

Commissioner Meeting

June 17th, 2013 8:00 A.M.

Present: Rick Nobbe, Jerome Buening, John Richards

Minutes were approved as amended.

Claims were approved as presented.

Mark Mohr, Decatur County Highway Superintendent discussed progress on Bridge 18, a federal aid bridge in Adams Township. The bridge crew is nearly ready to pour the deck. Disassembly of the old iron structure hasn't started yet. Mr. Mohr presented the finalized copy of the Annual Report and Financial Statement. He gave a copy to the Commissioners and to the County Auditor. He also reported that work on the Fry project on Millhousen Road is looking pretty good and will make the area much safer. Patching roads and keeping the road sides mowed is keeping the department busy. He did report that one of the boom mowers in the southern end of the county is inoperable. He relayed a conversation that he had with County Council President Ernie Gauck about the possibility of using a mowing deck on the back end of a tractor normally used to push snow. Mr. Mohr thought the idea had merit and offered to price a deck if the commissioners agreed. Mr. Mohr also made it a point to offer his gratitude to the local farmers that do their part helping keep the ditches mowed. Without their help, the county wouldn't be able to get done what they do.

Mr. Mohr reported that he had received a letter from Downey Insurance that highlighted some areas of concern. Mr. Mohr says those issues are being addressed.

Mr. Mohr reported that most of the paving budget will be consumed by repair work but more money will be received later this year due to new legislation. He will be presenting a paving proposal to the commissioners in the near future.

Jared King and Taneha Negangard of Anytime Fitness appeared before the Commissioners. They requested permission to work with the county Auditor to provide payroll deduction options to county employees wishing to become members. There was some discussion of what that would entail and also some discussion as to whether memberships to Anytime Fitness could or should be subsidized by the county wellness plan like the YMCA memberships are. Tami Wenning will put the issue onto the next GIS agenda for discussion. Contact information was obtained from the Anytime representatives.

Payroll deduction would be \$26/month.

Lana Martin appeared on behalf of the **Fall Festival Committee** to request use of the courthouse grounds for September 26th – 28th. She reported she has already met with the Board of Works and City Council and has received permission to close down the streets. After brief discussion, Mr. Richards moved to allow usage of the grounds and Mr. Buening seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Lisa Davies of MinuteMaids presented the Commissioners with a spreadsheet detailing the usage of supplies for the courthouse and other county buildings they clean for the county. Mr. Nobbe stated that he had recently requested that the cleaning company and the county employees try to economize because the budget for supplies is more than halfway used in five months. Ms. Davies suggested that someone needs to be assigned the responsibility of monitoring what the county is paying for supplies. Ms. Davies also pointed out that her company has been using the courthouse as the delivery point for supplies and her company then distributes supplies to the other county buildings from the inventory at the courthouse. There are five county buildings being cleaned. She asked whether the supply company should just start

delivering to all five locations. Mr. Nobbe suggested that if there were a better way to do it, he wouldn't be opposed to the change. Mr. Nobbe will look into the situation and report back what the proposed solution may be. He thanked Ms. Davies for her report.

Julie Riggs and Mark Lindenlaub were present to discuss "Thrive Alliance" which was formerly known and financially supported as the Agency on Aging. They discussed the name change and the combination of two non-profits into one agency. The agency has been working closely with the downtown senior housing projects at the old hotel and the former YMCA buildings. Brochures detailing the agency objectives, contact information and 2012 expenditures were provided. The official request for 2014 funding was made in the amount of \$15,000. Ms. Wenning was asked to make a note of that request in the budget folder for the Commissioners.

Dennis Wimer, Workforce Investment Board and **Lucy Houchins** discussed two documents. The first document asks which commissioner would be chosen to represent this region's elected local officials at the twice yearly meetings they plan to schedule. The second document covered liability issues, county elected officials, fiscal agent and how the board would actually operate. Mayor Gary Herbert stated that he doesn't believe that the board is being formed according to federal law. He indicated the city would not be signing the document and that he would like for Mr. Wimer's department to sign off and indemnify the city. He also stated that he feels there are other conflicts that need resolved prior to the city being onboard with the current proposal. Mr. Wimer reported that he had worked closely with the Department of Labor in regards to these specific concerns for this region to ensure that all procedures have been followed. There was much discussion on the topic concerning which counties have signed and of those who haven't, what their issues with the proposal are. Ultimately, whether the document is signed or not, everyone in the region is still liable for inappropriately spent funds. The document defines how the liability is distributed (apportionment). It doesn't determine whether there is liability or not, it just determines what each partner's portion is. The structure is based on population with the city and the county each having their own percentage. The local appointments to the board are Beth Blasdel and Amy Wickens. If one of the three commissioners is designated the "local elected official" then each county has the same level of participation. Mr. Nobbe asked for confirmation that this set-up could be reviewed and changed if necessary and Mr. Wimer said yes and that this particular region wants to operate so that there is always a representative from each entity and he did say proxies could be used. After much more discussion, Mr. Buening nominated Mr. Nobbe to be the Decatur County Commissioner representative on the Executive Council to the board. Mr. Richards seconded the nomination. Mr. Rick Nobbe was chosen as the nominee. Mr. Buening then moved to appoint Mr. Nobbe to the Executive Council. Mr. Richards seconded the motion, the motion carried and the document was signed.

Regarding the second document, Mr. Nobbe commented that he would like the opportunity to look at who is going to be on it from Decatur County and other counties. There was more discussion on what was perceived to be going on and more comments were made. The next commissioner meeting is scheduled for July 1st and Mr. Wimer will be letting Mr. Nobbe know who the board members are as soon as he can get a list. Mr. Nobbe thanked Mr. Wimer and Mayor Herbert for their comments.

Harold Sample, Veterans Service Officer stopped in to make the Commissioners aware of changes concerning the new requirements for service officers. The state is going to require that officers take training and become accredited. The new format will have officers becoming directly responsible and personally liable for lawsuit if veterans file and win against them for denial of benefits. The state wants officers to become full-time. Mr. Sample shared local statistics and said that he could possibly see going from 2 days a week to 3 with the remaining two days by appointment only. He also mentioned that the restroom and his office area are in need of some re-working in order to make them ADA compliant. Mr. Nobbe mentioned that if the need arises, the county could consider two part-timers to keep the office open full time. Mr. Nobbe asked the other two commissioners how they felt a third day should be funded. Mr. Sample indicated he doesn't want additional pay for the third day but the commissioners said that wouldn't be right. Mr. Nobbe said that Mr. Sample should work with Christy on putting together a

proposed budget for 2014 and also gave Mr. Sample the go-ahead to contact a contractor to get the VS office space revamped to provide privacy and handicapped access to the restrooms.

Mr. Nobbe reported that he had received a large amount of material in report form from Mr. Ron May/AECON regarding the ADA review. He will forward to everyone and asked that they review the materials. He suggested putting the topic on future agendas to begin drafting a plan. He pointed out that future funding for bridges is tied to this compliance issue.

Mr. Richards moved to allow the Redd/Baker wedding party to use the courthouse lawn on 9-21-2013 from 4 – 5 p.m. Mr. Buening seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Buening moved to allow the Arts and Cultural Council to use the courthouse grounds and to erect a 20 x 30 tent on August 2nd, 2013 for the Plein Air Paint Out. Mr. Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Richards asked County Attorney Peg Polanski if she had gotten any response from the Sardinia residents with the septic issues. She said no.

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

The next scheduled meeting will be on July 1st, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

Rick Nobbe, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____