

**Commissioners Meeting  
January 19, 2021 8:00 a m**

**Present: Mark Koors, Jerome Buening and Chuck Emsweller, via cellphone**

The January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting of the Decatur County Commissioners was opened by President Koors who welcomes everyone; he then announced Title VI forms are available for anyone who would like to fill out and turn in at the Auditor's office.

**Jail Commander Dana Parker** led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Mark Vice followed with a prayer.

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

Mr Buening moved to approve the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

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

**Highway Superintendent Mark Mohr** told Commissioners the small pipes have been put in on County Road 880 East (the back entrance to Lake Santee), but **CivilCon** delayed shipment of the larger pipes due to COVID and have just now reopened; due to traffic breaking down the sides and shoulders of County Road 700 West-by the dairy farm- crews put down stone to help reinforce/build a good base for when the road will be widened in the Spring as part of the **2020 Community Crossings Grant Program**. **County Attorney Ken Bass** has reviewed the contract with **United Consulting** for the **2021-2024 Bridge Inspection** and it is ready for the Commissioners' signatures. It is an 80/20 match, so the County is responsible for the 20% of the contract. **Dave Richter of United Consulting** told Commissioners the State is allowing any bridge, which is in good shape, to be inspected every 4 years instead of every 2 years. Fewer re-inspections should help reduce the overall costs by around \$30,000. Mr Buening moved to approve the 2021-2021 Bridge Inspection Contract, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

**Area Plan Director Krista Duvall** presented 3 ordinances for the Commissioners approval: **Decatur County Ordinance 2020-27- petitioner Walter Eicher** is requesting to rezone 2.99 acres from A1 to A2 for the purpose of constructing a single family detached dwelling. Mr Emsweller moved to approve Ordinance 2020-27, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred. **Decatur County Ordinance 2020-21- petitioners Gregory & Beth Roy** are requesting to rezone 2.99 acres from A1 to A2 for the purpose of construction a single family detached dwelling. Mr Buening moved to approve Decatur County Ordinance 2020-21, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred. **Decatur County Ordinance 2020-6- petitioner Mitchell Kinker** is requesting to rezone 2.99 acres from A1 to A2 for the purpose of constructing a single family detached dwelling. This property is owned by Kreiger Farms. Mr Emsweller moved to approve Decatur County Ordinance 2020-6, Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

**Building Inspector Kenny Buening** has completed 40 building inspections and has issued 7 new building permits plus plan reviews in the past 2 weeks. He will be sending a letter to the Lake McCoy property owner that has a partially burnt structure which needs to be removed. He did visit 2 properties in **Sandusky**, took pictures and plans to 'keep an eye' on those. After hearing about a new business in New Point, he and Ms Duvall went to the old Wood-Mizer plant and did talk to the new owner. **Shepherd Boy Farms**, out of New Palestine, manufactures doggie treats. Kenny did share building permit information about remodeling or new construction.

**County Treasurer Diane Wenning** introduced her new **Deputies Cathy Volz and Danielle Holcomb**. Ms Volz has worked in **Ripley County Government** and Ms Holcomb worked for the **Jennings County BMV**. Ms Wenning told the Commissioners that Maria, from **LOW- our tax billing software vendor**, informed her the Treasurer's cash book and bank statements from **Napoleon State Bank** have not been reconciled for at least the past 14 months. Ms Wenning did notify the **State Board of Accounts** about this issue. Her goal/plans are to rectify and daily balance the cash book with the bank.

**Decatur County Sheriff Dave Durant** told Commissioners interviews were conducted for the maintenance position at the Detention Center. He plans to offer the position to Greg Lentz, the best candidate. Sheriff Durant then requested \$30,000 out of the **Cumulative Capital Development fund** to purchase a replacement

vehicle for the **2015 Tahoe** which has needed numerous repairs. He has worked a deal with Acra to buy that Tahoe; he then will use that \$12,000-\$15,000 to cover the equipment costs for the new vehicle. Mr Buening moved to approve the Sheriff's request of \$30,000 out of Cum Cap, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred. David Burnett is now the full-time Program Director at the Detention Center. Once the PODS are sold, Sheriff Durant would like to have a pole building constructed and correctional grade fencing placed around that building. The fenced area could be used in case of an emergency evacuation of the Detention Center. He plans to use this building for programs to get inmates 'back on the right track'; he's working with the Courts to support this. Commissioners questioned how the 'spare spaces' in the original plans are being used. Sheriff Durant told them there aren't any rooms not being used: there's an administration side and a jail side so prisoners are not permitted on the administration side. Road patrol supervisors are using the last spare room on the administration side and the commissary is setup in the 20 x 20 room on the jail side. The 'office' for the new maintenance person may be in the 'pipe chase' of the jail. Sheriff Durant doesn't plan to offer 'work release' to any inmates due to needing additional officers to watch/guard them and also there aren't very many inmates with minor offenses for that type of program. Mr Koors asked him to contact the Bartholomew County Sheriff who has a factory that comes to the jail, picks up 'work release' inmates and takes them to work and brings them back to the jail; those wages are paid to the county.

**Mary McCarty of Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission and Economic Development Commission Director Bryan Robbins** presented information for the **Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA)** third round of the **COVID-19 Response Program** which eligible applicants can apply for up to \$250,000. Eligible activities include: mental health services, childcare services, public WiFi locations, food pantry or food bank services and grants or loans to businesses to retain low-to-moderate jobs. Proposals must be submitted by 11:59 pm Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Applications are due February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and funding awards will be announced Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Mr Buening moved to enter into this agreement, Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Ms Duvall told Commissioners more and more people are coming to her about drainage issues; whether a neighbor's water is draining/flooding their property or someone is diverting water onto another's property. The current **Water and Drainage Ordinance**, adopted in 2007, is very technical, so she has to hire a consultant to verify a violation. An official **Drainage Board** is truly needed and the **Soil and Water Office** has declined to get involved. Mr Koors has asked 3 people so far; he has spoken to **APC President Paul Stone** who suggested having a 4-person board plus the **County Surveyor**. Commissioners agree with Ms Duvall the current ordinance needs 'tweaking'.

**The next Commissioner meeting will be 8:00 am on Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

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

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

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