

## REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

December 4, 2023

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 December 4, 2023. Present were Commissioner Chad A. Blessinger, Commissioner Nick Hostetter and Commissioner Serice Stenftenagel. Also present were County Auditor Sandra L. Morton, Highway Superintendent 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 November 20, 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 November 2023 were as follows: Recorder: \$17,162.19; Health Department: \$88,29.28; Auditor: \$40.00; Clerk: \$32,299.02. 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 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

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

White Stallion Meeting – The public informational meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Ireland Sportsman Club.

High Weeds and Junk Ordinance Violation – Berg met with Chineca Brown, the landowner in violation of County Municipal Code 92.02 and 92.03, on December 1, 2023. The property located at 2015 E SR 64, Huntingburg, IN, remains non-compliant. County Attorney Schnarr will send Ms. Brown a Notice to Appear before the Commissioners on December 18, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Expiring Service Agreements with Waste Management – The Highway Department is waiting for a response from Waste Management.

Dubois Sanitation Site Attendant Retiring – The Dubois Sanitation Site Attendant Gene Kalb will be retiring. The new site attendant will be Rich Stetter.

Sanitation Site 2023 Holiday Hours – Since Christmas Day and New Year's Day occur on a Monday, Berg recommended closing the following sites: Jasper, Huntingburg, Ireland, Dubois and Ferdinand. A motion was made to approve the request to close the sites in observation of the holidays was duly seconded and carried unanimously. Notice will be posted in the media.

### **RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

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

Safe Streets for All (Action Plan) – Wendholt had nothing new to report. A kick-off meeting was held with Structure Point on November 9, 2023.

Duff Solar Park Road Use Agreement – Wendholt has a Road Use Agreement for the Duff Solar Park. County Attorney Schnarr and Wendholt have reviewed the document. Following review by the Board, the plan will be considered for approval on December 18, 2023.

15<sup>th</sup> Street Extension (City of Jasper) – Wendholt is scheduled to appear before the County Council on December 11, 2023 to request an additional appropriation for the construction costs of the 15<sup>th</sup> Street bridge. Once the funding is approved, the agreement will be presented at the next meeting for approval.

County Road 420 North (Road Name Change) – Wendholt has not heard from the 4<sup>th</sup> resident about possibly changing the name of the road. The road signs were messed with again on Wednesday, November 22, 2023, but were not taken. Adjustments were made to the sign area to try to stop this issue. Attorney Schnarr discussed the process required to change the road name if that option was chosen.

### **RE: AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD APPOINTMENT**

Harvey Berger will be retiring from the Airport Authority Board. Berger served as the Commissioner appointment to the Airport Authority Board for 28 years. Commissioner Blessinger discussed presenting a service award at the next meeting to thank him for his years of service.

### **RE: AMBULANCE**

Commissioner Blessinger provided an update on pre-ordering vehicles as discussed at the previous meeting.

### **RE: INTERNET SITE USAGE – OCRA SIRS GRANT**

Commissioner Blessinger provided internet usage reports at Birdseye Park which is down in the winter months. The item will be discussed in the summer as to whether to continue the program or not.

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**RE: COMMERCIAL SOLAR ENERGY READY COMMUNITY**

County Attorney Schnarr has reviewed the Commercial Solar Energy Ready Community and provided his recommendation on applying for the program when it becomes available. Further discussions will need to be held.

**RE: CYBER SECURITY PLAN**

EMA Director Tammy Humbert and Assistant Director Narissa Zink appeared to discuss the Cyber Security Plan previously presented on November 20, 2023. The plan was reviewed with a few minor modifications to be made. A motion was made to approve the Cyber Security Plan with the modifications discussed, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

**RE: PATOKA VALLEY HEALTH CARE COOPERATIVE NETWORK**

Human Resources Generalist Markie Rhodes and Houchens Insurance Group Broker Max Bawel discussed changes to the Patoka Valley Health Care Cooperative network. Previously, tier pricing was only with Ascension for the 90/10 discount. Two options are now available but only one may remain as Tier 1.

For 2024, PVHCC negotiated a direct discount with Deaconess. The discount will be a percentage of Medicare for Deaconess Hospital & Deaconess Professional Claims. Women’s Hospital will be a direct percentage discount as services utilized there and for premature babies and deliveries which would not constitute a realistic discount tied to Medicare rates.

No TPA in the PVHCC network has the ability to reprice claims based on a percentage of Medicare. PVHCC has partnered with Zelis for this service for an additional fee of \$0.75 per member per month for 2024 and \$1.25 per member per month for 2025. The network fee will increase in 2024 from \$9.05 to \$9.80 per member per month.

PVHCC negotiated a 50% discount to use Daviess County Hospital in 2024.

The following comparisons were presented:

	<u>Ascension</u>	<u>Deaconess</u>	<u>Women’s Hospital</u>
<b>2023</b>	Tier 1: 60% Discount Tier 2: 48% Discount	Tier 1: N/A Tier 2: N/A	Tier 1: N/A Tier 2: N/A
<b>2024</b>	Tier 1: 70% Discount Tier 2: 58% Discount	<u>Inpatient</u> Tier 1: 200% of Medicare Tier 2: 220% of Medicare <u>Outpatient</u> Tier 1: 205% of Medicare Tier 2: 220% of Medicare	<u>Inpatient</u> Tier 1: 35% Discount Tier 2: 33% Discount <u>Outpatient</u> Tier 1: 40% Discount Tier 2: 38% Discount

Bawel and Rhodes recommended changing the Health Plan to use Deaconess as Tier 1 and Ascension as Tier 2. Employees must have a referral from PVHCC to receive in-network pricing at either facility. A motion was made to approve the changes as recommended, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

**RE: HEALTH CO-AG GRANT SCHOOL LIAISON**

Health Administrator Shawn Werner discussed the need to change the clerk position in the Co-Ag School Liaison grant to a nurse position. The wage classification would change from COMOT III to PAT IV. A motion was made to change the job classification and job description, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

**RE: HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Health Administrator Shawn Werner requested permission to install a wall between the Health Department and the WIC Offices at a cost not to exceed \$500. A motion was made to approve the building modification after checking with building HVAC and Maintenance, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously. The work will be completed by Werner and/or maintenance staff.

**RE: PURDUE EXTENSION PHONE SERVICE**

Purdue Extension Director Chelsea Brewer requested replacing the phone service for the Extension Office from Full Net due to experiencing several service issues. Quotes were received from the following:

Nextiva	\$167.60 monthly with one time set up fee of \$284.09
Vonage	\$178.13 monthly initial promotion then \$269.58 thereafter
RingCentral MVP Services	\$302.39 monthly or \$3,058.02 annually

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A motion was made to approve the quote from Nextiva and to give Brewer permission to sign the Nextiva Service Agreement, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

**RE: 2024 APPOINTMENTS**

A list of Appointments for 2024 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	Ed Boeglin	1/1/2024	12/31/2024
	Serice Stenftenagel	1/1/2024	12/31/2024
911 Advisory	Chad A Blessinger	1/1/2024	12/31/2024
	Scott D Uebelhor	1/1/2024	12/31/2024
Alcohol Beverage Commission	David R Ring	1/1/2024	12/31/2024
Ambulance Coordinator	Ryan Young	1/1/2024	12/31/2024
Ambulance Coordinator Assistant	Amanda S Ferguson	1/1/2024	12/31/2024
Area Development Corp Dubois Strong	Chad A Blessinger	1/1/2024	12/31/2024
Custodian	Scott Hopf	1/1/2024	12/31/2024
County Attorney	Gregory S Schnarr	1/1/2024	12/31/2024
Dubois County Child Protection	Serice Stenftenagel	1/1/2024	12/31/2024
Emergency Management Advisory	Doug M Uebelhor	1/1/2024	12/31/2025
	Nick Hostetter	1/1/2024	12/31/2025
	Dean M Vonderheide	1/1/2024	12/31/2025
	Thomas J Kleinhelter	1/1/2024	12/31/2025
	Neil Elkins	1/1/2024	12/31/2025
	Kenneth J Sicard	1/1/2024	12/31/2025
	Bret D Eckert	1/1/2024	12/31/2025
	Thomas W Thacker	1/1/2024	12/31/2025
	Josh Bowers	1/1/2024	12/31/2025
Highway Clerk	Ann T Messmer	1/1/2024	12/31/2024
Highway Engineer	Brent Wendholt	1/1/2024	12/31/2024
Highway Supervisor	Steven L Berg	1/1/2024	12/31/2024
Jasper Planning Commission	Glen D Pierce, Jr.	1/1/2024	12/31/2027
Northeast Dubois Fire Protection District	Patrick A Seger, Hall Township	1/1/2024	12/31/2027
Park & Recreation Board	Christine L Prior	1/1/2024	12/31/2027
Property Tax Board of Appeals	Duane Persohn	1/1/2024	12/31/2024
	Brian P Smith	1/1/2024	12/31/2024
Regional Development Authority – RDA	Mark Schroeder		
	Sue Ellsperman		
	David Drake		
	Ken Mulzer, Jr		
	Scott Blazey		
Tourism Committee	Chris Tretter	1/1/2024	12/31/2025
	James H McFaul	1/1/2024	12/31/2025
Tri-Cap Board of Directors	Emily C Meyer	1/1/2024	12/31/2024
Solid Waste Management District	Ken Sicard	1/1/2024	12/31/2024

The Airport Authority and the Huntingburg Planning Commission appointments will be made at the next meeting:

**RE: REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT**

Clark Dietz Engineer Mary Austin provided an update on the 60% plan design. There is no date set for the IDEM countywide public meeting. Baker Tilly has begun the process for the rate study for the City of Jasper. Austin will begin door-to-door visits to landowners where lift stations may be located.

