

**REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**September 6, 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 September 6, 2022. Present were Commissioner Chad A. Blessinger, Commissioner Nick Hostetter and Commissioner Elmer Brames. Also present were County Auditor Sandra L. Morton, County Attorney Gregory S. Schnarr, Highway Supervisor Steven L. Berg, and Highway Engineer Brent Wendholt. A quorum was declared present and the meeting was opened for business by President Blessinger. Minutes of the August 15, 2022, regular meeting had been previously distributed to the Commissioners and were approved as presented. The minutes were then signed. Incomes for the month of August 2022 were as follows: Recorder \$26,804.54; Health Department \$30,322.61; Auditor \$112.00; Clerk \$26,833.18; 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:

Transfer of Appropriations – More funding is needed for additional signage required by INDOT for bridge postings. Berg requested an appropriation transfer of \$2,500 from MVH Stone to MVH Signs. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Additional Appropriation Request – Berg requested additional appropriations in the MVH Tires & Tubes for \$10,000 and Equipment Repair for \$25,000 and General Fund Sanitation Tires & Tubes for \$2,000 which are running low heading into the fall maintenance season. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Trash Bag Stickers – Beginning on October 3, 2022, the Recycling Centers will resume trash bag sticker sales to the public. Plexiglass will be installed on the front window with a 6-inch opening on the bottom for transactions. The public will not be permitted to enter the buildings. Batteries and magazines will have a location for collection near the door. Sticker costs are \$1.50 each per 45-gallon bag, larger bags will require another sticker. The large item dumpster in Ferdinand will require 8 stickers per item deposited. Correct change will be provided to customers.

**RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT**

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

Countywide Bridge Inspection 2022-2025 – American Structurepoint submitted a rough draft of the Phase I inspection. Wendholt reviewed and recommended approval. A motion was made to approve the Bridge Inventory Inspection Summary Report – Phase I 2022, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Safe Streets for All (Action Plan) – Wendholt is currently working on applying for the grant in-house and has scheduled a call with a consultant for clarification on portions of the submittal.

Driveway Sight Distance Waiver (325 East) – Michelle Frank submitted a driveway application on County Road 325 East. During review of the area, it was observed that the proposed location does not have the adequate 400 foot sight distance. Due to the geometry of the parcel, the proposed site is the only spot with County Road frontage. The resident has agreed to sign the Sight Distance waiver, which relieves the County from any liability that may occur due to the lack of sight distance. Following discussion, a motion was made to approve the recommendation and approve the waiver, was duly seconded and carried 2-1 with Blessinger being the dissenting vote.

**2022 HAC Paving Projects** – (6/1/2022 – 8/31/2022)

22-03	500 West	Calcar Paving	Completed 8/19/22
22-04	Town of Ireland	Calcar Paving	Completed 8/26/22
	Hopf Addition, 500 West & 150 North		
22-06	Old 545 & Dubois Rd NW	Calcar Paving	Completed 8/11/22
22-07	St Anthony Road West	Calcar Paving	Completed 7/25/22
22-08	Celestine Road North	Calcar Paving	Completed 8/10/22
22-09	Old Huntingburg Road, 150 South	J.H. Rudolph & Co.	Completed 8/30/22
	100 South, & 400 West		



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The Stop Loss renewal with several carriers was presented; however, the increases ranged from 6% to 28%. Due to large claimants, lasers were included. Consensus was to wait two weeks and hopefully lock down specific numbers at that time.

Employee contributions and COBRA rates will be discussed at the next meeting.

**RE: EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP)**

HR Generalist Rhodes presented a comparison of three different Employee Assistance Programs for services in 2023 as follows:

LifeSpring	6 sessions	\$1.53 PEPM			
BHS	5 sessions	\$2.27 PEPM	or	6 sessions	\$2.46 PEPM
Curalinc	5 sessions	\$2.07 PEPM	or	7 sessions	\$2.44 PEPM

After lengthy discussion on the services provided, a motion was made was to continue services with LifeSpring, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

**RE: HIGHWAY SURPLUS EQUIPMENT SALES**

It being 10:00 a.m., the time advertised for the receipt of bids for the Highway Surplus CAT Vibratory Roller, the following bids were thereupon received, opened and read aloud:

Moonlight Excavating	\$4,100
Philip Fiscella	\$ 806
Schroering Heating and Plumbing	\$3,300

The bids were taken under advisement. Following review, the bid from Moonlighting Excavating was recommended for approval. A motion was made to approve the recommendation, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

It being 10:05 a.m., the time advertised for the receipt of bids for the Highway Surplus Brine Truck, the following bids were thereupon received, opened and read aloud:

Jeremy Blake	\$2,000
Philip Fiscella	\$ 951
Love Excavating	\$5,500

The bids were taken under advisement. Following review, the bid from Love Excavating was recommended for approval. A motion was made to approve the recommendation, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

**RE: JUSTICE PROJECT CONSTRUCTION PHOTOS**

Sheriff Tom Kleinhelter presented a time lapse video of photos taken by Brescher Photography of the construction of the Justice Project.

**RE: COUNTY WEBSITE**

Commissioner Blessinger reported on the progress of the current revision of the county website.

**RE: PARK & BIKE TRAILS**

Coleman Lovelace, representing the Jasper Bike Club, presented the need for family biking trails in the County. Coleman believes biking infrastructure is needed to promote bicycle use, increase health and wellness, encourage family togetherness, reduce automobile use and parking issues, and to promote tourism. He urged anyone wanting to plan bike trails to please hire bike trail experts.

**RE: ELECTION ANNEXATION ORDERS**

Deputy Clerk Audrey Kemker presented information on the Election Annexation Orders A new order was executed to establish precincts due to subsequent annexations following the previous Order dated October 12, 2021. This change did not impact the 2022 primary or general elections.

A motion was made to approve the Order Establishing Precincts, was duly seconded and carried unanimously. The Order can be found with exhibits at the Dubois County Clerk’s office within the County Election Board meeting minutes.

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STATE OF INDIANA )  
 ) SS: BEFORE THE DUBOIS COUNTY  
 ) BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY OF DUBOIS )

**ORDER ESTABLISHING PRECINCTS**

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 3-11-1.5 requires that the boundaries of precincts be established and revised in compliance with the directives of said law: and

WHEREAS, pursuant to IC 3-11-1.5, Dubois County, Indiana by and through the Board of County Commissioners, has determined that it is necessary and proper to establish and revise the boundaries of certain precincts of the County;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF DUBOIS COUNTY:**

SECTION 1. Dubois County, by and through the Board of County Commissioners, establishes and revises the boundaries of certain precincts within the County. A precinct description and map of the boundaries of each precinct submitted to the Indiana Election Division is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 2. This ORDER becomes effective January 2, 2022 to recognize the precinct boundaries which became effective on January 1, 2022, pursuant to IC 3-11-1.5-38.1, and upon the approval of these precincts by the Indiana Election Division, provided that no objection is filed by a voter of the county by noon ten (10) days after the publication of notice of the proposed precinct establishment order. If a timely objection is filed by a voter of the county, or notice of the proposed precinct establishment order has not been timely published to provide a voter of the county with the period provided by law to file an objection, then this ORDER becomes effective upon the approval of the Indiana Election Commission after a hearing pursuant to IC 3-11-1.5.

**SO ORDERED, THIS 6<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2022:**

**RE: 911 NEW HIRE**

911 Director Stuart Wilson requested approval to hire Sarah Haas as a new telecommunicator to begin on October 10, 2022. A motion was made to approve the new hire as presented, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Due to the shift coverage needed, the 911 Department will be entering into a mandatory overtime schedule. Wilson will appear at the next County Council meeting to discuss necessary funding until all new staff members are trained.

**RE: BAIRD PUBLIC FINANCE**

Allison Menke and Jeff Tooley, of Baird Public Finance, appeared to discuss a Tax Management Strategy to increase funding revenues for the County. Landon Boehm, via teleconference, discussed using debt levies for capital related projects and the opportunities to fund capital projects in the County using debt service funds. No action was taken.

**RE: AMBULANCE UPDATE**

EMS Director Ryan Young presented a fleet summary report. Two of the vehicles need to be replaced. The approximate cost for the last new vehicle purchased was \$318,000. Young would like to consider purchasing a chassis and remounting the existing box after being refurbished at a cost of approximately \$250,000. The benefits and value that could be found were discussed. Turnaround time to swap the box is approximately four months and a new order can take up to 18 months. A motion was made to support the replacement of Ambulance 0105 with the remount process, was duly seconded and carried.

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**RE: DRAINAGE ISSUES**

Surveyor Ken Brosmer was in attendance. The following issues were discussed:

Eckerle/Schitter - As follow-up to Pat Eckerle's request at the previous meeting regarding the Schitter property, County Attorney Greg Schnarr, reported on his findings. The drain is not a legal drain regulated by the County, should be maintained by the landowners, and is a private issue. Provisions to establish a public drain were discussed.

Altar Creek - Concerns of impacted landowners were previously shared with the Board and further discussions were held. The services for cleaning of the drain were procured privately, and not through the drainage board. Future maintenance or cleaning of the drain may be brought before the drainage board to determine the appropriate maintenance, procurement for services, and/or assessments pursuant to Indiana Code.

**RE: APPOINTMENTS**

The following appointments were made to fill vacancies on the following boards:

Community Corrections - Education Administrator - Tara Rasche

The form was signed as she was appointed at the previous meeting.

Community Corrections - Lay Person Position - Jonathan Burton

A motion was made to approve the appointment, was seconded and carried unanimously.

Jasper Planning Commission – must be a republican political appointment to fill Angel Serrano's vacancy. The following persons were considered: Glen Pierce or Phil Schroering. A motion was made to appoint Phil Schroering to the Jasper Planning Commission, was duly seconded and carried 2-1 with Hostetter being the dissenting vote.

**RE: LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

Commissioner Blessinger presented a letter of support for the Tri-CAP application to the READI Communities 2.0 program ROI grant funds. A motion to approve the letter of support, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Brames presented a letter of support for the Park & Recreation Board's application to the READI Communities 2.0 program. A motion was made to approve the letter of support, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

**RE: ANIMAL CONTROL**

Commissioner Blessinger provided information regarding a meeting held to discuss the future for animal control issues within the County. Representatives from the Town of Ferdinand, City of Jasper, Board of Animal Health, Dubois County Sheriff's Department, Dubois County Humane Society and others were in attendance.

**RE: AUDITOR'S OFFICE PRINTER**

Auditor Morton presented information on a printer in the auditor's office that needs to be replaced. Consensus was to proceed when funding is obtained by the County Council.

**RE: VETERAN SERVICES OFFICE**

Auditor Morton reported the Veteran Services office would like to add a second phone line in the office. Consensus was to proceed to obtain prices.

**RE: COURTHOUSE GENERATOR**

Auditor Morton discussed the need to have a generator in the Courthouse for the computer network core switches and servers. Consensus was to work with Custodian Scott Hopf to gather more information.

**RE: KNOWBE4 COMPUTER SERVICES**

Auditor Morton reported the County will be switching providers for the employee KnowBe4 computer training when the current contract ends in October 2022. The State of Indiana is providing the service for municipalities and local governments at no cost.

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**RE: DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING**

The next Department Head Meeting will be held on October 19, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioner/Council Room. Commissioner Brames will attend.

**RE: JUSTICE PROJECT CONSTRUCTION SOFT COSTS**

Commissioner Blessinger reported he and Council President Michael Kluesner have been working with Business Environments on furnishings needed for the Sheriff's Office, Community Corrections, Emergency Management and 911.

**RE: SURPLUS ITEM**

Highway Supervisor Berg reported the timeclock at the department has quit working and requested to declare it surplus/junk. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

**RE: PARK MAINTENANCE**

Commissioner Brames reported that Janelle Hasenour, 4-H Council President, contacted him about maintenance projects being done at the Dubois County Park. The Commissioners noted no conflicts or concerns.

**RE: FUTURE MEETING**

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, September 19, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex.