

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

NOVEMBER 6, 2017

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 November 6, 2017. Present were Commissioners Chad A. Blessinger, Elmer Brames and Nick Hostetter. Also present were County Auditor Kathleen M. 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 October 16, 2017 meeting of the Commissioners were approved as presented. The minutes were then signed. Incomes for the month of October, 2017 were as follows: Recorder \$19,997.60; Health Department \$29,191.69; Auditor \$150.00; Clerk \$38,666.14. Income for the month of *September* 2017, in the amount of \$29,686.74, was submitted by the Clerk. 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. On motion duly made and seconded, payroll docket was approved.

RE: CAIRSTONE FINANCIAL, LLC

Mark Shrack, CAIRSTONE, appeared to discuss employee insurance benefits. He stated that he had reviewed and obtained quotes on the Group Life Insurance coverage. The County had previously used Reliance as the carrier at a cost of \$.36 cent per \$1,000. After reviewing the various proposals it was recommended that One America be accepted with a proposal of \$.20 per \$1,000. On motion made and seconded, the proposal of One America was accepted with a two year rate assurance.

Shrack also discussed pharmacy services. The current supplier is True RX. The services of Adler RX Consultants were used to review various proposals from True RX, True Scripts and Magellan. After review of the three proposals, the Consultant recommended use of True Scripts, as being the most economical for the County. Discussion was held on the stop loss coverage provided for the drug program. Commissioner Blessinger wants to contact Mark Williams with True RX before a determination is finalized. It was determined that True Scripts and True RX representatives would be invited to the next Commissioners' meeting should they desire to discuss their services.

There was also discussion of employee use of emergency rooms and to what extent the use of an emergency room was justified. The high cost of emergency room use was described. Discussion was also held on the consulting agreement between Dubois County and Cairnstone. The contract is a "fee" based agreement (\$45,000). The agreement will be reviewed. The alternative could be on a commission basis.

RE: AMBULANCE REPLACEMENT

Suzan Henke, Director of Ambulance Services, appeared to discuss a recent vehicle accident involving a Memorial Hospital ambulance. The vehicle was a total loss and the equipment in the ambulance is either a loss or will need to be recertified. A new stock vehicle, built on a 2015 Chevrolet, is immediately available at a cost of \$165,000, including cost of repainting. The damaged vehicle was a 2009, which probably would have been replaced in 2020. The immediate replacement of the vehicle is critical to the ambulance service in order to provide health service to County residents. Therefore, on motion made and seconded, the replacement of the ambulance was declared an emergency and the replacement being immediately available, the Commissioners determined to purchase the available vehicle for \$165,000 without using the bid process, and authorized the County Council to be consulted for funding of the purchase price, less insurance coverage from the damaged vehicle. The most recent ambulance purchase was at a price of \$174,000 for a comparable vehicle.

RE: COMPLEX REGIONAL PAIN SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY – PROCLAMATION

Commissioner President submitted and read a Proclamation proclaiming November 6, 2017 as Complex Regional Pain Syndrome Awareness Day in Dubois County. On motion made and seconded, the Commissioners adopted the following Proclamation:

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J. R. Mathies, who suffers from the progressive disease was present and made a statement regarding the chronic condition.

RE: MOTOR CROSS TRACK

Sandy Neukam, a member of the 4-H Council, appeared to request construction of a motor bike track at the back (west) field of the 4-H Grounds. The project would be paid for by the Outlaw MX, LLC of Vincennes. The LLC would pay the 4-H Board per event, at \$600 per event. Currently there are 12 Dubois County youth involved in the program, and with the proposed facility, this number would be expected to greatly increase. The Commissioners discussed the noise generated, possible neighbor complaints, insurance coverage and termination of the agreement. The 4-H personnel were requested to discuss the program with local residents and to return to the Commissioners at the next meeting.

Concessions at the events were also discussed, as was the need of the 4-H Fairgrounds for the extra income which the project would produce.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

Railroad Overpass – City of Huntingburg submits claim for County's share of DLZ Engineering services in the amount of \$3,561.30. On motion made and seconded, payment approved.

Bridge #162 Update – Bridge completed and open to public.

Huntingburg Conservation Dam – Engineer has determined dam to be 24.35 feet in height and therefore subject to State and Federal regulation. Club must determine if they desire to put money into reconstruction of dam. Timeline must be established to resolve problem in order that the County can repair the County Road which crosses the Dam. The Highway personnel will meet with Club officers to determine the future of the Dam.

Courthouse Handicap Upgrades – Submitted information on handicap elevator so as to permit access to the Courthouse. Cost would be approximately \$20,000 and would require State approval. The cost of ramp would be about the same but would not require State approval. There would be question of handicap parking for use of the elevator. Discussion was held on ramp compared to elevator and placing a secure door at the basement entry.

RE: SITCO SOLUTIONS

Todd Mosby, representing Sitco Solutions, appeared to discuss extending fiber access to rural areas. The Saint Henry community initiated these discussions. They would intend to have a buried fiber in County right-of-way. After lengthy discussion, the Commissioners recognized the need for fiber in the rural areas of the County, and on motion made and seconded, agreed that Sitco Solutions could use County right-of-way easements, subject to compliance with County Highway Permit requirements.

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RE: HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Highway Supervisor Berg submitted his report of current Department projects as follows:

Sanitation Enclosures - plan to build concrete pad with small enclosure over new oil containers at three sites. Approval received to date from owners at two of these sites.

Road Marker and Sign Order – Replacement markers are being ordered under plan to obtain markers with high reflectivity. Inventory of all County signs is made every other year, and any older or missing signs are being replaced. Plan to update signs began in 2014. Have requested quotes for replacement signs.

Additional Bridge Crew – New employee will begin January 1, 2018. Department will place advertisement for applicants with interviews to take place in December.

Collection Sites – Discussion as to whether the busier sites are in need of an additional attendant and if sticker price should be raised to cover the cost of added person. The Supervisor was requested to review the current sticker price of \$1.00 each.

RE: CUSTODIAN SUPPLIES

Question has been presented as to whether cleaning rags should be replaced or laundered. In the past, an employee has been washing the rags at home. On motion made and seconded, the Commissioners agreed to pay the subject employee \$450.00 for past home washing services, with release for liability for past services and use of disposable rags in the near future on a test basis. The Commissioners will then determine how to handle going forward.

RE: BRIDGE REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT

Engineer Wendholt discussed the method used for determining the priority of repair and replacement of bridges on County roads, including consideration of inspection reports and traffic usage.

RE: "STANDING DESK" REQUEST

Request has been made that permission be granted for purchase of "standing desks" for use by employees at their work site. Question was presented as to whether if such desk is made available to one office would each office then be entitled to such desk, and if so how the cost would be covered. As no such units are now used, it was determined that if budgeted funds were available, a trial might be used, but that excess construction funds could not be used for such purpose.

RE: TRUE RX REBATE

The Auditor reported that the quarterly rebate check from True RX for the first quarter of 2017 was received in the amount of \$26,365.64.

RE: TELEPHONE SYSTEM BATTERY SYSTEM

The Auditor reported that the battery used in the telephone system for the Courthouse is in need of replacement at a cost of \$347.00 but that the expense is questioned due to the age and condition of the current phone system. The cost of battery system replacement would be \$1637.20 and is also of advanced age. It was determined that battery system should be replaced but that estimates should be requested for telephone system replacement.

RE: SECURITY CENTER EVALUATION

Commissioner Brames reported on the status of the upcoming National Institute of Corrections Jail and Justice System Assessment. Part of the assessment will include hearings to gather public input.

RE: BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT GRANT

On motion made and seconded, the Commissioners authorized a letter recommending an EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant for use towards clean-up of Brownfield sites in the areas.

RE: HUNTING ON COUNTY PROPERTY

Commissioner Blessinger was contacted by two County residents inquiring about hunting on County owned land. It was determined this was not an allowable practice on County property due to potential liability issues.

RE: FUTURE MEETING

The next Commissioners' meeting will be held on Monday, November 20, 2017, in the Commissioners' Room of the Courthouse Annex, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Chad A Blessinger

Elmer Brames

Nick Hostetter

Attest: _____
Kathleen M Hopf, Auditor