESPRING

Becky Michael, Dubois County LifeSpring Clinical Manager, appeared to request the annual funding for LifeSpring Health Systems. Ms. Michael reported on the current operations provided in Dubois County. The Center operates four group homes within the County, provides service for substance abuse, and provides service for County schools. LifeSpring Health Systems also offers Employee Assistance Programs. Jail services began in January 2020. A Genoa Pharmacy was opened in October 2019 which is a full service pharmacy that is available to all LifeSpring clients and staff. A mobile unit opened in the fall of 2020 which brings professional medical services those in need. Services are open to all ages and all income levels. Consensus of the Commissioners was to approve the annual appropriation which represents funds established under State formula.

RE: 2022 BUDGET – NEW CORONER POSITION

Coroner Katie Schuck presented a proposal for the addition of two salaried deputies and for each current staff member to receive a \$1,000 per year wage increase. The wage increases will be handled by the Human Resource Salary Increase Program and the County Council.

Discussion was held on creating the new positions in 2021. Coroner Schuck provided information on the needs and duties of the department. Currently the volunteers are paid \$60 on a per run basis but may spend several hours on the case. The wage classifications for the current deputies was also discussed. A motion was made to create a part time deputy position and to continue to maintain the current volunteer program. The position will be at the PAT III wage classification. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously. The request for additional funding will be taken to the County Council for approval in July.

RE: COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS – PRETRIAL SERVICES GRANT

Director Megan Durlauf and Pretrial Services Coordinator Melissa Niehaus appeared to request the creation of a second Pretrial Services Officer as funded by the Pretrial Services Grant. The wage classification is PAT III. The grant is funded through December 2021 and is expected to continue on a calendar year beginning in January 2022. A motion was made to approve the position as requested, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: COVID-19 TEST SITE

County Attorney Greg Schnarr and Health Administrator Shawn Werner appeared to request a contract extension for the Blue Ridge Group to continue COVID-19 testing and to continue renting the Ruxer facility on a month by month basis. A motion was made to extend the lease with the City of Jasper on a month by month basis and to extend the Blue Ridge Group contract to conduct testing pending funding from the Grantors. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

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RE: 2022 BUDGET- NEW PROBATION OFFICER / ALCOHOL & DRUG PROGRAM

Chief Probation Officer Jennifer Lampert and Superior Court Judge Mark McConnell appeared to request the creation of a new Probation Officer in the 2022 Superior Court budget.

The Court and Alcohol Drug Court program will be dissolved. The Director has resigned and is currently working as an officer for Community Corrections. No new referrals are being made to the A & D program. The administrative assistant is continuing to work in the department. A motion as made to eliminate the A&D Director, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

A motion was made to create a new probation officer position, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. The State Minimum wage scale will be used.

RE: 2022 BUDGET – SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

Director Carla Striegel-Winner requested the annual appropriation of \$247,000 from the County for the 2022 budget. Consensus of the Commissioners was to approve the request for \$247,000 in the 2022 Commissioner budget.

RE: FUTURE MEETINGS

The next regular meeting will be held on July 6, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex.