

## Commissioner Meeting

May 20th, 2013 8:00 A.M.

Present: Rick Nobbe, John Richards

Minutes were approved as presented with a disclaimer added to public commentary.

Claims were approved as presented.

**Mark Mohr, Decatur County Highway Superintendent** reported that Bridge 18 (near Star Baptist Church) had been lifted off of the existing site and the old iron structure will be deconstructed and stored. The new piers have been poured, the caps are on and the inner beams have been set. Mr. Mohr also reported that an inventory of roads had taken place and there are pink arrows throughout the county that indicate sub base failures that need to be taken care of so the paving budget will be used primarily for those repairs and patching. Stone roads are mostly caught up with some grader work still needing completed. Dirt work at various worksites is gradually being done based on the impact that weather has on that work. Mr. Mohr reported that he has a 1995 backhoe that he would like to trade in because it is beginning to nickel and dime his repair budget. He is interested in a Bobcat track loader and the commissioners agreed that Mr. Mohr should bring in some quotes. He submitted a copy of his Annual Report and the Commissioners signed off on the report after a motion was made by Mr. Richards and seconded by Mr. Nobbe to do so.

Commissioner Rick Nobbe confirmed with Mr. Mohr that as far as repairs for the 2013 season, it does not appear that any roads will be resurfaced and Mr. Mohr stated that it appears that will be the case.

**Mr. Walt Moore, Taxpayer**, appeared before the board to plead his case concerning a denial of his rezoning request. He wants his property rezoned so that he can build a dwelling and rent out an existing dwelling. Area Plan Director David Neuman reported that the request was voted down unanimously due to the area being prime farm ground. It scored badly and upon review by the zoning board, the request was denied. Zoning Board President Albert Armand reported that Mr. Moore was asked if there was another location that Mr. Moore would consider building on and Mr. Moore said there was not. Mr. Armand reported visiting the site and that he did not see any discrepancy in the scoring. Mr. Nobbe asked to confirm that Mr. Moore could build a home as long as the pole barn was not rented out as a dwelling. Mr. Moore pointed out that the property tax won't drop and his only other option is to build a bridge over a creek and he would really like to have the option to rent out the pole barn. Mr. Nobbe stated that other locations in the county have built pole barns to live in and later built homes. Mr. Richards reported that he had also visited the site and reviewed the score sheets and he doesn't believe the zoning board was out of line. He stated his position at this time is to not override the board's decision. Mr. Moore asked about having a bridge built. Mr. Richards said there were several areas in county with water crossings. Mr. Moore questioned why he could not rent the apartment out but would be allowed to build. Mr. Armand explained that the board is following its comprehensive plan. There were several more comments and more discussion. Mr. Nobbe followed Mr. Richards' lead and indicated that he would uphold the board's decision. Mr. Moore can build a home. He cannot rent out the pole barn as a dwelling but it could be rented out as a barn. Mr. Richards moved to uphold the APC decision. Mr. Nobbe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Marc Coplon, Economic Development Director** distributed flyers touting the upcoming Automotive Expo slated for June 20-21 at 1575 W Commerce Park Drive. Mr. Coplon also discussed the Revolving Loan Fund and how much the county and city's contributions are appreciated. Because of the contributions, he is able to apply for a \$90,000 grant to expand the loan program. He reported that the April 28th Job Fair was a big success with 22 companies being visited by approximately 350 job seekers. Mr. Coplon also reported that the county's second "shovel ready" site is nearly ready. A 475 acre site on the north side of the Honda interchange should be ready in the next month or so. The other site is behind Honda and is known as the Honda Rail Park.

Mr. Coplon discussed meeting with the I-74 Corridor Regional Group and the new Indiana Secretary of Commerce Victor Smith and the new Indiana Economic Development Director Eric Doden.

On June 13th, the EDC will host the Annual Meeting Luncheon at the Mainsource Corporate Office. He reminded the Commissioners again about the major event taking place on June 20 – 21 with the Automotive Expo taking place in the 80,000 square foot facility. (Tami will forward flyer to Mr. Leas to include on County Website)

Mr. Coplon said that a provider of compressed natural gas is looking for a local site.

**Dennis Wimer, Regional Workforce Investment Board** was on hand to update the Commissioners on the transition from prior structure to the new Workforce Investment Board. He discussed the history of the regions, the current restructuring efforts and the apportionment of liability among the cities and counties in the multi-county region. There was discussion about the "Chief Elected Official" and the responsibilities of the position with the biggest one being appointment of a 36 – 37 member board. Discussion ensued about which counties had already signed and why some had chosen not to sign. Mr. Richards questioned who the current CEO was because he thought someone else was chosen for the position at an earlier date. There was much discussion about why changes are being made at this point. Commissioners also asked about the number of board appointments and whether the board would be able to make decisions expeditiously. Mr. Wimer said that many of the members are pre-defined and that there are 17 elected officials and several other positions that have to be on the board. Mr. Nobbe discussed the transition as a huge undertaking and stressed the importance of what the board provides in the areas of worker education and unemployment. Mayor Herbert made several comments concerning his worries about the change in the structure and his hesitancy to be a part of it. Mayor Herbert commented that he'd heard varying statements made that caused him to doubt the direction the transition is taking the board. He reported he had thought he was still the current Chief elected Official. Mayor Herbert stated that "due diligence, fiscal responsibility" are being ignored. There were several more comments and then the Mayor stated that he was not going to sign the document and that if the county signed, the county could be responsible for the city share of liability because the city is contained within the county anyway. He stated he doesn't trust it, and doesn't support it under the current leadership.

Mr. Nobbe commented that he would hope that the 17 elected officials on the board would speak up and change the direction of the board if they felt that things weren't being handled properly. Mr. Nobbe stated that he also hopes that the other counties put as much thought into choosing their board members as Decatur County did. There were more questions and more comments and clarification of the usage of an existing contract to help facilitate the transition. Ms. Beth Blasdel commented that previously some costs were disallowed and this may explain why Bartholomew County is reluctant to sign.

Multiple concerns were stated by all. Ultimately, there was no official action taken for several reasons. One county commissioner was not at the meeting and Mr. Wimer and Mr. Cash were requested to make another effort to speak with the Greensburg Mayor and to contact Commissioner Buening to fill him in on the transition efforts prior to the next meeting. This issue will be revisited at the June 3rd Commissioner meeting.

**Patty Jackson, SIRPC** presented the official bid acceptance letter for the Decatur County Owner-Occupied Rehab Program.

Schlemmer - 940 N \$27,186  
Pettit – 121 S. East \$57,750  
Pettit – 802 N Broadway \$27,889  
Pettit – 306 N Range \$30,835

Mr. Richards moved to accept the bids. Mr. Nobbe seconded and the motion carried.

**Carrie McConnell from SIRPC** is working with homeowners to apply for an extra \$7500 if the homeowners are over 62 and qualify otherwise.

Ms. Jackson reported that the application process is changing and there will be two cycles per year that can be applied for. The grant will be capped at \$350,000 and opened to anyone, not just the elderly that meet the other requirements.

**Ms. Jackson** also spoke about the **INDOT Traffic Count** program and the 2014 Comprehensive Traffic Count Study that is coming up. The county should be thinking about potential roads that it would like the count done on in addition to the roads that are always counted.

Letters in regard to the Letts Volunteer Fire Department loan were presented and signed by Auditor Tami Wenning and Commissioner President Rick Nobbe. There was discussion by **Ms. McConnell** concerning potential **Brownfield Grant** money that will help identify problem areas in our county. The EPA is offering \$600,000 for identification and clean-up of brownfield areas. The commissioners expressed an interest in being a part of that coalition.

Mr. Richards moved to recess. Mr. Nobbe seconded the motion. The motion carried. The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 3rd, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

Rick Nobbe, President

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