

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MARCH 6, 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 8:00 a.m. (EST) on March 6, 2017. Present were Commissioners Chad A. Blessinger, Elmer Brames and Nick 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 February 2017 meetings of the Commissioners were approved as presented. The minutes were then signed. Incomes for the month of February, 2017 were as follows: Recorder \$9,988.43; Health Department \$16,666.34; Auditor \$81.00; Clerk \$36,435.06. 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: DUBOIS STRONG

Ed Cole of Dubois Strong appeared to report to the Commissioners regarding the Dubois Strong program. He described current discussions regarding decreasing school enrollment and the effect of County Ordinance and County-wide restrictions limiting location of home construction. Future recommendations will be brought to the Commissioners. Cole also described the Facebook media project and the possible use of the Internet to encourage younger individuals to relocate to Dubois County for employment. The project is attempting to determine the number of web connections to the County employer websites as a result of outside individuals desiring to come to the area. He stated that an additional project is advancement of the highway improvement projects in the local area. Legislation is currently pending to allow local government and industry to advance local road government and industry to advance local road development on the INDOT construction list. Cole also reported on the development of shovel-ready Indiana Certified sites which are available to relocating new industry to the area. Attempts are currently being made to acquire data and employee benefits locally available. Cole also stated that Dubois Strong is currently conducting its annual campaign for funding for the organization and encouraged participation in the funding.

RE: CASA PROJECT

Judge Verkamp appeared to request authority for the CASA program to employ a part-time employee to administer the program. The current CASA program services 116 children and is on the increase. As the number of cases has increased, so has the burden on the organization and on the 48 County volunteers. The proposed employee would work 21 hours per week, would receive no benefits, and would be paid from grant funds and donations. It is proposed that future cost of the employee would come from grant applications. Currently, the program does not have adequate supervision to meet State requirements for certified CASA programs. Based upon the need and the fact that funds are available and conditioned on approval by the County Council, on motion duly made and seconded, the Commissioners approved employment of a part-time employee at a rate of \$14.00 per hour for no more than the 21 hours per week, for so long as outside funding is present.

RE: FAMILY FARM EXEMPTION – DENNY LAMPERT

Denny Lampert appeared to submit additional information regarding the real estate which he proposes to transfer to his son, Tracey Lampert, in Section 33-T1S-R4W, under the Family Farm Exemption. The tract will be

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not less than 4 acres and will have easement to County Road 164. Subject to the existence of easement to public road, on motion made and seconded, the Commissioners approved the exception to the Subdivision Ordinance.

RE: TORNADO DAMAGE

Tammy Humbert, Director of Emergency Management Agency, appeared to report on the status of damage caused by the recent tornado in the western area of the County. The exact nature of damage is not fully known but currently appears to be approximately 27 buildings. Meetings are still being held regarding damage and cleanup. She stated that waste collection sites will need to stay open for an extended period.

The Director further stated that because of communication during periods of emergency, it is important that the EMA program have its own Facebook page. Preceding and during the recent tornado, the County Facebook page was viewed over 20,000 times by citizens attempting to obtain information. Discussion was held regarding an EMA request for a separate, stand-alone Facebook page. It was stated that separate County pages require the prior approval of the Commissioners and must provide for Commissioners log-in rights for purpose of review of site content. On a motion made and seconded, the Commissioners approved the request of the Dubois County EMA to establish a separate Facebook page. This page and any further pages are subject to the following conditions: department pages must have Board of Commissioner's approval, must provide log-in credentials to the Commissioners, and all such pages are County property and subject to monitoring by the Commissioners.

RE: PICTOMETRY PRESENTATION

Lowell Davis, representing Pictometry Imagery and Trent Pell, Technical Supervisor, appeared to discuss the web services proved by their Company and to make a video presentation. The Company represents 1400 counties in the United States. He explained the method used to collect imagery information using several views of the same subject. The Company will submit photo data within several days of time requested. The data is used to supplement the GIS information. The program is known as "Connect Explorer". The advantages for assessment purposes of the Explorer system were presented in the video. Advantages of the system to the law enforcement departments and upon occurrence of disaster events were also shown. They explained the training which would be provided for local units. They stated that the Explorer program would supplement the WTH program. The federal flyover of Dubois County will be made in 2018. County Assessor, Gail Gramelspacher, expressed her opinion that the proposed Explorer program would not replace the current County policy of personally inspecting each tract within the County for assessment.

RE: GROW SOUTHWEST INDIANA WORKFORCE

Jim Heck of Grow Southwest Indiana Workforce, appeared to explain that the current three year local elected officials agreement under the Workforce and Opportunity Act will expire this year and that a decision must be made as to whether Mayor Spinner of Huntingburg will continue to represent Dubois County on the Local Elected Officials Board of Region 11 under the ACT.

