

SECOND REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

APRIL 17, 2023

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 8:00 a.m. (EST) on April 17, 2023. Present were Commissioners Chad A. Blessinger, Nick Hostetter, and Serice Stenftenagel. Also present were County Auditor Sandra L. Morton, County Attorney Gregory Schnarr and Highway Supervisor Steve Berg. Highway Engineer Brent Wendholt was absent. A quorum was declared present and the meeting was opened for business by President Blessinger.

Minutes of the April 3, 2023 meeting of the Board of 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:

Office Water Damage – The office work is nearing completion, and the staff has moved back into the offices. As they started tearing out paneling in the breakroom area, significant termite damage was found in two places on an interior load bearing wall which needs immediate attention. Another issue is moisture and mold on the west wall which is an exterior area where the stone is laid under the window. The mortar joints have cracks which allows rain to come through the wall and impact the interior. Bricks and vinyl siding were purchased and installed.

Surplus Items – Three desks have been replaced. Berg requested approval to declare them surplus. A motion was made to approve the request if no other office can use them, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Solar Sources Update – Michael Costello will appear to provide an update on the DNR response and answer any questions regarding the reclamation process at the Solar Sources mine. He will also discuss the Portersville Road West high-wall issue.

Employee Resignation – Cody Englert, bridge crew member, submitted a letter of resignation effective Friday, April 14, 2023.

Irresponsible Contractor – Late in 2020, residents near Ferdinand called about a contractor trenching near the edge of CR 285 E, south of Ferdinand during the evening and night-time hours. Berg shut them down due to the lack of a work permit. A permit was received from Watch Communications, a fiber-optic communications vendor from Lima, Ohio; however, it was not signed because the contractor was fired. A signed permit was received in April 2021 to complete the job, but no contractor has been back. Berg spoke with project manager, Larry Kuehne several times. Berg took pictures of bore holes which have remained in the right of way where the work has been left undone. According to the permit, failure to comply with procedures is enforced by County Ordinance #02-04 which states that any person in violation shall be fined in sum not to exceed \$500 on each offense. There are four areas left incomplete. Berg would like to pursue closure and proposed sending Watch Communications a registered letter requesting completion of the work within 30 days or have a \$500 fine imposed for each instance. Consensus was to send the letter.

RE: SURPLUS ITEMS JAIL PROJECT

Commissioner Blessinger reported on items that will be surplus at Community Corrections following construction. The list includes tables, pay phones, a bike rack, coin-operated washers/dryers and lockers. A discussion on possible places to use or donate the items was held. Commissioner Stenftenagel will investigate if 4-H has any use for the items and the board will discuss at the meeting on May 1, 2023.

RE: 911 INDIGITAL PURCHASE

911 Director Stuart Wilson presented the 911 INdigital Purchase Agreement and Maintenance Plan which is used to answer the 911 calls, administrative calls, and conference calls. This purchase is a single point supply under IC 5-22-10-13 which would not be bid or quoted further. This is an IP phone system which will replace the current analog system. The purchase price is \$50,044.09. The proposed maintenance agreement includes an additional terminal to be installed at the City of Jasper Police Department PSAP in future. The maintenance price will be \$15,389.94 annually. Wilson requested permission to sign the agreement after the County Council approves funding. A motion was made to permit Director Wilson to sign the Purchase Agreement and Maintenance Agreement, pending funding approval by the County Council, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: VETERAN SERVICES OFFICE CLOSURE

The Veteran Services office requested permission to close the office from May 31, 2023 – June 12, 2023. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: HAYSVILLE SOMMER FEST ROAD CLOSURE

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A request was received from Tim Kraemer of the Haysville Ruritan Club to close a portion of Park Street in Haysville from the bridge over Haysville Run just north of the Recycling Center to the southern exit of Park Drive for the Haysville Sommerfest on July 8, 2023, from 7:00 a.m. until 12:00 midnight. A motion was made to approve the road closure pending receipt of the required paperwork, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: PARK SUPERINTENDENT RESIDENCE

Commissioner Blessinger provided an update on the Park Board's search to replace Park Superintendent Bob Gress upon his retirement. The Park Superintendent residence may not be needed for the new hire. Discussion was held on the compensation package and benefits of having someone living on the property versus renting out the home.

RE: DOVE RECOVERY HOUSE SERVICES AGREEMENT

A Services Agreement for the Dove Recovery House for Women, Inc. was presented for approval. The term of the Agreement shall begin on January 1, 2023 and conclude on December 31, 2023. Dove House will provide four beds to be used by Dubois County Circuit Court, Superior Court and Community Corrections at a cost of \$5,000 per contract bed not to exceed a total of \$20,000 per annum. A motion was made to approve the Services Agreement as presented, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: AMBULANCE BID AWARD

Ambulance Coordinator Ryan Young recommended accepting the ambulance bid received from American Response Vehicles (ARV) at a cost of \$376,582.56. A motion was made to approve the award pending additional funding by the County Council, was duly seconded and carried.

RE: PATOKA VALLEY HEALTH CARE COOPERATIVE

Executive Director Alissa Brosmer, Patoka Valley Health Care Cooperative, presented 2021 Medical Costs per employee per year in comparison to seventeen other employers in the area. Dubois County has an unusually high number of family plans versus single plans which includes spousal secondary coverage. Dubois County has a very rich benefit plan with low employee premiums and low deductibles.

A majority of the health care costs were at Memorial Hospital which gives a 58.84% discount through Patoka Valley Health Care Cooperative network. A recent move to the United Health Care wrap network should help save costs as well.

RE: HEALTH INSURANCE FIXED COSTS

Health Insurance Broker Mark Shrack, Gallagher Insurance, presented information on the current rates and factors of the fixed costs for the employee health insurance.

RE: SHAMROCK MINE RECLAMATION

Michael Costello, an independent consultant for the insurance company, Indemnity National, was hired to oversee the reclamation of Shamrock Mine. The mine was closed following the bankruptcy of White Stallion Energy in 2020. Costello reported there is approximately \$6.5 to \$7 million available to use on the project which had a total price tag of \$30 million to refill the pits left by the mining company. He explained that the current plan is to leave the pits open to fill with water. He will work with the landowners to attempt to make the pits accessible and functional. Two large pits exist: one near CR 750 W and CR 580 N and the other is south of Portersville Road West between the intersection of CR 750 W and CR 700 W. The plan, which took a year to design, has been submitted to the Department of Natural Resources. DNR funding will be used before reclamation and road bond insurance funds. The road bonds must be used on the designated roads.

Costello described the various types of bonds:

Reclamation Bonds are used for land reclamation and have more flexibility but are typically not used on roads.

Surety Road Bonds are issued to put certain roads back such as 750 W, 700W.

Cash Bonds are used for other roads.

Costello discussed the road issues caused by the mine. The bank of the northern pit near Portersville Road West has seen downslope movement of soil (sloughing) which indicates that an area is undergoing active erosion. The pit was never supposed to be cut so far north to avoid damage to Portersville Road West. CR 700 W runs through a large portion of the mine and was widened to

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accommodate the mine equipment. The County would like to see the road returned to its original condition. CR 750 has been closed and is a dead end. The plans submitted to the DNR include installing a cul-de-sac for farmers to access their property and still turn around. Plans also include work to stop the erosion impacting the road and Lemmon Church and cemetery.

Costello stated mitigating issues with the water quality due to oxidation of the mined material and repairs for Portersville Road West are the top priority items on the reclamation proposal.

RE: PROSECUTOR STAFFING

Prosecutor Beth Schroeder appeared seeking to increase the Prosecutorial staff and salaries.

The following three requests were made:

- Create a 3rd Prosecutor Assistant for Circuit Court. Currently, the Superior Court has three. A full time person is needed.
- Increases for the wages of the three Deputy Prosecutors - \$15,000 each to match area counties.
- Create a part-time Investigator to assist the current full-time Investigator.

The request to increase the staff members was taken under advisement. Schroeder was directed to the County Council for determination on the salary increases.

RE: HILL PARK ESTATES

County Attorney Greg Schnarr reported on his research on jurisdiction of the restrictive covenant violations. In his opinion, there is no jurisdiction for the County to engage.

Gerald Terwiske reported the offender has moved out of the location per his attorney. The matter has been resolved as of now.

RE: COURTHOUSE MAINTENANCE

Custodian Scott Hopf presented quotes for the following maintenance issues at the Courthouse. Hopf would like to use LATCF funds, Commissioner budgeted ADA funds, and the Courthouse/Annex budget as determined by the County Council.

ADA East Doorway - Install an ADA automatic door opener on one door (south) of the east side of the building entrance. Proposals were received from the following:

Fischer Electric	\$4,050	to provide power to the door openers.
Keusch Glass	\$5,768	to install the door openers.

A motion was made to accept proposals for the power and setup of the ADA buttons on the doorway on the east side of the courthouse and on the wall inside near the Records door, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Courtroom Carpet Cleaning – A quote was presented to clean the carpeting on the second floor in the Circuit and Superior courtrooms, hallways, and offices as well as thirteen chairs from Master Carpet Cleaning at a cost of 1,170. A motion was made to approve the request, pending funding approval by the County Council, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Assessor's Office – Hopf is seeking quotes to install a service window in the Assessor's office.

Keyless Doorways - Quotes were received to install keyless entry locks on the doorways to the Clerk, Recorder, Assessor and Records Library from Astro Security, Inc. at the following costs:

Assessor	\$2,815
Clerk	\$3,975
Recorder	\$3,975

Clerk Amy Kippenbrock was in attendance and is prepared to use the Clerk's Perpetuation funds to pay for the keyless entry locks for the Clerk's office and Record's library. A motion was made to approve the door and keyless entry locks to be paid from the Clerk's Perpetuation fund pending approval by the County Council, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. A motion was made to approve the request to install keyless door locks on the Recorder's office pending funding approval by the County Council, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. A motion was made to approve the request to install a keyless door lock on the Assessor's office pending funding approval by the County Council, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Clerk's Office Doorway – A quote was presented from Jasper Lumber to install a doorway in the Clerk's office at a cost of \$5,616 to be paid from the Clerk's Perpetuation fund pending County Council approval. A

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motion was made to approve the request pending funding approval by the County Council, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Clerk and Recorder Office Carpet – Quotes were received to replace the carpeting in the Clerk and Recorder's offices as follows:

Boeckman's Furniture & Floor Covering	\$13,960
Carpet Warehouse	\$15,000
Baglan's Tile & Flooring LLC	\$16,860

A motion was made to approve the quote from Boeckman's Furniture & Floor Covering, pending funding approval by the County Council, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: H.E.L.P. GRANT ADMINISTRATION PROPOSALS

H.E.L.P. Community Coordinator Rilyn Bawel presented the proposals received for Grant Administration Services for the OCRA Grant to the Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program. The single proposal received was opened as follows:

Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission	\$70,000
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The proposal was taken under advisement. The H.E.L.P. Scoring Committee will meet on Thursday, April 20, 2023, to review the proposal and return with a recommendation at the next meeting.

RE: HEALTH INSURANCE BROKER SELECTION

HR Generalist Markie Rhodes recommended the top two choices selected from the RFP process and presentations for the County Health Insurance Broker services: Gallagher Insurance and the Houchens Insurance Group. A discussion was held on the options and services available from each company. A motion was made to change the broker services from Gallagher Insurance to the Houchens Group, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. HR Generalist Rhodes will proceed with the necessary contracts and notifications.

RE: TWIN LAKE ESTATES

Phil Buehler, Brosmer Land Surveying and Engineering, provided information on the potential vacation and dedication of easements in Twin Lake Estates, a subdivision in Jackson Township. County Engineer Brent Wendholt appeared via telephone. Following discussion, a preliminary consensus to proceed was given.

RE: DIVISION ROAD AND 450 W SAFETY

County Engineer Brent Wendholt, appearing via telephone, discussed a safety issue on Division Road and 450W. Division Road is closed, except to local traffic, due to bridge construction. A discussion was held to determine the best options for signage to increase safety in the area. Engineer Wendholt is researching options and is talking with the contractors to get the project completed.

RE: PROSECUTOR TITLE IV-D OFFICE CLOSURE

Title IV-D Prosecutor Michael Fritch requested approval to close the Title IV-D offices on April 20, 2023, due to moving the office location. A motion was made to approve closing the office for the day, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: CYBERSECURITY ASSESSMENT

Auditor Morton and EMA Director Tammy Humbert presented a Technical Assistance Agreement from Purdue University to conduct a Cybersecurity Assessment at no cost. The County conducted an intrusion test on the County network in the Fall of 2022. A motion was made to allow Humbert and Morton to make the determination to participate or not, duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: SURPLUS ITEMS

Auditor Morton presented the following items to be declared surplus:

- 2 desktop computers (Recorder and Judge)
- 5 monitors
- 6 keyboards and 2 mice, cords peripherals

A motion was made to declare the items surplus, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: LEPC FULL SCALE EXERCISE

EMA Director Tammy Humbert provided information on the LEPC full scale exercise to be held on April 29, 2023 at the City of Jasper Gas and Water Department beginning at 8:30 a.m.

RE: FUTURE MEETING

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The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, May 1, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex.