

# Decatur County Commissioners

February 4, 2013 – 8:00 a.m.

Present: Rick Nobbe, Jerome Buening, John Richards

Claims were approved as submitted.

Minutes were approved as presented.

**Mark Mohr, Decatur County Highway Superintendent** reported that a section of 950 East had to be closed Friday morning (2-1-13) between SR 46 and 300 South due to a partial cave-in. It will remain closed until working conditions improve. He did say that schools, 911 and the postal service had been notified of the closure.

Mr. Mohr also reported that INDOT will be replacing the bridge deck on the overpass on Base Road and that the proposed detour route had been submitted for county approval. He saw no problems with the proposed routing.

Mr. Mohr had studied the bid proposals for stone, sand and culvert from the prior meeting and recommended acceptance of all stone bids for F.O.B. pricing and New Point Stone for the “furnished and applied” pricing. Mr. Jerome Buening moved that the recommendation be approved and Mr. John Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried.

On the culvert pricing, Mr. Mohr requested that the commissioners accept the low price on each individual product and allow the department to purchase on an as needed basis. Mr. Richards moved to accept Mr. Mohr’s request and Mr. Buening seconded the motion. The motion carried. It was also moved by Mr. Buening to accept all bids for structural plating materials with the county highway given the leeway to purchase the lowest price at the time the replacement is needed. Mr. Richards seconded that motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Mohr discussed a road closing in Letts and the steps that had been taken by County Surveyor Andy Scholle. Mr. Matt Morrow representing the Letts Volunteer Fire Department was present to answer any questions. Mr. Scholle presented maps of the area and explained how his survey as revealed that some roads were not where they should have been and how misinterpretation of railroad right of way had resulted in problems. Acceptance of Mr. Scholle’s work would clear up a majority of the problems in that area and pave the way for the construction of the new fire department structure. There was much detail in the discussion including the installation of a small connecting street between the two north/south roads. Mr. Scholle assured the Commissioners that he had checked the right of way with all adjacent landowner deeds. The petition, public notice and appropriate paperwork had already been completed as of this meeting with just the Commissioner approval being needed to finalize the work. Mr. Nobbe thanked Mr. Scholle and everyone for their work. Mr. Richards moved to accept Ordinance 2013-2 vacating the properties listed and Mr. Buening seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Mohr inquired about the status of the stop sign ordinance. Ms. Polanski indicated the ordinance was with her and would be discussed later in the meeting.

**Barbara Swank-Gallegos and Pepper Cooper, Neace Lukens** were present to discuss any changes wanted or needed in the proposals being gathered for Property and Casualty Insurance. There was some discussion of increasing deductibles but those had already been increased in the prior year’s bid. Ms. Gallegos wanted to find out whether the commissioners want any other options while she is securing quotes from vendors. The Commissioners indicated they are fine with the criteria being used by Ms. Gallegos. There was some discussion concerning dual coverage of the county-owned ambulances and the

park dam. Ms. Polanski reported that the contract that is currently in place indicates there is no need for the county to insure the ambulances. She and Hospital Board Attorney Don Wickens are reviewing and updating the contract between the county and the hospital. The ambulances are actually double-covered until May. Mr. Nobbe is checking on what actions need to be taken with the dam. Ms. Gallegos thanked Christy from the Auditor's office for her assistance in gathering all the necessary documents from the various boards and departments. Ms. Gallegos would like to be on the March 18<sup>th</sup> agenda.

**Marsha Miller-Smith of Neace Lukens and Brenda Nielsen, SIHO Administrator** were on hand to discuss the March 1<sup>st</sup> renewal of the county health insurance policy. Ms. Miller-Smith discussed a worst case scenario for the county and reassured the commissioners that the county's self-funded plan really is in better shape than originally thought and that the program is working the way it is intended. There was lengthy discussion concerning the top ten users of the insurance plan for the last quarter and the indications of where those particular cases might be headed. After much discussion, it was determined that it would be in the county's best interests to stay with the current plan. There exists a possibility of one of the current cases becoming "lasered" due to possible treatment options into a higher out-of-county-pocket funding. If the commissioners sign now, that particular case would be taken on it its current state. If the county waits and in the meantime, that case goes into the next stage of treatment, the county-paid portion would move from \$60,000 to \$150,000. Mr. Cooper explained "expected" costs and reported that the current balance in the non-reverting fund of \$391,899 is healthy. Mr. Cooper will go before the County Council on February 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss the county's current plan. There is a review of the SIHO network to see if county employees are getting the deepest discounts available based on facility usage. Mr. Cooper will speak with the council about what they might want to consider budgeting for next year's insurance needs.

After more discussion, Mr. Richards moved that the health insurance renewal be signed with the same carrier at the renewal price of \$1,513,997.18. Mr. Buening seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Nobbe pointed out that he feels the county employees are doing their part to be responsible in their usage of the benefits.

**Jodi Comer, SIRPC** presented the formal paperwork for the awarding of the bids for the Rehab program. Mr. Buening moved to accept the bid awards as presented. Mr. Richards seconded the motion, which carried.

**Marc Coplon, Economic Development Director** gave his quarterly update. He thanked the Commissioners for having him at their meeting. He discussed past activities and upcoming plans and the fact that there were disappointments in the last year but overall, 2012 was very successful. He reported Hitachi would be adding 60 more full-time jobs and around 100 temporary full-time positions. Valeo would add an additional 209 jobs by the end of 2014 and that Honda has added 350 jobs for 2012. He also reported that the EDC is weeks away from having about 500 acres of land north of I-74 deemed "Shovel Ready". There will be an area/regional Jobs Fair sometime in April and an Auto Expo in June. There are some small but emerging businesses that are taking advantage of the revolving loan opportunity, including a small business in Westport.

**Mayor Herbert** reported that the Menards issue is a nationwide halt to their expansion until the economy recovers.

Mr. Richards stated that people need to know where to go to apply for all of the jobs being talked about. Mr. Nobbe commented that he was pleased to hear about the Job Fair and thanked Mr. Coplon for his report and his efforts.

**Mayor Herbert** reported that the Region 9 Workforce Development Board is now transitioning into a Workforce Investment Board and will be effective in July. Mayor Herbert serves as the Chief Elected Official from the Greensburg/Decatur County area. He reported that it will be less expensive to operate as

the WIB. He also said that Decatur County is the second highest unemployed in the 10 county region. He did mention that Valeo has actually hired more than they initially reported. The Mayor will also check on the city-county lease agreement for the dam.

Paperwork for Ordinance 2013-1 vacating a street in Sardinia was presented for signatures. The official action took place at the prior meeting but the paperwork was not present for signatures. Mr. Richards moved to adopt Ordinance 2013-1 retroactive back to January 22<sup>nd</sup> as the form is dated. Mr. Buening seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Paperwork was presented by County Attorney Peg Polanski regarding Ordinance 2013-3. The **Stop Sign Ordinance** was presented in multiple parts with a portion of the ordinance being required to be advertised and the remainder recorded. Ordinance 2013-4 was drawn up to delineate the fines associated with violating the stops represented in 2013-3. Mr. John Richards moved to approve the ordinances as presented. Mr. Buening seconded the motion. The motion carried. Tami will advertise the appropriate portion and see that all ordinances are taken to the County Recorder's office.

Ms. Polanski reported that she had contacted the publication company that will be doing the codification of the county ordinances and they sent her a letter outlining their modification to the original proposal. There was some discussion about additional fees and options. After many questions, Mr. Richards moved to accept the contract with a five year supplemental fee. Mr. Buening seconded the motion. The motion carried. Tami will make a note to add an additional \$5250 into the Commissioner budget for the second half of the required payment for the project.

Mr. Nobbe got notification from Parks and Recreation that the department is planning to enter into a rental agreement with the farm across from county owned property near the Charlie Buell Park. The rental agreement is for \$170/acre for 7 acres. No one present objected to the arrangement.

Decatur County United Fund requested usage of the southeast corner of the square for the annual Strawberry Festival. Set up will be after 3 p.m. on June 6<sup>th</sup> with the event taking place on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Buening moved to allow the usage, Mr. Richards seconded the motion and it carried.

The subject of an appointment for the Decatur County Hospital Board was discussed due to Mr. George Reiger choosing to vacate his position after many years of service. Suggestions for the position were Steven Stringer and Dr. Mary McCullough. Mr. Buening moved to nominate Dr. McCullough for the position. Mr. Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Commissioners thanked George Reiger for his many years of service.

An e-mail from Dark Rider Filmworks was presented requesting permission to produce a ghost-hunting episode featuring the courthouse. The commissioners did not feel this was something they would be interested in allowing.

Mr. Buening moved to recess, Mr. Richards seconded the motion and President Rick Nobbe concurred. The next scheduled meeting will be February 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. with a GIS meeting scheduled for 10:30 that same morning.

Rick Nobbe, President

---

---

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

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