

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

APRIL 4, 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 April 4, 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 March 21, 2022 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 2022 were as follows: Recorder \$26,698.04; Health Department \$19,484.81; Auditor \$3,816.00; Clerk: \$32,830.85; 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:

Norfolk Southern Crossings in Birdseye – Berg did a site visit of the proposed closure sites and placed traffic counters. Information was received and will be discussed later in the meeting.

Part-Time Summer Help – It is time to spray roadsides for vegetation control. Berg will be hiring two part time employees. He has reached out to local schools for any student interested in the positions.

Additional Appropriations – Berg requested permission to advertise for Additional Appropriations in the following amounts:

Highway	Stone	\$ 100,000
	Bituminous	\$ 50,000
	Highway Paving Projects	\$1,625,300
	Equipment Repair	\$ 25,000
	Uniforms, Towels	\$ 20,000
Local Road & Street	Equipment	\$ 50,000
	Stone	\$ 150,000
	Bituminous	\$ 520,000
Solid Waste	Refuse Disposal	\$ 10,000
	Dumpster Sites	\$ 25,000

A motion was made to approve the request to be taken to the County Council, was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

Equipment Rotation – Berg distributed the 5-year Equipment Rotation plan and discussed the changes made due to the delay in receiving equipment and purchasing in 2022. Berg contacted dealers for prices for a road grader which was \$568,151; 62% higher than the one purchased in 2019. He is seeking other options.

Computer Replacement – Berg received a quote to replace computers at the department in the amount of \$7,366.86.

Disposition of Equipment – Berg requested disposing two electric heaters from the dumpster sites which are no longer functioning. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried.

Disposition of Truck 104 – Berg requested disposing truck 104 via silent bids.

Liberty Management – A meeting will be held on April 7, 2022 to discuss the reclamation process for the Shamrock Mine in Boone Township.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER’S REPORT

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

Birdseye Railroad Crossing Traffic County Data – The following data was given:

King Street	North Bound:	169 Total	24 AADT
	South Bound:	185 Total	26 AADT
1175 East	North Bound:	805 Total	115 AADT
	South Bound:	1,367 Total	195 AADT

Dubois County ADA Transition Plan (2022 Update) – Wendholt presented Resolution 2022-5 to adopt the updated ADA Transition Plan. A motion to approve Resolution 2022-5 was made, duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2022 - 5

Amendment to Resolution 2013-01

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE UPDATED ADA TRANSITION PLAN

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DUBOIS COUNTY, INDIANA ADOPTING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) TRANSITION PLAN FOR THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF DUBOIS COUNTY, INDIANA

WHEREAS, the ADA Transition Plan is found to meet the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 – 28CFRPart 35.150 Paragraph d requiring the County to develop such a plan; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners find that it is in the best interest of Dubois County, Indiana to adopt said plan.

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NOW THEREFORE, BE IN RESOLVED, that the County Commissioners of Dubois County, Indiana, hereby adopts Exhibit A, attached, and made a part hereof, as the 2022 Updated ADA Transition Plan for the Unincorporated Areas of Dubois County, Indiana.

This resolution shall take effect from and after its passage as provided by law.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the County Commissioners of Dubois County, Indiana, on this the 4th day of April, 2022.

2022 HAC Paving Projects – Wendholt provided the following update:

2021 CCMG Round 2 C&R Construction from March 14, 2022 to June 1, 2022

21-04 900 South
21-05 100 West & 1000 South
21-06 1075 South

In-House Paving Projects June 1, 2022 to August 31, 2022 to be bid on May 2, 2022

22-03 500 West
22-04 Town of Ireland – Hopf Addition, 500 West, 150 North
22-05 100 East, 420 North, 520 North
22-06 Old 545 & Dubois Road NW
22-07 St. Anthony Road West
22-08 Celestine Road North
22-09 Old Huntingburg Road, 150 South, 100 South, 400 West

RE: CTP VEHICLE

Community Corrections Director Megan Durlauf requested permission to purchase a vehicle from the Community Transition Program (CTP) Fund and to trade the current Dodge Journey as approved by the Community Corrections Advisory Board. Quotes were received from the following:

Washington Chrysler	\$39,664	add Light Bar \$1,052
Ruxer Ford	\$45,607	
Sternberg's	\$42,980	

A motion was made to purchase the Dodge Durango from Washington Chrysler, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: COSSAP PROGRAM MANAGER

Community Corrections Director Durlauf requested the creation of a COSSAP Program Manager to manage the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program. The wage classification for the position would be PAT IV at a bi-weekly rate of \$1,807.40. A motion was made to create the position as requested for the term of the grant, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: BIRDSEYE RAILROAD CROSSINGS

County Engineer Wendholt provided traffic count numbers for the Birdseye Railroad Crossings on King Street and 1175 East as presented in his report. A letter from Birdseye Fire Chief David Smith was read requesting denial of the closing requests. Following discussion, no action was taken at this time. No public comment was received.

