

SECOND REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OCTOBER 16, 2023

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 8:30 a.m. (EST) on October 16, 2023. Present were Commissioners Chad A. Blessinger, Nick Hostetter and Serice Stenftenagel. Also present were County Auditor Sandra L. Morton, and Highway Superintendent Steve Berg. Highway Engineer Brent Wendholt and County Attorney Gregory Schnarr were absent. A quorum was declared present and the meeting was opened for business by President Blessinger.

Minutes of the October 2, 2023 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 September 2023 was reviewed and accepted as presented.

RE: TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's monthly report for September 2023 was reviewed and accepted as presented.

RE: HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

White Stallion Status – Michael Costello has submitted a third plan revision to the DNR. Considerations are being made regarding the overall watershed plan for the site. Discussions including impoundment fill schedules, pit water levels and discharge of other impoundments, plans for reclamation of the "Laydown" yard and topsoil use within the reclamation area are being considered. Costello has been working closely with Loudermilk Contracting on the project estimating and planning. Items to be completed prior to beginning work include the DNR signing off on the plan, the landowners signing off on original mine agreement changes from the final approved reclamation plan, and awarding Loudermilk Contracting the contract. After approval from the DNR, Costello would like to set up landowner information meetings to display maps, discuss the Reclamation Plan and answer any questions from the public. He hopes to hold the meetings around the end of November.

High Weeds and Junk Ordinance Violation – Berg received a complaint about tall weeds and junk located at 2015 E SR 64 just east of the Bretzville Junction. Berg visited the location and knocked on the door with no response. A violation notice will be sent. Berg will continue to try to contact the owner.

Right-of-Way Dedication and Petition for Improvement of CR 425 North in Boone Township – Anne Mehringer submitted a right of way dedication and petition for paving CR 425 North in Boone Township from CR 550 West to the dead end portion of the road where she lives. She also stated that she will pay the costs of paving, making this a Co-Op project that gets top priority. Berg recommends acceptance of the right-of-way and petition. The conversion evaluation sheet was completed and scored 175 points placing it first on the list. A motion was made to approve the right-of-way dedication and petition and to proceed with paving, pending receipt of the funding, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

Asphalt Materials, Inc. Roll Over of 2023 Contract – Berg received an offer from Tom Martin of Asphalt Materials, Inc. to extend the 2023 liquid asphalt contract through the 2024 construction season. A motion was made to accept the Extension Agreement, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

Material Bids – The County will be accepting and opening all material bids on November 20, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. and award the bids on December 4, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Caterpillar Grader – The road grader purchased from Boyd CAT through Sourcewell Purchasing in 2022 has finally been delivered. This did not include a trade-in of the Champion Grader. Berg intends to include the grader in the trade-in value of the boom mowers.

Boom Mower Sourcewell Purchase Intent – in July, Wendholt prepared a non-binding contract to purchase two boom mowers and tractors from Hutson, Inc. at a cost of \$369,076.38, including trade-in values for the two tractors. Hutson has reconsidered and made an offer to include the 1994 Champion grader as trade with the included mowers. Hutson has offered \$12,500 for the grader which revises the cost to \$356,576.38. Since this would be a 2024 budgeted purchase, Berg requested approval to seek an additional appropriation of \$75,000 in January 2024. A motion was made to approve the request pending County Council approval in January, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Paving Status on CR 1100 South – J. H. Rudolph has completed all wedge and level for CR 1100 South and overlay paving is approximately 1/3 complete.

Chipseal Inquiry on Cuzco Road West and 925 East – As requested, Berg provided the following information on the chipseal program. Cuzco Road West begins at SR 56 as a chipseal road turning south and east before it becomes a gravel road for 0.74 miles, afterwards turning back to chipseal pavement near the intersection of CR 925 East. Currently, no right-of-way exists. The road scores 125 points on the chipseal conversion sheet. The cost of conversion is \$86,676. CR 925 East begins as a chipseal road and runs south before it becomes a gravel road for 0.41 miles, afterwards turning back to chipseal pavement near the intersection of Cuzco Rad West. No right-of-way exists. It also scored 125 points on

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the conversion chart. The total cost of this conversion is \$48,023. Consensus was to keep the roads on the normal rotation.

New Sanitation Floater – Fred Porter from Huntingburg has been selected as the new Sanitation floater replacing the retired Jim Leistner.

Mechanic Resigning – Jordan Gress has resigned as a mechanic at the Highway Department. His last day will be October 20, 2023.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

No report was presented.

RE: LUCAS DEVICES - VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT

Stan Seufert, Ireland Fire Chief and Henry Calderon, Jasper Volunteer Fire Department, reported the Leadership Academy has raised almost \$92,000 to purchase a Lucas Device for each Volunteer Fire Station in the County. A total of 12 total devices are needed. The Volunteer Fire Departments still need \$137,000 and are seeking a commitment from the County. This amount could be lowered by donations from businesses and the Community Foundation. Ryan Young, EMS Coordinator, discussed changes in how cardiac services are provided for patients. The Lucas Device is critical to ensuring continued compressions for CPR as the patient is transported to the hospital. Several fire chiefs were in attendance and supported the request. A motion was made to support the project with \$100,000, pending approval from the County Council, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

RE: SECURITY CENTER – DEPUTY SHERIFF/SOCIAL WORKER

Chief Deputy Jesus Monarrez requested the creation of a Sheriff Deputy/Social Worker position to collaborate with the Sheriff Department on mental health calls, mediation, and crisis intervention. A job description was presented. This would be a unique, specialized position requiring a master's degree in social work with law enforcement training. John Anderson, Narcotics Officer, was present to discuss his need for this position daily. Commissioner Blessinger discussed a Justice & Mental Health Collaboration Grant that was recently awarded to the County which includes a mental health specialist for the department. Monarrez and Anderson feel the grant position would not serve in the same capacity.

Following a lengthy discussion, the consensus was for the board to continue studying both options and to return to the next meeting for a decision.

RE: ULTIMATE TECHNOLOGIES GROUP

Greg Seeger, Vice-President of Business Development, appeared via Zoom, to present information on the services the Ultimate Technologies Group provides to assist the County with audio-visual solutions to navigate the complexity of HEA1167 compliance – a new Indiana law mandating state agencies to live stream meetings and maintain detailed archives for at least 90 days. Consensus was to proceed with more information and to discuss it with the County Attorney.

RE: COURTHOUSE MAINTENANCE

Custodian Scott Hopf presented information on an issue with the drain in the Courthouse breakroom. Messmer's Mechanical ran a camera and found a clog under the flooring and electrical panel. A possible solution would be to install a grinder pump in the breakroom cabinetry and to drain it into a new area. LATCF funds could be used. Consensus was to proceed.

Custodian Hopf reported that a car accident damaged the exterior steps on the north side of the Courthouse. Jamniczky Contracting was contacted and will be providing an opinion for repair options.

RE: COMPUTER SECURITY

Auditor Morton requested a change to the County Policy regarding employee password changes on the county computer network. Currently, employees must change their password every 30 days. Morton requested changing the policy to 60 days. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

RE: SURPLUS

Auditor Morton requested approval to declare a desktop computer from Superior Court and two laptop computers from Weights and Measures and the County Park as surplus. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

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RE: HOUSING REPORT

Commissioner Blessinger shared a Dubois County Housing Study completed for Dubois Strong.

RE: REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

Commissioner Hostetter provided an update on the Regional Sewer District. Public meetings will be held for the Regional Sewer District as follows:

November 2, 2023 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Haysville at 6:30 p.m.

November 16, 2023 at Vincennes University in the CTIM Auditorium at 6:30 p.m.

RE: FUTURE MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, November 6, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioner/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex.