

SECOND REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JANUARY 16, 2024

The second regular meeting of the Dubois County Commissioners was held in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex in Jasper, Indiana, beginning at 8:45 a.m. (EST) on January 16, 2024. Present were Commissioners Chad A. Blessinger, Nick Hostetter, and Serice Stenftenagel. Also present were County Auditor Sandra L. Morton, County Attorney Gregory Schnarr, Highway Superintendent Steve Berg, and Highway Engineer Brent Wendholt. A quorum was declared present and the meeting was opened for business by President Blessinger.

Minutes of the January 2, 2024 meeting of the Board of Commissioners were approved as presented. 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: CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk’s monthly report for December 2023 was reviewed and accepted as presented.

RE: TREASURER’S REPORT

The Treasurer’s monthly report for December 2023 was reviewed and accepted as presented.

RE: MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

EMA Director Tammy Humbert presented the 2024 Mitigation Plan Agreement for approval. The plan needs to be updated every five years. A motion was made to approve the Agreement as presented, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously. The first public planning meeting of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Team is scheduled for January 31, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. and will be held at Jasper City Hall in the Pfaffenweiler Room.

RE: RECORDER PLAT SCANNER MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

A Maintenance Agreement with Eastern Engineering for the Plat Scanner in the Recorder’s office was presented for approval. A motion was made to approve the Agreement, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

RE: DUBOIS COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) will hold a public meeting on January 25, 2024 to accept public comments on the formation of the Dubois County Regional Sewer District. The meeting will be held at Vincennes University in the CTIM Building Theater beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Blessinger reported he met with Commonwealth Engineers regarding the Holland Sewer systems to gather information.

RE: COUNTYWIDE PLANNING AND ZONING

Commissioner Blessinger has been approached by local individuals supportive of countywide planning and zoning. He is interested in learning more about the topic and if zoning would benefit Dubois County residents. The board is interested in continuing discussions on countywide planning and zoning.

RE: DUBOIS COUNTY PARK BID OPENING

It being 9:00 a.m., the time advertised for the receipt of bids for the Phase 2 Improvements to the Dubois County Park, the following bids were thereupon received, opened, and read aloud:

	<u>Seufert Construction</u>	<u>Danco Construction</u>	<u>Jasper Lumber</u>
Base Bid	\$288,400	\$650,000	\$425,000
Alternate Bid 1	\$ 38,770	\$ 40,000	\$ 37,000
Alternate Bid 2	\$ 87,800	\$ 75,000	\$ 69,500
Alternate Bid 3	\$ 29,850	\$ 26,000	\$ 30,000
Alternate Bid 4	\$ 3,000	\$ 4,500	\$ 5,000
Alternate Bid 5	\$ 69,150	\$ 67,200	\$ 77,000
Unit Price 1	\$120/Cubic Yard	\$ 55/Cubic Yard	\$ 60/Cubic Yard
Unit Price 2	\$150/Cubic Yard	\$132/ Cubic Yard	\$144/Cubic Yard
Unit Price 3	\$ 8/Linear Foot	\$ 75/Linear Foot	
Unit Price 4	\$ 15/Linear Foot	\$ 40/Linear Foot	\$ 45/Linear Foot

Dan Englebrecht, Hafer Associates Landscape Artist, was in attendance. The bids were taken under advisement for review by the Dubois County Park Board and will be awarded at the next meeting.

RE: COMMERCIAL SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM PERMIT APPLICATION

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County Attorney Schnarr presented the completed version of the Commercial Solar Energy System Permit Application. A motion was made to implement the application for any activity going forward with no filing fees at this time. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously. The application will be made available on the county website.

RE: DUFF SOLAR PARK ROAD USE AGREEMENTS

County Engineer Wendholt presented the Duff Solar Park “final” version of the Road Use Agreement. The Agreement was reviewed and discussed. The group will attend a future meeting for approval of the Agreements.

RE: COURTHOUSE USE AGREEMENT

Kate Schwenk, Heart of Jasper, requested use of the Courthouse restrooms on February 10, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for the Pamper My Princess. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

RE: GOVDEALS.COM

Andrew Joosten, GovDeals Business Development Manager, presented information on the Govdeals.com auction site, which is like E-Bay but is only for Governmental entities. The site helps governmental entities sell surplus equipment, materials, and real estate at no cost to the seller. Consensus was to review the site and use it if the need arises.

RE: STEMLE FARMS LLC - EXEMPTION

Phil Buehler, Brosmer Land Surveying and Engineering, appeared on behalf of Stemle Farms, LLC, to request an exemption (variance) from the County Ordinance for the initial occupant provision of the Parcelization application. Previously, Stemle Farms, LLC, subdivided and transferred a 2.708 acre tract east of Celestine in Hall Township to the grandchildren which needs to be transferred to an intermediate party first. A motion was made to approve the Parcelization exemption, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: RECESS MEETING

The meeting was called into recess at 10:10 a.m. to hold a Drainage Board meeting.

RE: RECONVENE MEETING

The meeting was reconvened at 10:11 a.m.

RE: SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNCIL

Probation Officer and Substance Abuse Council board member Jenny Lampert introduced April Jones as the new SAC Coordinator. An update on the program was given. The Comprehensive Community Plan was distributed and discussed. The Council meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Jasper Library. The public is welcome to attend.

RE: JRAC PROJECT MANAGER

JRAC member Jenny Lampert requested the creation of a JRAC Project Manager to assist with the management of several grants received. The position would be funded by grants. The Project Manager position would be part-time and be classified as PAT-IV. A job description was distributed. A motion was made to approve the position as long as the grant funding is available, pending approval by the County Council, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Highway Superintendent Steve Berg presented the following report of Highway projects:

White Stallion Meeting – Berg met with Michael Costello and addressed concerns from landowners that were discussed at the meeting held in December. Costello is looking at solutions to a few items that are within the permit area and are a result of mining. Costello is also looking to begin work in the next 4-6 weeks on the high wall by Portersville Road West and is filing for emergency relief due to the safety concerns. He will have his crew work in that area first.

Decommission Dirt Loader – Due to the purchase of the dirt loader, the 1986 Athey dirt loader will be retained for parts and be removed from the Highway Inventory.

2024 Hourly Equipment Rates – Berg presented the current equipment list for 2024 reflective of current FEMA rates. The prices do not include the cost of an operator or materials. Berg recommended approval of the list of rates. A motion was made to approve the 2024 Equipment Rates as presented, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

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Part Time Summer Help – Berg would like to hire 2 part time helpers for vegetation control. He contacted the school corporations and requested time to speak with the FFA classes or job fairs. The positions would be scheduled from April, or after school, through the summer until Labor Day. He also requested a seasonal third position that could assist with the boom mower which is set for the Huntingburg, Jasper, and Ireland routes. A discussion was held on the age requirements and salaries for the positions. Consensus was to have Berg work with Human Resources to create the third part time position.

Gravel Road Conversion Re-evaluation Score Sheets – Berg presented a list of the gravel road conversion score sheets that were re-evaluated. Following the re-evaluation, the results created one change in the order.

Activity Summary for 2023 – The activity summary for all highway work completed in 2023 was presented. The summary includes all paving, surface treatments, patching bridges, culvert replacements, road striping and road signage.

Proposed 2024 Paving List – Berg presented a draft of the 2024 paving which includes fund balances. The list was reviewed.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Highway Engineer Brent Wendolt presented the following report of Highway projects:

Safe Streets for All (Action Plan) – Nothing to report.

Ireland Intersection Stop Sign Adjustment – Ordinance 2024-01 was presented for approval. A motion was made to approve Ordinance 2024-01 as presented, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2024 - 01

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ALL ORDINANCES
AMENDATORY THEREOF, BEING AN ORDINANCE
IMPOSING RESTRICTION UPON VEHICLES OPERATED
ON COUNTY ROADS IN MADISON TOWNSHIP IN
DUBOIS COUNTY, INDIANA**

(Amending Title VII: Traffic Code; Chapter 72: Traffic Schedules; Schedule III: Stop Signs; Section R: Madison Township of the Dubois County Code)

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Dubois County, Indiana, has adopted an Ordinance and Schedules related to preferential highways and stop signs on certain highways in the County, and the same are codified in the Dubois County Code at Title VII, Chapter 72, Schedule III; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Dubois County, Indiana, after having received a report on and considered an engineering and traffic investigation conducted by the County Highway Engineer regarding the affected intersections, and having the jurisdiction and responsibility to establish rules and regulations for the operation of vehicles and traffic on the following highways in said County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners now find that it is in the best interests of the citizens of said County and required for public safety to establish rules and regulations for the operation of vehicles in the use of the streets and highways hereinafter designated; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners now find that it is in the best interests of Dubois County and its citizens to amend Schedule III of Chapter 72 of Title VII of the Dubois County Code with regards to stop intersections designated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF DUBOIS, STATE OF INDIANA:

Section 1. That Section Q of Schedule III of Title VII, Chapter 72 of the Dubois County Code: Traffic Schedules; Schedule III: Stop Signs; Section R, related to preferential highways and stop signs on certain highways in Dubois County, Indiana is amended by adding the following to Section R relating to Madison Township:

At the intersection of County Road 250 North and James Street in the Community of Ireland (MD18), James Street shall be the preferential highway and a stop sign shall be placed on the east and west approaches of County Road 250 North with James Street.

Section 2. Violation of this ordinance shall be punishable in that manner prescribed by Indiana statute and by prior Ordinance pertaining to preferential roads heretofore adopted by this Board of County Commissioners.

Section 3. Prior Ordinances. All ordinances and/or parts of ordinance in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 4. Separability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance shall for any reason be held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereunder.

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Section 5. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Board of Commissioners of Dubois County, Indiana, and completion of any other legal requirements, all in the manner as provided by law, but in no event sooner than the date that Dubois County makes the adjustments at the intersection of County Road 250 North and James Street in Madison Township.

DULY ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 16th day of January, 2024 by the Board of Commissioners of Dubois County, Indiana.

Community Crossings Project 2024-01 – Wendholt presented a Financial Commitment Letter stating the County will fund the projects listed in the Community Crossings application. The County has the funding match of \$335,288.67 from the MVH paving budget. Consensus was for Commissioner Blessinger to sign the Commitment Letter.

Surplus Equipment (Plotter) – The Highway Department was fortunate to receive the old plotter from the County Recorder's office. Wendholt requested permission to declare the old plotter surplus. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously. Consensus was to search the GovDeals website as a test of the program.

Federal Aid Projects – Wendholt discussed developing Federal Aid Projects for the County. He would like to work with a group to develop some capital improvements transportation plans.

RE: 911 STAFFING

911 Director Stuart Wilson requested approval to hire Gretchen McCreary as a 911 Telecommunicator to begin on February 12, 2024. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously. Wilson also reported Telecommunicator Connie Walker has resigned which leaves an opening to fill in February.

RE: EMS AMBULANCES

911 Coordinator Ryan Young presented a bid to order an ambulance remount at a cost of \$244,437.00. The cot was ordered in December at an approximate cost of \$50,000. County Attorney Schnarr discussed using I.C. 5-22-10-4 (a) to make a special purchase when there exists, under emergency conditions, a threat to public health, welfare, or safety. He also cited I.C. 5-22-10-9 to make a special purchase when purchase of the required supplies or services under another purchasing method would seriously impair the functioning of the using agency. Discussion was held on the need to act due to the lack of availability of ambulances. A motion was made to proceed using the special use statutes to purchase a new chassis and remount with Medwerks, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Young provided an update on the status of the ambulances already on order. The remounted ambulance should arrive in February 2024. As of now, Young has been told the company should start production on the new ambulance in September 2024.

RE: PURDUE EXTENSION

The 2024 Extension Contractual Services Agreement between Purdue University and the Government of Dubois County, Indiana was presented at a cost of \$128,805.00. Purdue Extension Services will provide three county educators and programs in the following areas: agriculture and natural resources, health and human sciences, and 4-H youth development. A motion was made to approve the Agreement, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

RE: EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARD

The Board of Commissioners presented Coroner Katie Schuck a service award for 10 years of service to Dubois County.

RE: DUBOIS STRONG/GROW DUBOIS COUNTY

The 2024 Services Agreement Contracts were presented for approval at a cost of \$59,262.89 for Dubois Strong and \$40,000 for Grow Dubois County. A motion was made to approve the contracts as presented, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

RE: TOURISM APPOINTMENT

Diane Hoppenjans resigned from the Tourism Commission. A replacement will be sought and approved at the next meeting on February 5, 2024.

RE: DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING

Quarterly meetings with the Department Heads will be held in 2024. Commissioner Stenftenagel will host the first meeting in 2024. The meeting date is to be determined.

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RE: SURPLUS ITEMS

Auditor Morton presented the following list of items to be declared surplus: 2 chairs, a broken desk riser, a table, a council desk, and a 2 door cabinet. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

RE: 2024 COUNTY BUDGET

Auditor Morton reported the 2024 County Budget Order and Tax Rates have been approved by the Department of Local Government Finance.

RE: FUTURE MEETINGS

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, February 5, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioner/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex.