

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JANUARY 4, 2022

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 4, 2022. Present were Commissioner Chad A. Blessinger, Commissioner Nick Hostetter and Commissioner Elmer Brames. 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 20, 2021, 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 2021 were as follows: Recorder \$28,039.93; Health Department \$61,899.27; Auditor \$100.00; Clerk for October: \$29,590.84; Clerk for November: \$22,375.66; December: report not available. 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 2022. The Board's Attorney conducted the election. Thereupon, on separate nominations and motions, the following were elected as officers of the Commissioners for 2022: President – Chad A Blessinger; Vice President – Nickolas Hostetter.

RE: HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

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

Freeze-Thaw Ordinance – As a reminder to prevent damages caused by excess weight on County roads during periods of Freeze-Thaw conditions, an Ordinance was adopted at the previous meeting which provides for a 10-ton gross weight limit on all roads in Dubois County except for Third Avenue from the Jasper City Limits to SR 162. The effective period is from Saturday, January 15, 2022 through April 15, 2022.

White Stallion Proof of Claim – Berg is working with the County Attorney to complete a "Proof of Claim" concerning White Stallion.

Activity Summary for 2021 – Copies of the 2021 Activity Summary were distributed to the members.

Equipment Purchase Request – The purchase of a Road Striper to replace the E-Z Liner was included in the 2022 Budget. Consensus was to proceed with the specifications to quote by the end of January.

Complaint – A complaint was received about the road conditions on 600 W due truck traffic from a business. Berg will send a letter to the business and follow up with an in-person visit after the letter is sent.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

Monument Repair – A quote to repair the stones on the monument was received in the amount of \$16,292. Once the funds are received from the Community Foundation, the Council will appropriate before action can be taken on the quote.

Jasper Downtown Revitalization – The next meeting will be January 4, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. Concerns were discussed about not having some type of agreement in place between the City of Jasper and the County.

RE: CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS

A letter supporting the application of Charter Communications was presented for board consideration. The letter is addressed to the OCRA Next Level Connections Round 3 Selection Committee. Charter's proposed project would provide 100% fiber to the home broadband network supporting a total of 3,040 homes and businesses in Dubois County, Indiana. These homes are currently considered unserved, having access to service less than 25/3 Mbps. This initiative is crucial for Hoosiers in Dubois County struggling with unreliable broadband services. If the project is funded, speeds of up to 1Gig download and 540 Mbps upload will be offered by Charter to all customers in the project area, putting Charter Communications on track to achieve the broadband connectivity goals of Dubois County. Charter has been thoroughly engaged on this project with State Legislators, the Office of Broadband and Dubois County elected officials. A motion was made to approve the Letter of Support, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: SOLID WASTE – LAND PURCHASE

A discussion was held on a parcel of land that is for sale which could possibly be purchased for the Solid Waste District and Highway Department uses. No action was taken.

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RE: ANIMAL CONTROL

Commissioner Blessinger and Auditor Morton presented an Accounts Payable claim received from Dogwood Animal Clinic for dogs held during court cases. A discussion was held whether the expenses incurred were the responsibility of the County or if restitution would be sought from the defendants. No action will be taken while court proceedings are still in process.

RE: 2022 APPOINTMENT

A motion was made to appoint Amanda Ferguson as the Dubois County Ambulance Coordinator Assistant, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. The term is for 2022.

RE: 20 YEAR SERVICE AWARD

A 20-year service award was presented to Highway Superintendent Steve Berg.

RE: MEETING RECESS

The meeting was recessed at 9:00 a.m. to conduct business by the Dubois County Drainage Board. The meeting reconvened at 9:45 a.m.

RE: OSHA MANDATE

HR Generalist Markie Rhodes provided information on the OSHA vaccine mandate. Currently, an appeal has been filed and the Supreme Court will hear the matter on January 7, 2022. No action was taken.

RE: COVID POLICY CHANGE

HR Generalist Markie Rhodes presented a change to the Dubois County COVID Guidance Isolation & Quarantine Policy per the CDC. A motion was made to approve the policy as presented, was seconded and carried unanimously.

IF YOU TEST POSTIVE FOR COVID-19 (Isolate)

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.

- Stay home for 5 days.
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house & Return to Work.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.

If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.

IF YOU WERE EXPOSED TO SOMEONE WITH COVID-19 (Quarantine)

If you:

Have been boosted

OR

Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months

OR

Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months

- Wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- Test on day 5, if possible.

If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home.

If you:

Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted

OR

Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted

OR

Are unvaccinated

- Stay home for 5 days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- If you can't quarantine you must wear a mask for 10 days.
- Test on day 5 if possible.

If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home

RE: 911 CENTER

Commissioner Blessinger reported on the build out costs to move the 911 Center to the Security Center campus. The estimated cost is \$750,000. A discussion on whether to proceed with the project was

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held. The Commissioners favor the move but would like the County Council to review and consider.

Commissioner Blessinger will discuss with Council President Michael Kluesner.

RE: COMPUTER MULTIFACTOR AUTHENTICATION

Commissioner Blessinger presented a Proposal from Matrix Integration to provide a solution to set up Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA). A motion was made to accept Proposal 72730 at a cost of \$13,841 for MFA, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: WOODLAND HILLS PROPERTY

County Attorney Schnarr reported the sale of the Woodland Hills property has been completed.

RE: HELP GRANT

Commissioner Brames has been working with Human Resources on the HELP Coordinator position hiring process.

RE: FUTURE MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 8:45 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex. The Board of Finance will meet, January 18, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.