RE: EMPLOYEE DRESS CODE

Treasurer Kitty Merkley reappeared to present a change to the Employee Dress Code section in the Employee Handbook. Following discussion, a motion was made to approve the changes to Section 6.3 Personal Appearance/Dress Code, was duly seconded and carried 2-1. Blessinger was the dissenting vote.

6.3 Personal Appearance / Dress Code

Dress, grooming, and personal cleanliness standards contribute to the morale of all employees and affect the business image presented to visitors. Employees are required to dress in a respectable and professional manner.

Elected Officials/Department Heads are responsible for defining and communicating guidelines for appropriate attire depending on the type of work performed and work location.

Some Minimum standards include:

1. Uniforms: Uniforms will be standard dress for all employees who work in a department requiring them.
2. Clothing & Accessories: Employees should dress and accessorize in a manner that projects a professional image and is appropriate to the type of work they perform. Denim apparel is acceptable but must be in clean and good business fashion. All clothing should be clean, neat and look professional in the workplace.
3. Items considered inappropriate for the workplace include but are not limited to:
 - Clothing and accessories bearing offensive or promotional material or personal opinion (This would include almost any type of graphic messages.)
 - Bare back tops, halter tops, spandex tops, other form fitting materials

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- House slippers, beach ware, flip flops
- Sweatpants or yoga pants
- Spaghetti strap tops, mini-skirts or shorts
- Clothing that is excessively worn or frayed, either by design or normal wear
- Clothing too revealing in nature

Employees who appear for work inappropriately dressed will be sent home and directed to return to work in proper attire. Under such circumstance, employees will not be compensated for the time away from work.

Consideration will be given to cultural and religious beliefs of the employee in the implementation of this policy.

Consult your Elected Official/Department Head if you have questions regarding what constitutes appropriate attire.

Adopted April 4, 2022

RE: MID-STATES CORRIDOR

Bill Kaiser and Mark Schroeder, Regional Development Authority, provided an update on the Tier One Study and time-line for the Mid-States Corridor. There are five potential routes with ten alternatives. A preferred route announcement is expected in April 2022. Public hearings will be held for public comment over the following six months before a final determination is made in the fall. The next step will be a Tier Two Study which may require additional funding. Federal and State funding is expected.

RE: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

An Agreement to Appoint the Board of the Development Authority was presented to reappoint the current members of the Regional Development Authority for another term. The members are Mark Schroeder, Scott Blazey, David Drake, Sue Ellspermann, and Ken Mulzer, Jr. A motion was made to reappoint the current board, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: SURPLUS ITEMS – HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Health Administrative Director Shawn Werner presented a list of unsalvageable items to be declared surplus/junk for disposal. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. A list of usable surplus items will be sent to all county departments for use if needed. Werner will return to the next meeting with a list of unclaimed items to be declared surplus for disposal.

RE: HEALTH DEPARTMENT CELL PHONE REPLACEMENT

Health Administrative Director Shawn requested the replacement of the department cell phones which are over 2 years old. Following discussion, permission to replace the existing cell phones with grant funding was granted.

RE: HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE LEAVE

Health Administrative Director Werner requested a one-day unpaid leave for new employee Jack Mendel. A motion to approve the request was made, duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: TRANSLATOR CELL PHONE

Auditor Morton requested a new cell phone service for the Translator/Administrative Specialist. A motion was made to approve the request, pending funding approval by county council, was seconded, and carried unanimously.

RE: VETERAN SERVICES OFFICER

Gary Love resigned his position as Veteran Services Officer. Following interviews, Commissioner Blessinger recommended hiring Susan Bramlet as the VSO. A motion was made to approve the recommendation pending administrative processes, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. The new VSO will shadow Love during the transition for training purposes for a short period of time.

RE: HUMAN RESOURCES ATTORNEY

Human Resource Generalist Markie Rhodes presented information on the retainer increase for HR Attorney Greg Freyberger of Barber and Bauer, LLP. Rhodes researched pricing and retainage costs for three firms. Following discussion, a motion was made to approve the Agreement with Barber and Bauer, LLP to retain the services of Greg Freyberger at a cost of \$300 per month. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: LOCAL OUTREACH TO SUICIDE SURVIVORS (LOSS) TEAMS

Janet Schnell, representing Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) Teams, presented information on the LOSS Team training.

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RE: SOLAR POWER PARKS

Commissioner Blessinger reported that he had met with EDP Renewables for information on solar power parks. He discussed the possibility of placing minimum standards on the companies. County Attorney Schnarr was directed to research options for the County and report at the next meeting.

RE: CYBER SECURITY PILOT PROGRAM

Stephanie Yager, Executive Director of the Association of County Commissioners, and Chetrice Mosley-Romero, Indiana Homeland Security, discussed Dubois County participating in a pilot program for cyber security. The State is looking to work with five communities across the state to gather data on cyber readiness. A motion was made to approve joining the Indiana Cyber Ready Community Pilot Program, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: ALUMINUM BROCHURE STAND

A motion was made to approve moving the metal brochure stand from the County Annex to the Purdue Extension Services office, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: RESOLUTION - 2022-3

Resolution 2022-3 was approved at the previous meeting; however, was not available for signature. Resolution 2022-3 is as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-3

**JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE
DUBOIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND
DUBOIS COUNTY COUNCIL
SUPPORTING THE ADDITION OF JUDICIAL OFFICER**

WHEREAS, the Dubois County Board of Commissioners and Dubois County Council recognize the pressing need for an additional judicial officer in Dubois County.

WHEREAS, by population, Dubois County is the largest county in the State of Indiana to be served by only two judges.

WHEREAS, Dubois County's population has shown a positive growth rate. Additionally, Dubois County is a regional economic hub and there has been large investments made in the community by local industry. This growth and robust economy is further confirmation of the need for a third court.

WHEREAS, the Boards recognize the Dubois County Courts work hard to ensure cases are heard in a timely manner. The people of Dubois County deserve due process. The added judicial resource will alleviate sometimes long wait times for our citizens to have their day in court.

WHEREAS, there is a plan in place that should a judicial officer be graciously afforded Dubois County, it will be done in a fiscally responsible way so as to not burden the finances of Dubois County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we the Dubois County Board of Commissioners and Dubois County Council do hereby support the Courts of Dubois County in their request for a third judicial officer.

Adopted by the Dubois County Board of County Commissioners at its regular meeting on March 21, 2022, and by the Dubois County Council at its regular meeting on March 28, 2021.

RE: RESOLUTION 2022-4 RAISE GRANT

Commissioner Brames presented Resolution 2022-4 in support of the City of Jasper's Raise Grant application for Rails and Trails. A motion was made to approve Resolution 2022-4, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-4

**RESOLUTION OF THE
DUBOIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SUPPORTING THE CITY OF JASPER AND THEIR PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION, THROUGH THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S RAISE GRANT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, Dubois County Commissioners do recognize the need to foster an attraction to reside in the greater Dubois County area, for a healthier Quality of Life, and to enhance employment opportunities.

WHEREAS, Dubois County has recently partnered with the City of Jasper and the City of Huntingburg in development of a Dubois County Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan.

WHEREAS, Dubois County has addressed regional connectivity (French Lick, Dubois, Patoka Reservoir, Jasper, and Huntingburg) to foster economic development in the entire region through transportation planning

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WHEREAS, Dubois County Commissioners do recognize that a Rails and Trails project would benefit rural as well as urban residents.

WHEREAS, Dubois County Commissioners do recognize that by leveraging the right-of-way of the Indiana Railway Museum rail system for bicycle and pedestrian transportation we can avoid major impact on private and environmentally sensitive property.

WHEREAS, Dubois County Commissioners do recognize that funding from the Department of Transportation Raise Grant Program would provide the best opportunity to make the Rails and Trails project a reality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dubois County Board of Commissioners do hereby support the Rails and Trails concept and the City of Jasper's application for funding through the DOT Raise Grant Program.

Adopted by the Dubois County Board of Commissioners at its regular meeting on April 4, 2022.

RE: ARPA PLAN FUNDING AGREEMENTS

County Attorney Schnarr presented Infrastructure Funding Agreements for the projects to be funded through the County American Rescue Plan Act funds per Ordinance 2022-01. The projects are as follows: St. Anthony Water Utilities - The County has agreed to fund up to \$181,000 for the St. Anthony Water Utilities' Water Tank Renovation project. A motion was made to approve the Water Infrastructure Funding Agreement, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement - Commissioner Brames submitted a Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement due to his appointment to serve on the Patoka Lake Regional Water & Sewer District Board of Directors. A motion was made to acknowledge the conflict, was duly seconded and carried 2-0. Brames abstained.

Patoka Lake Regional Water & Sewer District – The County has agreed to fund two projects with the Patoka Lake Regional Water & Sewer District - \$100,000 for Sludge Drying Beds and \$100,000 for the Dubois Sewer Project. A motion was made to approve both Water and Sewer Infrastructure Funding Agreements, was duly seconded and carried 2-0. Brames abstained.

NE Dubois Fire District – The County has agreed to fund \$300,000 for the Dubois Fire Station Ambulance Barn Construction project. A motion was made to approve the Public Safety Infrastructure Funding Agreement, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK

April 10-16, 2022 has been set as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. The Commissioners' recognized the work and dedication of the public safety staff of the 911 Communication Center.

RE: PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Nowotarski, Coalition Against the Mid-States Corridor, submitted a Statement to the Dubois County Commissioners which was read aloud by Commissioner Blessinger.

RE: H.E.L.P. COORDINATOR

Commissioner Brames reported on his continued research for the H.E.L.P. Coordinator job description and payroll details.

RE: DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING

The next Department Head meeting will be held on April 20, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. Commissioner Blessinger will host the meeting.

RE: COUNTY FACEBOOK ACCOUNT

Commissioner Blessinger reported the County Facebook account has been categorized as a "gray account". He may need to terminate and set up a new one.

RE: FUTURE MEETINGS

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, April 18, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex.