

# Decatur County Commissioners

July 2, 2012 – 8:00 a.m.

Present: Rick Nobbe, Jerome Buening, John Richards

Minutes were approved as presented.

Claims were approved as presented.

**Mark Mohr, Decatur County Highway Superintendent** gave an update on CR 450 East. The newly constructed road is now open, complete with signage and all the appropriate paperwork has been recorded. Mr. Jerome Buening discussed a bridge on Vandalia Road that the City has proposed as a TIF Project. There was concern that the plans were nearly finalized and no collaboration had been sought from the County. Mr. Mohr also reported that a drainage ditch project had been completed on 300 S. & 20 W. Commissioner Nobbe commented that the highway department had done a tremendous job. Mr. Mohr also reported that the big pipe project on 400 N had been completed including seeding and strawing. Bridge 25 at Adams has the piers nearly finalized and Bridge 19 will have the paving completed by Friday. With just a few more details being finalized, the bridge could possibly reopen within a few weeks. With the weekend winds there were downed trees and power lines that got taken care of pretty quickly. Mr. Mohr also commented that all of the seeding and strawing that has been done recently may not have much straw left on it. Mr. Mohr is working on a report to present to the commissioners that will have a road by road project proposal for their review in two weeks. Commissioner Buening asked whether Mr. Mohr and Ms. Polanski had come to an agreement on the signage ordinance. They reported they are still working on it.

**PMA – Brian Carter** appeared before the board and discussed some extra insurance that he would like to make available to county employees. After his presentation, there was a little discussion and Commissioner President Rick Nobbe politely informed Mr. Carter that there has been confusion involved with extraneous insurances being offered by individuals in the courthouse and that it generally causes a lot of additional work on behalf of the auditor's office as well as confusion on the purchaser of the insurance. Mr. Nobbe stated that the County is self-insured and if county employees want extra insurances they can search those types of plans out on their own. Mr. Carter was thanked for his time.

**Harold Sample, Veteran Services Officer** submitted a report on the transport van. There have been 13 trips made for 20 veterans and a total of 1373.8 miles since last month's report. Mr. Sample reported that he now has the one-page form that will allow people to borrow a donated "scooter" that was donated to the Veteran Services office. Mr. Sample mentioned his concern that the van can only carry 3 veterans per trip since the donating agency removed the back bench seat. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Sample for his fine work and dedication to his office. Mr. Sample replied that he enjoys doing what he does.

Commissioner Rick Nobbe brought the rest of the board up to speed on recent interest in the City obtaining property for the future that is currently in limbo having gone unsold on a Certificate Sale. The property was commonly known as the Old Johnston Wholesale Building, which the city paid to have torn down. It is part of lot 33 and lot 40 on Railroad Street.

Ernestine McIntyre resigned from the Library Board. The library submitted Ashley Hungate as her replacement. Mr. Buening moved to appoint Ms. Hungate and Mr. Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried and Ms. Hungate will be replacing Mrs. McIntyre. The commissioners extended their gratitude to Mrs. McIntyre for her service to the community.

The Commissioners reviewed the current Burn Ban. Interim EMA Director Rob Duckworth reported that there had been 5 complaints of open burning and 4 field/ditch fires since the ban was implemented. None of the fires were firework related. Mr. Duckworth recommended extending the current ban for another 2 weeks or until conditions change. There was much discussion concerning fireworks. Mr. Duckworth did say that the original word put out was that counties could not ban personal fireworks but Homeland Security said that counties can ban if they feel that it is a threat. Indiana is known as a "Home Rule" state. There was discussion of enforcement, penalties and other issues involved. Mr. Duckworth reiterated that he would agree with the postponement of the large displays but didn't feel the personal ban would be necessary or productive and would create unenforceable situations and a lot of calls to local law enforcement.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Jerome Buening to amend the existing burn ban to include banning the use of personal fireworks and for the amended ban to extend for an additional two weeks or until such time as we get significant amounts of rainfall to change the existing conditions. Mr. John Richards seconded the motion. Mr. Nobbe concurred and the motion passed. County Attorney Peg Polanski made provisions to have the amended ban typed and brought to the commissioners for their signatures prior to the end of the meeting.

County Attorney Peg Polanski presented a deed for the Clarksburg property recently sold by the Commissioners to Mrs. Teresa Scudder. The Commissioners signed the paperwork and Ms. Polanski will let Ms. Scudder know she can pick up the deed and pay for her lot.

Animal Control had requested a change in one of their ordinances. Ms. Polanski discussed the proposed change with the board. The proposed change involved the timing requirement of filing an appeal when a ticket is issued by the Animal Warden.

Auditor Wenning is supposed to set a July or August meeting with the committee that is working on the Personnel Policy revision.

Mr. Jerome Buening moved to recess the meeting. Mr. John Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried. The next scheduled meeting will be July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

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Rick Nobbe, President

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Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_