**RE: REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT – BAKER TILLY ENGAGEMENT LETTER ADDENDUM**

Jessica Lynch, Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, via telephone, presented a Scope Appendix to the Engagement Letter dated November 8, 2022. The Engagement Letter covers the following services:

Preliminary Financial Plan for the Project (Continuation)  
Time and Expense not to exceed \$10,000

Analysis of Costs and Revenues (Wholesale Treatment Calculation/Negotiation)  
Time and Expense not to exceed \$15,000

Asset Management Plan/Multi-Year capital Asset Financial Planning  
Time and Expense not to exceed \$20,000

A discussion was held on concerns that both Dubois County and the City of Jasper are using Baker Tilly Financial Advisors. Austin assured the Board this is a common practice in rural areas and that Baker Tilly is equipped with multiple teams to serve each entity that do not interact.

A motion was made to approve the Engagement Letter Appendix not to exceed \$45,000 as presented, was duly seconded. Commissioner opened the floor for comments.

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Council member Daryl Schmitt commented on his uneasiness of both entities using the same advisor. Austin discussed the fact that Clark Dietz will also review the data received from Baker Tilly. Baker Tilly does not make management decisions, only provides advice.

Following comments, the motion carried unanimously.

**RE: ANNUAL MATERIAL BID AWARDS**

Highway Superintendent Steve Berg presented the following annual material bid award recommendations for 2024:

**Item # 1- ALUMINIZED STEEL PIPE**

There were four bidders on this item with 3 firm bids. E-3 Bridge freight charge on less than a \$5,000 order. Civil-Con will add a freight charge on orders of less than \$10,000, Metal Culverts pricing is based on a minimum order of \$7,500. St. Regis Culvert included an escalation/de-escalation clause and was disqualified.

Berg recommended awarding the low bid to Civil-Con for this item and to Metal Culverts as a backup supplier.

2024 BID SHOWS A **1% INCREASE** OVER 2023.

**Item # 2- POLYETHYLENE PIPE**

There were three bidders on this item with three firm bids. Southern Indiana Supply has \$50 drop charge for orders under \$2,000. E-3 Bridge has freight charges on orders of less than \$5,000, Civil-Con has a \$10,000 minimum purchase to avoid freight charges.

Berg recommended awarding the low bid to Southern Indiana Supply and Civil-Con.

2024 BID SHOWS A **3% INCREASE** OVER 2023.

**Item # 3- GEOTEXTILE**

There were 3 bidders on this item.

Berg recommended awarding the low bid of woven and nonwoven fabric to Southern Indiana Supply.

2024 WOVEN BID SHOWS A **9% INCREASE** OVER 2023.

2024 NON-WOVEN SHOWS A **15% INCREASE** OVER 2023. Woven textile is used for road cuts, nonwoven is under rip rap.

**Item # 4- READY MIXED CONCRETE**

There were two bidders on this item. Both IMI and Concrete Supply have \$20/ load charge fees. IMI has a partial load fee of \$250 for less than 3.75yds. Concrete Supply charges \$250 for less than 4 yards. Berg recommended awarding the low bid to Concrete Supply, and IMI as a back-up supplier based on availability.

2024 BID SHOWS **NO CHANGE** OVER 2023.

**Item # 5- BITUMINUS**

The 2023 material bid of Asphalt Materials was carried over to 2024 per Commissioner minutes held on 10/16/2023.

2024 BID SHOWS **NO CHANGE** OVER 2023.

**Item # 6- HOT ASPHALTIC CONCRETE**

There were two bidders on this item.

Berg recommended awarding both bids of J.H. Rudolph & Co and Cave Quarries based on the area of need.

2024 BID SHOWS **NO CHANGE** OVER 2023.

**Item # 7- COLD MIX**

There were two bidders on this item.

Berg recommended awarding both bids of J.H. Rudolph & Co and Cave Quarries based on the area of need.

2024 BID SHOWS **NO CHANGE** OVER 2023.

**Item # 8- STONE FROM THE QUARRY, we pick it up -**

There were 2 bidders on this item.

Berg recommended awarding both bids from Cave Quarries and Mulzer Crushed Stone based on price and area of need.

2024 BID SHOWS A **9% INCREASE** OVER 2023.

**Item # 9- STONE, STOCKPILE AND SPREAD ON ROADS delivered by vendors to Township areas-**

There were two bidders on this item.

Berg recommended awarding the bids from Cave Quarries and Mulzer Crushed Stone based on price and area of need.

2024 BID SHOWS A **7% INCREASE** OVER 2023.

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A motion was made to award the bids as recommended, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

**RE: SURPLUS**

Auditor Morton presented the following items from the Prosecutor's office to be declared surplus/junk: 2 office chairs and 2 bulletin boards. A motion was made to declare the items surplus, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

**RE: COURTHOUSE SECURITY METAL DETECTORS**

Auditor Morton presented a request from Circuit Court Judge Nathan Verkamp to remove the unused metal detectors located in the jury room. Following discussion, it was determined not to remove the metal detectors until Emergency Management moves out of the Courthouse Annex in Spring 2024.

**RE: PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council member Schmitt was contacted by solar energy companies. They will be present at the White Stallion public information meeting on December 5, 2023 as a reclamation option for landowners.

**RE: JANUARY 2024 MEETINGS**

The January meetings will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 beginning at 8:00 a.m. and on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 beginning at 8:30 a.m. The meetings will be held on Tuesdays due to the Monday holidays in January.

**RE: FUTURE MEETING**

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, December 18, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioner/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex.