

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 2, 2024

The regular 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 January 2, 2024. Present were Commissioner Chad A. Blessinger, Commissioner Nick Hostetter and Commissioner Serice Stenftenagel. Also present were County Auditor Sandra L. Morton, County Surveyor Ken Brosmer, Highway Supervisor Steven L. Berg, Highway Engineer Brent Wendholt, and County Attorney Gregory S. Schnarr. A quorum was declared present and the meeting was opened for business by President Blessinger. Minutes of the December 18, 2023, meeting of the Commissioners had been previously distributed to the Commissioners and were approved as presented. The minutes were then signed. Incomes for the month of December 2023 were as follows: Recorder \$15,980.25; Health Department \$116,928.13; Auditor \$40.00; Clerk \$20,657.83. 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: REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

This being the first meeting of the calendar year, the first order of business was the selection of officers for the Board of Commissioners for 2024. The Board Attorney Gregory S. Schnarr conducted the election. Thereupon, on separate nominations and motions, the following were elected as officers of the Commissioners for 2024: President – Chad A Blessinger; Vice President – Nickolas Hostetter.

RE: HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

White Stallion Meeting- Berg will reach out to Michael Costello to resume reclamation discussions at the coal mine site.

Freeze Thaw Ordinance - To prevent damage caused by excess weight on County Roads during periods of Freeze-Thaw conditions, Ordinance 2023-19 was passed at the previous meeting. This will be in effect from January 15, 2024 – April 15, 2024.

Boom Mower Sourcewell Purchase Intent – Berg requested an additional appropriation of \$75,000 for the purchase of new boom mowers from Hutson, Inc. In July 2023, a non-binding contract to purchase two boom mowers and tractors from Hutson, Inc. at a cost of \$356,576.38, including trade-ins of the two tractors and the 1994 Champion grader was approved. A motion was made to approve the request for an additional appropriation, pending County Council approval, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

Score Sheet for Gravel Road Conversion Re-evaluation – Berg will be conducting a re-evaluation of the proposed conversion projects to update the conversion scores. He will report on the evaluations and any changes to the project order that may occur. Following discussion, the consensus was to work with the County Council to secure funding to finish the roads that were grandfathered.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

No Formal report was given.

Traffic Counts – Traffic counts have not been completed recently due to the lack of hiring interns. Many times, the Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission will conduct counts and share the information with the Highway Department.

2023 Road Prioritization List – Commissioner Blessinger questioned the data and clarified information on the prioritization list.

425 N – Commissioner Stenftenagel requested an update on the request made by Anne Mehringer on July 17, 2023.

Himsel Road and Portersville Road West - Commissioner Stenftenagel requested an update on the request made to improve Himsel Road and Portersville Road West.

RE: ZOAR – NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The Department of the Interior notified the County that the Zoar Public School, Zoar Methodist Church, Zoar Cemetery, 8818 West Old SR 64 and Zoar Church Road, Zoar, Dubois and Pike Counties, IN was entered into the National Register of Historic Places on December 11, 2023.

RE: OPERATION GREENLIGHT

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A picture of the Dubois County Courthouse lit up in green was featured on the cover of the Association of Indiana Counties Indiana News 92 magazine. The County participated in Operation Green Light for Veterans from November 7-13, 2023.

RE: COURTHOUSE SECURITY

Commissioner Blessinger met with courthouse staff members and is working with County Attorney Schnarr to address security issues at the Courthouse.

RE: KYANA POPLAR STREET VACATION

Commissioner Blessinger reported he met with the residents of the Kyana Poplar Street area following the request from Cash Waggner to vacate a portion of the street. The adjoining landowners would like to be notified by Cash Waggner if a petition will be presented in the future. County Attorney Schnarr presented the requirements in Indiana Statute.

RE: COMMERCIAL SOLAR ENERGY PERMIT

County Attorney Schnarr is currently working on the Commercial Solar Energy Permit.

RE: FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

Sheriff Deputy Chris Tanner, representing the Fraternal Order of Police, thanked the Board of Commissioners and County employees for donating to the School Supply Drive held in November. Items were donated to the Northeast Dubois Elementary School.

RE: 4-H COUNCIL and DUBOIS COUNTY PARK

Commissioner Stenftenagel discussed an issue with the use of boulders and large stones at the Dubois County Park which the 4-H Council currently has plans to use.

RE: CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Commissioner Blessinger provided an update on the construction project at the justice campus. Hopefully, the project will be completed in 2-3 months.

RE: REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

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

RE: FUTURE MEETINGS

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 8:45 a.m. in the Commissioner/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex. The Board of Finance will meet on January 16, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.