

Commissioner Meeting
August 19, 2013 – 8:00 A.M.

Present: Rick Nobbe, Jerome Buening, John Richards

Minutes were approved as presented. Claims were approved as presented.

Mark Mohr, County Highway Superintendent reported that the Bridge 18 project has been shortened a bit due to allowing a vinyl fence to remain in place. The landowner was pleased but thought he would still get some paving done. Mr. Mohr is working on finding a workable plan. Sometime during the next 30 days, the bridge will open up. Signage will remain until all work is complete.

Mr. Mohr reported that Enterprise has been issued all of the Overweight/Overlength permits. Mr. Mohr is having the overweight calculations reviewed. He also reported that O'Mara's has signed on for some patching where Enterprises' contractors are cracking the asphalt. There is some concern about bore pits that are too close to the road edge and not in compliance with the specs originally presented. Those problem areas have been identified and an engineer will be doing a compaction study to make sure the fix was done properly. The contract allowing Butler, Fairman and Seufert to do the compaction study was presented to the commissioners. Mr. Richards moved to approve B, F & S be hired to perform the compaction study. Mr. Buening seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Mohr reported on a project on CR 700 S, west of Letts that was a safety improvement project. Some small structures were replaced and the area was reworked and opened up for better visibility.

Mr. Mohr will be attending ERC Training next Tuesday in Greenfield.

There is a bad spot on Highway 421 near Love's truck stop by St. Paul. It is a high traffic area and the interstate ramps are involved. The repair can't be done under live traffic conditions so Mr. Mohr will be meeting with INDOT to find out about a partial day closure. Mr. Mohr will meet with the truck stop owners to make them aware of plans.

Tim Cuttle, Family Heritage Supplemental Insurance spoke to the commissioners regarding the insurance his company offers. He distributed information and discussed his company briefly. His information was left for review along with his contact information.

Jeff Emsweller, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce and Anita Sipes, Corporate Communications Director for Honda came before the board to request permission to do a reenactment photo on the courthouse lawn to celebrate Honda's first 5 years. The idea is to have some of the community members who were in the original photo in red shirts be in the next photo intermingled with Honda associates in white lab coats. The picture would signify how the community and Honda are working together. The planned photo shoot will be September 12th at 5:30 p.m. on the south east corner of the lawn. The commissioners thought it was a fine idea and requested that Mr. Emsweller fill out a Request for Use of Facilities form. Ms. Wenning had a blank on hand and Mr. Emsweller complied with their wishes prior to leaving the meeting.

Mayor Gary Herbert spoke about the importance of the upcoming trip to China. Instead of the original trip with the educators, the Mayor is now going earlier for the business week version of the trip as opposed to the education trip. He will go in September instead of October. He pointed out that the trip isn't open to just anyone and an invitation has to be received and that the city of Greensburg had received that invitation. He discussed a "Memorandum of Understanding" that would need to be signed at the time of the visit to the proposed sister city. He reminded the board that the County Superintendent trip was handled through Global Indiana. The Mayor's trip in September will take care of economic development and the sister city program at the same time. Hopefully, the visit will help foster future interest in developing business relationships. His trip is September 9th – 18th and they will visit with schools and government officials.

Commissioner President Rick Nobbe pointed out that since the Mayor is going and both local school corporations are sending their superintendents, Decatur County would seem to be well-represented at this time. The Mayor agreed and that there will likely be future trips planned.

Cheryl Werner, DCMH came in and presented a proposal for a 5K walk/run route that will have ¼ of a mile of county road NE80. Mr. Nobbe voiced his concerns over the road closures, volunteers utilizing two-way radios and signage concerns. Mr. Mohr echoed his concerns. There was much discussion about the recent influx of 5K requests and how those should be handled. Ms. Werner was reassured that the county would work with her committee to make sure it all works out. It was suggested that the sheriff's department provide a car with lights flashing as the rear of the procession. Mr. Marc Coplon mentioned that he had participated in past races in other locations that utilized golf courses.

Darren Covington, Carousel Play and Learn Center, was back for his second visit regarding a fundraising 5K for the center. He didn't feel that the numbers participating in their walk would necessitate road closure. The commissioners asked for his contact information so that they could review some details and get back with him.

Mr. Marc Coplon, Director of the Economic Development Commission said he would proudly wear his red shirt for the Honda photo. He reviewed activities for the last quarter and was proud to report that the Delta Faucet expansion was one of the biggest projects in the state for the month of July. He thanked Tami for her help in explaining abatements and incentives and reiterated that a lot of players make these things happen and it is a "team project". He produced some reports that charted county versus state unemployment rates and the county is staying below the state rate. He also mentioned that the 3rd annual Business Appreciation Day is scheduled for Friday, September 20th. The Chamber, Economic Development and Tourism offices work together to thank businesses for their contributions to the community. Mr. Coplon reported that the Auto Expo was a success and that the EDC Annual Meeting had a good turnout. He was pleased to report that CNG Fuel is planning construction at the end of September on 421 for a compressed natural gas fueling station. There will be 8 – 10 new jobs created by January of 2014. There is also a major project possibility involving jet engine manufacturing. Mr. Coplon's next quarterly update will be in October. Mr. Nobbe thanked Mr. Coplon for his efforts and mentioned that maybe Barnes and Thornburg would help donate towards the business appreciation event.

Clerk of Courts Janet Chadwell came before the board to ask permission to enter into a contract with Dossett Consulting. Mr. Dossett has inspected the records and feels he can enough money for the county from the IV-D program that his fees will be worth the county's effort. There was some discussion about an existing vendor's role in the county. It was explained that the county gets reimbursed for indirect costs through the Maximus contract. The Dossett contract would recoup money that the Clerk can claim directly. After a few more questions and some brief discussion, Mr. Buening moved to sign the contract. Mr. Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Rob Duckworth, EMA Director discussed the EMA Advisory Board's mention of an ordinance that requires the periodic review of the director and administrative support staff's activities. Mr. Duckworth presented a list of accomplishments that both positions have achieved. Mr. Nobbe mentioned that his perception is that the county is leading the way in emergency preparedness. Mr. Nobbe plans to send a letter on Commissioner Letterhead discussing the multitude of improvements that Mr. Duckworth has implemented and suggesting that he be considered for promotion to a Certified Professional EMA Director. There was some discussion of the command post and the Kubota being at the Power of the Past for public display and for practical purposes in the event of an emergency. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) from the Lake Santee area will be manning the vehicle at the upcoming St. Mary's 5K. There needs to be more CERT volunteers. The vehicles are also scheduled to be at Fall Festival and Crackaway Daze.

Mr. Nobbe discussed correspondence from **Mr. William Seegers, DNR** regarding the possibility of turning the DNR Reservoir into a permanent wetland/outdoor lab. Mr. Seegers will be on hand at the September 3rd and September 16th meetings so questions can be answered and the request can be acted upon. The commissioners would have to accept the land then transfer it to the Oak Heritage Land Trust.

Mr. Nobbe also mentioned that the **Decatur County United Fund** is interested in planting a tree to promote their theme of "Rooted in Decatur County, let's tend to our roots". There was discussion of the good that UF does throughout the county. However, the intended scarlet oak tree, which will be provided by the Paul and Sarah Nahmias trust, will require some commitment to keep it watered and

taken care of until it becomes established and it will be a large tree. There was much discussion about trees on the courthouse lawn and alternate locations. Mr. Nobbe also brought up that the Garden Club wants to put a "Blue Star" memorial plaque on the lawn. It was decided that some alternative locations would be checked out. Mr. Nobbe talked about future plans of removing the planters on the south side of the square and that maybe a tree on one of those spots would be appropriate. There were no decisions made at this time.

Mr. Nobbe mentioned that County Surveyor Andy Scholle would be going to measure to see where the center of an alleyway is located near the Rick Moore property in Sandusky.

A letter from a Mary Jo Ramsey was read. Mrs. Ramsey and her family visited the courthouse and were appreciative of the county employees that gave them mini-tours of the courthouse.

Susan Craig, SIRPC had forwarded information concerning a coalition that is forming to discuss brownfields and applying for a \$600,000 EPA Assessment Grant. The general consensus of the commissioners was that the county should be a part of the coalition. Mr. Buening moved to become a member of the coalition. Mr. Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Arts and Cultural Council had a request for use of facilities form asking permission to locate a banner on the south side of the courthouse lawn. The event being promoted is September 7th. There was concern that allowing anyone to put something on the lawn more than a week would start an unwelcome precedent. Currently, displays are held to a one week time frame. After much discussion, it was determined that the banner (already in place) would need to be removed and put back out on the Friday before Labor Day. There was also discussion of calling the "Holey Moley" line to get underground wires/utilities marked before anyone puts posts in the ground.

Mr. Nobbe asked Bryan Robbins, former Mainstreet Director whether he felt that the Mainstreet group would help support the Bluestar Memorial. He thought it was probable. He also indicated that the previous landscape company has been made aware that there are problems they need to address.

Mr. Ron May, AECON discussed the possibility of finalizing the draft of the ADA Report and formally presenting the finished draft at the September meeting. It will need to be published and there will need to be a public comment period. After that, it will be finalized and formally adopted. The survey was completed in January of 2013 and Mr. Mohr submitted it in July.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was recessed. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 3rd due to the Labor Day holiday.

Rick Nobbe, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____