

## **CONTINUED MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**AUGUST 20, 2018**

The continued monthly meeting of the Dubois County Commissioners was held in the Commissioners / Council Room of the Courthouse Annex in Jasper, Indiana, beginning at 8:00 a.m. (EST) on August 20, 2018. Present were Commissioners Nick Hostetter, Chad A. Blessinger and Elmer Brames. 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 Hostetter. Minutes of the August 6, 2018, meeting of the Commissioners were approved as presented. On motion made and seconded, the Commissioners approved the Claims and Allowance Docket and the Payroll Docket.

### **RE: COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Becky Beckman, representing the Communications Committee, appeared to report on progress being made by the Committee regarding County employee relations with the County as employer. The Committee has attempted to discuss employee problems and concerns. A survey was made available through employee computers. 101 of the 297 employees responded. A power point has been prepared by non-employee community volunteers to review employee concerns and responses. Employee satisfaction was high regarding teamwork and training. Communications with Departments appears to be open, but there is a fear of retaliation and favoritism is of concern. A feeling of appreciation for services has increased over prior studies, but supervisors should not take employees for granted and employees should be encouraged to appreciate other employees. Positive happenings within Departments should be shared with others and the media. It is felt by employees that some favoritism still exists. Job satisfaction has however improved because of pay, wage study and better communications.

### **RE: JAIL ASSESSMENT STUDY - REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

Commissioner Blessinger presented and discussed a summary of Request for Qualifications for a firm to assist in preparation of a feasibility study for the Security Center project. Blessinger also had prepared and submitted a list of Companies having prior experience with criminal justice feasibility studies and consulting. The Commissioners' members had previously reviewed a copy of the RFQ. On motion duly made and seconded, the Commissioners approved the RFQ and authorized distribution of the RFQ to those firms listed and placement on the County website.

### **RE: DUBOIS STRONG**

The Commissioners discussed an upcoming meeting of Dubois Strong, relating to the proposed Mid-State Corridor project. Commissioner Brames reported that Dubois Strong had recently met with an Orange County group on the highway project.

### **RE: JULIE GREENER PROPERTY – UNSAFE BUILDING AND WEEDS VIOLATION**

Shawn Werner, the Health Department Environmental Officer, appeared to discuss the Notice of Ordinance Violations previously sent to Julie M. Greener regarding her property's condition. He stated that no improvement of condition had occurred as to the property, and that the property is a danger to adjacent property owners as well as to any person who would enter upon the property. Notice had been received by Greener on January 11, 2018, and subsequent notice sent in June 2018. The County continues to receive complaints on the property. Pictures were viewed. Greener was present to explain that, because of employment, she is unable to work on cleanup fulltime. She does not have funds to hire the work done. The heat has been such that work is difficult, if not impossible. She has been working whenever possible. She has many items of value on the property that would be destroyed if the property was torn down. She has eliminated all outside water sources. Greener feels that neighbors desire the building removed. She submitted to the Commissioners a letter objecting to destruction of the property and requesting an additional year and a half to comply.

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Donna Oeding, Director of the County Health Department, stated they have worked with Greener for 10 years and the condition has become worse. The Commissioners stated that 10 years is long enough and that sufficient time exists to remove valuable assets once a contractor is engaged to remove the violation. Motion made and seconded, the Health Department should proceed to obtain proposals for removal of the problems on the property but that no work should take place on the property for a minimum of 45 days. The motion was adopted 3-0.

**RE: OPIOIDS SALES LAWSUIT**

Donna Oeding, Director of the County Health Department, appeared to discuss with the Commissioners a Class Action Lawsuit being filed by a number of Indiana governmental units on Opioids sales. She suggested that participation should not be taken until there was discussion. Oeding stated that she has been consulted by a number of agencies who have concerns about the lawsuit.

**RE: 9-1-1 DIRECTOR'S RETIREMENT**

The Commissioners previously received notice that the 9-1-1 Director will be retiring. In order that there is good follow through the Attorney will check to see if the employment is done by the Commissioners, the 9-1-1 Advisory Board or hiring board.

**RE: WIRELESS INTERNET**

The Auditor reported that a number of attorneys using the Courts have requested use of the County Wireless Internet access. There was discussion as to possible public misuse of the service. A number of different routers are currently used in the Courthouse and Annex. The Auditor was instructed to seek recommendation from Matrix.

**RE: TRUE RX REBATE**

The Auditor reported that the County received a quarterly rebate check, October to December 2017, from True RX the former County prescription drug provider for \$10,637.20.

**RE: 4-H FAIRGROUNDS AND COUNTY PARK**

The Commissioners discussed the current leases of County owned real estate in the 4-H Fairgrounds and County Park areas. There was discussion regarding the content of the leases, which entity has a lease on which area, and the possible revision of leases. Also discussed were possible County representation on the Park and 4-H Boards. It was agreed that a committee of the Commissioners, Attorney, 4-H Board and Park Board should meet.

**RE: HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

Highway Supervisor Berg submitted the following report of current Department projects:

Seifrig Property Violation – Supervisor has requested several contractors to view property and give proposal for weed removal and trash collection. The property has not received requested attention from property owners since receipt of notices.

Paving Project Change Orders – Supervisors submitted the following change orders regarding projects recently completed:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Revision</u>
18-04 County Road 125 E	Calcar Paving	- \$1,148.14
18-06 County Road 750 W Based on less material required.	Calcar Paving	- \$2,083.52
18-07 County Road 700 E Based on more than anticipated material.	Calcar Paving	+ \$1,099.84

On motion made and seconded, the Change Orders were approved.

Transfer of Appropriations – Request transfer of unused funds from Phase II Bridge Inspection (2016-2017) to Phase I Bridge Inspection (2018-2019) in the amount of \$6,000; and

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Request transfer of MVH Stone into MVH Bituminous Materials, in the amount of \$150,000 to complete current chip seal repair projects. On motion made and seconded, both transfers were approved.

Driving Simulator Training – Bliss McKnight has agreed to conduct a Driving Simulator Training for all current Highway employees in mid-October. Training is free to County. Other County departments will be invited to attend.

Chip Seal Progress – Supervisor reported that with recent rains, the chip seal projects are being delayed. He reported on status of projects currently underway, which are 83% completed.

Solid Waste Disposal – A local business has requested County Solid Waste pick-up or use of County site. County policy is to not pick up or accept business waste. The business does not have room for a commercial disposal box. Possible use of Solid Waste Department box might solve problem. Small sized quantities would be accepted at collection site on occasional basis.

Brush Cutting Dispute – The Supervisor reported on a recent brush cutting incident at a rural residential property. Standard procedure to cut along County Road right-of-way was used on the subject property and is same procedure used on other property in the County. The mower arm will not reach beyond the 25 foot right-of-way. Commissioner Blessinger has been requested by owner to discuss with the Commissioners and to respond to the owner. The Supervisor described the normal procedure followed by the personnel assigned to cutting right-of-way brush.

Improvement of Dirt Road – Supervisor submitted list of discussed procedures for improvement of existing County dirt roads, including:

1. If the request is for a permanent residence that has a filed Homestead Deduction, not a cabin, gravel can be applied by the County to the original “footprint” of the road. No widening will take place and no culvert.
2. A dedication of right of way would be required if the roadway would need to be widened and improved beyond it’s original “footprint” if additional individual single permanent residences would build along that roadway, and they were not a part of a newly created subdivision caused by a developer.
3. If a newly created subdivision was developed, those improvements would be done by the developer.

### **RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER’S REPORT**

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

Cuzco-Norton Road – Property owner dug into County easement and Road Bridge could possibly be damaged along large public creek. The Commissioners directed the Engineer to contact DNR as public creek is being blocked.

Railroad Overpass – Received invoice involving Early Warning Signal sign on State Highway for \$4,383.00, which is not actually part of bridge. Sign warns of approaching train. Question whether could be paid from County commitment. As the sign is not part of the bridge, payment of invoice is on hold.

2018 Community Crossing Commitment Letters – Five projects are proposed for funding applications, of which one is safety signs at intersection of 100S at 600W in Madison Township. On motion made and seconded, the Commissioners committed to the five projects for grant purposes, including sections of:

- County Road 550 South \$312,787
- County Road 1025 \$305,445
- Industrial Park Road \$358,060

School Bus Signs – Three School Bus signs requested along County Roads as follows:

1. Shiloh Road - West of 400 West School Bus Stop Ahead
2. Ferdinand Road Northwest - East of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street School Bus Stop Ahead
3. Patoka Road - South of 450 South School Bus Turn Around

Commissioners approved installation of signs.

### **RE: SUBDIVISION REVIEW COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

On motion made and seconded, the Commissioners appointed County Surveyor Ken Brosmer, Highway Engineer Brent Wendholt and Real Estate Transfers Deputy Auditor Chris Hopf, as members of the Subdivision Review Committee.

### **RE: 2018 PAVING PROJECTS**

Engineer Wendholt submitted a list of 2018 Paving Projects and the current status of each.

### **RE: WEBSITE**

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It was reported that the Dubois County Substance Abuse Council requested a spot on the Dubois County website. Commissioners agreed to grant request. Other quasi-government organizations will require Commissioners approval to be place on the County Website.

**RE: HUNTINGBURG CONSERVATION CLUB LAKE DAM**

Commissioner Blessinger attended and reported on the meeting with the Airport Board regarding use of dirt removed from Huntingburg Conservation Lake Dam. The Airport was not planning to pay for dirt; however, the Conservation Club was possibly expecting payment. The two organizations were advised to meet and discuss the difference of opinions.

**RE: SHERIFF'S REPORT**

Sheriff Lampert appeared to request authority for an additional deputy and two additional jailers and requested SRO position for Northeast Dubois Schools. On motion made and seconded, the Commissioners approved the SRO deputy position. A new deputy requires one year of formal training, and a jailer will be trained within several weeks. The Sheriff discussed the various jobs assigned to those deputies while on duty, including on-road transport to Courthouse, special event assignment and floaters. There were Commissioner comments in favor of one additional deputy. On motion made and seconded, the Commissioners voted in favor of creating one additional deputy. There was no support for additional jailers at this time. When not assigned to other duties, deputies are capable of serving as jailers.

**RE: FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Commissioners will meet on Tuesday, September 4, 2018, at 8:00 a.m. and Monday, September 17, 2018, at 8:30 a.m., in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex.