

Commissioners Meeting
July 19, 2021 8:00 a m

Present: Mark Koors, Jerome Buening and Chuck Emsweller

The July 19th Commissioners meeting was opened by President Koors who welcomed 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.

Ken Bass, County Attorney, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; a prayer was offered by County Sheriff Dave Durant.

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

Mr Emsweller moved to accept the July 6th minutes; Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Minutes are approved.

Mr Buening moved to approve the claims; Mr Emsweller seconded and Mr Koors concurred. Claims are approved.

Mr Emsweller moved to approve the July 9th payroll for county employees; Mr Buening seconded and Mr Koors concurred.

Highway Superintendent Mark Mohr told Commissioners **United** is asking what they plan to do on Bridge 131 since they tabled it until today's meeting. **United's** analysis on Bridge 131: \$475,000 to repair it or \$2,956,000 to replace it which would cost the County \$591,200 as our 20% match. It would be a 2028 construction, so the replacement cost could increase or may decrease- won't know until closer to actual date of construction. Mr Mohr told Commissioners, who have met with the **City of Greensburg** about a joint venture on their **Park Road Project**, that having '2 asks', at the same time, in the Federal System might not be good for us- the County. Bridge 131, County Road 200 South on the Bartholomew County line, is more important since it will remain closed until Commissioners decide to repair or replace. Mr Emsweller pointed out 'a repair' is short term, temporary. Mr Mohr attended a pre-construction meeting last week on Bridge 239 and work should start the first week of August and has a 75-day closure.

Commissioners discussed closing alleys and streets, in the unincorporated towns, that were platted but never developed. Recently a few property owners have asked for allies/streets to be closed either due to being platted but never developed or structure(s) in that undeveloped alley or street. The most recent is a property owner who is refinancing and their lending institution won't approve the refinancing until the street is vacated. **County Attorney Ken Bass** suggested having the landowner file with the Courts to vacate either part or all of a street or alley. Mr Mohr said if there's nothing in the alley or street, the Commissioners should keep those for utility access.

Area Plan Director Krista Duvall didn't have anything to bring before the Commissioners.

Building Inspector Kenny Buening is on vacation; no report.

Westport Town Council Person Joyce Brindley and Westport Clerk-Treasurer Gloria Alumbaugh came to request financial assistance from **Decatur County's American Recovery Plan Funding**. They are seeking matching dollars for grants for Westport's stormwater project, wastewater project and to repair the Covered Bridge. Mrs Brindley explained the creek backs up, during heavy rains, because the bridge in Westport is so small and also the creek needs cleaned out and dredged. Mr Koors told them the Westport Covered Bridge is the County's not Westport's. **Matt Worth with Commonwealth Engineers** recommends a town-wide study to create a stormwater plan to address these issues. Mr Emsweller stated the ARP funds are primarily for COVID-related losses and infrastructure would qualify. He explained 2022 ARP monies are slated for bigger infrastructure projects, so Westport would need to be specific in their request once the 'application forms' are available to the public.

The **Indiana Election Division of the Secretary of State's office** is asking if County Commissioners, Statewide, plan to change- redraw the Commissioners' Districts. Based on the 2010 Census, Decatur County Commissioner District 1 has a population of 16,250; District 2 has 3,744 and District 3 has 5,746. **County Prosecutor Nate Harter**, who is also Republican Party Chairman, explained it is up to the County Commissioners to draw precincts and districts. He told Commissioners the State is asking if they intend to rebalance, redraw the

Commissioner districts and/or the precincts. Mr Buening said they would consider it and Mr Emsweller seconded it.

Mr Koors reported that **Tree-Centric Solutions** has installed the nutrient system for the Clocktower Tree. **RBSK** is working on providing internet access to that system.

Mr Emsweller presented the **ARP Committee's budget** for the \$2.5 million received in May of this year: \$200,000 for the Volunteer Fire Departments; \$150,000 for the Non-Profit groups \$200,000 for Small Business Grants; \$200,000 for the 911 radios; \$200,000 for cybersecurity and county email system; \$50,000 for the new Magistrate Court for a total of \$1,000,000. The remaining \$1.5 million will be invested and any earned interest will go into the County General Fund. He said bigger projects will be considered in 2022 when the County receives the remaining \$2.5 million. Commissioners and Council will adopt an ARP Plan/Ordinance in the next month; the adopted ARP Plan/Ordinance may be amended at any time.

Two members of the **Decatur County Corrections Advisory Board** were not reappointed in July, 2018 when their terms expired. The other positions are appointed/reappointed by the Commissioners in December when terms normally expire. Initially some positions were a 2-year term and the remainder were 4-year terms to stagger appointments. Unfortunately, the 2-year terms were not moved to 4-year terms once a 'cycle of appointments-terms' was completed. Commissioners will sort this out by their August 2nd regular meeting. Mr Koors said the two people should continue participating until this is straightened out- corrected.

Sheriff Administrative Assistant Ashley Wilson reported the Sheriff's files are out of the old jail and there are 20+ file cabinets for any county office needing one.

Emails and negotiations continue on the PODS.

Economic Development Commission Director Bryan Robbins told Commissioners that ARP Funds may be used for match dollars for the **READI Program**.

Rick Nobbe, on behalf of the Old Landfill Steering Committee asked Commissioners to include \$2,500 in their 2022 Budget Proposal.

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

The next Commissioner meeting will be 8:00 am on Monday, August 2nd, 2021, in Room 106.

Attest: _____

Date: _____