

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 6, 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 March 6, 2023. Present were Commissioner Chad A. Blessinger, Commissioner Nick Hostetter and Commissioner Serice Stenftenagel. Also present were County Auditor Sandra L. Morton, County 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 February 21, 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 February 2023 were as follows: Recorder \$16,088.25; Health Department \$26,263.59; Auditor \$8.00; Clerk \$22,718.88. 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:

Storm Recovery – A large cleanup process is continuing because of the storm on March 3, 2023. High water in most areas is beginning to recede. 24 roads are still covered with water and/or debris. Many roads have downed trees that need to be cleared. Corn stalks are also a major problem.

Office Water Damage – Construction work began on March 1, 2023.

Rail Crossing Improvement on CR 450 N – Wabash Valley Produce is working on an expansion which includes the improvement of the rail crossing on CR 450 N by the Dubois Elevator. The plan is to replace the four existing rails with two new rails. They plan to concrete the crossing area and have water diversions to keep the tracks free of excessive water. When finished with the crossing work, plans are to improve the approaches and tie in with their crossing. Wabash is working with the Dubois County Railroad to complete the crossing work. At times during the project, temporary closures of CR 450 N will take place; however, there will be a temporary run around to keep traffic moving. Work will begin in 4-8 weeks, weather permitting.

Employee Resignation – Braeden Haase, District #2 Driver, has submitted his resignation. His last day will be on March 17, 2023.

District #2 Driver Replacement – An application was received during the interview process for the boom mower operator. The applicant, Joshua Lange, was interviewed and recommended for the District #2 Driver position. A motion was made to hire Mr. Lange, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Sanitation Site Lease Renewal – The land lease to the Ireland dumpster site is expiring. A renewal has been received to extend the Agreement for a five-year period beginning on May 7, 2023 at a rate of \$425 per year. A motion was made to approve the renewal, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

2022 Highway Annual Report – Berg presented the 2022 Highway Annual Report. A motion was made to approve the report as presented, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

400 W Dirt Road – a discussion was held on the need to grade and clean up the ditch on 400W.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

Engineer Intern – Wendholt requested permission to advertise for a summer intern. Consensus was to proceed.

RE: SCHMETT WEATHERFORD ESTATES

Phil Buehler, Brosmer Land Surveying and Engineering, requested approval of a dedicated right-of-way for the Schmett Weatherford Estates Subdivision on County Road 750W. This is a one-lot subdivision southwest of Huntingburg. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: COURTHOUSE SECURITY DOORS

Clerk Amy Kippenbrock requested permission to have a door installed in the back area of the clerk's office for security measures. She also requested permission to install keyless entry fobs to work with the security badging system. A motion was made to obtain quotes for the Clerk's office door and keyless entry, was duly seconded and carried.

Clerk Kippenbrock also requested the Clerk's office be considered if new carpet is installed in the Courthouse.

RE: COLLECTION AGENCY

Clerk Kippenbrock discussed the possibility of changing collection agencies for the Clerk's office. More information will be provided at a later date.

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RE: COURTHOUSE LEGAL KIOSK

A request was made by Circuit Court Judge Nathan Verkamp to accept a legal kiosk from the Indiana Bar Foundation to be installed in the Courtroom waiting area of the Courthouse. Clerk Kippenbrock questioned the logistics for maintenance and upkeep of the kiosk. A motion was made to have Judge Verkamp sign the agreement to have the Kiosk installed, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: CO-OPERATIVE AGREEMENT HEALTH CRISIS GRANT

Health Administrator Shawn Werner provided an update on the Co-operative Agreement Health Crisis Grant. The current grant period is set to end on June 30, 2023. Unexpended grant funds will remain when deliverables have been met by the department. The full time clerk, Joanna Buck, is bilingual which frees up time for the county interpreter Stephany Gutierrez to assist other departments. Werner requested extending the grant position until the funding is depleted. A motion was made to continue the position until the funds are depleted, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: HEALTH SURPLUS

Administrative Director Werner requested the following laptops be declared surplus/junk:

HP Probook 450 G6
HP Probook 450 G3

A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Administrative Director Werner requested disposal of an unused, outdated oxygen tank. A motion was made to declare the tank surplus and to properly dispose of it. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: GOVERNOR'S PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

Health Administrative Director Werner discussed the Governor's Public Health Commission. When passed by the Indiana Legislature, the County will need to opt-in to receive funding and provide services.

RE: PURDUE EXTENSION SURPLUS

Purdue Extension Educator Chelsea Brewer requested permission to declare an older unused HP Windows 7 laptop as surplus. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: PURDUE EXTENSION SUMMER ASSISTANTS

Purdue Extension Director Brewer requested a change to the summer assistant position. She would like to split the position and allotted wages between two individuals to have more help during the week of the fair. A staggered start date for the employees would be planned so their time would overlap during the fair but have one during the preparatory month before the County Fair and one during the State Fair. A motion was made to support splitting the position with some overlap of time worked as long as the line item is not overspent, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: PURDUE EXTENSION OFFICE LEASE

Purdue Extension Director Brewer discussed issues with the office landlord. Bulleted requests have not been fulfilled since the formal lease was signed in 2022. County Attorney Schnarr will review the lease to see if anything can be done to improve the conditions at the current location.

Brewer researched options to move to a different location but was unable to obtain any estimates without formal design plans. She is also looking at available locations to rent. Brewer requested the formation of a committee to assist with the search efforts. A discussion was held on the make-up of the committee – a commissioner, 1-2 council member(s), an extension board member, and the Extension Director. Commissioner Hostetter agreed to serve.

RE: 911 SURPLUS

911 Director Stuart Wilson requested permission to declare the following items surplus to be disposed of properly: Envision H190 L Monitor, 2- Planar PT 1701m Monitors, Acer V193W Monitor, 2- Globe brand office chairs. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: 911 SHIFT SUPERVISOR

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911 Director Stuart Wilson requested approval to promote Emily Lewis into the shift supervisor role pending approval by the 911 Advisory board. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried.

RE: 911 NEW OFFICE FURNITURE

911 Director Wilson discussed the furniture to be purchased for the new office space. The furniture will be ordered when a delivery date is received from the Contractor.

RE: 2024 HOLIDAY COURTHOUSE CLOSINGS/PAYROLL SCHEDULE

Auditor Morton presented the 2024 Holiday Courthouse Closings and Payroll Schedule. A motion was made to approve the 2024 Holiday Schedule and Payroll Dates as presented. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: IRISH TROT 5K ROAD USAGE

An Application for Temporary Road Closure was submitted by Andrea Stenftenagel for the Ireland 5K Irish Trot to be held on March 18, 2023 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The route will begin at the intersection of CR 500 W and Clay Street, continue on CR 500 W to CR 150 N, turning onto Wheatland Drive then Ladino W and back to CR 150 N and finally CR 500 W. Roads to be closed to the public but still open to local residents needing access are CR 500 W, CR 150 N, and CR 490 W. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: JASPER PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

A motion was made to appoint Kim Hagan to the Jasper Planning Commission. She will fill the unexpired term of Randy Mehringer. The appointment term expires on December 31, 2024.

RE: SURPLUS

Auditor Morton requested permission to declare the following items surplus and to be disposed of properly:

Recorder - calculator
Ambulance - 4 recliners and 4 twin mattress sets
Veteran Services - Desk

Motion was made, seconded and carried.

RE: TRUE SCRIPTS HEALTH INSURANCE

Account Executive Shelly Fuhs, True Scripts, provided a review of the County Prescription Plan from January 2022 – December 2022. The plan paid an average prescription cost of \$91.71 per member per month, which was an increase over the previous year. The cost of specialty care prescription fills was discussed.

Fuhs discussed using Rx Protect, which is an international mail order pharmacy that can save plan dollars on brand drugs when available. Fuhs will provide additional information and a contract if the county chooses to participate.

RE: GALLAGHER HEALTH INSURANCE

Broker Mark Shrack, Gallagher Health Insurance, provided a review of the County Health Insurance Plan from November 1, 2021 through October 31, 2022. The estimated annual cost per employee was \$18,560.16.

HR Generalist Rhodes is working with Shrack on plan design changes to increase preventative screenings. Spousal claims were about double what was expected and may also be addressed.

RE: TELEMEDICINE

HR Generalist Markie Rhodes discussed the need to change telemedicine providers. Ascension has given notice they are leaving the market and will no longer provide services after March 31, 2023. Rhodes and Broker Mark Shrack have researched options. Teledoc is currently offering the best pricing at \$4 per employee per month beginning on April 1, 2023. A motion was made to accept the agreement with Teledoc for the remainder of the plan year, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: MEETING RECESS

The meeting was recessed at 10:25 a.m. to hold the Drainage Board Public Hearing.

RE: MEETING RECONVENED

The meeting reconvened at 2:12 p.m.

RE: LEADERSHIP TRAINING

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Commissioner Chad Blessinger reported that Deputy Auditor Brooke Greenwell will attend the NACo Leadership Training beginning in April 2023.

RE: STORM DAMAGE

EMA Director Tammy Humbert reported on the damage caused by the storm on Friday, March 2, 2023. An EF0 tornado started in the Duff area and traveled northeast into the City of Jasper Grassland Hills area. There was major residential damage reported. Trees and outbuildings were impacted. The Duff siren needs to be moved because the location was damaged. (Note: The tornado was upgraded to an EF1 by the National Weather Service after additional information was received.)

RE: FUTURE MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, March 20, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex.