

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FEBRUARY 7, 2022

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 7, 2022. Present were Commissioner Chad A. Blessinger, Commissioner Nick Hostetter and Commissioner Elmer Brames. 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 January 18, 2021 meeting of the Commissioners had been previously distributed to the Commissioners and were approved as presented. Minutes of the special meetings held on January 18, 2022 and January 25, 2022 were approved as presented. The minutes were then signed. Incomes for the month of January 2022 were as follows: Recorder: \$22,840.79; Health Department: \$27,797.89; Auditor: \$4.00; Clerk: \$21,071.56; 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: SPANISH INTERPRETER

Judge Nathan Verkamp, representing several department heads in attendance, presented the need to hire a Spanish Interpreter for use in all county departments. A discussion was held on possible funding for the position, office location and job description. Consensus was for the group to work on those items with Human Resources and return to the next meeting.

RE: HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

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

Norfolk Southern Crossing Request – A Norfolk Southern representative has requested County cooperation for a railroad crossing consolidation in the Birdseye area. They have requested permanently closing the crossing at CR 1175 East, just 1,800 feet east of Birdseye and the King Street crossing located across from Deb's Truck Stop, west of Birdseye. Both crossings are sub-standard when all safety issues are concerned, have poor sight distance, bad approaches, and bad angle crossings. Consensus was to proceed.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

Dubois County Airport Authority/Highway Department County Road 200 West Tunnel – A Maintenance Agreement for the Airport Tunnel over CR 200 West was presented for Board approval. As agreed upon last year, the Airport Authority has executed their portion of the Agreement. A motion was made to approve execution of the Agreement, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Courthouse Monument Retaining Wall – One quote was received for the replacement of the retaining wall around the outside of the Courthouse Soldier and Sailor Monument. Jamniczky Contracting quoted \$23,000, unless there is no footer, then \$1,400 can be deducted. A motion was made to approve the contract with Jamniczky Contracting, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: HIGHWAY STRIPER QUOTES

It being 9:00 a.m., the time advertised for receipt of quotes for a Striper for the Highway Department, the following quotes were thereupon received, opened and read aloud:

EZ-Liner Industries	\$72,993.00
SealMaster Louisville	\$68,490.15
SealMaster Indianapolis	\$55,643.83

The quotes were taken under advisement.

Following review, Berg presented his recommendation to purchase the Striper from SealMaster of Indianapolis in the amount of \$55,643.83. A motion was made to approve the recommendation, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

RE: 911 COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Blessinger provided information on a construction change order to move the 911 Communication Department to the Security Center location. A motion was made to approve the contract, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

RE: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Commissioner Blessinger reminded the Board members of the need to file a Conflict of Interest when applicable.

RE: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING

Commissioner Blessinger provided information from the ARPA Committee due to changes made in the Final Rule for revenue loss. A discussion on the various funding requests was held with no action taken at this time.

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RE: COVID-19 MEMORIAL

Chris and Beth Waltz, COVID Memorial Committee members, appeared to provide an update from the Committee. Each Commissioner provided their viewpoint on the memorial being placed on the Courthouse lawn. Kent Schreiner, President of Dubois County Veteran's Council, read a prepared statement against placing the Memorial on the Courthouse lawn. Comments were taken from the public in attendance.

A motion was made to rescind the approval given on August 16, 2021, which allowed the placement of the COVID-19 Memorial on the Courthouse lawn. The motion was seconded and carried 2-1. Brames was the dissenting vote.

RE: OMNIA PARTNERS COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT

County Recorder Jackie McPherron presented a Master Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with Omnia Partners, the nation's largest and most experienced cooperative purchasing organization for the public sector. The Recorder's office would become a participant in the procurement of certain products at a discounted price. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: ARMED FORCES 5K RUN/WALK

Dave Englert requested permission to use the County roads surrounding the Jasper Youth Sports Complex to hold the annual 5K Armed Forces Day run/walk on May 21, 2022, beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending by 9:00 a.m. All safety procedures will be in place. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

RE: 2023 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Auditor Morton presented the 2023 Holiday Schedule for approval. A question was raised on whether to observe Juneteenth. A motion was made to approve the holiday schedule without the observance of Juneteenth in 2023. The motion was duly seconded and carried 2-1 with Blessinger being the dissenting vote due to the observance of Good Friday.

RE: 2023 PAYROLL SCHEDULE

Auditor Morton presented the 2023 Pay Schedule. A motion was made to approve the schedule as presented, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously. The schedule will be distributed to the County Departments.

RE: COMMISSIONER SALE

Following review of the parcels not sold on the 2021 Tax Sale, it was determined that no Commissioner sale would be held for the remaining properties in 2022.

RE: AMBULANCE SURPLUS BATTERY

Auditor Morton presented a request from the Ambulance department to declare a defibrillator battery surplus/junk. The battery will not cycle or hold a charge. A motion was made to dispose of the battery, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS SURPLUS ITEMS

Community Corrections Director Megan Durlauf submitted a list of items for disposition. The list included the following: 6 – CPU Towers, 9 – Monitors, 4- Keyboards, 1 HP Printer all of which are obsolete or inoperable. A motion was made to dispose of the items on the list, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: CLERK SURPLUS ITEMS

Clerk Amy Kippenbrock submitted a list of surplus items including: 10 4-drawer file cabinets, 5 rolling office chairs, 3 5x10 drawer file cabinets, 2 small 2-drawer file cabinets, an 8-drawer file cabinet and 2 small wooden tables. A motion was made to declare the items surplus and permission was given for the items to be sold for \$5 per item. Custodian Scott Hopf will be the point of contact.

RE: COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Due to the resignation of Scott Blazey from the Community Corrections Advisory Board, a motion was made to appoint Tim Demotte to fill the unexpired term, was seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

County Attorney Schnarr presented an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement for the Redevelopment of the Jasper/Dubois County Courthouse Square including Design and Construction Document Development and Construction Services between the City of Jasper, Indiana through its Board of Public Works and Safety and

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Dubois County, Indiana. A motion was made to approve the Agreement as presented, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: VETERAN'S SERVICES OFFICE

Veteran's Service Officer Gary Love provided a presentation on the Strategic Vision of the Veteran's Services Office. The mission statement, office goals and program data were given. VSO Love has been actively involved with the Dubois County Veterans Council as well as fourteen county veteran organizations. His goal is to expand community outreach, enhance the quality of life for veterans and attract them to live and work in Dubois County. He feels this could be accomplished by becoming a Veteran Friendly County.

Love requested increasing his current employment status from part-time to a full-time position. Love will work with human resources and the Auditor's office to gather information on benefit costs and the possible uses of the VSO Support fund from the Community Foundation endowment. He will return to a future meeting with an update.

Doug Ackerman, retired veteran, spoke in favor of increasing hours for VSO Love due to the new VA Community Care Network. The VSO could assist veterans through the processes for their health care needs. Darrin Patterson, retired disabled veteran, provided a testimonial for increasing the work hours for the VSO because many veterans are not aware of the benefits they are entitled to receive.

RE: COURTHOUSE MONUMENT SURVEY

VSO Love conducted a survey for updates to be made around the Courthouse Soldiers and Sailors Monument and found the following results:

Veterans are opposed to any upgrade that will distort or change history, remove the WWII cannons, removal of the grass and replace with mulch, or add any monuments unrelated to military veterans. Veterans propose the refurbishment of the displayed cannons, the addition of landscape lighting of the monument, the addition of an eternal flame honoring all Veterans, and the addition of signage that point to the monument location.

RE: FUTURE MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex.