

SECOND REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DECEMBER 21, 2020

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 21, 2020. Present were Commissioners Chad A. Blessinger and Nick Hostetter. Elmer Brames was present by teleconference. Also present were County Auditor Sandra L. Morton, 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 7, 2020 meeting of the 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: HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

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

Freeze Thaw Ordinance 2020-13 – To prevent damages caused by excess weight on the County Roads during periods of Freeze-Thaw conditions, Ordinance 2020-13 was presented which provides for a 10-ton gross weight limit on all roads in Dubois County except for 3rd Avenue from the Jasper City Limits to SR 162. The effective period is from January 15, 2021 through April 15, 2021. A motion was made to approve Ordinance 2020-13, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-13

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, 2021 through April 15, 2021. 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.

Sanitation Sites Holiday Hours – The Jasper, Ireland, Huntingburg, Ferdinand and Dubois sites will be open and will observe Holiday Hours which will take place from 8:00 a.m. until noon on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. All sites will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Since stickers are not being sold, no additional site attendants will be needed.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

HAC 20-05 800 West – Paving on 800 West is complete and the invoice has been sent. A Change Order has been created. Calcar was 0.86 tons under the Surface and 2.94 tons under on Wedge & Level. This was a net decrease of \$222.73. A motion was made to approve the Change Order, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

CR 200 West / Airport Tunnel – The Tunnel project is nearing completion and the maintenance of the Tunnel needs to be discussed. The design engineer approached the County Engineer to get an acceptance of the roadway. The Supervisor and Engineer inspected the roadway and found it acceptable. Later, a representative from the INDOT Aviation Department requested the Highway Department needs to assume the responsibility of the maintenance of the tunnel because the Airport Authority does not have the resources to maintain it. Wendholt agrees the Highway Department can assist but feels the Airport Authority needs to be involved, even if financially. The County Attorney will work with the Highway Department and Airport Authority on an Interlocal Agreement detailing the responsibilities of each entity. The inspection of the tunnel will be performed by the INDOT Bridge Department and will be no charge to the County.

RE: CODE OF ORDINANCES

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Attorney Greg Schnarr provided an update on the Code of Ordinances. The County is still working on proofreading the document.

RE: WHITE STALLION COAL MINE BANKRUPTCY

Attorney Greg Schnarr is seeking an attorney to assist with litigation on the White Stallion Coal Mine bankruptcy.

RE: REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

Commissioner Hostetter provided an update on the work being performed by Clark-Deitz for the Regional Sewer District.

RE: AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD APPOINTMENT

Robert Johnson has resigned as a board member to the Dubois County Airport Authority. A new appointment will need to be made in January 2021.

RE: JUSTICE PROJECT

Commissioner Blessinger provided an update on the Justice Project and the possibility of adding the judicial campus back into the construction plans. Currently the plans for the judicial campus are about 50% complete. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the judicial campus was placed on hold but due to new financial forecasts, now seems favorable to proceed.

The floor was opened to public comment. Comments were made for and against the project.

Commissioner Blessinger provided information on the formation of a Building Corporation. A motion was made to appoint Gil Eckerle, Todd Ofer, and Ken Schnaus, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Blessinger made a motion to proceed with the Construction documents for the judicial campus, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COVID-19 EXPENSES

Director Megan Durlauf returned, as directed at the previous meeting, to discuss the additional costs incurred due to the pandemic on the GPS monitoring services in the amount of \$15,369.95. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried 2-1. Hostetter was the dissenting vote.

RE: AMBULANCE BIDS

Being the time advertised for bid opening, the following bids were received:

Fire Services, Inc.	\$239,475.00 with no trade	\$236,475 due at delivery
American Emergency Vehicles	\$221,237.25 with trade \$3,250	\$217,887.25

EMS Coordinator Suzan Henke reviewed the quotes and recommended purchasing from American Emergency Vehicles including the trade-in of the 2009 vehicle. A motion was made to approve the recommendation, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: EMA VACATION TIME REQUEST

EMA Director Tammy Humbert requested permission to carry over 11 unused vacation hours she is not able to take in 2020 to be used in January 2021 per the Employee Handbook. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: SAFETY AWARENESS – CORONA VIRUS RELIEF FUND

EMA Director Tammy Humbert presented the Safety Awareness Corona Virus Relief Fund Reimbursement Request form. Eligible expenses for the Health Department total \$58,801.86. A motion was made to approve the Reimbursement Request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: BARNES & THORNBURG LETTER OF ENGAGEMENT

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Commissioner Blessinger presented a Letter of Engagement for Barnes & Thornburg as bond counsel for the Justice Project. A motion was made to approve the letter as presented, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: REASSESSMENT CONTRACT

Assessor Angela Giesler presented a contract addendum for Professional Property Tax Services between Nexus Group and the County Assessor for providing legal services in connection with appeals from Indiana property taxes, including valuation and exemption appeals. Paragraph 8 is amended to read that the Contractor shall receive an hourly fee of \$175. A motion was made to approve the Addendum as presented, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: 911 GENERATOR

Custodian Scott Hopf requested permission to declare the old 911 generator surplus. The item was placed for sale on social media with no interest. Hopf has one person interested at a cost of \$1,500. Discussion was held on possibly placing the item on an auction site. A motion was made to declare the old generator surplus, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. A motion was made to give Custodian Hopf the ability to sell the item, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: COURTHOUSE RESTROOMS

Commissioner Hostetter discussed the possibility of keeping the Courthouse basement restrooms open for the Downtown Merchants during public events. To be good partners, use will be permitted; however, advance notice would be appreciated.

RE: COVID-19 CODE RED COUNTY STATUS

Commissioner Blessinger discussed the status of the County Facilities during the current Code Red status in the County.

RE: SOIL & WATER VACATION TIME

Director Judi Brown requested permission for Justin Bary to carry his unused vacation time (42 Hours) from 2020 to be used in January 2021 per the County Handbook. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: COUNTY APPOINTMENTS FOR 2021

A motion was made to approve the list as presented, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

4-H COUNCIL BOARD

Tyler Kissel	1/1/2021	12/31/2021
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911 ADVISORY BOARD

Chad A. Blessinger	1/1/2021	12/31/2021
Scott D. Uebelhor	1/1/2021	12/31/2021

AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Michael Cummings	1/1/2021	12/31/2024
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ALCOHOL BEVERAGE COMMISSION

David R. Ring	1/1/2021	12/31/2021
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AMBULANCE COORDINATOR

Suzan Henke	1/1/2021	12/31/2021
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AREA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION - DUBOIS STRONG

Elmer Brames	1/1/2021	12/31/2021
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BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

Kenneth James Eck	7/1/2009	Until Terminated
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CONTRACTUAL PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Gaylene Laubscher	1/1/2021	12/31/2024
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CUSTODIAN

Scott Hopf 1/1/2021 12/31/2021

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Gregory S. Schnarr 1/1/2021 12/31/2021

DUBOIS COUNTY CHILD PROTECTION TEAM

2021 Commissioner President 1/1/2021 12/31/2021

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Doug M. Uebelhor 1/1/2021 12/31/2022

Nick Hostetter 1/1/2021 12/31/2022

Dean M. Vonderheide 1/1/2021 12/31/2022

Thomas J. Kleinhelter 1/1/2021 12/31/2022

Steve Schwinghamer 1/1/2021 12/31/2022

Kenneth J. Sicard 1/1/2021 12/31/2022

Bret D. Eckert 1/1/2021 12/31/2022

Thomas W. Thacker 1/1/2021 12/31/2022

Jennifer Derr 1/1/2021 12/31/2022

FERDINAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Ryan Becher 1/1/2021 12/31/2024

HEALTH BOARD

Lori Luebbehusen 1/1/2021 12/31/2024

HIGHWAY CLERK

Ann T. Messmer 1/1/2021 12/31/2021

HIGHWAY ENGINEER

Brent Wendholt 1/1/2021 12/31/2021

HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR

Steven L. Berg 1/1/2021 12/31/2021

HUNTINGBURG PLANNING COMMISSION

Dennis Whitsitt 1/1/2021 12/31/2024

INDIANA 15 REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Nick Hostetter 1/1/2021 12/31/2021

JASPER PLANNING COMMISSION

Randy Mehringer 1/1/2021 12/31/2024

NORTHEAST DUBOIS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Randy Lueken - Marion Township 1/1/2021 12/31/2024

PATOKA LAKE REGIONAL WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

Elmer Brames 1/1/2021 12/31/2024

PROPERTY TAX BOARD OF APPEALS - PTABOA

Duane Persohn 1/1/2021 12/31/2021

Brian Smith 1/1/2021 12/31/2021

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT BOARD

Kenneth J. Sicard 1/1/2021 12/31/2021

TOURISM COMMITTEE

Diane Hoppenjans 1/1/2021 12/31/2022

TRI-CAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chad A. Blessinger 1/1/2021 12/31/2021

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

Amber Harris 9/22/2020 Until Terminated

WEED CONTROL BOARD

Steven L. Berg 1/1/2021 12/31/2024

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RE: 2021 COVID-19 EMPLOYEE LEAVE POLICY

Human Resources Generalist Markie Rhodes presented options for a leave policy in 2021 for COVID-19 related situations due to the expiring of the FFCRA federal law. The Board of Commissioners will allow remote working opportunities for those that have been identified as a close contact or tested positive for COVID-19 in coordination with their department head. If employees cannot remote work or do not have enough tasks to complete a scheduled workday, the employee may use PTO, Comp time, or unpaid time. Copies will be distributed to employees.

A motion was made to implement the policy, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. The Policy would serve as employee guidance for COVID-19 related situations effective 1/1/2021 or until a federal/state law (similar to FFCRA) would be created or a granted extension to the FFCRA.

RE: BLUE RIDGE TEST SITE UPDATE

Health Administrative Director Shawn Werner presented an addendum to the Blue Ridge Test Site Contract to include rapid tests and the addition of additional staff. A motion was made to give the Director authority to approve the addendum, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: HEALTH DEPARTMENT VACATION TIME

Administrative Director Shawn Werner requested permission for three health employees to carry unused vacation time from 2020 into 2021 per the Employee Handbook. Lisa Huff 4 hours, Emily Mehringer 14 Hours, and Jennifer Merkley 21 Hours. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: WTH GIS DATA SHARE

Auditor Morton presented a Data Exchange Agreement between Dubois County and Lake Helmerich Property Owner's Association to exchange certain described Geographical Information System Data. A motion was made to approve the request pending County Attorney review, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: SIRS DISABILITY OCRA TECHNOLOGY GRANT

Commissioner Blessinger provided updated information on the OCRA Technology Grant. A public hearing will be held at the next Commissioner meeting.

RE: PATOKA LAKE WATER & SEWER DISTRICT LOAN

Commissioner Brames reported the Patoka Lake Water & Sewer District will be paying off the loan the County made with them in 2000.

RE: FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting will be held on January 4, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex. An OCRA Technology Grant Public Hearing will be held at 8:30 a.m. and the Drainage Board will meet at 9:00 a.m.