

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 6, 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 February 6, 2023. Present were Commissioner Chad A. Blessinger, Commissioner Nick Hostetter and Commissioner Serice Stenftenagel. Also present were County Auditor Sandra L. Morton, County Surveyor Ken Brosmer, Highway Supervisor Steven L. Berg, Highway Engineer Brent Wendholt, and County Attorney Gregory S. Schnarr. A quorum was declared present and the meeting was opened for business by President Blessinger. Minutes of the January 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 January 2022 were as follows: Recorder \$15,942.21; Health Department \$50,839.86; Auditor \$.00; Clerk: \$24,301.94. 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 – Damaged materials in the office areas have been removed due to the burst water pipe. Local contractors have been contacted to discuss renovation needs. At this time, three contractors have responded to discuss scheduling and costs. Berg is working with the Insurance Company as well.

Trash Fee Complaint – The County received a complaint letter from a resident in regard to the cost of disposing a large 55-gallon trash bag. For decades, the 45-gallon size trash bag has been used as the normal volume size for the cost of a sticker. The site attendants have been instructed to require a second sticker if a larger bag is used. The complainant requested a change to the sale process by charging incrementally instead of double. Currently, internal controls have been put in place for the stickers. Berg feels the process will become complicated if price adjustments for a variety of sizes is used. Following discussion, a motion was made to continue using the current policy to charge a sticker for any bag 45-gallons or less; and a larger 55-gallon bag will be the cost of two stickers, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Malcon Reimbursement of Excise Taxes- Malcon has recovered reimbursable taxes on fuel purchases. The Department has attempted to take over the process; however, due to the difficulty in matching the calculations and keeping current with changes in the laws, Berg feels the cost of using the service more than pays for itself. To date, a total of \$25,237.14 has been recovered at a cost of \$12,618.57. Berg recommended retaining the services with Malcon to cover the next 6 annual quarters and requested an Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$9,000. A motion was made to continue the service and approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Mechanic Service Truck – The County Council approved advertising \$175,000 to be used for a new mechanical service truck. A Chassis in the build stage has been located at Sternberg's at the price of \$74,834 with delivery in July 2023. Meyer Truck Equipment has a service body with components for the price of \$95,000.

District #3 Boom Mower Operator Retiring – Wayne Schmitt is a boom mower operator in District #3 who began his service in May 2008. He has notified us of his plans to retire on February 17, 2023. Schmitt has been a valuable employee and will be missed. Applications have been accepted to fill the vacancy and interviews are being scheduled.

RE: DUBOIS STRONG AND GROW DUBOIS COUNTY

Agreements for Professional Area Economic Development Services were received for Dubois Strong and Grow Dubois County for 2023. A motion was made to sign the Agreements, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: TEMPORARY REMOTE WORK AGREEMENT

Prosecutor Beth Schroeder submitted a request for Brandy Quinn, Victim Advocate, to temporarily work remotely from February 7, 2023 to February 24, 2023 under recommendation by the HR Generalist Markie Rhodes and the Prosecutor. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

INDOT CCMG 2022-2 – Bids will be received at 9:00 a.m.

Safe Streets for All (Action Plan) – The County was awarded a grant through the Federal Highway Administration in the amount of \$84,000 which would be an estimated 80% of the total cost to create a Safety Action plan. FHWA will be sending an agreement to obtain the funds. A webinar is available to better explain how the plan can be completed.

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 6, 2023

Distressed Road 2023 – nothing to report. Wendholt will appear before the County Council in February to obtain signatures for approval.

Bridge #14 Replacement (Division Road) – The project is proceeding. The west abutment is complete. The Contractor was able to excavate the drive piling on the east abutment, but the water level has risen, placing the project on hold. The contractor was able to drive sheet piles around the work area to allow them the ability to pump the water down, but the water has risen higher than the sheet piles. Once the water level drops, it will be pumped out to get the abutment wall formed and poured.

Street Signs - Complaints were received about the numerous signs placed on State Road 164. Following discussion, Engineer Wendholt was directed to contact INDOT to relay the complaints and to ask if there is a remonstrance for the public.

RE: EARTH CHARTER INDIANA CLIMATE EDUCATION

Resident Mark Nowotarski introduced Danni Schaust, Resiliency Coordinator and Environmental and Climate Advocate, to discuss climate education and to develop a Climate Action Plan for Dubois County. Schaust provided information on Earth Charter Indiana and climate change projections for Dubois County. She feels Dubois County can become a leader in developing a regional climate plan.

Schaust and Nowotarski have launched a local community group called Greendrinks 812 to provide more information and education on this topic. The group is open to anyone interested in the environment and wanting to get involved. Greendrinks 812 will hold the first meeting on February 21, 2023 at St. Benedicts Brew Works from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in Ferdinand.

RE: CCMG 2022-2 BID OPENING

It being 9:00 a.m., the time advertised for the receipt of bids for the Community Crossings Matching Grant 2022-2 Portersville Road and the Town of Portersville, the following bids were thereupon received, opened and read aloud:

Calcar Paving	\$532,637.10
E&B Paving	\$582,900.00
JH Rudolph & Co.	\$572,701.00
C & R Construction	\$537,594.00

The Bids were taken under advisement and will be awarded later in the meeting.

RE: NACO LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Commissioner Blessinger discussed sending one person to the NaCo Leadership training. Consensus was to open it to the council members first.

RE: JASPER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Human Resources Generalist Markie Rhodes requested permission to become a member of the Jasper Chamber of Commerce. Consensus was to allow the request and to pay the membership fees from the Human Resources budget.

RE: BROADBAND FIBER MAKE READY

Commissioner Blessinger provided an update on the Fiber Make Ready status with Dubois REC. Orange County Fiber is currently connecting homes with fiber on the east side of the county along State Road 145, W 600 N, S Club Road, E Schnellville Road, St. Anthony Road, Santine Road, and Harts Gravel Road. In a few months, they will be moving to connect homes on the north side along State Road 56 from Hillham to Haysville, Jasper-Dubois Road, Kellerville Road, Portersville Road, and Division Road. PSCI has been fully funded for their portion on the south side.

RE: AMBULANCE REPLACEMENT

EMS Coordinator Ryan Young provided a Replacement Schedule for the EMS Ambulance units. Currently there are two ambulances on order, one being a remount and the other a new unit. Each unit was ordered in 2022 and has not been delivered to date. If a new ambulance is ordered today, it would not be received until 2025 due to backlog issues. Young discussed the need to begin working on replacing the next ambulance on the list. Consensus to move forward with the process to order a new ambulance.

RE: DUBOIS COUNTY SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNCIL

Substance Abuse Council board member Nancy Eckerle presented information on the Dubois County Substance Abuse Council. The 2023 funding is \$42,211.42.

The Comprehensive Community Plan and quarterly report for the Substance Abuse Council was presented. Jenna Bieker-Jones is the Board Chairperson. Council Coordinator Brooke Lampert has resigned her position. Interviews will be held to find a new Coordinator.

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

February 6, 2023

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at the Jasper Library at 11:00 a.m.

RE: CCMG 2022-2 BID AWARD

CCMG 2022-2 Bids received earlier in the meeting were reviewed and found to be complete. Wendholt recommended awarding the bid to Calcar Paving at a cost of \$532,637.10. A motion was made to accept the bid from Calcar Paving, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: SURPLUS ITEMS

Auditor Morton requested permission to dispose of Law Books from the Auditor's office and two adding machines. A motion was made to approve the request, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: JASPER PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

Randy Mehringer has resigned as a member of the Jasper Planning Commission. The Board will seek a replacement to finish the unexpired term and will be discussed at the next meeting.

RE: WHITE STALLION BANKRUPTCY

Superintendent Berg reported they are still waiting for the DNR approval of the reclamation plan and then will hold a public meeting with landowners, elected officials, and bonding company officials.

RE: VETERAN SERVICES

Veteran Services Officer Susan Bramlet introduced Rebecca Henry, the new assistant in the Veteran Services office. She is working to become certified to assist with processing claims. She is currently assisting with managing the office visitors and phone calls as well as the DAV transportation van.

RE: 911 NEW HIRE/STAFFING

911 Director Stuart Wilson requested approval to hire Emily Steffy to replace Aaron Miller who is leaving on February 21, 2023. Steffy would begin on February 27, 2023. A motion was made to approve the hire of Emily Steffy, pending administrative processes, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Due to the shortage of staffing due to significant turnover over the past six months, Wilson is working with 911 Advisory Board member Scott Uebelhor on a presentation to increase the number of dispatchers and change the duties/processes at the center for better employee retainage. This will coincide with the 2024 budget process.

RE: 911 CONSOLE BID AWARD

911 Director Stuart Wilson recommended awarding the bid to Watson Consoles, through vendor Thomas Shelby. A change was made to the options available. The original quote was for five "Mercury Standard" positions and one "Mercury Pro" position. There are some significant differences in functionality and cost between the two. The "Mercury Pro" positions have additional adjustability in the work surface and enhanced adjustability of the monitor array. The work surface itself slides in and out, allowing the telecommunicator to sit closer to, or farther away from the monitor array. This is a significant difference that allows those who are vision challenged to get their position correct to avoid eye strain, see the work of the day on the monitor array, and be more comfortable for the duration of a 12-hour shift. The entire monitor array also moves up, down, forward, and back as a group. This allows for the entire array to be easily positioned for any of the staff members. The Pro is priced at \$127,917.38 which still makes Watson Consoles the low bid with all options included. A motion was made to approve and accept the bid for Watson Consoles, was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

RE: BEGLE'S FIRST ADDITION

Corey Bettag, Cash Waggnner, presented a request to vacate Begle's First Addition and then to create a new Begle's Second Addition. The County Subdivision Review Committee was not given the information to review beforehand. The item was tabled and will be presented at the next meeting.

RE: FUTURE MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Room of the Courthouse Annex.