

Commissioner Meeting

May 6th, 2013 8:00 A.M.

Present: Rick Nobbe, Jerome Buening, John Richards

Claims were approved as presented. Minutes of the April 15th, 2013 meeting were approved as presented.

Ms. Pat Koors from Decatur County Right to Life requested permission to put crosses on the courthouse lawn in remembrance of unborn babies from May 20th – June 3rd. The Commissioners pointed out that displays are limited to one week. Ms. Koors was advised to fill out a Request form in the Auditor's office.

Dave Stults, Westport Area Business Association requested permission from the Commissioners to close the road so the covered bridge could be utilized safely during the Covered Bridge Festival on June 7th and 8th. He reported that Highway Superintendent Mark Mohr generally provides barricades for the closure. Mr. Richards moved to allow the closure, Mr. Buening seconded the motion and Mr. Nobbe concurred with allowing the event to utilize the structure. Highway Department Supervisor Tim Ortman will make Mr. Mohr aware of the closure dates.

Bryan Robbins, Mainstreet Greensburg, provided an update on the walking paths and presented documents showing the overall routing and a change that needed to be implemented due to right of way issues. At this point in time, factoring in grants and money from the community, the project has cost taxpayers approximately \$8000. The original contract was for approximately \$89 – 90,000 with the county being responsible for 20% of that amount or approximately \$17,900. The community foundation paid in \$10,000. Now that the project is entering into the right of way acquisition phase, those numbers will be higher. Mr. Robbins produced invoices that were created outside of the contract due to the change order. Because of the change order, INDOT requirements necessitated the return of Schneider Corp. personnel to do onsite work. Additionally, because the one owner isn't interested in allowing right of way, it will require an additional survey. Mr. Michael Krosschell of Schneider Corp indicated that an area outlined in red would need surveyed due to drainage and would then get aligned into the original design. The path will be 12 ½ feet wide, paved with a 40 foot easement and a perpetual easement of 20 feet. The deadline was originally the 17th so the rerouting is making all parties have to push to meet the date. Mr. Robbins commented that County Surveyor Andy Scholle had been extremely helpful on the project and Mr. Krosschell echoed his comment. Mr. Robbins also mentioned that Hardebeck Appraisal would be doing an appraisal of the ground being used so that the dollar amount could be used in the matching funds number. Mr. Robbins asked if the property owned by the county by Rebekah Park that is being used as part of the path could be included in the perpetual easement and if so, would the commissioners need to give their okay. The amount of \$44,189 was the cost of the rerouting adjustment and was not part of the original contract. Mr. Robbins did comment that there had been two public hearings with positive community input for the project. Mr. Buening made a motion that EDIT money be used on the project. Mr. Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried. Ms. Polanski suggested that the commissioners also make a motion to approve the south trailhead at Rebekah Park. Mr. Nobbe asked for the motion, Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Buening seconded the motion to allow usage of the trailhead and to grant the perpetual easement. The motion carried.

Mr. Robbins also discussed plans for the May 25th Fisher 5 race. The race will be at 1:30

and Mr. Robbins will block off the parking areas. He also mentioned that the first Farmer's Market of the season will be held on Friday, May 10th.

Russell Wilson, Westport Citizen, voiced his concerns about the County Election Board and relayed his conversation that he had with the attorney for the Secretary of the State. He reported that the Secretary's attorney opined that the Decatur County Election Board is attempting to suppress the vote in Decatur County. He also reported that he had spoken with County Councilman Kenny Owens and that with the new plan; some people will have to drive 25 miles to vote. He suggested that the Commissioners call the Secretary of State's office to verify this information. He stated that if the vote center passes locally, there would most likely be litigation. Commissioner John Richards has spoken with Mr. Wilson regarding his concerns. Mr. Wilson was thanked for his input.

Patty Jackson, Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning passed around a sign-in sheet for the 8:30 a.m. rebid opening. The bids were opened by Ms. Jackson and read aloud. Mr. Buening moved to take the bids under advisement. Mr. Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried. Ms. Jackson will return with the results of the bid awards.

SIHO Statement of Benefits revision was signed.

A request by One Community, One Family concerning Mental Health Awareness Month resulted in a Proclamation being signed by the Commissioners.

There was a brief discussion of a tort claim filed by the Horan Estate against the county.

Correspondence included a letter from Hardebeck Appraisal notifying the county of his appraisal for the walking trail. An annual report to the State School Superintendent was reviewed and signed.

Ms. Koors' paperwork for usage of the courthouse grounds for the Right to Life display was brought down to the meeting and after review, Mr. Richards moved to allow the usage of the property. Mr. Buening seconded the motion and Mr. Nobbe concurred. Commissioners requested that Tami Wenning remind the mowing service to mow just prior to the May 25th start date for the weeklong display.

Additional documentation for insurance for Neace Lukens was presented and after review by the County Attorney, the Commissioners signed the documents.

Mayor Gary Herbert spoke briefly about the vote centers and indicated the savings to the city would be welcomed. He did say that the group had agreed to increase the number of centers and to put some locations out in the county.

Mayor Herbert also reported that an improvement had been made to the Greensburg access from 74 to 421 after Representative Randy Frye experienced a problem there. INDOT had previously refused to acknowledge that the area needed attention. Two of the commissioners had both traveled into Greensburg from that direction since the improvement and noted it was even more confusing than before. The Mayor said he would send an e-mail to Mr. Nobbe and Mr. Nobbe would contact St. Rep. Frye.

Mr. Nobbe did point out that the vote center was just a conversation at this point and that none of the plans are concrete. He added that the amount of money being saved is minimal compared to the amount of time and energy being spent. The Mayor said the city appreciates the efforts being made.

County Attorney Peg Polanski reported that she had received one response from Sardinia regarding the failure of several property owners to file proof of septic improvements. The respondent said the property of concern was a rental and he was told that if he didn't rent it out that he wouldn't need to do the improvements. After some discussion, it was agreed that Ms. Polanski will continue to move forward with the suit.

Ed Blanton, Concerned Citizen discussed why a road near the quarry was being used that isn't rated for the size of vehicles that are travelling it. According to Mr. Blanton, the road near Star Baptist Church is a mess from letting illegal trucks travel on it. He pointed out that the illegal vehicles routinely pass Highway Superintendent Mark Mohr's property. Mr. Blanton has followed these trucks through the county. He also reported that he has informed the road commissioner at least 2 dozen times about a dangerous stretch of road on 700 South where 1000 West crosses it. The road is torn up and there have been 3 wrecks in the past three months. It needs signage that says "keep to the right". He reported that the north-south road is "gone". His church uses that road regularly and there are two places "as big as a semi" that are torn up and there at least needs to be a sign that says "loose gravel". He stated that out of county people are using our roads and don't pay wheel tax.

(Comments included in minutes are "as is" and have not been verified as to actual validity.)

The Commissioners will talk to Mr. Mohr about the road conditions to see what can be done.

Mr. Richards moved to recess. Mr. Buening seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Monday, May 20th at 8:00 a.m.

Rick Nobbe, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____