

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SEPTEMBER 5, 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 September 5, 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, 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 August 21, 2017 meeting of the Commissioners were approved as presented. The minutes were then signed. Incomes for the month of August, 2017 were as follows: Recorder \$23,043.49; Health Department \$24,040.84; Auditor \$8.00; 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: TAX ABATEMENT

Angie Giesler, Sonya Haas, Becky Beckman and Kim Hopf appeared to submit a proposed Application for Tax Abatement packet which the Abatement Committee proposes to distribute to persons applying for tax abatements. The goal of the process is to provide fairness to the applicant, the County taxpayers, and to the County. It has been reviewed by Dubois Strong and the State agency involved in abatements. A concern is that excess abatements will adversely affect the County and its taxpayers. The Committee members expressed their approval for the packet. Discussion involved employee wages, and large vs small businesses as these items relate to abatements.

RE: REPORT ON JAILS

County Council members Sonya Haas, Becky Beckman and Mike Kluesner reported on a security center seminar which they had attended, inspections which they had made of the County Security Center, and several new jail construction sites. Kluesner reported on the method of jail construction and problems of such construction, and the fact that there is great importance in obtaining contractors and architects financially capable of completing the project. Water control within the jail is important. They were informed that 20% of inmates have mental problems, and should be separated from hard criminals. Assessment of incoming inmates is critical. The effective use of pods or separate facilities becomes more important. The type of contract used for construction will also be a major consideration.

RE: RASCHE MENKE FIRST ADDITION – CASS TOWNSHIP

Phil Buehler, Brosmer Land Surveying, appeared to submit a proposed plat of a subdivision in the NW quarter of the NE quarter of Section 30-Township 3S-Range 5W in Cass Township, owned by Glenn P. and Alice E. Menke, consisting of one lot having 4.017 acres. On motion duly made and seconded, the Commissioners approved the one lot subdivision and approved the plat. The President requested the County Engineer to submit by November 1, 2017, proposed changes for the County Subdivision Ordinance to make the Ordinance more workable.

RE: HUNTINGBURG REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The President stated that prior Commissioners had granted to the City of Huntingburg authority to grant economic development projects outside the municipal boundaries by Ordinance dated February 6, 2006. He believes that due to the passage of time and conditions, this authority should be reviewed and if necessary reconsidered.

RE: COURTHOUSE SIDEWALKS

Courthouse Custodian Scott Hopf appeared to report on broken or uneven sidewalks on the Courthouse property in the SE, NW and front areas. He presented proposals for repair of the conditions from Jasper Lumber and JOJ Sander. The low bid was from Jasper Lumber for \$1,750. On motion duly made and seconded, the Commissioners accepted the proposal of Jasper Lumber.

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The Custodian also reported that the 3rd floor Courthouse project in the former law library has been completed.

RE: HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

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

Wash Pit Rehabilitation – Supervisor reported that the pit has reached a dangerous condition for workers and equipment, and he proposes replacement with work by the Department's bridge crew. He proposes to complete the work prior to winter. The cost would be \$11,000 for new grating, 10 feet by 20 feet with 5 beams and \$7,000 for concrete and piping.

Appropriation Requests – Supervisor requests \$84,500 appropriation from the Cum Bridge Fund for work on bridges performed by highway forces and pile driving, \$10,000 for Phase II Bridge inspection and \$15,000 from MVH for pit replacement. On motion made and seconded, the appropriations were approved.

RE: CELESTINE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL PARADE

The Commissioners reviewed a request from the Celestine Volunteer Fire Department for closing of certain streets in Celestine on October 8, 2017, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The request was contained on a new Application for Road Closing form. On motion made and seconded, the Commissioners approved the request and road closings.

The Commissioners also requested that the new application be amended to require event participants to sign an indemnity clause for the County.

RE: ROAD FUNDING

The Highway Supervisor discussed with the Commissioners the current policy regarding new road construction for the paving of gravel roads to chip and seal road surface, which currently has a limit of \$50,000 per year. He submitted a new guide for Funding of Road Improvements and requested an increase from \$50,000 to \$125,000 per year. After discussion, on motion made and seconded, the annual limit was increased from \$50,000 to \$125,000.

RE: EMPLOYEE MEDICAL BENEFITS

Pete Franzman and Carolyn Beck representing SIHO Insurance Services appeared to discuss the current medical insurance service and benefits available to County employees. It was stated that SIHO serves 34 groups representing 3,600 covered individuals. They described cost management, legal compliance and communications with employees. Proposed 2018 rates were submitted and list of overall costs of services provided over the prior year were submitted, along with options for coverage over the next year.

RE: HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT BIDS

It being 10:00 am, the time advertised for receipt of bids on Highway Department truck chassis, dump beds and snow plow, the following bids were received and read aloud:

	<u>Truck Chassis</u>	<u>Dump Bed</u>	<u>Snow Plow</u>
Ruxer Ford	\$166,766.00		
Truck Centers Inc.	\$162,523.00		
Sternberg's	\$171,920.40		
IMPCO		\$26,125.83	\$6,428.23 Front Mount Axle 6,152.00
Elpers		\$27,600.00	7,819.75

The Commissioners took the bids under advisement and delivered the same to the Highway Supervisor for review and recommendation.

RE: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Commissioners discussed with the Highway Supervisor the effects of a north south corridor road on other County roads since the RDA Ordinance has now been approved by all entities required. The changes in the local road

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system was discussed as well as what State highways will continue as State roads and which would revert to local County or municipal entities. Also certain through roads will become dead-end roads and could result in added expenses for Dubois County.

RE: COUNTY ROAD DISCUSSIONS

The Commissioners discussed town signs, certain road speed limits, and condition of roads. The Commissioners directed the highway Supervisor to order and place location signage for Portersville.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

In the absence of Engineer Wendholt, Supervisor Berg presented the following report of engineering projects:

Rail Road Overpass – Invoice received from DLZ for inspection for \$4,336.29. On motion made and seconded, claim approved and payment authorized. Bridge abutments work and road widening currently in process.

Bridge #162 Update - Pile driving completed; excavator work on abutments in process.

2017 Community Crossing Grant – Application for payment made to State but still no payment received. Probably receive in October.

Paving Projects – Four of six projects are completed, one is in process, and one is for future work.

RE: EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS

Discussion regarding the health insurance consultant/broker for employee insurance opened with each Commissioner stating his opinion on the companies and proposals made over the previous months. Several placed weight on the fact that several have local representatives who are always present to assist employees. Various important components such as having a local clinic and the Commissioners' trust factor were discussed. On motion made and seconded, CAIRSTONE was selected as Consultant broker by a vote of two in favor and one opposed. Commissioner Brames was authorized to sign an engagement letter officially authorizing CAIRSTONE to begin working for Dubois County.

RE: COURTHOUSE TRAINING

Comments were made from the prior week's Courthouse emergency training. Concerns were the public speaker system was not adequate and one office lock did not function. The Security Committee will discuss the drill and will make recommendations to the Commissioners. The Highway Supervisor expressed some concern regarding safety at the Highway Garage and requested a visit by the Security Committee.

RE: HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Commissioners discussed vacancies on the County Health Board and requested recommendations. The responsibility of the County Health Officer was discussed along with benefits received by the Health Officer.

RE: COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER – PAULA W. RASCHE

It was proposed that Paula W. Rasche be appointed as a member of the Community Corrections Advisory Board, Victims Advocate representative. On motion made and seconded, Rasche was appointed to the vacant position.

RE: PRIVATE DRIVES ENTERING COUNTY ROADS

The Commissioners discussed a pipe located on a private driveway on Hickory Grove Road. The pipe is failing to carry the volume of water and needs to be of larger size and the current pipe replaced. The County policy is that culverts on private drives are the responsibility of the landowner, and are added or repaired at the owner's expense. The County will not become involved on private property.

RE: COUNTY RIGHT OF WAY IN MADISON TOWNSHIP

The Attorney submitted a market analysis for the 8.7 acre tract owned by the County on Division Road in Madison Township; Section 31-Township 1S-Range 5, excluding tracts adjacent to Patoka River Bridge, showing value of \$27,000,

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as prepared by Hoffman & Mullen Realty. The Attorney advised that the appraisal placed no value on the County roadway.

RE: AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTRACT

The Auditor submitted a proposed Contract for aerial photography of Dubois County, six inch pixel, for use on the County GIS Imagery as submitted by the State of Indiana.

RE: DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS

The Commissioners discussed a proposed Ordinance submitted to the Commissioners by the County Health Department relating to dilapidated buildings, various accumulated trash and vehicles. Several conflicts with the solid waste ordinance were recognized and the Attorney drew attention to the lack of penalty in the document. An Ordinance regarding vehicles from another jurisdiction was also reviewed.

RE: FUTURE MEETING

The next Commissioners' meeting will be held on Monday, September 18, 2017, in the Commissioners' Room of the Courthouse Annex, beginning at 8:00 a.m.