

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

September 5, 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 September 5, 2023. Present were Commissioner Chad A. Blessinger, Commissioner Nick Hostetter and Commissioner Serice Stenftenagel. Also present were County Auditor Sandra L. Morton, Highway Supervisor Steven L. Berg and County Attorney Gregory S. Schnarr. Highway Engineer Brent Wendholt was absent. A quorum was declared present and the meeting was opened for business by President Blessinger. Minutes of the August 21, 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 August 2023 were as follows: Recorder \$22,297.70; Health Department \$34,096.90; Auditor \$100.00; Clerk: \$35,168.75. 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 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Highway Superintendent Steve Berg presented the following report of Highway projects:

Temporary Road Closure Irish Road Bowling – the application has been signed and received as previously requested.

Temporary Road Closure Heartland Half Marathon – Jamie Jahn applied for temporary road closures for the Heartland Half Marathon to be held on Saturday, September 16, 2023, from 7:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. The event begins in Ferdinand, will travel east to Ferdinand Road East, then move north on CR 475 East, proceed west on Convent Road and end back in town. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Temporary Road Closure Celestine Christmas Parade – Joyce Hulsman applied for temporary road closures for the Celestine Christmas Parade to be held on Sunday, December 3, 2023, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The parade will begin at St. Celestine Church parking lot and travel north on De La Harlandire Road, proceed across State Road 164 to Ellsworth Road, turn left and proceed to Celestine Road North, turn left and travel south to St. Charles Street, turn right and travel west to New Orleans Street, and turn left. At State Road 164, the route will turn left and head east until Celestine Road South, turn right and proceed to Main Cross Street, turn left ending in the church parking lot. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Subdivision Request for Hot Mix Pavement – Berg received a letter from the residents of Valley View Estates in Celestine requesting a pavement upgrade from chip seal to asphalt. This subdivision was platted in 2006 with most lots having homes. The County does not have a standard when a subdivision receives a paving upgrade. PASER ratings are a 6 because the road is in decent shape. After discussion, the consensus was to wait until the chip seal begins to degrade before upgrading the road.

Right-of-Way Dedication and Petition for Improvement of CR 850 West in Cass Township – Kevin Wertman submitted a Right-of Way Dedication and Petition for paving CR 850 West in Cass Township from CR 1075 South to CR 1200 South. All things being in order, Berg recommended acceptance. A motion was made to approve acceptance of the Right-of-Way Dedication and Petition, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. A conversion evaluation sheet was used to score the road at 55 points which placed it 7th on the Highway Gravel Road Upgrade list. The estimated start date for the project would be in 2031.

White Stallion Bankruptcy Status – Berg spoke with the DNR which has a virtual meeting scheduled with Michael Costello later in the week to discuss the plans presented for reclamation of the coal mine in Boone Township. Berg will continue to gather updates. He would like the parties involved to hold a public meeting to provide the residents with information at some point.

Drainage Assistance for the 4-H Fairgrounds – Earlier in the spring, the 4-H Council requested assistance with drainage along the roads in the fairground area. Upon investigation by Berg, the roads on the grounds are lower than the shoulders and yards near them causing loss of gravel and erosion of the road leaving washouts. This is a cost and safety concern. The problems can be fixed but will require specific berming and invasive dirt work in a few grassy areas to direct water away from the roads and allow drainage to flow in the grassy areas. The grass waterways will be mower friendly slopes and allow for less expensive maintenance. Berg requested permission to assist in the project with manpower and equipment to be completed in early fall. The cost of seed, straw, stone/rip rap and damage maintenance of buried utilities would be paid by the 4-H Council. Following discussion, a motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried 2-1 with Blessinger being the dissenting vote.

Synenergy LP Agreement – Synenergy representatives contacted the Highway Department to discuss an LP fixed price contract during the upcoming winter months. The proposal presented was for 2,700 gallons to be used from September 23, 2023, through April 24, 2024, at a fixed net cash price of \$1.49 per gallon. Synenergy would waive the \$0.40 cent per gallon cancellation fee for unused gallons and the prepay and booking options. The contract was reviewed by the County Attorney. A motion was made to approve the fixed price contract and to permit Berg to sign the contract on behalf of the Board, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

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RE: HUNTINGBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

Huntingburg Public Library Board President Chris Neu, Library Accountant Donna Neuman, Library Board Member Melissa Boeglin, Library Director Lisa McWilliams and Indiana 15 Regional Planning Technical Services Specialist Leah Hawkins, presented information on the fiscal body change required by statute due to changes in the parcel count for the City of Huntingburg.

Neu discussed plans to renovate the Huntingburg Public Library. The board is seeking a grant from OCRA to assist with the funding for the expansion/renovation project. As the fiscal body, the County would apply for the grant on the library’s behalf. Hawkins provided information for the OCRA grant application; however, the County is currently not eligible to apply due to an open grant with OCRA for the H.E.L.P. program. The library would like to apply next spring when the County becomes eligible.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER’S REPORT

Highway Superintendent Steve Berg presented the following report of Highway projects due to the absence of Highway Engineer Brent Wendholt:

Safe Streets for All (Action Plan) – American Structure Point is creating a contract and the fees associated with creating the plan.

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

A Change Order for Project 23-03 - 300 N & 325 E has been prepared showing a \$66.55 increase. A motion was made to approve the change order, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Driveway Sight Distance Waiver – A driveway on Kings Ridge Road was approved in June 2022. During the attempted construction of the driveway, they ran into rock and was unable to proceed with that location. Wendholt met with the owners and after looking at every option available, it was decided to shift the driveway approximately 80 feet south. This will cut the sight distance down and takes it out of compliance with the driveway ordinance. The property owner has agreed to sign the Sight Distance Waiver. A motion was made to approve the waiver as presented, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. The Waiver will be recorded.

Distressed Road Fund Loan Agreement – Dubois County was approved for another round of the Distressed Road Fund. This is a \$1,000,000 interest free loan to be paid back in 10 years. The agreement between Dubois County and INDOT was presented, following review by the County Attorney. A motion was made to approve the Agreement, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: HEALTH DEPARTMENT - PRE TO 3 PROGRAM

Health Administrative Director Shawn Werner requested approval of an Interlocal Agreement for Health Department PRE to 3 Program Services with Vanderburgh County Health Department at a cost of \$67,826. The program will be funded with Health First Indiana funds. A motion was made to approve the agreement, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: HEALTH DEPARTMENT VEHICLES

Health Administrative Director Shawn Werner presented the following quotes to purchase two vehicles for the Health Department:

Ruxer Ford	\$28,551.25		Ford Escape
Sternberg’s			
Option 1	\$32,900.00	Purchase	Ford Escape
Option 2	\$29,995.00	Purchase	Jeep Renegade
Option 3	\$27,800.00	Lease to Purchase	Jeep Renegade
Uebelhor Toyota	\$25,500.00		Toyota Corolla Cross L

A motion was made to approve the low quote from Uebelhor Toyota pending state approval from the Immunization & Vaccine Supplement 3 grantor, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: AMERICAN LEGAL

Attorney Schnarr provided information to American Legal for a supplement update to the County Code of Ordinances.

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RE: SURPLUS ITEMS

Auditor Morton presented a list of items to be declared surplus – 22 chairs, a 2016 Laptop, and the network core switch. A motion was made to declare the items surplus/junk to be disposed of, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: COURTHOUSE MAINTENANCE - NETWORK CLOSET

The network closet in the basement of the courthouse needs to be climate controlled. Consensus was to have Custodian Scott Hopf look at ways to cool the room.

RE: CITY OF JASPER OPIOID FUNDS

Auditor Morton presented a request from the City of Jasper to dispense their Opioid funding to the Dubois County Substance Abuse Council. Consensus was for Auditor Morton to research the appropriate options for the funding.

RE: FUTURE MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, September 18, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex.