

Commissioners Meeting
January 4, 2021 8:00 a m

Present: Mark Koors, Jerome Buening and Chuck Emsweller

President Koors opened the January 4th, 2021 Decatur County Commissioners meeting by welcoming everyone and newest Commissioner Chuck Emsweller; he then announced Title VI forms are available for anyone who would like to fill out and turn in at the Auditor's office.

County Sheriff David Durant led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and followed with a prayer.

(Meeting minutes and claims are emailed to each Commissioners on each Friday before their Monday meeting)

Mr Koors asked if either Commissioner had any corrections or additions to the December 21st meeting minutes; hearing none Mr Emsweller moved to accept the December 21st meeting minutes, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

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

Highway Superintendent Mark Mohr told the Commissioners Highway crews will start today on County Road 880 East (the back entrance to Lake Santee) replacing multiple pipes, cutting back some earthen banks and widening that stretch of 880 East. Mr Mohr has discussed this project with the Lake Santee Property Owners' Association who are wanting some changes made to his plan. He stated his Department has to let the water naturally flow without blocking or changing the 'course/flow' of the water. The contract with United Consulting for the 2021-2024 Bridge Inspection was delayed due to the holidays and COVID; Mr Mohr hopes to have it by the next Commissioners meeting. Commissioners approved his request for a fuel, stone and pipe bid opening date of February 15th. The Highway Department has two pieces of equipment (TS110 Ford Tractor and a one-half ton truck) Mr Mohr would like to advertise to sell via sealed bids or auction. Commissioners directed him to contact **Owens Auction**; if they don't have time, then advertise in the newspaper.

Area Plan Director Krista Duvall presented **Decatur County Ordinance 2020-15**; petitioner Jason Geis is requesting to rezone 2.99 acres from A1 to A2 for the purpose of constructing a single family detached dwelling. The Area Plan Commission unanimously approved the rezoning. Mr Buening moved to approve Ordinance 2020-15, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Building Inspector Kenny Buening has completed 28 inspections, issued 5 new building permits plus plan reviews and 1 red tag for a remodel on an old building without a permit. He was informed by the **State Building Commissioner** that the construction of a storage building in an A-1 zone, for the public to access, is now a "Class 1" structure which requires a "structure design release" from the **State Building Commissioner**. Kenny emailed this information to 2 property owners who are planning to build such a building. He will contact **Clinton Township Trustee Ronnie Bruner** about conditions of some properties in **Sandusky**; also working on the split house properties at **Lake McCoy**.

Decatur County Sheriff Dave Durant told Commissioners he's had lot of interest for the newly created maintenance position at the **Detention Center**. His Department has received a grant from the **United Fund** for a full-time Programs Director's salary of \$46,500 plus another \$2,000 for supplies. David Burnett, current part-time Chaplain, has agreed to serve in this capacity. He will not need a benefit package, so this position will not cost the county any monies. Sheriff Durant strongly believes in programs aimed at reducing the recidivism rate of inmates. He asked Commissioners what the status of the PODS is and was told they have to go through the bid process. **County Attorney Ken Bass** and Commissioners will write the legal ad for receiving sealed bids which has to be in the local newspaper twice, seven days apart and the second time has to be ten days before the opening of the bids. The buyer would be responsible Sheriff Durant requested \$7,000 to purchase twelve sets of bunkbeds for Block I due to isolating newly arrested persons and 'classifying' inmates. Also, with the revenue of selling the PODS, he would like to move forward with the construction of a pole building for programs where the PODS would have gone. This pole building will not be correctional grade but the fencing constructed around the building would be correctional grade. The fenced area could be used to contain inmates should the Detention Center need to be evacuated and would require fewer law enforcement officers than with no fenced area or separate building. Sheriff Durant added he doesn't have 200 sets of shackles or handcuffs to contain inmates in an unrestricted area. Mr Emsweller moved to approve the Sheriff ordering the

12 sets of bunkbeds, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Sheriff Durant also asked for \$60,000 of Cumulative Capital Development monies for replacement of vehicles as needed. He is using Commissary monies to purchase 2 vehicles for 2021. Commissioners requested a 'vehicle rotation' list to review before approving the request for \$60,000.

Mr Buening moved to appoint Jonathan Orr to the Decatur County Board of Health, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Mr Buening thanked Darrell Richards for his years of service on the Board of Health.

Mr Bass told the Commissioners he was contacted by a potential purchaser for the property in Westport. This person was told the Commissioners could only accept an offer/bid for the amount the property was appraised at; the County has no jurisdiction over the Federal lien against the property.

Commissioners approved Mr Bass' request to join the **Indiana Municipal Lawyers Association** since it offers classes/schooling for only county attorneys and he believes it will help him help the Commissioners.

No available updates on the new phone system nor the new sound system for the two meeting rooms in the Courthouse.

The next Commissioner meeting will be 8:00 am on Tuesday, January 19th due to Monday, January 18th being a Holiday.

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

Attest: _____

Date: _____