

**Commissioners Regular Meeting  
November 18, 2019 8:00 a m**

**Present: Rick Nobbe, Jerome Buening and Mark Koors**

The November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Decatur County Commissioners meeting was called in session by President Nobbe; he reminded all the **Title VI voluntary survey forms** are on the table in the corner for anyone wishing to fill one out and turn into the Auditor's office.

Having reviewed the minutes for the last Commissioners meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup>, Mr Buening moved to approve the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as presented, Mr Koors seconded and Mr Nobbe concurred.

Mr Koors moved to approve the claims as presented, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Nobbe concurred.

**Highway Superintendent Mark Mohr** outlined this week's work schedule for the Highway Department: County Road 600 North, between roads 150 North and 350 West where multiple pipes will be installed to help alleviate water over the road; a 48" pipe will be replaced at the intersection of County Roads 650 East and 150 North. **O'Mara** should start paving with the bridge on County Road 1100 South on Wednesday; then back to the **Community Crossings Grant** projects. The Bridge Crew has an old natural gas hanging furnace in which the heat exchanger has many cracks causing it not to stay lit. Mr Mohr asked the Commissioners to purchase a new hanging furnace per the quote he has for less than \$2,000. Mr Koors moved to approve the purchase, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Nobbe concurred. Mr Nobbe will make a few phone calls about storing some Highway equipment for the winter in the dairy building at the Fair Grounds. Mr Mohr reported **INDOT** was very understanding to USI's request to a hydraulic design exception on Bridge 236 which otherwise would increase the length and rise of the bridge. **INDOT** has agreed to 'build in kind' meaning the new structure would be similar to an existing structure downstream. Mr Buening moved to approve the hydraulic design exception for Bridge 236, Mr Koors seconded the motion and Mr Nobbe concurred. There will be substantial savings due to this exception agreement with **INDOT**.

**Area Plan Director Krista Duvall** presented **Decatur County Ordinance 2019-23** for action by the Commissioners. Steve Snyder, petitioner for Ordinance 2019-23, was requesting to rezone 2- 1.5 acre lots from A-1 to A-2, to construct a single family dwelling on each lot. Mr Snyder received an unfavorable recommendation from the APC- 4-1. The vote would have to be unanimous (5-0) since only 5 members were present. Mr Buening made a motion to send **Ordinance 2019-23** back to the **APC** for further review. Mr Koors seconded the motion and Mr Nobbe concurred. Ms Duvall reported the good information about landfill expansions was presented at the Greensburg High School by a professor of environmental engineering and geology at **Purdue University** and 3 presenters from **Indiana Department of Environmental Management**. She plans to schedule similar informational meetings in the near future. Ms Duval has sent the proposed ordinances for the County's recently adopted Comprehensive Plan to the APC and BZA Board members, but she hasn't received much feedback from those board members.

Since November 4<sup>th</sup>, **Building Inspector Kenny Buening** has completed 36 inspections, 6 new building permits were issued and 2 electrical projects were red tagged- both meter base ground wires were not in conduit. Kenny learned after talking with Board of Health Sanitarian Alan Crosby on septic issues- the septic installer/plumber should hook the septic system to the dwelling.

**Susan Burkhart, Interim Director for Main Street Greensburg**, told the Commissioners Terrah Nunley had resigned the Director position as of November 6<sup>th</sup>. Mrs Burkhart requested permission to use the County parking lot at the corner of Main and Franklin Streets on December 14<sup>th</sup> for an iceless skating rink (50' x 40') in conjunction with the **Downtown Holiday Walk**. Mr Koors moved to approve this request pending a certificate of insurance is submitted to the Auditor's office and County Attorney Ken Bass' approval of the contract for the skating rink. Mr Buening seconded the motion and Mr Nobbe concurred.

The Sheriff's Department has been awarded a 2020 IPEP Safety Grant in the amount of \$6,297.60, which they plan to use to purchase needle-stick gloves and bullet proof vests. This Grant is a 80/20 match, so Sheriff Durant will use monies in his budget for the 20% match. Deputy Auditor Christy Smiley would like to see more departments participate in applying for grants to supplement their budgets. Mr Buening moved to approve the grant agreement, Mr Koors seconded and Mr Nobbe concurred.

Mr Nobbe outlined the steps the Commissioners are doing 'to take 15 unsold Tax Sale Properties to deed. Mr Bass is working with Deputy Auditor Rhonda Heger on the title searches, certified notifications to owners of

record of each property and advertising costs incurred by the County to calculate a minimum bid for these 15 properties. There is one property which has Federal (IRS) tax liens against it and there is an interested buyer for that property. Mr Bass has learned the County needs to have an appraisal done on the property, and then send that appraisal to the IRS requesting a release for those tax liens. Mr Koors will contact the interested buyer to see if they're willing to reimburse the County for the appraisal. If the IRA releases the liens, the property has to go through the same auction process as other unsold tax sale properties. Mr Bass recommended having the property appraised; write a check to the IRS as we're doing their job because there could be more than one potential buyer willing to bid/pay. Mr Bass will file the lawsuit in Circuit Court to take the 15 properties to deed so the Commissioners can sell those in the next few months, getting them back on the tax rolls.

Mr Koors moved to allow Mr Nobbe to sign the Contractual Services Agreement with Purdue University for 3 educators who serve out of the County Extension Office. Mr Buening seconded the motion and Mr Nobbe concurred.

Mr Nobbe shared updates on changes the Health Insurance Committee has decided to make for the 2020 Health Insurance Plan: the deductible for an individual on the High Deductible Health Plan is going from \$2,700 to \$3,000 while the deductible for an individual on the traditional PPO plan will be \$2,000. The County would see a \$36,000 savings if everyone stays on their current plan; while if all would be on the HDHP plan there could be a \$52,000 savings. The Committee has decided the traditional PPO plan will only be available one more year (2020); then in 2021 all employees who want health insurance coverage will be on the HDHP plan. Mr Nobbe will ask County Council members to support offering a \$500 HSA incentive to employees who switch to the HDHP in 2020.

**Communications Director Erika Free** told Commissioners IT Network Engineer Josh Tressler has contacted the State about issues with 'gmail' accounts. Mr Tressler recommends Decatur County should 'own our domain' which would be 'Decatur County.in.gov'. Mr Buening moved to sign a letter to the State in an effort to update our domain to DecaturCounty.in.gov. Mr Koors seconded the motion and Mr Nobbe concurred.

**Sheriff Dave Durant and Jail Commander Dana Parker** discussed issues in the current jail: plumbing, HVAC, roof leaks, fire system, and the building needs lots of maintenance- those costs would be pretty substantial then add over a \$1,000,000 for staffing. Sheriff Durant stated there wouldn't be enough business to pay those costs due to having to duplicate equipment such as body scanners in both the old and new jails. He suggests asking Chris Grabosky of Maxwell to run some numbers on whether to knock the old jail down or what to repurpose it for.

With nothing else to come before the Commissioners, Mr Koors moved to recess, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Nobbe concurred. Meeting recessed.

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

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