He also stated that the Board will meet on April 28, 2017. On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously agreed that Mayor Spinner should continue to represent Dubois County on the Board.

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RE: E-GOV WEBSITE PRESENTION

Ken Barlow, representing E-Gov Strategies of Indianapolis, appeared to make a presentation regarding designing and management of a proposed County website. He submitted a proposed agreement for design and implementation of a County website. The Company currently does sites for Jasper, Huntingburg and Ferdinand and will provide easy navigation between those sites and the proposed County site. The Company would meet with each County Department Head to discuss contents of each department on the site and would suggest programs used in other Indiana Counties and would allow easy navigation between the departments. The site would involve easy management and would allow easy access for a web manager for each Department, so as to allow editing of the Department's webpage. A single webmaster would be in charge of the total website including each individual department's site. The process for development of a site would be a kick-off meeting, site design, planning of individual sites, site development and training. The cost would be estimated to be: first year \$17,410.00; recurring years \$2,975.00 plus actual expenses such as travel. The annual support fee would include call-in rights. License fee would be included in \$17,410. Development would take 6 to 9 months. Following the presentation to the Commissioners and those County employees present, discussion on current website operations and ways to improve the operation and the function of the webmaster, along with individual's contact with the various departments, was held. There appears to be a number of unanswered questions, including who would be the project manager. There also is question as to which contractor to engage to set up the website. A computer access has been added to the Commissioner's office, and the Commissioners discussed access to the office site.

RE: 5-K EVENTS

County Auditor Hopf, submitted requests for 5-K Runs:

- Southern Indiana Leathernecks on February 28, 2017, beginning at 8:00 a.m. and involve roads in the area of Jasper Youth Complex Southwest of Jasper.
- Girls On The Run for April 29, 2017, on roads in the area of Jasper Middle School, beginning at 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.

The Commissioners conducted an extended discussion regarding the potential need for requiring liability insurance from the organization holding the event but decided to not make it a requirement at this time. After discussion, on motion made and seconded, the Commissioners approved the requests, subject to the request that participants execute a waiver indemnifying the County for any liability resulting from use of the County Roads. The Commissioners also determined that the execution of such waiver will subsequently be required of any individual participating in runs on County roads.

RE: CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY - ORDINANCE 2017-01

The Commissioners reviewed and discussed proposed Ordinance 2017-01, amending Section 6.10 of the County Employee Handbook policy to add the following two paragraphs to Section 6.10. On motion duly made and seconded, the Commissioners adopted the proposed Ordinance.

See Exhibit A

RE: SECURITY CENTER

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The President noted two emails received from Sheriff Lampert stating that the jail population was 91 individuals on multiple occasions, which the Sheriff states is in excess of allowed population.

Commissioner Brames submitted a proposal for the establishment of a County Facilities Study Committee to study and recommend concerns regarding the various facilities of the County, to determine limitations and needs of facilities, solutions to such needs and methods of financing such solutions. There was discussion as to make-up of such a committee, if established.

RE: EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Commissioner Brames distributed a written copy of the policy which is being followed by the County to give recognition to employees for years of service and to give recognition to employees with not less than 8 years of County employment upon retirement.

RE: HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Highway Supervisor Berg reported on Department projects as follows:

Storm Recovery – As the result of recent storms, several roads were closed for a short period, debris is currently being collected by County crews, and some road repairs will be necessary.

Equipment Rotation Plan - Additional appropriation was not advertised and will be scheduled for March 27 for hearing on request.

Kurt Schurz County Road 825 West – No report.

Sanitation Sticker Order – Quotes have been sent out.

Road School – Will attend later this week.

RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER REPORT

Highway Engineer Wendholt reported on his activities as follows;

Indiana Road Funding Day – Supervisor and Engineer attended program at Indianapolis.

Countywide Bridge Inspection – 8 proposals received and being reviewed.

Huntingburg Railroad Overpass – Contract awarded to E & B Paving for \$5,588,000 for which the County would be liable for 10%. Engineer seeks to go to County Council for \$700,000 of additional appropriation, to cover the County share of the above contract and other expenses related to the project. Permission granted.

Neukam Street – Town of Dubois – The Engineer explained a mix-up in a street name in Dubois, with the name of Neukam Street and Cemetery Street needing to be exchanged, requiring the alley west of Saint Peters Church to be vacated. The Attorney will research and advise at subsequent meeting.

RE: FUTURE MEETING

The Commissioners will meet on the following date:

Monday, March 20, 2017

8:30 a.m. following the Solid Waste Management District

meeting at 7:30 a.m.