

Decatur County Commissioners
September 17, 2012 – 8:00 a.m.

Present: Rick Nobbe, Jerome Buening, John Richards

The minutes and claims for payment were approved as submitted.

Mark Mohr, Decatur County Highway Superintendent provided an update on Bridge 25 (near Adams) and stated there is a deadline of October 4th. The deck was poured last Tuesday and the approach work is in progress. It does have a concrete rail that is 33" high. There is one issue with a driveway profile but that should hopefully be worked out soon. The landowner lives out of state. Mr. Mohr reported that Requests for Proposals for the next bridge inspection will have a November 1st, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. deadline. Those bids will be received in the Auditor's office. The commissioners should plan on forming a committee to do the scoring on the proposals. Mr. Mohr also discussed the work he's been doing with Enterprise Gas on the gas line that will be going through southern Decatur County. The bond issue has been worked through and they are now working together on routing. The gas company has indicated they will pay the cost if the county acquires a 50' right of way. Mr. Mohr reported that the final permit won't be issued until all of the plans are completed. Commissioner Rick Nobbe asked if the gas company would be paying up front and Mr. Mohr stated they would.

Tom Shannon representing a company that does ADA compliance surveys has been in contact with the County Highway Department. He informed the Commissioners that the county is supposed to come up with a plan to implement ADA upgrades or plans into any building or grounds that the county is responsible for, including sidewalks. Mr. Shannon would like the opportunity identify problem areas in the county based on ADA guidelines. He shared a report that his company produced for another county and explained that the survey helps identify problems and then the county is responsible for drafting an action plan. He also mentioned that to be compliant with the current request, a county just has to have an action plan. The needed changes can be phased in over a period of up to 25 years as long as the changes are in the plan. His business does the review, produces a report and then helps counties get compliant on their deficiencies, some of which could be as simple as changing policy. Mr. Mohr's main concern was that the notice of this needing to be done has been directed to the Highway Department and he doesn't feel that this is his area of expertise. The assumption is that the government can withhold federal and state money if counties aren't compliant so they feel Highway Departments might take notice quicker than another branch. The deadline to have the survey completed is December 31st of 2012. Ed Blanton, a citizen in attendance, commented on his local organization's efforts to address the ADA issue and mentioned that the number of persons with disabilities is only going to grow with the ongoing war efforts overseas.

Mr. Shannon mentioned that there are requirements as far as the number of handicapped spaces and the capacity of facilities. Commissioner Nobbe asked Mayor Herbert if the city was working on this and the Mayor said yes, the City Engineer is working on the project. Mr. Nobbe asked if the city might consider letting the City Engineer submit a bid to the county for comparison to Mr. Shannon's bid. County Attorney Peg Polanski commented that it would be prudent to take proposals. Commissioner Buening asked about the potential time frame to perform the survey and Mr. Shannon indicated that he thought the issues could be identified in a timely enough fashion to allow for the plan to be developed and policy could be in place by year end. He also indicated that he feels that the government won't be so quick to act if the county is making an attempt instead of blatantly ignoring the required survey. Mr. Nobbe asked Mr. Mohr to forward information to him for his review on what is required. Mr. Mohr continued his report on the county road system announcing that the project at Base Road and 850 E is progressing and

that the second pipe will be installed this week. The adjacent property owners have been wonderful to work, especially New Point Stone. Commissioner Nobbe asked about a potential opening date and Mr. Mohr said due to the size of the pipes and the scope of the project a large amount of compaction will have to take place so his estimate is it will be another two weeks.

Mr. Mohr reported that he has been working with Melanie Maxwell from the Tourism office on putting together a route for a bus of currently undetermined dimensions to tour through highlights of Decatur County. The group of 52 senior citizens from Ohio will have a box lunch on the Westport Covered Bridge and Mr. Mohr, Ms. Maxwell and the Commissioners discussed the details. After a brief discussion, Mr. John Richards moved to allow the Decatur County Visitor and Recreation office to use the Westport Covered Bridge on September 26th from 9 – 12. Mr. Jerome Buening seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ed Blanton, citizen attendee commented on old 421 on the other side of the highway and how it was beautiful and painted from the orchard to the county line. He commented that the road is completely marked but that the bridge is falling apart. Mr. Buening commented that Bridge 2 is waiting on INDOT approval and that the roadwork was paid for by Honda. Mr. Buening commented that there is a commitment to do the bridge also pending INDOT approval. Mr. Blanton's concern is that taxpayers in the rest of the county have been waiting on road repairs. He is worried that the state will push for the rest of HWY 421 to become the county's problem going in the other direction. Mr. Mohr has some of the same concerns and commented that similar bridges on HWY 46 have the same problems as Bridge 2. Mr. Blanton was thanked for his concern.

David Neuman, Area Plan Director presented the proposed new amendment to the Decatur County Underground Line Requirements. He stated that it is very similar to the old ordinance but he included some state guidelines and Indiana Code in it. Mr. Albert Armand and Mr. Jay Hatton were in attendance representing the Zoning Board, they were prepared to answer any questions the Commissioners might have about the proposed changes. Mr. Richards asked about the gas company being under state and federal guidelines and Mr. Armand responded that the gas company is not under those guidelines. Their handout says they will abide by state and local ordinance. This amendment to the ordinance clarifies and protects our local landowners. Also, the old ordinance referenced 6" pipe and the new amendment restates it as 4" or larger. With no further questions, Mr. Richards moved to accept the 2012 Amendment to the Decatur County Underground Line Requirements. Mr. Buening seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Nobbe thanked Mr. Armand and Mr. Hatton for their work and for coming in to the meeting.

Diane Moore and Marilyn Davis of New Directions were in to discuss the redirection of their agency from "shelter" to "center for services" for victims of domestic violence and abuse. Ms. Moore did a thorough job of explaining the increased volume of assistance being provided by the organization. She pointed out that her agency, like police, fire and hospital services, is on-call 24/7 for 365 days of the year. She provided a bound booklet that listed statistics, the Board of Directors and other pertinent information. Ms. Moore reported that since she was hired in January of 2011, she has focused heavily on getting the image of what New Directions offers to accurately reflect the services they offer and to expand upon those services. The numbers in the reports she provided prove that she's having success at doing so. She made the point that the agency is operating on less funding than in the past and doing so much more and she hopes that the county will consider additional funding. There was discussion of her sharing this information with the county council. Although the budget cycle is past where she can change her request, speaking with the council can help lay the groundwork for an additional appropriation if and when needed. She is also awaiting word on a large grant from the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. She asked approval for an awareness event that she'd like to hold on the square on Sunday, October 28th at 5:00 p.m. She will get the paperwork from the Auditor and fill out a formal request. Copies of a calendar featuring local artwork on the topic of Teen Dating Violence

were distributed.

Harold Sample, Veterans Service Officer submitted a report on the transport van. Albert Friend is still the only driver qualified to provide transportation for veterans to and from the VA hospitals. He has worked a couple of Saturdays and had one night call. There was some discussion about where to get more volunteer drivers and Commissioner Nobbe suggested checking with local EMT personnel to see if any of them would be interested in their off time.

Lola Materna, Patient Assistance representative discussed her non-profit company's prescription drug card for the uninsured and/or underinsured. After her presentation, the Commissioners had several questions concerning distribution, follow-up and other potential situations that might be a concern. Ms. Materna answered questions and agreed that distribution through the health department would be ideal. Commissioner Nobbe did not want to obligate the health department but did offer to contact the Board of Health and have Ms. Materna talk to their board about her program. She indicated that would be appreciated.

Rob Duckworth, Emergency Management Agency produced a grant request for review and approval for Emergency Management Preparedness Grant funds. He explained briefly that he is currently the only individual involved that has to be compliant with requirements in order for the county to receive reimbursement monies from the state. However, Peggy Brown will need to take the 16 + courses that are required. The state has a \$4000 incentive grant that they are holding. The county EMA scored high enough in the state's assessment to earn the grant and Officer Duckworth indicated that the money, once received, would be used to purchase permanent weather monitoring stations at two locations. He discussed last year during the Tree City Fall Festival what the emergency plans were for crowd and vendors should an incident occur. He informed the Commissioners that the same plan will be in place for this year's festival and wanted input if they desired to see anything done differently. He did affirm that City Police will be able to open the sally port with a remote to create a safe place for public shelter, as well as a key to the regular door in the event of a power failure. The Commissioners were agreeable with the plan. Discussion returned to the grant paperwork. Mr. Richards moved that the paperwork be signed. Mr. Buening seconded the motion, which carried.

Mr. Buening moved to allow EMA and the Fall Festival Committee to utilize the courthouse basement in the event of an emergency. Mr. Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mike Clark, Veterans Memorial Project appeared before the commissioners with the welcome news that the original estimation of what it might cost to put up a new war memorial was much less than originally anticipated. Oakley Monuments would provide the 42" wide, 12 ½ " tall, and 2 ¾ " thick stone with the engraving for \$750. Bruns- Gutzwiler estimated the concrete work at \$2000. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Clark for working on the project and gave him their blessing to continue with the plans as presented.

There was no update on the stop sign ordinance.

County Attorney Peg Polanski discussed the issue of paying the courthouse bonds off early. The formal procedure in the lease says that commissioners must make a notice of their intentions and Ms. Polanski produced a document for the commissioners' approval and signatures. She will arrange a meeting of the building holding corporation members to continue the process if given the go ahead by the commissioners. Mr. Buening moved that Ms. Polanski proceed. Mr. Richards seconded the motion. Mr. Nobbe concurred and the motion carried.

It was mentioned that September 27th is the date scheduled for the 2nd Annual Business Appreciation Day.

Mr. Nobbe mentioned that he had received an invitation from Lt. Governor Becky Skillman regarding a Community Focus meeting that grant recipients are supposed to attend. Decatur County will need representation because the Letts Volunteer Fire Department received a grant. Mr. Richards volunteered to go as a Commissioner Representative.

Mr. Nobbe also mentioned information he's been receiving concerning buying gas at a wholesale rate. A representative is scheduled to be here in October to discuss the program more in depth.

Mr. John Richards moved to recess the meeting. Mr. Jerome Buening seconded the motion. The motion carried and President Rick Nobbe declared the meeting recessed.

The next scheduled meeting is October 1st, 2012 at 8:00 a.m.

Rick Nobbe, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____