

Decatur County Commissioners
September 3rd, 2013 8:00 A.M.

Present: Rick Nobbe, Jerome Buening, John Richards

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

Mark Mohr, County Highway Superintendent reported that Bridge 18 was opened to traffic on Saturday. The project looks good. INDOT will still come back to review and possibly create a punch list. Bridge 2 right of way acceptance letters have been signed and the utilities that need relocated have been notified. Mr. Mohr reported that County Road 1400 South will be closed between 950 West and 1050 West on September 9th. A concrete bridge will be replaced with a round pipe and the project will take 2 -3 weeks. Next Monday, the paving projects will start. The crews will be correcting road profiles in hopes of starting chip and seal projects in the future. Mr. Mohr will be out of the office on Thursday for ERC training.

Mr. William Seegers, DNR was on hand to discuss the possibility of the county taking ownership of the old DNR reservoir property. Mr. John Miller of Oak Heritage Land Trust was there to answer questions about the proposed transfer of the property from DNR to the county and then the county to the Land Trust. There was discussion of why the land was deemed surplus and what the process is for DNR to transfer ownership. There was discussion of the possibilities of local entities partnering to help put an outdoor conservation themed lab at the location. Mr. Seegers provided a packet of information including aerials and some suggested uses for the property. There were many questions concerning liabilities and responsibilities. Ultimately, the Commissioners asked for additional time to review the request and to gauge interest in the proposal. Mr. Seegers will return at the next scheduled Commissioner meeting to answer any additional questions.

Rob Duckworth, EMA Director presented copies of a letter concerning the county taking over as the official fiscal agent for EMA District Planning Council for 2013 grants. Mr. Duckworth explained the benefits of the county taking on the additional responsibilities. There was some concern about the additional workload that would be put onto the auditor's office. After some discussion, Mr. Richards moved that the county become the Fiscal Agent for the Region's DHS grants. Mr. Buening seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Marc Coplin, Economic Development Director produced a Business Appreciation Day Proclamation to be presented from the City and County to declare Friday, September 20th Business Appreciation Day. He would like to show appreciation for the contributions that businesses make to the community. For the taxes they pay, the jobs they provide and what they do for the community, he asked that the Commissioners consider signing the proclamation. Mr. Buening moved to declare September 20th Business Appreciation Day. Mr. Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried.

David Neuman, Area Plan Director presented two zoning recommendations. Petitions for Calvin Tipton (2013-5) and Bryan Krieger (2013-6) were reviewed and signed by the commissioners.

Ron May, AECOM came before the board. He explained the reason behind the project and submitted his final draft of the audit of county-owned properties. The plan includes long range plans with smaller increments of planning to help with annual budgeting concerns. He recommended placing the document where the public can review it such as the Auditor's office, the county website and the library. It was noted that the Parks Department is its own entity and has its own plan and the fairgrounds operates the same way. It was discussed and agreed that public comment would be accepted up until October 7th in both written and/or verbal form. Comments will be accepted up until 8:30 a.m. on October 7th with the commissioners meeting in room 106 to discuss those comments. The commissioners will then act officially on the document on October 21st. Mr. Jerome Buening made the motion and Mr. Richards seconded the motion. County Attorney Peg Polanski will draft a cover letter for the document so the public will understand the guidelines and timeframe for comment. Mr. May will get a copy delivered to the library for public comment. Tami Wenning will send an electronic copy to David Leas to put on the county website for public comment.

New Directions submitted a "Request for Use of Facilities" asking permission to put a display up on the southwest corner of the courthouse lawn. The display is intended to heighten awareness of domestic violence and will represent the number of actual deaths attributed to domestic violence in Indiana over the past year. There was some discussion of utilities locations. The display will be from October 6th – October 13th. The request was Okayed by the commissioners.

There was some discussion on use of county-owned properties and of the possibility of relegating usage of the Westport covered bridge to the Covered Bridge Preservation group that is located in Westport. There was much discussion and some follow-up will be done on the topic.

Additional right of way documents for the pedestrian trail were presented to the commissioners and upon reviewing the documents, they were signed.

Mr. Buening brought up the topic of money that is leftover from the Sardinia septic project and how the excess should be handled. Mr. Richards brought up the topic of a similar situation developing in Letts. Mr. Buening pointed out that the money he is talking about was specifically donated from Soil and Water to Sardinia. There was no further discussion on the matter.

Mr. Richards moved to recess the meeting. Mr. Buening seconded. The meeting was recessed. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, September 16th at 8:00 a.m.

Rick Nobbe, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____