

## CONTINUED MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

APRIL 17, 2017

The continued 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 April 17, 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 April 3, 2017, meeting of the Commissioners were approved as presented.

### **RE: HILLHAM ROAD W – SPEED LIMIT**

Highway Engineer Wendholt described to the Commissioners the geography of the area on Hillham Road West running between State Road 56 and Martin County line. Based upon review of the road and driving of the road, it was the Engineer's opinion that the current 45 mph speed limit is unsafe. He therefore suggested a reduction in speed limit and will prepare a revision of current 45 mph ordinance to reduce to 35 mph.

### **RE: COLUMBUS OIL FIELD – PROPERTY TAX STATUS**

Commissioner Blessinger discussed an ongoing property tax collection problem with Columbus Oil Field. Taxes on the Company's oil leases and gas lines have not been collected for a number of years, due to an Ohio Court Order of Receivership as approved by the local Court. The Commissioners' Attorney had in late March sent a letter to the Receivership attorney requesting information as to the status of the case. Commissioner Blessinger stated that the County continues to spend postage for tax statements which are not honored. Surveyor Brosmer, Engineer Wendholt and Attorney Nordhoff discussed the history of the Company's operations in the County and the fact that the Company is a continuation of a farmer's group which provided gas to area farms. The Attorney is to request information from the Ohio Court.

### **RE: HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

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

Kurt Schurz County Road 825 West – No new report on the Kurt Schurz Road reconstruction project.

Freeze Thaw Ordinance – Expired on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Glass Recycling – have been able to observe some improvement.

Republic Transmission LLC – Public Open House will be held at Ferdinand Community Center on April 25<sup>th</sup>, from 4 to 7 pm. The Supervisor will attend to obtain information on proposed project.

Additional Appropriations – Department is seeking funds added to current budget to allow for the summer paving projects, as follows:

Local Road and Street (Paving Hot Mix)	\$210,000
MVH (Paint)	13,000
Bituminous (Chip/Seal)	350,000
Highway Paving (Hot Mix and Sealcoat)	629,455
Insurance (Liability-Casualty)	10,000
Equipment (Dump Beds, Plow, Broom)	53,000

Patoka Lake Table Top – The Corps of Engineers plan to hold a Table Top exercise at the Patoka Dam on May 9<sup>th</sup>, reviewing procedures in the event of a dam break.

Additional Appropriation – On motion duly made and seconded, the Commissioners approved the above described Additional Appropriation requests, subject to hearing and approval by the County Council.

### **RE: GIS IMAGERY**

The Auditor advised that the State of Indiana is preparing to re-fly the County to create new photos for GIS purposes, at a cost locally of \$26,000 for 6" pixel and \$84,441 for 3" pixel. The shared use of the imagery by the County, City of Jasper, City of Huntingburg and Ferdinand Town was discussed. The possibility of contacting and working with said entities in moving from 6" to 3" was explored. The opinion was expressed that the 6" pixel would be adequate for the

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County. The issue would be whether the municipalities would share in the 6" or desire to contribute additionally to a 3" pixel. A letter will be mailed to the municipalities regarding the discussed sharing.

**RE: MEMORIAL DAY MILITARY SERVICES**

Bob Johnson, County Veteran's Service Officer, requested use of the west side of the Courthouse lawn on May 27, 2017, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm for purpose of the Annual Memorial Day services. The use includes use of restrooms, posting of flags and turning-off of the Courthouse air-conditioning equipment. On motion duly made and seconded, permission was granted for the County Service organizations to use the west side Courthouse lawn and restrooms.

**RE: DUBOIS COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

Travis McQueen, Manager of the Dubois County Airport, appeared with Harvey Berger, Mike Cummings and Bob Johnson, Airport Authority Board members, to discuss airport operations and proposed revisions to the airport facilities. Required real estate for expansion has been acquired. The location of proposed highway and powerlines were discussed as they affect the operation of the Airport.

**RE: HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN**

Commissioner Brames described a recent Council meeting which he attended. There was discussion regarding the County's health insurance coverage, the cost thereof, possible changes in benefits and costs, co-pays, prescription types and expenses, and reallocation of funds between wages and insurance. The importance of shared risk was also discussed. Prosecutor Quinn appeared on behalf of his employees to express their concern about the loss of insurance benefits. Data was furnished from Williams Brothers Pharmacy concerning the savings, approximately \$50,000, generated by a generic drug co-pay increase of \$10.00. There was discussion as to whether savings in insurance should be shared with employees, should reduce County expenses, or a combination thereof. The employees have received no wage adjustments within the past several years while the increased costs of insurance over a number of years has been fully paid by the County. The Commissioners discussed this situation and the extent to which employees should share in insurance cost savings or expenses. A plan could be established which adjusts the cost to employees having additional dependents covered by the plan. It was determined that the Council will be contacted on April 24<sup>th</sup> regarding the 2018 allocation of funding between wages and medical benefits. Knowledge of such allocations is necessary for the Commissioners as they determine how to proceed on medical insurance plan changes.

**RE: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT – EQUIPMENT BIDS**

It being 10:00 a.m., the time advertised and established for receipt of bids for Highway Department equipment, the following bids were opened and read aloud:

<b><u>PICKUP TRUCK</u></b>		<b><u>LIST</u></b>	<b><u>TRADE-IN</u></b>	<b><u>NET</u></b>
Uebelhor Chevy		32,199.00	2,000.00	30,199.00
Luegers GMC		32,925.00	2,600.00	30,325.00
Sternberg RAM		30,000.00	1,500.00	28,500.00
Ruxer Ford		31,499.00	1,200.00	30,299.00
<b><u>WHEELED LOADER</u></b>		<b><u>LIST</u></b>	<b><u>TRADE-IN</u></b>	<b><u>NET</u></b>
ERB	Option 1	178,239.00	17,000.00	161,239.00
	Option 2	153,974.00	17,000.00	136,974.00
Whayne Supply	Option 1	149,572.00	14,000.00	135,572.00
	Option 2	161,918.00	14,000.00	147,918.00

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Rudd	Option 1	132,119.00	20,000.00	112,119.00
	Option 2	138,239.00	20,000.00	118,239.00
Black Equipment		142,487.78	15,000.00	127,487.78
Diamond Equipment	Option 1	138,995.00	13,995.00	125,000.00
	Option 2	159,995.00	13,995.00	146,000.00

Following the receipt of bids, the Commissioners took the same under advisement and requested the Supervisor to review the bids.

**RE: SHERIFF'S REPORT**

Sheriff Lampert appeared to discuss the requested position of administrative assistant for the Sheriff's Department. He was accompanied by three deputies and the matron. Sergeant Wilson explained his job description, his work which is cut short because of lack of time and the resulting stress on himself, including work load on days off. The changes of requirements by State law have increased the load placed on him. Deputy Lampert described the amount of work which he performs which could be done by an untrained assistant. Deputy Faulkenberg discussed his principal duty of Sex Registry and the extent to which a vast amount of such work could be assigned to a non-enforcement assistant, since the record keeping required by that job is merely administrative. The lack of available time by numerous deputies could be overcome and replaced by assignment of non-enforcement duties to semi-trained personnel. Commissioner Blessinger stated that there is no question that the need for the administrative assistant does exist. The issue is where does the money come from. There was continued discussion from previous meetings about the elimination of the current part-time position at the Security Center. Commissioner Blessinger stated elimination of the current part-time position was a factor in him supporting the hiring of an administrative assistant. The Sheriff stated the assistant would probably not allow a substantial reduction in overtime. The Sheriff stated he does not currently have the staff to apply for grants. The current employee freeze established by the prior Commissioners might be granted an exception. After Commissioners' discussion, on motion made and seconded, the Commissioners removed the hiring freeze policy applicable to all County positions. The Commissioners determined that the Commissioners should attempt to find another County position to exchange for the requested administrative position requested by the Sheriff.

The Sheriff submitted to the Commissioners his report of Security Center operations during the prior month. A copy of the inspection report by the State inspector was discussed. The inspection ordered an assessment of the Security Center within the next 180 days. The Sheriff's Report showed 90 inmates being present at the Center during the prior report period.

The Sheriff reported that the air-conditioner would need replacement within the next year. The Sheriff reported that the number of inmates could be reduced by the use of a rehab center, which would remove a number of inmates from the jail facility. Currently no other security center in the area has such a program. Sheriff Lampert stated that he had a jail staffing analysis completed in 2016.

**RE: PATRICK "ROCKY" FRIEDMAN – HICKORY GROVE ROAD**

Patrick "Rocky" Friedman appeared to discuss a pot hole in front of his house he states existed over an extended period of time. He stated that after requesting the Highway Department to repair, he began filling the hole with rock himself, but the rock always came out. He said that the pot hole wore out tires and the front end of his truck. The cost for tires and front end was over \$1,000 and the road is still not fixed. Friedman stated a temporary repair by the County had worn out and the problem continued. After open discussion with Highway Supervisor Berg, it was determined the road in

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front of his home is in safe driving condition and that many of the issues Friedman mentioned occurred two or more years ago. Friedman stated that other pot holes in the County are also in need of repair. He stated he is a citizen and is entitled to better treatment. State of Indiana also fails at fixing pot holes. Currently there is a water problem on his property he believes is caused from water off the road. He questioned who is going to pay for all of the damage which he has suffered. He stated that he had not paid real estate taxes because of lack of attention by the County to his road. He stated his home has no cellular telephone service from 9-1-1, and he has been unable to get help when he needed it. The Commissioners determined that the County will not reimburse for repairs to his truck, but will continue to maintain his road and other roads in as safe and high quality as funding will allow.

### **RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Highway Engineer Wendholt submitted his report as follows:

Countywide Bridge Inspection Invoice – Butler Fairman & Seufert has submitted an invoice for \$2512.40 for Phase II A of the bridge inspection and recommend payment. On motion made and seconded, payment approved.

Dubois Main Street "No Parking" – Submit ordinance for "No Parking" zone along Main Street from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street east 40 feet. Attorney to review.

Hillham Road Northwest – Ordinance for proposed reduction in speed from 45 mph to 35 mph submitted.

Paving Schedule Update – Paving has begun for this summer and the Commissioners were presented a revised schedule of starting dates for certain road work.

### **RE: STORM DAMAGE**

The County Auditor advised the Commissioners that during recent storms the Courthouse complex had suffered damage from lightning strike. Damages to electrical equipment should be largely covered by insurance.

### **RE: DUBOIS COUNTY PARK BOARD**

It was reported that based upon the recent resignation, there have been a number of persons who have expressed interest in the appointment to the Dubois County Park Board. On motion duly made and seconded, the Commissioners accepted the resignation of Gerald Terwiske as a member of the Dubois County Park Board. The Commissioners will request the other appointing entities, Court and Council, to complete their appointments in order that the Commissioners may make its "At-Large" appointment. The Commissioners discussed the informal rule that all four school corporations should be represented. The State statute requirement regarding appointment qualifications was discussed.

### **RE: EMPLOYEE AWARDS**

The Commissioners again discussed the policy to be followed to recognize employee retirements. The policy in the past has been to recognize full time employees for 10, 20 or 30 years of service. It was determined that part-time employees, excluding Board member, should also be recognized.

### **RE: 2018 COURTHOUSE CLOSINGS**

On motion duly made and seconded, the Commissioners adopted the following schedule of Courthouse Holiday closings for 2018:

Monday, January 1  
Monday, January 15  
Monday, February 19  
Friday, March 30  
Tuesday, May 8  
Monday, May 28

New Year's Day  
Martin Luther King Day  
Presidents' Day  
Good Friday  
Primary Election Day  
Memorial Day

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Wednesday, July 4  
Monday, September 3  
Tuesday, November 6  
Monday, November 12  
Thursday, November 22  
Friday, November 23  
Monday, December 24  
Tuesday, December 25  
Monday, December 31  
Tuesday, January 1, 2019

Independence Day  
Labor Day  
Election Day  
Veteran's Day (Observed)  
Thanksgiving Day  
Thanksgiving Holiday  
Christmas Eve  
Christmas Day  
New Year's Eve  
New Year's Day

### **RE: RECORDS LIBRARY**

The Commissioners discussed the closing of the Courthouse Records Library from 12:00 noon until 1:00 pm each day, Monday through Friday. Currently the Library is open with the Auditor, Treasurer, Clerk and Recorder furnishing an employee to staff the Library during that hour.

### **RE: CYBER INSURANCE**

The Commissioners discussed the two proposals which have been submitted for Cyber Insurance for County operations.

### **RE: WEBSITE**

The Commissioners continued discussion regarding the proposed systems for the establishment of a revised County website. The advantages of the two proposals were discussed and it was suggested that the employees involved with the website should be consulted.

### **RE: JAIL STUDY**

Kevin Meyer, representing RQAW, advised the Commissioners that RQAW does perform jail studies of the type requested by the Sheriff earlier in the meeting. He explained in detail the contents and answered questions regarding the scope of a study.

### **RE: HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT PURCHASE**

On motion duly made and seconded, the Commissioners accepted the low bid of Sternberg's for purchase by the County of the Ram pick-up truck for \$30,000 less \$1,500 trade-in.

### **RE: FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Commissioners' will meet on Monday, May 1, 2017, at 8:00 a.m., and Monday, May 15, 2017, at 8:30 a.m., both meetings to be held in the Commissioners' Room of the Courthouse Annex.