

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

August 2, 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 August 2, 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 July 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 July 2021 were as follows: Recorder \$26,679.32; Health Department \$25,370.65; Auditor \$104.00; Clerk \$28,658.29. 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:

Highway Department New Hires – Berg recommended hiring Braeden Haase as the new District 2 driver and Joseph Edwards as the new excavator operator in District 3. Both will begin on August 9, 2021. A motion was made to approve hiring both individuals, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Road Grader Training – An Indiana LTAP Road Grader training session will be held on August 18 and 19, 2021 for up to 10 people. The Highway Department will provide 4 graders and will host the field work on Ell Creek Road. Berg requested permission to close the road from north of the CO-OP at Phoenix Drive through to the intersection of Voelkel Road from noon to 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday and 7:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Thursday. A motion was made to approve the road closure, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Chip Seal Overlays and Repair – The work is nearly finished. Due to a shortage of manpower, the chip seal paving has been temporarily being suspended. Prep work should take a few weeks for paving County Road 720 East. Two culverts need to be replaced on Jasper Dubois Road prior to paving and other maintenance items. Plans to resume the final paving is for August 16, 2021.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

2022 to 2025 Countywide Bridge Inspection – A contract with American Structurepoint, Inc. for the next phase of Bridge Inspection has been reviewed by both the Engineer and County Attorney and found acceptable. The contract has a not to exceed of \$246,929.78, which is lower than the last round of \$254,852.29. A motion was made to accept the contract, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Bridge Crew Aluminum Forms – Wendholt will be meeting with a Sales Representative later this week.

Cum Bridge Appropriation Transfer – Wendholt requested a Transfer of Appropriation of \$10,000 from the Cum Bridge Phase II Bridge Inspection to Small Structure Inspection. A motion was made to approve the transfer, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

CR 200 West Tunnel Impact – On Tuesday, July 27, 2021, the Tunnel over County Road 200 West was struck by a Tri-Axle Dump Truck with the bed up. The County Engineer was notified and completed an inspection. Nothing appears to be structurally damaged by the impact; but it did cause cosmetic damage and will require approximately \$7,500 to repair. Everything is being handled by the insurance company at this time.

RE: VETERAN'S SERVICES OFFICER

Veteran's Services Officer Amber Harris has submitted her resignation effective August 11, 2021. A discussion was held on interviewing for a replacement.

RE: OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDING

The Indiana Attorney General's Office announced a \$507 million agreement with opioid distributors and a manufacturer. These funds present a tremendous opportunity for state and local communities to partner and provide resources and relief for those who have been negatively impacted by the opioid epidemic. Dubois County has opted into the Agreement.

RE: DUBOIS STRONG

Ed Cole, Dubois Strong, provided an update on projects of Dubois Strong including:

- Broadband – Improving Rural Access
- Business Attraction – Entrepreneurs, Live Wire
- Workforce Attraction
- Radius Indiana - \$5,000 incentive to move to Dubois County for individuals in the age range of 30 – 45
- Small Business Loans
- 21st Century Gateway Talent Region
- READI Grant

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- Housing

The Dubois Strong Annual Meeting will be held on September 16, 2021 at the Huntingburg Event Center from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

RE: ARPA REVENUE REPLACEMENT

Baker Tilly has started working on Revenue Replacement calculations for the ARPA funds. The Committee is continuing to meet.

RE: JUSTICE PROJECT- 911 CENTER

Commissioner Blessinger reported on the change of design for the Justice Project to add the 911 Center.

RE: EMPLOYEE LEAVE REQUEST

Human Resources Generalist Markie Rhodes presented a request for an extended medical leave for an employee that has exhausted all accrued leave, including leave under FMLA, due to the employee's illness per Section 4.9 of the Employee Handbook. The employee must pay their portion of the insurance premiums. Following discussion, a motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried 2-1, with Hostetter being the dissenting vote.

RE: RISK MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Human Resources Generalist Markie Rhodes and Deputy Tim Lampert appeared to request a Risk Management Fall training session be held on September 29, 2021. The training will be held in three time slots: 6:45 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Each session will last one hour. The ALICE training will continue to build on the initial Active Shooter drill conducted at the Courthouse in June 2021. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: DUBOIS COUNTY TOURISM APPOINTMENT

Mike Weyer resigned from the Dubois County Tourism Commission effective July 12, 2021. A discussion was held on a replacement for the appointment.

RE: 911 NEW HIRE

911 Director Stuart Wilson appeared to present a new hire for approval but those interviewed have declined the position. A discussion was held on the hiring search process.

RE: GALLAGHER HEALTH INSURANCE

Mark Shrack, Broker, presented the 6 month review of the Employee Health Insurance Plan from November 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021. Renewal numbers were discussed for 2022 which will begin in September. The Explanation of Benefits (EOB) was discussed – electronic versus paper copies. Employees are encouraged to log into the Unified Group Services website or use the Smartphone application for access to their plan information; however, the paper copies will continue in 2022.

The Employee insurance premium was discussed. Shrack will compile premium data and present at a future meeting. Prescription services from True Scripts was also discussed.

RE: SURPLUS ITEMS

911 Director Wilson requested items be declared surplus. A list was presented. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. Two digital cameras and equipment will be transferred to the Prosecutor for use at the Southwest Indiana Child Advocacy Center.

RE: OCRA - COMMUNITY CONNECTION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES GRANT

Commissioner Blessinger provided an update on the Community Connections for People with Disabilities Grant. The Grant award is \$127,743.00 which will provide for services at 5 sites: SIRS in Jasper, Holland, Dubois County Fairgrounds, Haysville, and Birdseye. Additional expenses include a lending library and maintenance of the equipment at Haysville and Birdseye. A motion was made to approve the additional expenditures from the ARPA funds, not to exceed \$31,600, as long as Baker Tilly or counsel didn't find the use as not allowed under the ARPA guidelines, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

RE: COVID-19 MEMORIAL

Commissioner Brames provided an update on the COVID-19 Memorial. The Committee is seeking fund raising efforts to assist with the cost.

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RE: FUTURE MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on August 16, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex.