

SECOND REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JANUARY 17, 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 8:12 a.m. (EST) on January 17, 2023. Present were Commissioners Chad A. Blessinger, Nick Hostetter, and Serice Stenftenagel. Also present were County Auditor Sandra L. Morton, County Attorney Gregory Schnarr, 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 January 3, 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: PROSECUTOR EMPLOYEE

Prosecutor Beth Sermersheim requested creation of a new temporary unpaid position to continue services on three specific court cases. Former Dubois County Deputy Prosecutor Stephanie Smith resigned her position on January 6, 2023 to work with Clinton County. Due to the complex nature of the cases, she has agreed to continue working on the court cases without compensation until completion. She will only receive mileage and lodging expenses to be paid from the Prosecuting Attorney budget.

A Memorandum of Understanding was presented outlining the agreement made between Dubois County and Clinton County. A motion was made to appoint Stephanie M. Smith as a special prosecutor in Dubois County as noted in the Memorandum of Understanding was duly seconded and carried unanimously. Ms. Smith will sign the MOU when the Oath of Office is administered.

RE: HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

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

Office Water Damage – ServPro will begin demolition of all areas damaged by the water leak that took place on December 26, 2022. Berg requested Rainy Day funds to cover costs incurred not covered by insurance or to pay the deductible. Consensus was to proceed with the Additional Appropriation from Rainy Day funds pending County Council approval in the amount of \$30,000. Temporary offices have been set up in the breakroom.

Activity Summary for 2022 - Berg presented the Activity Summary for all work completed in 2022 including paving, surface treatments, patching, bridges and culvert replacements, road striping and road signage. Copies were distributed.

2023 Hourly Equipment Rates – Berg presented the equipment list for 2023 which is reflective of current FEMA rates. The prices do not include the cost of an operator and in all cases, does not include materials. A motion was made to approve the Equipment Rates as presented, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Equipment Rotation – Berg presented the 4-Year Equipment Rotation list. The first item for 2023 is a heated emulsion tank which has already been installed. The next item to purchase is a boom mower to replace an old unit which has been broken down with massive amounts of metal in the system. After research and using Sourcewell as the purchasing agent, Berg obtained a quote from Hutson, Inc. which features a John Deere 6120 -M tractor and a Diamond 20' boom mower. Hutson will warranty and service both tractor and boom mower. The total price is \$180,456.03 which includes the trade-in of the 2018 boom mower tractor and a used Rhino deck mower which has been an unused backup for years. Funds are available in the current budget. It will be delivered in May 2023. A motion was made to support the Equipment Rotation list as presented including changing the boom mower. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Mechanic Service Truck – Discussions were held with local Ram and Ford dealers concerning a chassis for the new truck. Neither unit will have openings until 2024. The plan is to develop a very general specification where the engine size, chassis length and GVW (gross vehicle weight) are more critical. Berg hopes to find a vehicle on a lot that would meet the specifications. The body is a custom-built unit and would be purchased separately. Berg will seek an additional appropriation in the amount of \$175,000 from the Cum Cap Funds at the County Council meeting in February. Consensus was to proceed.

County Road 420 North Signage – Plans are in progress to replace the signage.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

INDOT CCMG 2022-2 – Wendholt received a proposed contract with INDOT and Dubois County for the repaving of Portersville Road and the Town of Portersville via DocuSign. A motion was made to approve Wendholt signing the documents on behalf of the County, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

INDOT CCMG 2023-1 – The application for the Community Crossings Matching Grant 2023-1 was submitted on January 5, 2023.

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Distressed Road 2023 – Wendholt is getting the final items completed on the 2023 Distressed Road submittal. The roads submitted are Meridian Road, 130 West, 225 South, WITZ Road and 400 South. Consensus was to proceed.

Bridge #254 Replacement (St. Anthony Road West) – The bridge will be replaced in the summer of 2023. Currently it is a 21' metal arch. It will be replaced with a steel beam structure. For the deck, Wendholt is researching the use of Fiberglass Reinforced Deck instead of Steel Reinforced Deck. The fiberglass deck will make the entire deck resistant to Chlorides/Salt. Wendholt is in discussions with Purdue/LTAP about testing this new type of deck to see how it performs. A Zoom meeting will be held on January 23, 2023 to discuss more details.

RE: H.E.L.P.

Community Coordinator Rilyn Bawel reported the four Pathway meetings have been completed. The E-Connectivity Pathway chose to work on Cyber Security training for the public. Bawel will be attending both County and City council meetings to provide program updates. The Core Committee will review and prioritize the pathway items on February 2, 2023.

RE: REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

Mary Austin, Clark Dietz, via teleconference, reported on the activities for the Regional Sewer District.

Progress Items:

- All property owners have received letters notifying them that the survey work has begun. The notices included my phone number if they have any questions or concerns. Austin has taken several calls from property owners who have had a few basic questions. She has not received any negative feedback.
- The first round of field survey for the PER has started and will continue for 3-4 more weeks. Clark-Dietz currently has three full survey crews currently working on this project.
- Clark-Dietz has been meeting with Jasper and their engineers (Midwestern) on the first Tuesday of each month to make sure that we are coordinating the PERs for both the RSD's project and the work that Jasper will be doing on their system.
- The PER (Preliminary Engineering Report) work has begun and plans for a preliminary alignment ready for review at the next PER Progress meeting.
- Jasper's preferred option at this time is to build a new WWTP on the north side of their system that will treat the flow from the RSD. Jasper also plans to redirect a portion of their existing infrastructure to the new plant. We are hoping to have a preliminary response from IDEM regarding the approval for a new discharge point.

RE: BAKER TILLY ENGAGEMENT LETTER

Discussion was held on the Baker Tilly Engagement Letter to assist Dubois County with advisory services for the Regional Sewer District with respect to the preliminary study. Services will not exceed \$15,000 using ARPA funds. A motion was made to approve the contract with Baker Tilly, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: PACE BUTLER

Commissioner Blessinger reported the surplus electronic items were received and recycled by Pace Butler. No funds were received for the items sent.

RE: SHERIFF STAFFING

Sheriff Tom Kleinhelter presented information on his request to increase staffing at the Sheriff's Department. A presentation was distributed detailing the request for nine new deputies - 6 patrol, 1 merit deputy for the Courthouse, and 2 detectives. Consensus was to review the data and gather public input.

RE: HEALTH INSURANCE

HR Generalist Markie Rhodes requested permission to prepare and distribute a Request for Proposal for the health insurance brokerage services to be bid in 2023. The current contract with Gallagher Services will expire on October 31, 2023. Consensus was given to proceed.

RE: SURPLUS ITEMS

Auditor Morton presented the following items be declared surplus:

- 6 - office chairs from the Auditor's office and Annex Conference Room
- 1 - damaged laptop from the EMS department
- 1 - typewriter from the Auditor's office

A motion was made to declare the items surplus, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: COUNTY VISION STATEMENT

As part of the strategic investment plan for the H.E.L.P. program, Commissioner Blessinger reported he was asked for the county vision statement. Following research, he found guidelines and

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suggested various ideas. Following discussion, a motion was made to use the following statement in the H.E.L.P. Strategic Improvement Plan, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

“We envision a county with strong schools, healthy and safe communities, beautiful landscapes and farmlands, thriving businesses and opportunities.”

RE: OPIOID SETTLEMENT

Commissioner Blessinger and Auditor Morton discussed uses of the OPIOID settlement funds to be received by the County over the next 18 years. The funds will be distributed in two portions: Unrestricted and Restricted Local Abatement Shares. The settlement amounts received will be different each year. More information should be forthcoming on the uses of the funds.

RE: EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

The H.E.L.P. Coordinator position will end in June 2023 when the program has been completed.

RE: ELECTION NOTICE

County Attorney Greg Schnarr reported the Indiana Election Division received the proposed precinct establishment order and has been approved by the Indiana Election Division Order 2022-280. County Clerk Amy Kippenbrock has published notice of the order.

RE: DUMPSTER SITE PURCHASE

County Attorney Greg Schnarr provided an update on the closing date to purchase the Dubois Dumpster site land. There were no objections if the closing is not completed by January 30, 2023.

RE: 911 BID OPENING

It being 10:00 a.m., the time advertised for the receipt of bids for the 911 Communication Center Console Furniture, the following bids were thereupon received, opened and read aloud:

Watson Consoles	\$ 95,234.55 up to \$112,617.83
Bramic Creative Business Products, Ltd.	\$117,508.32 up to \$131,720.40
Xybix Systems, Inc.	\$103,924.36 or \$126,748.22
Sustema Corp	\$127,656.90
Evans Consoles, Inc.	\$150,271.86 or 162,423.24

The bids from Xybix Systems, Inc. and Sustema Corp. were incomplete, thus invalid. The remaining bids were taken under advisement and will be awarded on February 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

RE: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Resident Mark Nowotarski requested a public input meeting on the Sheriff's request to increase employees. He also stated he feels vision statements for governments are a bad idea.

RE: FUTURE MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex.