

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JANUARY 8, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Dubois County Commissioners was held in the Commissioners' Room of the Courthouse Annex in Jasper, Indiana, beginning at 8:00 a.m. (EST) on January 8, 2018. Present were Commissioners Chad A. Blessinger, Elmer Brames, and Nick Hostetter. Also present were County Auditor Kathy Hopf, County Surveyor Ken Brosmer, Highway Supervisor Steven L. Berg, Highway Engineer Brent Wendholt, and County Attorney, Arthur C. Nordhoff, Jr. A quorum was declared present and the meeting was opened for business by President Blessinger. Minutes of the December 18, 2017, 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 December, 2017 were as follows: Recorder \$19,672.56; Health Department \$52,689.67; Auditor \$25.00; Clerk \$21,632.02. 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: DIVISION ROAD SURPLUS REAL ESTATE

Surveyor Brosmer reported to the Commissioners that a survey has been completed and it has been determined that 4.31 acres of cropland is involved and 1.088 acres of River. The Commissioners confirmed that it is their intent to sell the 5.398 acres. The Attorney was instructed to obtain a property valuation.

RE: REORGANIZATION OF BOARD

This being the first meeting of the calendar year, the first order of business was the election of officers of the Board of Commissioners for 2018. The Board's Attorney conducted the election. Thereupon, on separate nominations and motions, the following were elected as officers of the Commissioners for 2018:

President	Nick J. Hostetter
Vice President	Chad A. Blessinger

RE: BUILDING COMMISSIONER – CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

Ed Cole, Dubois Strong, appeared to discuss "Certificate of Occupancy" as required to obtain certain financing of Community, County or Private Projects. The City of Huntingburg adopted an ordinance in May of 2016 relating to such a Certificate and a building commissioner has been appointed. The City of Jasper is currently working on a similar ordinance. The "Commissioner" (inspector) is required to inspect new projects prior to receipt of governmental financing. The City of Huntingburg has used the services of Morley and Associates, and the City of Jasper is proposing to use Universal Design. A question has been presented as to whether a single entity could provide services for the entire County, including municipalities. Should a governmental inspector not be available, then the developer is required to engage services of a private inspector at substantial costs. Discussion was held regarding adoption of a full building code as compared to an inter-local agreement between the County and one of the municipalities' engaging an inspector for a project located in an area within County jurisdiction.

RE: HUNTINGBURG STELLAR PROJECT – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RELOCATION

Tammy Humbert, County Emergency Management Director, appeared to report on the \$500,000 of funding contributed by the County on the Huntingburg Stellar project. She explained that the use of project facilities by County EMA has been discussed with the City and has slowly expanded over time to a point that EMA may totally relocate to the project facility at an additional cost of \$286,184 over the initial investment. Regardless, the area will be made available for vehicle, trailer equipment, storage and meeting space. The Commissioners devoted a substantial period discussing the pros and cons of relocation of EMA office and facilities to the Huntingburg project location. After discussion, it was stated that the Commissioners are not opposed to relocation of the EMA office, but that questions exist as to the additional cost of the project at the location. The Director will meet with the County Council to request their opinion.

RE: CLERK'S OFFICE RECORD SCANNING

County Clerk Bridgette Jarboe appeared to request that three employees of the Company engaged to scan County records be granted permission to be in the Courthouse during hours when the offices are closed. The Clerk will make arrangements for access.

RE: RECORDS' LIBRARY PART-TIME EMPLOYEE

On motion made and seconded, the Commissioners authorized establishment of an account for \$2,500 for compensation of newly created position(s) of part-time librarian(s) to fill in when the full-time librarian is not available. The pay rate for the part-time person(s) will be set at \$9.50 per hour. On motion made and seconded, the creation of the part-time position(s), the rate of pay, and account creation were approved.

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RE: HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Highway Supervisor Berg submitted the following reports on Highway Department projects:

Road Treatment – Reported on road conditions in view of current unusually cold weather and on the additional services provided by maintenance crews due to freezing rain and road ice.

Sanitation Staffing – Reported on the cost of using outside contract personnel to staff collection sites when County employees are not available.

Freeze Thaw Ordinance for 2018 – Becomes effective January 15, 2018 through April 15, 2018. May have problems with posting signs due to frozen ground.

2018 Hourly Equipment Rates - Rates for County equipment may be used by appropriate contractors when working on County jobs. Rate does not include operator but only use of piece of equipment. On motion made and seconded, the list of rates was approved for use by the Highway Department during 2018.

Highway Building Roof - Hedinger Roofing inspected the roof as a result of recent leaking. Reported that roof is in failure and needs to be replaced. A quote for replacement will be received.

RE: SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNCIL

Jennifer Lampert appeared representing the County Substance Abuse Council to introduce Mark Peters as part-time Coordinator for the Council. Peters discussed his prior experience in the field. The Council is funded with fees collected by the Courts from substance violations.

RE: SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Lampert appeared to submit the jail report of arrests, meals, and calls for services during the prior month. He reported that the part-time employee who dealt with prisoner program consulting has terminated her employment and needs to be replaced. That individual did a valuable job of resolving prisoner problems and concerns in the past.

The Sheriff also restated his position that the jail staff is under staffed by eight persons. He requested authority to employ two new jail staff employees. He stated that other police departments are adding personnel which increase the number of prisoners which the jail staff must oversee.

The Sheriff also stated that the maximum number of road deputies is six. These deputies are covering 7,000 calls per year. Additional deputies cover Courthouse security. The six road deputies also provide assistance to the various other police agencies within the County. An addition of two deputies is requested.

Sheriff Lampert also stated that the nurse assigned to the jail from the County Health Department has been reduced from five days a week to three days per week. This loss of time is resulting in higher medical expenses.

On motion made and seconded, the Sheriff was granted authority to:

1. Employ a part-time prisoner program director,
2. Employ two additional jailers, and
3. Employ one additional deputy.

The votes on the motions were two in favor and one opposed.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Highway Engineer Wendholt submitted his report of current Engineering projects at the Highway Department as follows:

Railroad Overpass – Invoice from City of Huntingburg for \$7,181.35 for the County share of services provided by DLZ on the Huntingburg Railroad Overpass. On motion made and seconded, payment of the invoice was approved.

Prosecutor's Office Security – Submitted three options to assist in security at the Prosecutor Office. Discussion will be held with the Prosecutor to obtain his comments.

Huntingburg Conservation Club – Meeting with Commissioners on January 23 or February 1, 2018, approximately 6:00 p.m.

Courthouse First Floor Restroom – Dropped from current planning.

RE: TOURISM BOARD APPOINTMENTS

On motion duly made and seconded, the Commissioners reappointed James R. Kemper as a member of the County Tourism Board. After discussion, on motion made and seconded, Michael P. Weyer was appointed as the second Commissioners' appointment to the County Tourism Board.

RE: WEBSITE REPORT

It was reported that a training meeting for Department Heads relating to administration of the County's new website will be held in the Commissioners' Room on January 31, 2018.

RE: PROMOTION FUND

Discussion was held on the possible establishment of a Promotional Fund, for purposes previously funded using proceeds from the Commissioners' Golf scramble. Attention was called to I.C. 36-7-2-7.

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RE: FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Commissioners' meeting will be held on Monday, January 22, 2018, in the Commissioners' Room of the Courthouse Annex, beginning at 8:00 a.m., and will meet as the County Board of Finance beginning at 7:45 a.m.

Nick Hostetter

Chad A. Blessinger

Elmer Brames

Attest: _____
Kathleen M. Hopf, Auditor