

SECOND REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MAY 15, 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 8:30 a.m. (EST) on May 15, 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 and Highway Engineer Brent Wendholt. A quorum was declared present and the meeting was opened for business by President Blessinger.

Minutes of the May 1, 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 – All work is complete. A cost report will be given when all invoices are received.

Transfer of Appropriations – A transfer of appropriation was requested in the MVH Restricted Fund in the amount of \$9,000 from Geotextile to Paint to cover additional glass beads needed for painting and railroad crossing pavement markings. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Interviews for Operator – Interviews will be held for the current excavator operator vacancy. There is a possibility that the best candidate will not hold a Class A CDL license. If this occurs, there will be a need to develop a training regimen and allow a reasonable period for the completion of training and acquisition of the license.

Right of Way Violation on Holland Road East – Berg reported on a violation of a fence installation on Holland Road East which is in the County right of way. The department visited the landowner twice and a letter has been sent; however, the landowner has failed to comply. A discussion on how to proceed was held. Berg will do another site visit and if the issue has not been corrected will contact County Attorney Schnarr to proceed with further action.

Chip Seal Paving Schedule Release – The Chip Seal paving season is approaching. Berg distributed the schedule of projects planned this year which includes the dumpster site paving of the remainder of the Ireland site and the Huntingburg and Ferdinand dumpster sites. This includes the gravel road improvement to Cuzco-Norton Road which will be completed with chip seal pavement by the end of July. The work will consist of 48 projects totaling roughly 19.62 miles of improvements. Work will begin, weather permitting, on Tuesday, May 30, 2023 and should conclude before the end of July.

Sanitation Site Improvement Scheduling – Three sanitation site schedules will be impacted from Tuesday June 6 through Wednesday June 21. The schedule includes:

Ireland Dumpster Site – will be closed on Tuesday, June 6 for preparation of the lot for paving. No trash or recycling will be taken at this location on that day. Site paving will take place on Wednesday, June 7. As usual, the site will be closed to the public on Wednesday. Ireland will resume normal business hours on Thursday, June 8, 2023.

Huntingburg Dumpster Site – will be closed on Tuesday, June 13 for preparation of the lot for paving. No trash or recycling will be taken at this location on that day. Site paving will take place on Wednesday, June 14. As usual, the site will be closed to the public on Wednesday. Huntingburg will resume normal business hours on Thursday, June 15, 2023.

Ferdinand Dumpster Site – normal traffic should not be interrupted because this site is normally closed on Tuesdays. Site preparation of the lot will take place on Tuesday, June 20. No trash or recycling will be taken at this location on this day. Site paving will take place on Wednesday, June 21. As usual, the site is closed to the public on Wednesdays. Ferdinand will resume its normal business hours on Thursday, June 22, 2023.

Sanitation Driver Reclassification – Berg requested changing the Sanitation Driver salary classification from LTC IV to LTC VI. Berg discussed his reasoning for the change. Consensus was to table a decision until the next meeting to give the Board time to research the request.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

Duff Solar Park Road Use Agreement – Wendholt is currently working on the road use agreements and will be meeting with Sarah Greenburg on May 23, 2023, to discuss and receive updates on the project.

Safe Streets for All (Action Plan) – Comments were received on the 1st Draft of the Agreement which have been addressed.

Bridge #14 Replacement (Division Road) – Everything is progressing forward. The beams have been delivered and will be set this week.

CCMG-2023-1 (1100 South and Kellerville Road) – The projects will be bid on June 5, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. Once the bids are received and awarded, the projects will be placed under contract with INDOT.

2023 HVAC Paving Projects (In-House Funding) – Berg and Wendholt reviewed the Ferdinand Road East project and the available funding due to the prices received on the other projects. It was determined the

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project could not be funded and still be able to fund the CCMG 2023-1 as well. It was recommended to reject all bids for the Ferdinand Road East project. The project will be added to the projects in 2024. A motion was made to reject the bids received at the previous meeting for Project 2023-6, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: 911 - NEW HIRES

911 Director Stuart Wilson recommended hiring Luis Lugo and Lily Litkenhus as 911 telecommunicators. A motion was made to approve the hires pending completion of administrative processes, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: 911 - RADIO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

911 Director Stuart Wilson presented the Specifications for Request for Proposal for the purpose of purchasing new radio consoles and ancillary equipment needed by the Dubois County Emergency Communications Department. He expects an approximate cost of \$200,000. Consensus was to move forward with the RFP.

RE: H.E.L.P. STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PLAN

Commissioner Blessinger reported Rilyn Bawel, Community Coordinator, has resigned her position. Commissioner Blessinger presented a draft of the County Strategic Investment Plan (SIP). Blessinger requested consent to approve the final version of the SIP when received. A motion was made to formally approve the Strategic Investment Plan for the H.E.L.P. program, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: COPS HIRING GRANT

Chief Deputy Jesus Monarrez reported on an application for a federal grant that was submitted by the Sheriff's Department. The Community Policing and Safety Enhancement Grant would provide funding in the amount of \$25,000 for two additional deputies over a three year period with a local match of 25%. After the three year grant period ends, the County would continue funding the positions. Grantsmith Consulting, LLC, assisted with the grant application. If awarded, the grant would begin on January 1, 2024.

RE: SHERIFF PARKING ON SQUARE

Sheriff Tom Kleinhelter discussed the need for dedicated parking spots for police around the Square. A discussion was held about possibly having a dedicated parking spot on the west side of the Courthouse. The County ADA Coordinator Brent Wendholt will investigate the ADA requirements for a handicapped parking spot. The issue will be discussed when more details are available.

RE: COVID-19 LEAVE POLICY

HR Generalist Markie Rhodes requested approval to rescind the COVID-19 Leave Policy adopted on January 4, 2022, due to the federal government declaring on May 11, 2023 that COVID-19 was no longer an emergency. A motion was made to discontinue the COVID-19 Leave Policy previously implemented and to follow the Employee Handbook for leave as noted. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

A discussion was held on the utilization of the Human Resources Department for all employment needs. The Commissioners reiterated all departments must be using the HR Department for all employment needs to ensure compliance.

RE: TAX SALE – SRI CONTRACT ADDENDUM

Auditor Morton presented an addendum to the SRI contract to increase the fees from \$100 per parcel to \$125 per parcel. A motion was made to approve the addendum, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: SURPLUS ITEMS

Commissioner Blessinger discussed the surplus items at Community Corrections currently being stored in trailers due to the construction. They also discussed items from the Child Support Office. Options to either sell, donate, or discard the items was discussed. Consensus was to have Auditor Morton compile a list of items for the next meeting. The bike rack from Community Corrections was taken to the 4-H Fairgrounds.

RE: WHITE STALLION BANKRUPTCY

County Attorney Schnarr provided an update on the White Stallion bankruptcy case.

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RE: COURTHOUSE RESTROOMS

Commissioner Blessinger reported on a request from the Greater Downtown Jasper Business Association, Heart of Jasper, and ROJAC to create an outside entrance to the Courthouse basement bathroom to be used by the public during community gatherings. A discussion was held.

The Downtown Merchants requested use of the restrooms during the following events:

May 20, 2023	Chalk Walk	9:00 - 4:00
June 21, 2023	Shop and Sip	9:00 - 7:30
July 19, 2023	Shop and Sip	9:00 - 7:30
August 3, 2023	Strassenfest	9:00 am - midnight
August 4, 2023	Strassenfest	9:00 am - midnight
August 5, 2023	Strassenfest	9:00 am - midnight
August 6, 2023	Strassenfest	12:00 - 4:00 pm
August 16, 2023	Shop and Sip	9:00 - 7:30
September 20, 2023	Shop and Sip	9:00 - 7:30
September 23, 2023	Kids Day	9:00 - 4:00
October 13, 2023	Dinner on Main	9:00 am – 10:00 pm
October 18, 2023	Shop and Sip	9:00 - 7:30
November 5,12,19,26, 2023	O'Tannenbaum Season	12:00 - 4:00
December 3,10,17,24, 2023	O'Tannenbaum Season	12:00 - 4:00
November 24, 2023	Santa's arrival	9:00 – 8:00
December 1, 2023	Tannenbaum Days	9:00 – 8:00
December 2, 2023	Tannenbaum Days	9:00 – 4:00
December 3, 2023	Tannenbaum Days	12:00 – 4:00

The west entrance has been closed to the public. Safety concerns were discussed. Consensus was to have the Greater Downtown Jasper Business Association submit the Courthouse Use Agreement for the events.

RE: PEER RECOVERY

Commissioner Stenftenagel reported on a meeting with Joseph Crutchfield from Peer Recovery Counseling Center and his future plans.

RE: REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

Commissioner Hostetter reported on a meeting with Mary Austin, Clark Dietz, on the Regional Sewer District. Plans were discussed.

RE: INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND

Auditor Morton reported the Industrial Development Loan Fund has a Certificate of Deposit coming due on May 17, 2023. The fund began in 1984 and has not been used. Morton is working with the State Board of Accounts to determine how to either use the funds or to declare the fund obsolete.

RE: MEETING RECESS

The meeting was called into recess at 10:32 a.m.

RE: MEETING RECONVENED

The meeting was reconvened at 10:35 a.m.

RE: PORTERSVILLE ROAD WEST

Highway Superintendent Steve Berg reported on a slide issue involving the protective berm on Portersville Road West near County Road 750 W. A guardrail may need to be installed for public safety. Driving sheet piles may also be needed to protect the loss of Portersville Road West.

RE: FUTURE MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, June 5, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex.