

SECOND REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

December 20, 2021

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 December 20, 2021. Present were Commissioners Chad A. Blessinger, Nick Hostetter and Elmer Brames. Also present were County Auditor Sandra L. Morton, County Attorney Gregory S. Schnarr, Highway Supervisor 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 December 6, 2021 meeting of the Commissioners were approved as presented. Minutes of the Special Meetings held on December 2, 2021 and December 7, 2021 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: HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

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

Sanitation Sites Holiday Hours – Holiday Hours will be observed at the Sanitation sites normally open on Friday – Jasper, Ireland and Huntingburg – which will be open on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve from 8:00 a.m. until Noon. All sites will be closed for Christmas Day and New Year's Day which both fall on Saturday.

DOT Clearinghouse Setup – After discussion with NECS Fleet Solutions from Jasper, it was determined that the Department will not need to use ITI for the CDL Clearinghouse. As a governmental agency, the County is exempt from some of the requirements. NECS will add the Highway Department to an email list for informational purposes.

Freeze Thaw Ordinance – To prevent damages caused by excess weight on County Roads during periods of freeze thaw conditions, a Freeze Thaw Ordinance was presented which provides for a 10-ton gross weight limit on all roads in Dubois County except for Third Avenue from Jasper City Limits to State Road 162. The effective period is from January 15, 2022 through April 15, 2022. A motion was made to approve the Ordinance as presented, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-41

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
OF DUBOIS COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

1. To prevent damage caused by excess weight on County Roads during periods of freeze and thaw, the Commissioners hereby establish a 10 ton gross load (weight) limit on all motor vehicles operated on County Roads within Dubois County, Indiana during the period from January 15, 2022 through April 15, 2022. Jasper 3rd Avenue from Jasper city limits south to S.R. 162 is exempt from this Ordinance.
2. Operation of a motor vehicle on any County Road in violation of this Ordinance shall be a Class C infraction, as defined by I.C. 34-6-2-85 and I.C. 34-28-5-4.
3. This Ordinance shall become effective upon publication as required by law.

ADOPTED: December 20, 2021

CenterPoint Energy Pole Replacements – CenterPoint Energy is beginning a line upgrade. During the project, 54 poles will need to be replaced. Most of the poles are within their right of way; however, the trucks with extended outriggers are quite large and when in operation, may need to temporarily close the road. The Department is working on a schedule to inform Central Dispatch and the public when roads may be closed. Roads affected are CR 650 West and 600 West in Patoka Township, CR 600 West, 620 West, 150 North, 600 West (by Neuhoff and Wagner Supply), 200 North, and 300 North in Madison Township, and CR 300 North and 36th Street in Bainbridge Township. Consensus was to support the closures for the work to be completed.

Surplus Items – A list of surplus items was presented to be declared junk. Some of the items have been traded and need to be removed from inventory. A motion was made to declare the items surplus/junk as presented, was seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

CCMG 2021-2 Approval – The CCMG 2021-2 Contract from INDOT is expected in January.

INDOT SR 56 Unofficial Detour (175 East Damage) – The State Road 56 project has been completed. There were three areas on 175 East that were damaged. INDOT will be reviewing.

Courthouse War Memorial Monument – Plans for the work on the Courthouse Monument Fence are to have the fence removed, sandblasted, repaired/welded, and then repainted. Plans and specifications for the Foundation Wall are being created and quotes will be taken in the beginning of the year.

RE: 2022 COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS

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A list of Appointments for 2022 was read by the Commissioner President. A motion was made to approve the list as presented, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

4-H COUNCIL BOARD	Janelle Hasenour	1/1/2022	12/31/2022
	Madison Giesler	1/1/2022	12/31/2022
911 ADVISORY BOARD	Chad A. Blessinger	1/1/2022	12/31/2022
	Scott D. Uebelhor	1/1/2022	12/31/2022
AIRPORT AUTHORITY	Benjamin M. Schwenk	1/1/2022	12/31/2025
ALCOHOL BEVERAGE COMMISSION	David R. Ring	1/1/2022	12/31/2022
AMBULANCE COORDINATOR	Ryan Young	1/1/2022	12/31/2022
AREA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION			
DUBOIS STRONG	Elmer Brames	1/1/2022	12/31/2022
CUSTODIAN	Scott Hopf	1/1/2022	12/31/2022
COUNTY ATTORNEY	Gregory S. Schnarr	1/1/2022	12/31/2022
DUBOIS COUNTY CHILD			
PROTECTION TEAM	Autumn Gogel	1/1/2022	12/31/2022
FERDINAND PLANNING			
COMMISSION	Mark Dilger	1/1/2022	12/31/2025
HEALTH BOARD	Ryan Flamion, MD	1/1/2022	12/31/2025
	Duane Hopf	1/1/2022	12/31/2025
HEALTH OFFICER	Theodore A. Wafart, MD	1/1/2022	12/31/2025
HIGHWAY CLERK	Ann T. Messmer	1/1/2022	12/31/2022
HIGHWAY ENGINEER	Brent Wendholt	1/1/2022	12/31/2022
HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR	Steven L. Berg	1/1/2022	12/31/2022
HUNTINGBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY			
BOARD	Lauren Tanner	1/1/2022	12/31/2025
INDIANA 15 REGIONAL PLANNING			
COMMISSION	Nick Hostetter	1/1/2022	12/31/2022
JASPER PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD	Pamela Catt	1/1/2022	12/31/2025
NORTHEAST DUBOIS FIRE			
PROTECTION DISTRICT	Steve Dodd, At-Large	1/1/2022	12/31/2025
	Michelle Cave, Columbia Twp.	1/1/2022	12/31/2025
PARK & RECREATION BOARD	Tony Hasenour	1/1/2022	12/31/2025
PROPERTY TAX BOARD OF APPEALS			
- PTABOA	Duane Persohn	1/1/2022	12/31/2022
	Brian P. Smith	1/1/2022	12/31/2022
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT			
DISTRICT BOARD	Kenneth J. Sicard	1/1/2022	12/31/2022
TOURISM COMMITTEE	Chris Tretter	1/1/2022	12/31/2023
	James McFaul	1/1/2022	12/31/2023
TRI-CAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS	Chad A. Blessinger	1/1/2022	12/31/2022
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER	Gary Love	8/31/2021	Until Terminated
WEED CONTROL BOARD	James Meyer, Trustee	1/1/2022	12/31/2025
	Kenneth Eck, County Agent	1/1/2022	12/31/2025
	Mark A. Hochgesang, Agriculture	1/1/2022	12/31/2025
	Pat Eckerle, Soil & Water Dist.	1/1/2022	12/31/2025

RE: GIE ADVISORY BOARD

The County Auto and Liability Insurance Carrier GIE (Government Interinsurance Exchange) provided a Notice of Qualified Nominees and a Ballot for the County to vote on a person to serve on the 2022/2025 Advisory Committee. A motion was made to approve voting for Cale Knies, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

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RE: SURPLUS PROPERTY

It being 9:15 a.m., the time advertised for receipt of bids for the sale of real estate owned or controlled by the County described as 19-08-35-200-009.000-009, the following bid was thereupon received, opened and read aloud:

Terrance and Janet Kleinhelter \$1,500 plus closing costs

A motion was made to accept the bid, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. The County Attorney will continue to work on the process to transfer of the property. A motion was made to give the County Attorney authority to take actions necessary to expedite the process of transferring this property by deed to Mr. Kleinhelter and any documents needing to be signed by the Commissioners outside of the meeting may be signed. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: SURPLUS ITEMS

Auditor Morton presented a list of computer items to be declared surplus/junk. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

RE: RECOGNITION

Former Herald Reporter Candy Neal was recognized for her coverage of Dubois County. The Commissioners' wished her well in her new position.

RE: AMERICAN RECOVERY PLAN

An update on the Flexibility Act moving through the House of Representatives was discussed. The list of items approved by the County ARPA committee was presented. A discussion was held. No action was taken at this time. Items will be forwarded to Baker Tilly for an opinion.

RE: SHERIFF VEHICLES

Sheriff Tom Kleinhelter appeared to discuss the process and procedures for purchasing vehicles in 2022.

RE: SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNCIL

Chairman Deb Capps presented an update on the program services in 2021. She requested a full draw of the funding available for 2022 which will be determined at the close of the year. A motion was made to support the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Capps will be retiring from the Chairman position at the end of the year.

RE: WILLIAM RUDOLPH JR. ENDOWMENT

The Community Foundation is holding the William Rudolph Jr. Endowment to assist with funding maintenance on the Courthouse Monument and support the Veteran Services Office. A discussion was held on ideas to use the funds from VSO Gary Love. Love will appear in January.

