

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FEBRUARY 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 February 6, 2017. Present were Commissioners Chad A. Blessinger, Elmer Brames, and Nick Hostetter. Also present were Deputy Auditor Sandy Morton, 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 January 17, 2017, meeting of the Commissioners were approved as presented. The minutes were then signed. Incomes for the month of January, 2017 were as follows: Recorder \$13,477.39; Health Department \$20,203.71; Auditor \$100.00; Clerk \$35,723.05. 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: FAMILY FARM EXEMPTION – BRUCE HEEKE

Bruce Heeke appeared to request a family farm exemption for a residence on three acres of family farm in the south half of SW quarter of Section 19-T1S-R3W. The exemption is for the son of the applicant, and the son does assist in farm maintenance of the rental tract. The Engineer and County Surveyor approved the application. On motion made and seconded, the application for exemption was approved by the Commissioners.

RE: CDL PROGRAM – VINCENNES UNIVERSITY JASPER CAMPUS

Ed Cole and Jim McFaul appeared to again discuss the truck driver education program, to be conducted at the 4-H Fairgrounds parking area. The prior request had been approved but did not begin due to the lack of a qualified CDL licensed instructor. It would appear that an instructor is now available and the 4-H Council has approved the use. The program is through Vincennes University. Truck drivers are the number one job vacancy and local industry has substantial need. Truck equipment will be kept at Vincennes University when not in use. The Commissioners expressed their approval of the use of park roads in the Fairground area.

RE: FLAG DISPOSAL BOX

County Treasurer Kitty Merkley appeared to request permission to place a box in the Courthouse for disposal of worn United States flags. The box would be placed by the east doorway on the first floor. The Commissioners expressed concerns regarding the location of the box and want to be certain it is not an impediment to the ingress and egress from the Courthouse for safety reasons. The Commissioners further want to ensure the disposed flags and box are treated with respect and not mistaken for a trash receptacle. Treasurer Merkley will work with Custodian Hopf to place the box and be in charge of ongoing maintenance of the same. On motion duly made and seconded, the Commissioners authorized the placement of the box by the east doorway with a report to be made in approximately six months.

RE: HEALTH CARE COOPERATIVE

Deputy Auditor Morton advised that the annual meeting of the Patoka Valley Health Care Cooperative will be held on February 21, 2017. Two directors will be voted on at the meeting. Commissioner Blessinger will attend the meeting and was given authority to vote on behalf of the County.

RE: TAX SALE PROPERTIES

The Auditor's office submitted a list of properties which were unsold at the County Tax Sale. The Commissioners discussed the possibility of transferring ownership of the property into the County's name. The Highway Engineer was requested to inspect the properties with the intent to sell the tracts, in order to place the properties back on tax roll. Three tracts in Birdseye may be subject to special consideration due to historical circumstances.

RE: COUNTY ROAD 825 W – CASS TOWNSHIP

Lee Lehmkuhler and Kurt Schurz of Hunter Paving appeared to discuss the condition of the road in the area of Lake Helmerich. Hunter Paving is currently using the road and stated that the wash-board surface does not hold up under the extended traffic. The road is partially chip-and-seal and partially rock. Shruz proposed that Hunter share in the cost of the improvement of the rock road. The Supervisor stated that a 60 foot dedication of right-of-way would be required.

Commissioner Blessinger examined the road and discussed potential solutions with Schurz and Lehmkuhler the previous week. The Commissioners agreed it is in the best interest of the County to work with citizens if they are

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willing to share in the cost of the improvement. The Highway Supervisor is familiar with the area and will discuss a potential improvement agreement between the county and Mr. Schurz.

RE: SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Lampert appeared to submit his monthly report of Department activities. He reported that call boxes have been installed as required. Also security cameras have been installed. The Sheriff discussed trends in the inmate population and presented a report. Sheriff Lampert stated his belief the jail is overpopulated at various points of the year and that a long term plan should be considered. The Department is going through interviews to fill a jailer's position. There were about 25 applications for the position and this number has been reduced to five currently. The Sheriff advised that the Department's nurse will be taking a temporary absence. The Commissioners brought up the topic of the administrative assistant requested by Sheriff Lampert recently. The Commissioners wanted to know if the Sheriff would be able to reduce the amount spent on overtime if an administrative assistant position was added. The Sheriff did not think so but said he would crunch numbers and report back.

RE: GERMAN AMERICAN INSURANCE COVERAGE

Tim Bell, representing German American Insurance, appeared to discuss renewal of the County insurance coverage on liability, employment practice and omissions, comprehensive vehicle, as well as workers compensation and property. The agent discussed and summarized each of various insurance coverages of the various types of insurance. The premium for 2017 is quoted to be \$371,008 compared to \$353,141 actual for 2016.

RE: HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

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

New Mechanic – New hire mechanic Jordan Gress began his first day on the job today.

County Road Tour – February 26, 2017, beginning at 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Additional Glass Contamination – County glass collection continues to have contamination from non-glass items; will attempt to educate public on separation of foreign materials from recycled glass collections. Supervisor stated that a public educational program will be conducted to make public aware of problem. If glass is not accepted by the recycler, the County will be required to trash all glass, at substantial County expense.

Private Utility Placed In County Roadway – Requests have been made by two farmers to allow field drain tile to cross county roads: Ted Sendelweck on County Road 500 West; and Dan Harris on County Road 500 North. The Commissioners discussed the need to record any such agreements allowed by the county. On a motion made and seconded, the Commissioners approved the two applications, subject to the agreements having improved legal descriptions added, having the signatures on the agreements notarized and require the proper recording of the documents, subject to Supervisor review.

Road Marker Replacement Program – The Supervisor described a road marker replacement program, using larger markers and being more reflective. The cost of this Phase 2 would be \$7,800.00, which sum is included in the current budget. Permission is requested to obtain price quotes. The signs satisfy Federal Highway standards. The Commissioners approved obtaining quotes.

Equipment Rotation Plan – County has a five year rotation plan and a list of items of equipment scheduled for replacement in 2017 is presented to the Commissioners. Some items are in current budget but additional funding would be required. Currently needs \$180,000 for wheel loader. Requests authority to submit to County Council. The number of road miles and hours of usage were discussed. Additional sums would be requested later. On motion duly made and seconded, the Commissioners approve appropriation of \$180,000 for purchase of wheel loader, subject to approval by the County Council.

Annual Operating Report for 2016 – The Supervisor submits the Operating Report for 2016, to be reviewed for subsequent approval.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Wendholt appeared to submit his report of current highway engineering projects, as follows:

Community Crossings Paving Projects – Request for project funding has been delayed by the State and as a result funding will not be available for projects for 2017. The result is that approximately \$2 million for 14 major road overlay projects will be delayed.

County Road 450 South Culvert – Bridge crew is currently constructing a Cast-in-Place Concrete Box on 450 South, will require a 10-day curing period before use.

Bridge Crew Safety Equipment – Currently working on upgrading of safety equipment used by the bridge crew.

State Road Funding Meeting – On motion duly made and seconded, the Commissioners authorized Supervisor Berg and Engineer Wendholt to attend the Indiana Road Funding meeting in Indianapolis on February 21, 2017 and excused the two from attending the Commissioners meeting on that date.

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RE: STATE PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The Commissioners discussed the currently proposed legislation before the General Assembly involving taxation, road funding and proposed I67.

RE: COUNTY'S WEBSITE

The Commissioners discussed a proposed cost estimate from eGov Strategies, LLC for a custom County website design and maintenance. The Initial Investment is \$17,410 for one-year. Annual License, Support, Maintenance and Hosting \$2,975, included in first year. Community Microsite special rate for one-year \$3,250. Intranet additional charge \$6,200/\$1,100 annually.

RE: INDOT MEETING

It was reported that INDOT will be holding a public meeting in Holland regarding a plan to perform work on State Road 161 south of Holland.

RE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS

Commissioner Blessinger distributed a statement from the Public Access Officer on public participation during meetings.

RE: SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE

Commissioner Brames reported on discussions in the Northeast Dubois County area regarding the County Subdivision Ordinance.

RE: FUTURE MEETINGS

The Commissioners will meet on the following dates as follows:

Tuesday, February 21, 2017	8:00 a.m.
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.	

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.