

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 3, 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 April 3, 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 March 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 March 2023 were as follows: Recorder \$18,274.07; Health Department \$45,201.82; Auditor \$64.00; Clerk \$31,387.15. 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 construction in the office area is complete. Following construction cleanup, files and furniture will be moved in. Desks will be delivered later this week. Chubb Insurance has issued an initial check in the amount of \$66,503.60. Expenses and filings will continue to be tracked. Demolition of the breakroom will occur hopefully next week so Schroering Construction can return and complete the renovation.

Solar Sources Update – Berg contacted Michael Costello for an update. The DNR is still in discussions with the bankruptcy attorneys regarding reclamation concerns. Surveyors have been employed to identify the ordinary and high-water levels of the pit near Portersville Road West. They have had reclamation discussions with certain landowners on where lakes will remain.

Dubois Dumpster Site – County Attorney Schnarr is working to obtain the final signatures on the deed to finalize the purchase of the Dubois Dumpster site.

Paving List for 2023 - Berg provided an updated Paving List for 2023. Higher than expected paving costs have caused the department to make a few small modifications to the plan. Community Crossings Project 2022-2 involving Portersville Road and the Town of Portersville is funded. Paving of CR 1100 South from the Town of Ferdinand to US 231 and Kellerville Road from Cathy Lane to 300 North will be submitted on Community Crossings 2023-1 later this year. Current estimates for the project is \$1,313,069. The match would be \$328,267. The updated paving plan assumes paving a good portion of Ferdinand Road East using Highway funds. Berg recommends requesting an additional appropriation from LIT-ED funds to use as the CCMG 2023-1 match. If the County Council supports this request, Ferdinand Road East can be paved. If not, the road will be pulled for 2023 and the funds will be reallocated to fund the match.

Additional Appropriations – Berg requested the following additional appropriations:

MVH - \$225,000 for Bituminous and \$1,375,000 for Paving Projects

LRS – \$425,000 for Bituminous and \$230,000 for Paving Projects

Solid Waste (Sticker) - \$18,000 for Dumpster Sites to fund chip seal paving for the remainder of the Ireland site, and the Huntingburg and Ferdinand sites.

Part-Time Summer Help – Two part time people will be hired to begin spraying the roadsides for vegetation control.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

Duff Solar Park Road Use Agreement – Currently working on the details for the road use agreements.

Safe Streets for All (Action Plan) – A boilerplate grant agreement was received. Wendholt has a meeting with Federal Highway (FHWA) on April 14, 2023 for more information and assistance with the set up.

Bridge #14 Replacement (Division Road) – Nothing new to report. The water level is up so they are unable to work.

2023 HAC Paving Projects (In-House Funding) – Bids will be accepted for six projects at the May 1, 2023 meeting.

RE: BROADBAND MAKE READY UPDATE

Commissioner Blessinger provided an update on the Dubois REC Broadband Make Ready project. A color coded map was displayed showing areas now being served by PSC, Orange County Fiber and Spectrum. The map is available in the Auditor's office for public viewing.

RE: BAWEL TREE FARMS RIGHT OF WAY

Phil Buehler, Brosmer Land Surveying and Engineering, requested acceptance of a right of way for Bawel Tree Farms. A motion was made to accept the right of way dedication, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: LEINENBACH FIRST ADDITION

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Phil Buehler, Brosmer Landscaping and Engineering, requested acceptance of a right of way for Leinenbach First Addition. A motion was made to accept the right of way dedication, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: 911 PERSONNEL

911 Director Stuart Wilson presented the need to create a new Communication Officer position. The department is suffering from staff turnover and vacant positions. A plan has been created by the 911 Advisory Board to increase the number of dispatchers from 15 to 16. Currently the Shift Supervisor position and a Communication Officer position are vacant.

Commissioner Blessinger made a motion to create a new Communication Officer position pending funding by the County Council, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. The wage classification is CPOLE III.

RE: 911 DATA RECORDER

911 Director Wilson presented a quote for a data recorder from Nelson Systems Eventide at a cost of \$22,508.40. One-year maintenance is included with this quote. Pre-paid maintenance for 2 additional years is discounted if procured at this time at a cost of \$9,286.53. Consensus was to proceed with the purchase pending funding approval by the County Council.

RE: 911 SYSTEM EQUIPMENT

911 Director Wilson presented a quote for the following equipment:

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|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Radio Console Replacement | \$191,075.00 |
| CIT MCD Computer/Software | \$ 1,500.00 |
| Fiber Equipment | \$ 4,800.00 |
| Base Stations and Equipment | \$34,601.00 |
| Antenna Equipment/Labor | \$12,672.00 |
| Microwave Equipment | \$40,176.00 |
| MUX Equipment | \$22,045.92 |
| Tower Services | \$ 9,800.00 |

Director Wilson recommended developing an RFP for bids for the Radio Console Equipment. Use of the special purchasing rules per IC 5-22-10-8 for the purchase of specialized equipment in the new 911 Center was discussed. A motion was made to proceed with the special purchases per IC 5-22-10-8 and to develop an RFP for the radio console, pending funding by the County Council, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: AMBULANCE BID OPENING

It being 9:00 a.m., the time advertised for the receipt of bids for an ambulance, the following bid was thereupon received, opened and read aloud:

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| American Response Vehicles | \$376,582.56 |
|----------------------------|--------------|

The vehicle will be received in 2025. The bid was taken under advisement for review and pending increased funding approval by the County Council. Ambulance Coordinator Ryan Young will review the bid specifications.

RE: USI CLINICAL EDUCATION AGREEMENT

Community Corrections COSSAP Case Manager Alison Neal presented an agreement with the University of Southern Indiana (USI) to use the Department of Social Work to assist with clinical case management at Community Corrections at no cost. A motion was made to approve the agreement and to give Director Madden authority to sign the agreement on behalf of the County. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: COSSAP RISE THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY

Community Corrections COSSAP Case Manager Neal provided information on the RISE Therapeutic Community. Therapy will be outsourced to Lifesprings. A service contract is being prepared. Currently, there are no participants in the program.

RE: HILL PARK ESTATES

Gerald and Shirley Terwiske requested a letter be sent to a person that is in violation of the covenants for the Hill Park Estates Subdivision located in Marion Township. County Attorney Schnarr will review the issue and address his findings at the next meeting.

RE: COURTHOUSE SECURITY

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Commissioner Blessinger reported on requested changes made by the Courthouse Security Committee for increased security in the Courthouse and Annex as follows:

- The Assessor's office requested keyless entry as well as possibly extending the office wall to include a service window.
- Security camera angle views will be reviewed and adjusted to cover more areas. New cameras to be installed as needed.
- Door alarms to be added to the doorways on the north and south sides of the building.
- Permitting only one entrance into the Courthouse by locking the basement door and installing metal detectors at the eastside entrance since the new ramp has been installed. ADA automatic door open buttons will also be installed.
- Both court offices on the second floor need to be more secure.

Following discussion, a motion was made to support the following actions, was duly seconded and carried unanimously:

1. Discussing camera options, securing the second and third floors, and ADA accessible door options with Astro.
2. Exploring options to add a secure window for the office of the Assessor.
3. Using a single entrance point to the courthouse and metal detection/bag search at said entrance.
4. Implementing improved security features to the court staff areas including gate modification on the first floor, locking the second floor mid-building doors, locking the third floor north door, and putting a phone in the second floor hallway.

RE: SHERIFF DEPUTY

Commissioner Blessinger recommended the creation of an additional Deputy Sheriff position, pending funding by the Council. A motion was made to create the full-time Deputy Sheriff position pending funding approval by the County Council, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. The wage classification is MPOLE II.

RE: 911 TELECOMMUNICATOR APPRECIATION

April 9 – April 15, 2023 is National Public Safety/Telecommunicator Week. The 911 Center was recognized for their hard work and dedication to Dubois County.

RE: ARPA FUNDS

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) annual report is due on April 30, 2023.

RE: PURDUE OFFICE SPACE

Commissioner Hostetter met with Purdue Extension Director Chelsea Brewer, Council member Ryan Craig and Council member Meredith Voegerl to discuss office options for the Extension Services.

RE: PURCHASE POLICY

County Attorney Schnarr discussed the current county purchasing policy. He feels the policy may need an update as the threshold stated is currently below the state statutory amount. Schnarr recommended reviewing the policy and updating as the Board deems necessary. County Attorney and Commissioner Stenftenagel can explore and update the policy.

RE: LIT-ED PUBLIC SAFETY TAX

County Attorney Schnarr provided information on the process to implement the Local Income Tax for Public Safety in Dubois County. The Dubois County Income Tax Council consists of Dubois County, City of Jasper, City of Huntingburg, Town of Ferdinand, Town of Holland and Town of Birdseye. No single voting block exists in the county.

RE: PUBLIC COMMENT

Council member Daryl Schmitt provided comments on the following issues:

- He has been contacted by landowners on concerns about the Portersville Road issues.
- He commented on the solar panels being installed in Boone Township and tax abatements.
- He has received positive comments on the broadband make ready project. The only concern has been easement issues for the carriers.
- Schmitt feels courthouse security for employees should be a priority.

RE: FUTURE MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, April 17, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex.