

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

August 7, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Dubois County Commissioners was held in the Commissioners' Room of the Courthouse Annex in Jasper, Indiana, beginning at 8:30 a.m. (EST) on August 7, 2017. Present were Commissioners Chad A. Blessinger, Elmer F. Brames and Nick J. Hostetter. Also present were County Auditor Kathleen M. Hopf, County Surveyor Ken Brosmer, Highway Supervisor Steven L. Berg, Highway Engineer Brent Wendholt, and County Attorney Arthur C. Nordhoff, Jr. A quorum was declared present and the meeting was opened for business by President Blessinger. Minutes of the July 17, 2017 meeting of the Commissioners had been previously distributed to the Commissioners and were approved as presented. The minutes were then signed. Incomes for the month of July, 2017 were as follows: Recorder \$16,721.46; Auditor \$100.00; Health Department \$22,807.29; Clerk \$34,310.03. Claims against the County were examined and those found to be just, due and owing were allowed and those found to be not due and owing were disallowed, all as more fully set forth in the Claims and Allowance Docket of the County.

RE: IRISH ROAD BOWLING

Janet Schitter, representing St. Patrick Celebration Committee, appeared to request limited closing of the following County roads on September 16, 2017 from 12:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.: CR 700W south of W 500N to 450N, and 500N east of 700W to CR 550W. The organization will post proper signage, and will list Dubois County as an insured party under the organization's liability insurance.

RE: SURPLUS BOOKCASES

It was reported that the bookcases from the law library were sold for \$40.

RE: SOLAR SOURCES – CR 700W

Mike Owen, Solar Sources, Inc., appeared to report that since the last Commissioners' meeting, the County Highway personnel and Solar Sources have reached a mutually acceptable agreement regarding a coal truck crossing on CR 700W south of Portersville Road West. The crossing would be a 4-way stop intersection with advanced signage of Wide and Heavy Duty Construction and warning lights. After discussion, on motion made and seconded, and on recommendation of the Highway Supervisor, the agreement for the County Road crossing was approved and executed for a 10 year period.

RE: COUNTY HEALTH BOARD

The Commissioners discussed several concerns as to members of the County Health Board and qualifications for Board membership.

RE: HUNTINGBURG CONSERVATION LAKE DAM

Tammy Humbert, EMA Director, appeared to advise that no grants are available for the Huntingburg Conservation Lake repair. Highway Engineer Wendholt reported that surveying has been done to determine the type of drainage which would occur should the dam not be repaired. Tim Jerger, Huntingburg Conservation Club representative, appeared to discuss the status of the project and question if the County has the obligation to maintain the dam. Wendholt stated that the Highway Department had plans to spend \$150,000 to repair the road, and that amount could be spent on the road and dam repair. The County has no further obligation, according to the Engineer. The road is currently closed. It is the Engineer's opinion that the existence of the road on the dam is not the cause of the dam failure. Scott Balsmeyer, a farmer from below the dam, stated that if a release pipe

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increases the amount of water flowing onto the land below the dam, there may be harm to his crops. The Engineer stated that the DNR has established the rules which must be followed on the dam repair. The Club feels that they are being pushed into making a decision on this project. The Commissioners agreed to give the Club and the Dubois County Engineer ample time to explore options, look for solutions and report back. The Club has been in a discussion with NRCS. The commissioners stated they want to work with the Club, but they have a responsibility to residents to get the road re-opened. Another potential solution would be to lower the height of the dam to below 20 feet, along with the height of the County road on top of the dam, to remove DNR involvement. All agreed to stay in touch with one another and work toward a resolution.

RE: APEX BENEFITS

Eric Dreyfus and Bill Sylvester, Apex Benefits, appeared to discuss their company and brokerage services they have to offer. Apex represents approximately 15 Indiana counties, and is endorsed by the Association of Indiana Counties. Apex specializes in employer health benefits, and is not involved in other types of insurance. Mr. Sylvester expressed an opinion that the current broker should be doing more for the County. Mr. Dreyfus stated that Apex is a strong organization which has independence from the various providers and insurance companies, especially from Pharmacy Benefit Managers, where there could be substantial savings. They stated that their company is strong in tele-med programs. Dreyfus also stated the "Cost Plus" programs pay a medical provider based on a reasonable profit, whereas a program such as that which Dubois County currently uses (Patoka Valley) has the agency negotiating with the medical provider.

RE: DUBOIS STRONG

On motion duly made and seconded, the Commissioners approved an Agreement for Area Economic Development Services by and between Dubois County and Grow Dubois County, Inc.

Ed Cole, Dubois Strong, spoke to the Commissioners to explain the relationship between Grow Dubois County and Dubois Strong, and the allocation of County financial contributions between the 2 groups. Both organizations have been open to public participation, but there are some topics and discussions which must, by their very nature, be held in confidence. For this reason, a certain portion of funding for Grow Dubois County is also obtained from private sources. Commissioner Blessinger expressed concern that a private, non-public appointed board is spending public funds with no government oversight. An increase of \$25,000 in the amount passing to Grow Dubois County has been requested by Cole for 2018, all of which will come from County government. The Commissioners stated that other government units should be requested to share in the cost increase. A number of topics included in consideration with the 2 groups would be the labor market, housing, I-67 Corridor, and the RDA program.

RE: HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR

Highway Supervisor Berg submitted his report of current Highway Department projects:

CR 400W Reconstruction	Milling complete, soil cement complete, overlay work this week. Shared work with the City of Jasper is working well. Striping and shoulder stone will follow. The joint work will be done without contract.
Single Axle Trucks	Request granted to advertise for bids to be opened at the September 5 meeting.

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St. Anthony Car Show	St. Anthony Fire Department will hold a Car Show August 19 th , and they have requested 2 street closings for the show: St. Joseph and South between St John and Cross Street. Other streets are open and liability coverage will be filed.
Streets	
Sanitation Site Lease	Huntingburg site will expire soon. Renewal for 5 years for \$500 per year. On motion made and seconded, lease approved and signed.
Salt Purchase	Due to prior commitment and mild winter last year, the County does not require full 80% of order. The County will be using Jasper storage facility for excess. In 2018, a smaller amount of salt will be purchased.
Mowing Tractor Replacement	Equipment purchased in 2015 has proven defective and requires replacement. Tractors are too light for work. I.C. 5-22-10-5 allows for special purchase in a unique situation where the manufacturer has offered to replace the units at a substantial discount.
Surplus Equipment	An air compressor and roller compactor are no longer being used due to the condition of these units. The Department requests these items be declared junk and decommissioned. On motion made and seconded, the request to junk was approved.
Chip Seal	Supervisor reported on status of various chip seal projects.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER

County Highway Engineer Wendholt submitted the following report of Highway engineering projects;

Countywide Bridge Inspection (2014-17)	Additional agreement is required with Butler, Fairman & Seufert, without INDOT financial assistance. On motion made and seconded, the agreement was approved.
Countywide Bridge Inspection (2018-21)	Normal INDOT contract. On motion made and seconded, agreement approved.
Paving Projects	6 projects have been completed
Bridge #106 (Santine Rd.)	Has been replaced and the new bridge is open.
Bridge #162 (Ferd. Rd. NW)	Replacement begins August 7, 2017, and will take 3 months to complete.
ADA Training	ADA training for all Department Heads will take place at the next Department Head meeting, and will last about an hour. Training will be conducted with all employees next year. This will keep the County in compliance for federal funds. The Title VI ADA Plan will need to be on the County website, and will be updated each year.

RE: ORTHO IMAGERY

The Auditor advised that the cost for ortho photography by Woolpert will be \$26,050.65 for 6 inch ortho imagery for the next fly-over.

RE: BENEFITS COVERAGE

The Commissioners devoted a substantial period to discussion of insurance benefits for part-time employees, part-time office holders and employees' spouses.

RE: CONTINUED MEETING

The continued August meeting will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, August 21, 2017.

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