

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 5, 2024

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 February 5, 2024. 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 January 16, 2024 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 January 2024 were as follows: Recorder \$14,033.00; Health Department \$79,262.53; Auditor \$60.00; Clerk \$29,750.35. 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:

Part Time Summer Help Recruiting - Berg presented career and employment opportunities at Southridge High School and plans to attend a student job fair at Jasper High School on March 21, 2024.

Part Time Mower Request – Berg requested permission to hire a seasonal part time person to run the boom mower on the Huntingburg, Jasper, and Ireland route. The position would be paid \$18.75 per hour and work 37.5 hours per week from April until September, if possible. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously. The funds will come from the part-time line item in the budget.

Road Usage Request – Janet Schitter submitted a request to use roads in the Town of Ireland during their annual St. Patrick's Day parade to be held on Sunday, March 17, 2024 beginning at 1:00 p.m. The parade will begin on CR 500 West at the intersection of Church Avenue and move south across SR 56 to Clay Street, then travel west to Grant Street, turn north until Center Street, head west until James Street, travel north across CR 250 North across SR 56 through Walnut Street and into the church parking lot. As in the past, the Ireland St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee will use county signage during the event. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

Additional Appropriation for Dumpster Site Container Replacements – Berg discussed the maintenance rotation schedule for the metal containers located at the dumpster sites. Many of the boxes are beyond repair and need to be replaced. Plans are to purchase 36 boxes in 2024. Berg will request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$45,000 from the Solid Waste Sticker Fund. Consensus was to proceed with the request with the County Council.

Huntingburg Dumpster Site Adjustment – The traffic volume at the Huntingburg site has been increasing steadily and significantly in recent months. Due to the increased trash volume, adjustments are needed for compactor pickup from Waste Management to accommodate the busier days. Consent was given to adjust the schedules as needed.

5 Year Equipment Rotation – Berg presented the Highway Equipment Rotation Schedule which was reviewed. Consensus was to proceed.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

Safe Streets for All (Action Plan) – Nothing new to report.

2024-01 CCMG Projects – Wendholt submitted the 2024-01 CCMG application on January 16, 2024.

Surplus Equipment (Plotter) GovDeals Trial – The surplus plotter was listed on Gov Deals for two weeks with no bid received. Wendholt will try to list the item again. The item will be disposed of if no bid is received again.

15th Street Interlocal Agreement – City of Jasper - Wendholt requested approval of the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Jasper for the extension of 15th Street. The County is responsible for the costs associated with the design and construction of the bridge. A motion was made to approve the Agreement as presented, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

RE: SOUTHWEST INDIANA WORKFORCE BOARD

Sara Worrell, Executive Director of Southwest Indiana Workforce, provided an update on the program. The Mayor of Huntingburg has been the representative for Dubois County. Worrell presented the Local Elected Official Agreement for approval. A motion was made to sign the Agreement as presented, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously. Worrell will return a fully executed document after receiving signatures from the mayors of the Cities of Jasper and Huntingburg.

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 5, 2024

RE: H.E.L.P. OWNER OCCUPIED HOUSING REHABILITATION

Jenny Matheis, IN 15 Regional Planning Commission, provided an update on the H.E.L.P. programs. The Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Application has been submitted to OCRA. The Request for Proposals for Housing Inspection Services was presented. Following advertisement, the Proposals received will be opened at the Commissioner meeting on March 18, 2024. Consensus was to proceed with the RFP's.

The Childcare Application is due to OCRA in June.

RE: TOURISM COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

A motion was made to appoint Kim Fischer of Ferdinand to fulfill the unexpired term of Diane Hoppenjans on the Dubois County Tourism Committee. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously. Fischer's term will expire on December 31, 2024.

RE: SURPLUS

Auditor Morton presented the following list of items to be declared surplus: Samsung Laptop from Community Corrections, an HP Window 7 ProBook Laptop and an office chair from Human Resources, an office chair from the Prosecutor's office, and an office chair from Probation. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

RE: MITEL TELECOMCARE AGREEMENT

Auditor Morton presented a Mitel TelecomCare Agreement from Matrix Integration in the amount of \$18,364.15. The current agreement will expire on March 31, 2024. The renewed agreement will be effective from April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025. A motion was made to approve the Agreement, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

RE: MENDEL KNOLL SUBDIVISION

Ethan Hopf, TriMark Surveying, presented the Mendel Knoll Subdivision in Bainbridge Township and requested the County accept the right-of-way and drainage utility easement for the subdivision. A motion was made to accept the right-of-way and easement as presented, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

RE: EDP DUFF SOLAR PARK ROAD USE AGREEMENT

Bridget Chia, Project Manager with EDP Renewables, appeared to discuss the Duff Solar Park located just west of Huntingburg. The project is a 35 year project with a capital investment of \$150,000,000. Land acquisition has been completed for 1,600 acres. Plans are to have 500 acres under panels. EDP is in the final stages preparing for construction this fall and will apply for the Commercial Solar permit soon.

The Road Use Agreement regarding County Roads and Drains between Duff Solar Park LLC and Dubois County, Indiana, was presented for approval. The County Roads listed in Exhibit A are as follows: 260 South, 300 South, 350 South, 450 South, 525 West, 600 West, 650 West, 800 West and Duff Road SE. Road upgrades will be made to the roads listed in Exhibit B before construction. Performance Bonds will be posted as agreed upon per Exhibits C and D.

The following public comments were taken from concerned residents of the area:

Ron Hopf is concerned on the use of 300 S due to the narrowness of the road. He feels safety is an issue. He requested more communication and/or notification with the landowners when traffic is expected to increase or when the project commences. He requested contact information for the Transportation Coordinator. He also commented that Greater Jasper Schools should be included in Section 2 of the Agreement because buses use the roads to get to their students.

Arlene Fleck resides on 650 W and farms on 300 S. She expressed concerns about the solar farm companies lack communication and fears they may leave issues similar to the coal mine in Boone Township.

In response, EDP Renewables discussed having live updates on their website and can do a mailing prior to commencement of project to area landowners. There will also be a centrally located area where the Project Manager and/or Transportation Coordinator will be located.

A motion was made to agree to sign the Agreement Regarding County Roads and Drains between Duff Solar Park LLC and Dubois County, Indiana after the addition of: Greater Jasper School Corporation; the Madison Township Fire Department; Notification be given to all landowners in the area prior to

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 5, 2024

construction; and adding the address of Transportation Coordinator. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously. County Attorney Schnarr will update the contract with EDP Renewables.

RE: ENCUMBRANCES

Auditor Morton presented a list of the Encumbrances from 2023 into the 2024 budget.

RE: PARK BID AWARDS

Dubois County Park Board President Christine Prior recommended awarding the Park Improvements Phase 2 Project Bid to Seufert Construction in the amount of \$387,400.

Base bid	\$288,400
Alt 3	\$ 29,850
Alt 5	\$ 69,150

A motion was made to award the contract as presented from Seufert Construction including Alternate 3 and 5, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously. Consensus was to request a hold on Alternates 1, 2 and 4 if funding from another source would become available to complete the projects.

RE: PROCUREMENT POLICY

County Attorney Schnarr reported on the procurement policy of \$25,000. No changes were made to the current policy.

RE: VETERAN SERVICES OFFICER ASSISTANT

Ralph Hughes has been hired as the Assistant Veteran Services Officer. He will begin his duties on February 6, 2024.

RE: COUNTYWIDE ZONING

Commissioner Blessinger is continuing to review information on Countywide Planning and Zoning.

RE: HIGHWAY DISTRESSED ROAD HAC PAVING BID OPENING

It being 10:00 a.m., the time advertised for the receipt of bids for the 2023 Distressed Road HAC Paving Projects: Meridian Road, 130 West, 225 South, WITZ Road, 400 South. The following bids were thereupon received, opened, and read aloud:

<u>CalCar Paving</u>	<u>E&B Paving</u>	<u>JH Rudolph & Co.</u>	<u>C&R Construction</u>
\$1,054,940.70 or \$1,054,490.70	\$1,008,850.00	\$995,781.55	\$931,292.00

A typographical error was found on the CalCar Paving bid. The bids were taken under advisement and made available for public review.

RE: SHERIFF VEHICLES

Sheriff Tom Kleinhelter appeared to request permission to purchase four Dodge Durango's and to outfit the vehicles at a cost of \$217,728 pending funding approval by the County Council. The department would like to trade-in three Dodge Chargers and an Explorer with the purchases. The Explorer trade is subject to change if another vehicle is found to be in worse condition.

Sheriff Kleinhelter also requested permission to purchase two Chevy Tahoe's from the Commissary fund while trading one Chevy Silverado. This would increase the fleet by one vehicle. A motion was made to approve the requested purchases and trades, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

RE: 4-H FAIRGROUND BUILDINGS

Ed Boeglin, 4-H Council Board member, requested the Commissioners review the buildings at the 4-H Fairgrounds which are aging – built in 1968-69. The 4-H Council feels serious repairs are needed. The Commissioners agreed to make themselves available to review.

RE: DISTRESSED ROAD HAC PAVING BID AWARD

Following review of the bids received for the Distressed Road HAC Paving Projects, County Engineer Wendholt recommended awarding the bid to C&R Construction at a cost of \$931,292.00. A motion was made to accept the bid from C&R Construction, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: FEDERAL AID PROJECTS

County Engineer Wendholt is gathering information for ideas. Exploratory phase
The following list was discussed of possible projects was discussed:

- 400N (both east and west sides of US 231)
- Jasper-Dubois Road

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 5, 2024

Schnellville Road
Kellerville Road

RE: REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

Commissioner Hostetter reported the IDEM hearing was held on January 25, 2024 at Vincennes University Jasper. Clark-Dietz and Commissioner Hostetter will meet with the City of Jasper on February 15, 2024 to work towards a common solution for the processing facility.

RE: FUTURE MEETINGS

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioner/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex.