

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

August 7, 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 August 7, 2023. Present were Commissioner Chad A. Blessinger, Commissioner Nick Hostetter and Commissioner Serice Stenftenagel. Also present were County Auditor Sandra L. Morton, Highway Engineer Brent Wendholt and County Attorney Gregory S. Schnarr. Highway Supervisor Steven L. Berg was absent. A quorum was declared present and the meeting was opened for business by President Blessinger. Minutes of the July 17, 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 July 2023 were as follows: Recorder \$17,219.75; Health Department \$27,827.24; Auditor \$27.00; Clerk \$26,059.22. 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: TREASURER’S REPORT

The Treasurer’s monthly report for July 2023 was reviewed and accepted as presented.

RE: EMERGENCY DECLARATION

EMA Director Tammy Humbert reported on the storm that passed through the northern border of the County overnight in the Haysville, Harbison Township and Columbia Township area. The EMA department is working on an assessment of the damage which occurred over a twelve mile path.

A Local Disaster Emergency Declaration was presented for approval. A motion was made to approve the Declaration as presented, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER’S REPORT

Highway Engineer Brent Wendholt submitted the following report of Highway projects.

Safe Streets for All (Action Plan) – Request for Proposals were sent out on July 21, 2023. Several businesses have responded with questions, and some have declined. All Letters of Interest are due on August 14, 2023.

2023 HAC Paving Projects -

2022-2 CCMG	Portersville Road/Town of Portersville	Completed on May 24 th
23-01	100 E, 420 N, 520 N	Completed on June 14 th
23-02	550 W & 450 W	Completed on June 19 th & 20 th
23-03	300 N & 325 E	Completed on August 1st
23-04	Celestine Road North	Not yet scheduled
23-05	500 E & Town of St. Marks	Completed on July 7 th
2023-1 CCMG	Kellerville Road & 1100 South	Not yet scheduled

Highway Department New Hires – The current weed spray employee is off work for 6 weeks. The department requested a temporary replacement, so the noxious weeds do not overtake the progress made this year. A request was made to temporarily hire Gerald Bueltel to begin on August 8, 2023. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

A request was made to hire Chance Hasenour as the District 3 Truck Driver to begin on August 14, 2023. A motion was made to approve the request pending administrative processing, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

2023 Distressed Road Loan Application – The State received the repayment of the 2013 loan. The 2023 Loan Application was submitted on July 27, 2023. If the loan is received, paving will be in 2024.

Chip Seal Paving Progress -

Overlay Projects

Himsel Road (Portersville Road West to Surface Change)	Complete
800 West (St. Rd. 56 to 200 North)	Complete
300 North (750 West to Pike County Line)	Complete
Ireland Dumpster Site	Complete
900 West (150 N to Pike County Line)	Complete
Portersville Road West (Portersville Road to 550 W)	Complete
Haysville Road West (St. Rd. 56 to 200 W)	Complete
Huntingburg Dumpster Site	Complete
Dubois Road Northwest (St. Rd. 545 to 325 E)	Complete
Hall Creek Road (400 E to 500 E)	Complete
Ferdinand Dumpster Site	Complete
Old State Road 162 (St. Rd. 162 to St. Rd. 162)	Complete
230 South (Timberlin Lane to Jackson TSL)	Complete
Fairgrounds Drive (St. Rd. 162 to County Fairgrounds)	Complete

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Old State Road 162 (St. Rd. 162 to Dead End)	Complete
475 East (St. Rd. 264 to Convent Rd.)	Complete
800 South (St. Rd. 161 to Surface Change)	Complete
750 West	Complete

Patching Projects

775 West	Schnell Road
Holland Road NE	Mentor Road South
500 West	4025 East
1150 South	Taylor Hollow Road
1200 South	Kings Ridge Road
950 South	330 North
1160 South	450 North
350 East	Cuzco Norton Road
450 East	900 North
750 South	325 East
700 South	400 West
650 South	50 North
245 East	800 West
700 East	800 West
400 South	725 North
750 West	

New Chip Seal Project

Cuzco-Norton Road	Complete
600 North	To be done August 8-9 but may wait until the tornado debris is cleared.

RE: TRAVEL POLICY EXCEPTION

Commissioner Blessinger received a request for an exception to the overnight travel policy for two elected officials, Recorder Jaclyn McPherron and Auditor Morton, who are serving on the Association of Indiana Counties conference host committee. The conference will be held in French Lick on September 24-28, 2023. A motion was made to approve the exception and grant permission for the officials serving on the AIC Conference Host Committee to stay overnight during the week, was duly seconded, and carried 2-1. Hostetter was the dissenting vote.

RE: COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DIRECTOR

Commissioner Blessinger provided information on the additional hours worked by the Community Corrections Director Wyatt Madden during the construction and move of the department. Following discussion, a motion was made to grant Madden an additional 40 PTO hours to be used by the end of 2023 or be carried over per the Employee Handbook. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: SOUTHERN INDIANA ADULT GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES

Sarah Walker, Director, and Natasha Hopper, Case Manager, Southern Indiana Adult Guardianship Services, provided the SIAGS Report on the VASIA services provided to adult residents in Dubois County. They requested continued support of \$10,000 in the 2024 budget. Consensus was to support the program and forward the request to the County Council.

RE: COURTHOUSE RESTROOM USE

Maureen Braun, representing the Downtown Merchants, requested use of the Courthouse basement restrooms from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily. The use of technology to secure the area was discussed. Kate Brosmer, Heart of Jasper; Josh Gunselman, City of Jasper Planning Director; Nancy Eckerle, Chamber of Commerce; Sandy Smith, Tell City Pretzels; and Jamie Jahn, Downtown Fitness; were also in attendance to support the request. Following a lengthy discussion, no action was taken. Groups wanting to use the Courthouse facilities are encouraged to request permission and submit the Courthouse Use Agreement.

RE: DUBOIS STRONG

Ed Cole, President, provided an update on the Projects and Initiatives of Dubois Strong in 2022/2023. The Workforce Relocation Incentive Program, Dubois County Housing Study, Child Care Analysis, Solar Farms, and Enterprise Loan Program. Cole thanked Commissioner Blessinger for serving on the Executive Committee of the Dubois Strong Board.

RE: 911 NEW HIRES

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911 Director Stuart Wilson requested approval to hire two new employees to fill vacant positions. Sean Sivori, a previous employee, will begin working on August 14, 2023. A motion was made to approve the hire, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. Matthew Kemker is available to begin working on August 28, 2023. A motion was made to approve the hire pending the completion of the administrative processes, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: AIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Dustin Renner, Association of Indiana Counties, and Zach Hughes, SRI President, presented a scholarship to Riley Fischer, the daughter of Stacey and Mike Fischer. Stacey is an employee at the Health Department. Riley plans to attend Purdue University to study nursing in the fall.

RE: HOLDING TANK REQUEST

Anthony Lemond, 6360 W 350 S, Huntingburg, requested permission to install a holding tank on his property near Duff. Health Administrative Director Shawn Werner presented information on previous complaints received on the property. The water service has been turned off to the property until either a holding tank or a septic system is installed. Lemond currently lives in a recreational vehicle. Werner discussed the County requirements for the installation of a holding tank which are only used as a last resort. Following discussion, the request to install a holding tank was denied. Mr. Lemond was advised to obtain a soil test.

RE: VETERAN SERVICES OFFICE FACEBOOK PAGE

Commissioner Blessinger received a request for a Veteran Services Office Facebook Page. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. VSO Susan Bramlet and Commissioner Blessinger will be administrators of the page.

RE: DURCHOLZ BROTHERS, LLC PLAT

Phil Buehler, Brosmer Land Surveying and Engineering, appeared for Durcholz Brothers LLC to request a Plat/Driveway Variance for a driveway easement in Madison Township. A motion was made to approve the one lot subdivision with variance for driveway access via easement to the north, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: SURPLUS ITEMS

Auditor Morton presented a list of chairs located in the annex conference room and requested the items be declared surplus/junk. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. The items will be either trashed or recycled.

Community Corrections Director Wyatt Madden presented a list of items from Community Corrections to be declared surplus/junk. The list included waiting room chairs and metal lockers. It was determined to sell the items to Junk-It with proceeds to be given to Project Income. A motion was made to approve the other items on the list, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. Pictures of the items will be sent to all departments to determine if any items can be used by another department before disposal.

RE: COURTHOUSE USE - KIDS DAY

Kaylyn Sendelweck, Greater Downtown Jasper Business Association, requested using the Courthouse restrooms on September 23, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. for the Kids Day program. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: EDP SOLAR PARK

The Agreement Regarding County Roads and Drains between Duff Solar Park LLC and Dubois County, Indiana and the Certificate of Authorization to Proceed were reviewed. County Attorney Schnarr noted the requested changes and will work with the attorney from EDP.

RE: SRO POSITION

Sheriff Tom Kleinhelter requested changing the School Resource Officer position from a merited deputy to a civilian employee under special deputy status. The changes in duties would be limited to what the deputy can do outside of the school location. The wage classification would be changed from MPOLE III to CPOLE III. The position would also move from the Sheriff Pension Retirement to PERF. A motion

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was made to have a civilian or merited deputy serve in the schools as the Sheriff sees fit, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: FUTURE MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, August 21, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex.