

CONTINUED MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 21, 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 February 21, 2017. Present were Commissioners Chad A. Blessinger, Elmer Brames and Nick Hostetter. Also present were County Auditor Kathleen M. Hopf, Highway Clerk Ann Messmer, 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 February 6, 2017, meeting of the Commissioners were approved as presented, except that the last three sentences RE: County Website should be excluded.

RE: FAMILY FARM EXEMPTION – DENNY LAMPERT

Denny Lampert appeared to request a family farm exemption for Tracey Lampert, a son, for purpose of building a home along the south line of the NE quarter of the NW quarter of Section 33-T1S-R4W. Mr. Lampert stated that his son works on the farm. The home would be built off Schroering Road, a non-public road. The Commissioners questioned the lack of definite number of acres, access to a public road and access at the public road. Mr. Lampert had not discussed the proposal with the County Surveyor or Highway Engineer. By agreement of the parties, action on the request was delayed until the next Commissioners' meeting.

RE: CASA SIGNS

Deena Hubler appeared representing the County CASA program operated through the Court system. The program is currently in need of additional volunteers for the program's operation and has been requesting volunteer participation. As further publicity, the CASA program would like to post four signs on the Courthouse lawn, one on each of the four sides. An example of the sign to be used was shown. On motion made and seconded, permission was granted for placement of the signs, since the CASA program is a Court sponsored program.

RE: SAINT PATRICK'S DAY - IRELAND

Janet Schitter and Jackie Hasenour, representing the Ireland Saint Patrick's Day Committee, appeared to request approval to close streets on March 19, 2017, between the hours of 12:30 pm and 3:00 pm for holding of the parade. Streets running into the parade route would be semi-closed with traffic control during the parade. A map of the parade route was submitted. The Committee also requested closing of the east 100 feet of Center Street from Saturday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm and on Sunday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. On motion made and seconded, the requests were granted.

Also, request was made for partial closing of County Roads for the Irish Trot on March 18, 2017 from 7:30 am to 9:30 am. Route would be on County Road 500 W, south of State Road 56 to County Road 150 North, thence in a circle on 490 W, Ladino Lane, County Road 150 N to County Road 150 N and return. Roads would be closed to through traffic but open to local traffic. On motion made and seconded, the request was approved.

RE: JASPER CHALK WALK

Corinna Mack, representing Jasper Arts Commission, appeared to request use of the east Courthouse lawn and basement restrooms on June 3, 2017, for the annual Jasper Chalk Walk program. She explained that a tent would be located on the Northeast lawn. In the event of rain, the alternate date would be June 10, 2017. On motion made and seconded, the request was approved, and use of the lawn and restrooms was granted.

RE: AUDITOR'S REPORT

- Enterprise In Action Day will be held on April 19, 2017.
- A signed Agreement for use of the Courthouse lawn had been filed for President's Day Rally.

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RE: KOERNER BLOCK BUILDING

Greg Sekula, representing Indiana Landmarks Organization, appeared to advise that the Organization has been attempting to save the Koerner Block Building in Birdseye. He explained the history of the building and attempts made to save the building, which is in total disrepair. In order to save the building, an investor is required and the elimination of the approximate \$10,000 in property taxes is requested. The members of the local area group attempting to save the building were introduced and a plan for stabilization of the building was presented. Currently, an attempt is being made to stabilize the building, pending completion of the plan for total renovation. The benefits of the program to the Town and County were discussed. Christine Prior of the County Landmarks Organization described County projects which have been completed through renovation. She expressed the importance of the building to the Birdseye Community. Kelly Wiseman, Birdseye Town Clerk-Treasurer, expressed the importance of saving the building for the Town. Clyde Huff, Birdseye Town Board, explained the importance of the building for the adjacent Town Street system. Based upon the discussions; conditioned upon maintenance of the building and conditioned on transfer of ownership to Indiana Landmarks or an acceptable third party, the Commissioners agreed that real estate tax liability could be reduced. Currently, taxes are being assessed only on the land, not the building.

RE: TRASH COURT

Carla Striegel-Winner, Director of the County Solid Waste District, appeared to describe the operation of the District and of its Trash Court procedure. She distributed a copy of the County Junk Ordinance 2004-01.

RE: HANDBOOK VACATION POLICY

County Auditor Kathy Hopf, Deputies Sheryl Sendelweck and Brooke Greenwell, appeared to advise the Commissioners that effective January 1, 2017, the County changed its policy on Vacation Days allowed to County employees. The Auditors office proposes to allow an exception for 14 employees hired during the period January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016, when there was a change in Policy. It is the Auditor's position that the 14 employees during the changeover period should be totally covered under the old Policy as to the number of Vacation days granted. On motion made and seconded, the Commissioners approved the recommendation, which grandfathered the exemption only for the recent 14 employees hired between January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016.

RE: GIS AGREEMENT

Deputy Auditor, Chris Hopf submitted a proposed agreement prepared by WTH, the County GIS contractor, regarding use of GIS by the City of Jasper. On motion made and seconded, the Commissioners approved and signed the agreement.

RE: HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT

Donna Oeding, Director of County Health Department, appeared to advise that the Department is required this year to conduct a full-sized health exercise away from the Department offices. To conduct this exercise, the Department requests to close the office on May 11, 2017, from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon, so that the exercise may be held at a local school facility. On motion made and seconded, the Commissioners approved closing the Department office on May 11, 2017, from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon, and instructed that the Department give prior notice to the public of the closing.

The Director also advised that a patient at the Department requested use of a sign language interpreter. Research has shown that the County must provide that interpreter selected by the patient unless it causes undue burden to the County. The cost would be approximately \$200 per day for the requested interpreter. After discussion regarding the use of patient's particular interpreter, on motion made and seconded, the Commissioners determined that use of the

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interpreter requested by the patient is not an undue burden and authorized use of the requested interpreter, to be paid from ADA Fund or from additional appropriation. The Company furnishing the patient's interpreter also provides for the requirements of Memorial Hospital, and therefore the Company's employee are familiar with medical requirements.

RE: CUSTODIAN'S REPORT

Scott Hopf, Courthouse Custodian, reported that tuck pointing on the northwest corner of the Courthouse, at points where water is entering the building, must be delayed for approximately six weeks due to labor unavailability.

Hopf also advised that Courthouse security is questioning a window in the Courthouse which remains open approximately six inches to serve as a damper for the boiler. The window has several security controls attached to prevent misuse of the window. A louver system for the same window would have an expense of \$3,730.00. The Commissioners agreed the current situation is adequate.

The Custodian also reported that the new security desk has been installed on the first floor of the Courthouse.

RE: ETHICS RULE RESOLUTION

Commissioner Blessinger presented a proposed Ordinance regarding Ethics Rules for County officers and employees. The Commissioners reviewed the proposal and questioned the dollar limits on each meal when a spouse is accompanying the employee. After discussion, the Commissioners found the proposed Ordinance acceptable except for food allowance, which two members believed should be adjusted to \$150.00 in order to cover spouses. Commissioner President was not in favor of covering spouses.

RE: GERMAN AMERICAN INSURANCE COVERAGE

Tim Bell, representing German American Insurance, appeared to discuss insurance coverages. He distributed a copy of County payroll and premiums for years 2010 through 2017. He also distributed proposed coverages for the County for various Cyber events. The policy provides coverage for both third parties and County expenses, and was offered at three levels, ranging from \$5,061 to \$6,277 in premiums. Discussion followed on the various costs related to actual or suspected security breaches and the deductibility required under the coverage. It was suggested that conversation be held with the County's computer service provider. Bell recommended, if coverage is acquired, option #1 or #3 be selected, based on premium costs and deductibility. The Auditor will discuss the policy with representatives of Matrix.

RE: COUNTY'S WEBSITE

Commissioner Hostetter reported to the Commissioners on a proposed County Website. He stated that a County employee should be in-charge of the County site. Two companies have been interviewed for establishment and operation of the site. The costs are comparable. Discussions were held on links as compared to landing sites. The most recent price quotes are \$17,410 for establishment, plus \$2,975 annual charge. The responsibility for each Department's webpage would be within the Department, but an "in-charge" IT person would have responsibility for the County's general page and serve as coordinator of the Department sites.

It was determined that a computer company representative would be invited to a future meeting. Also discussed was establishment of a Committee to coordinate between the County Departments.

RE: COUNTY SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE

A Committee from the Northeast portion of the County will meet on February 23, 2017, and Commissioner Blessinger will attend to listen to any presentation.

RE: HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

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Highway Supervisor Berg was absent on County business but submitted a report through Highway Clerk Ann Messmer, showing the following current projects:

- Annual Operations Report for 2016 - On motion made and seconded, the Commissioners approved the Annual Report of Roads for 2016, as filed at the February 6, meeting.
- Road Cut Permits - Two previously approved at the last Commissioners meeting in Boone Township have been signed and recorded.
- County Road Tour – Will be held on February 26, 2017, beginning at 11:30 a.m.
- Glass Contamination – The County Solid Waste Department has released media coverage concerning glass contamination.
- County Road 825 West – Supervisor reports County Road 825 West paving is on hold until all right-of-way dedications have been received.

RE: ROAD MARKER REPLACEMENT

Proposals have been received for Round 6 of Phase 2 on Road Marker replacement. Prices are as follows:

	<u>Hall Signs</u>	<u>Michael Todd</u>
Signs	No Bid	\$4,987.70
Posts	\$1,739.00	No Bid
Hardware	\$1,149.34	\$1,184.03

On recommendation of the Supervisor, and on motion made and seconded, the Commissioners accepted the sign bid of Michael Todd, and the post and hardware bid of Hall Signs.

RE: SANITATION STICKERS

On motion duly made and seconded, on recommendation of the Supervisor, the County accepted the bid of Waste Zero on sanitation stickers, 300,000 in count.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER’S REPORT

Highway Engineer Wendholt was absent on County business but submitted a report showing the following current projects:

- Bridge Inspection – Letters of interest for the 2017 projects are due on February, 21, 2017.
- Bridge Crew Safety Equipment – Safety equipment previously approved for use by Bridge Crew has been ordered at a cost of \$1,862.00.
- INDOT State Road 161 Repaving – INDOT will repave State Road 161 south of Holland this summer, over a three month period. County Engineer is currently working with INDOT to establish unofficial detour routes, which are proposed to be County Road 750 South and Old State Road 64.

RE: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY GRANTS

On motion made and seconded, the Commissioners granted the Commissioner President authority to approve, from time-to-time and as received, Sub-Recipient Agreements with Indiana Department of Homeland Security for receipt of Grants from Homeland Security for County Emergency Management.

RE: PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Brames again suggested that the Commissioners should establish a committee to review and consider maintenance, repairs and upgrade of County facilities and grounds.

RE: DUMPSTERS ON ROAD EASEMENTS

Commissioner Blessinger discussed complaints which have been received regarding dumpsters on County Road easements, and actions taken to resolve the problem.

RE: COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DIRECTOR

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Commissioner Blessinger reported that he has been informed that the Director of the County Community Corrections has submitted his resignation. Superior Court Judge Mark McConnell has called a meeting of the Corrections Advisory Board to discuss the situation.

RE: FUTURE MEETINGS

The Commissioners will meet on the following dates as follows:

Monday, March 6, 2017

8:00 a.m.

Monday, March 20, 2017

8:30 a.m. following the Solid Waste Management District meeting at 7:30 a.m.