RE: CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Blessinger reported that Charter Communications is looking to expand broadband and is seeking either a letter of support or possible funding. Consensus was to sign a letter of support should one be provided.

RE: PSC NEXT LEVEL CONNECTIONS 3 BROADBAND GRANT - LETTER OF SUPPORT

Indiana's Next Level Connection 3 Broadband Grant Program has been announced and PSC is hoping to provide fiber-based Internet/Phone services to rural/unserved census block areas in Dubois County. PSC has invested significantly into deploying fiber optic-based infrastructure for thousands of subscribers both within and outside of its cooperative territory and believes that both State and Federal grant programs will now allow them to offer high quality, high-speed broadband services to many more unserved Dubois County residents who desperately need these services for work, school and quality of life. As part of the application process for Next Level 3 funding, OCRA has asked for letters of support from community leadership. A motion was made to approve the letter of support, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. The Letter of Support was signed by the members.

RE: COVID TEST SITE LEASE

County Attorney Schnarr presented a Lease with the City of Jasper for the COVID Test Site located at 400 S. Clay Street, Jasper, for \$850 per month. The Lease will begin on January 1, 2022 and will continue as a month-to-month tenancy. A motion was made to approve the Lease as presented, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

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Director Shawn Werner provided current statistics and information on vaccines and testing in the County.

RE: PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE GRANT

Director Shawn Werner reported a Public Health Crisis Response Grant has been awarded to the County. The Grant period is from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 with the possibility of a one-year extension. Werner is requesting the creation of two positions - a Full Time Nurse (PAT IV) and a Full Time Clerk (COMOT III). Each position will work 35 hours per week.

A motion was made to create the requested positions during the term of the grant and any extensions for the positions with salaries and benefits at an approximate cost of \$121,593.55. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously. A motion was made to approve the wage classifications as follows: Nurse PAT IV and Clerk COMOT III. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: MATRIX TELECOMCARE AGREEMENT

Commissioner Blessinger presented a TelecomCare Agreement with Matrix Integration for complete service and support of the Mitel Telephony system beginning April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023 at a cost of \$15,600. A motion was made to approve the Agreement, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: DUBOIS COUNTY PARK BID AWARD

Following review of the bids taken at the December 2, 2021 meeting for the Dubois County Park improvements, Commissioner Blessinger presented the recommendation from the Dubois County Park Board President Christine Prior and HAFER Architects. A motion to approve the bid from Seufert Construction with exception of Alternate 2 and 7 at a cost of \$928,370 was made, duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: DUBOIS COUNTY EMPLOYEE BENEFIT TRUST

Auditor Morton reported the Dubois County Employee Benefit Trust bank account with SIHO Insurance Services has been closed.

RE: OSHA REGULATION

HR Generalist Markie Rhodes presented information that as of Friday, December 17, 2021 the 6th Circuit Federal Court of Appeals reinstated the Occupational Safety and Health Administrations (OSHA) federal emergency temporary standard (ETS) for Covid-19. This decision reversed the stay ordered in November by the 5th Circuit and allows OSHA to resume ETS implementation and enforcement nationwide. The ETS requires employers to determine the vaccination status of each employee, obtain acceptable proof of vaccination, maintain records of each employee's vaccination status and maintain a roster of each employee's vaccination status. The ETS requires employers to ensure that each employee who is not vaccinated is tested for COVID-19 at least weekly but does not require employers to pay for any costs associated with testing.

Rhodes is awaiting word from Indiana OSHA on the state plan. He also mentioned Indiana Code 16-39-11-5 which states the State or a local unit may not issue or require an immunization passport. Consensus was to wait until January to make a decision on how to proceed.

RE: WHITE STALLION BANKRUPTCY

County Attorney Schnarr provided an update on the status of the White Stallion Bankruptcy case.

RE: DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

County Engineer Wendholt provided an update on the Downtown Revitalization project. Soil borings have been taken. A discussion was held on the need to enter into Agreements with the City of Jasper and/or the Contractors.

RE: READI GRANT

The READI Grant has been awarded. Dubois County was included in the Uplands ROI which will receive \$30 Million.

RE: KNOWBE4 TRAINING

Auditor Morton reported that KnowBe4 training on Multifactor Authentication will be available in January 2022. Phishing email campaigns are also in progress. All employees are to complete the required trainings. Lists of employees not completing the training will be given to the Commissioners.

RE: FUTURE MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on January 4, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex. The Dubois County Drainage Board will meet on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. The Board of Finance will meet on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

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