

REGULAR MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JULY 2, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Dubois County Commissioners was held in the Council Chambers of the Courthouse Annex in Jasper, Indiana, beginning at 8:00 a.m. (EST) on July 2, 2018. Present were Commissioners Nick Hostetter, Chad A. Blessinger and Elmer Brames. 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 Hostetter. Minutes of the June 18, 2018 meeting of the Commissioners were approved as presented. The minutes were then signed. Incomes for the month of June, 2018 were as follows: Recorder \$19,451.67; Health Department \$29,038.05; Auditor \$125.00; Clerk \$41,113.65. 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. On motion duly made and seconded, payroll docket was approved.

RE: UNSAFE BUILDING ORDINANCE VIOLATION

Attorney David Fritch appeared on behalf of the Dubois County Health Department to present evidence of violation of County Ordinance 2018-02. The County Attorney called Deputy Sheriff Tim Lampert, who presented testimony of service upon Julie M. Greener. Exhibit A - Warrant for Inspection of Property and Amendment. Exhibit B - Report of Health Department Inspection. Exhibit C - Notice of Weed Ordinance Violation. Exhibit D - Order of Health Department, each of which exhibits were submitted and accepted into evidence.

He described the condition of the house on the Greener property, six non-operating vehicles and of the general condition of the property. The Attorney next called Shawn Werner the Department Environmental officer who presented testimony of accumulated trash on the property, in vehicles and in the house, and presented as Exhibit E - pictures of six vehicles full of trash; trash accumulated on grounds; in barn 4 to 5 feet deep; on deck; on porch of house; in garage and house. Entry into house and garage was prevented due to unsafe condition of the structures, with fallen in roof and occupancy by animals and mosquitos and possible health problems. Also viewed was the interior of a semi-truck trailer full of junk. Accumulated waste and water were full of insects. Pictures were taken from doors and windows. Werner stated that conditions were dangerous to people on property and in neighborhood. The inspector determined, and the Department found, the property to be unsafe and ordered trash and building removed, animals and insects be removed and trash be lawfully disposed of, within 60 days. Werner reported that the cost of building removal was estimated by two contractors to be \$15,000. The Health Department has previously received complaints from area neighbors. A copy of Order of removal from County Health Director was resubmitted as Exhibit D.

Julie M. Greener appeared and stated that she failed to appear at the initial inspection of the property because she was having surgery. She stated that she has been working to cleanup area and cut weeds, but weather has prevented full work on the property. The trailer is there to contain items as removed from the home. She is also providing sole care for her mother and relatives. She does not have time to work full time on site, and her income is not adequate to hire the work done. Also, she believes that the neighbor children have caused damage on the property, and their animals are running loose on the property. Two of the vehicles on the property have current operating plates. She stated things look a lot better now than at time of inspection. She cannot afford to hire anyone to cleanup property. People have been in the barn and have disrupted contents. Because of the roof cave-in, home is currently uninhabitable. Because of the condition, it is unsafe to enter home. She is currently mowing property but because of weather and care that she must provide to relatives, she is unable to work on site as much as required. She is unable to do required work within the 60 days. She intends, when money is available, to tear down house and rebuild a new house. She only makes \$5,000 per

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year and cannot afford to tear down house or haul away vehicles. She has posted property to keep neighborhood children away. She acknowledges that she cannot live on property or sell the same due to lack of sewage facilities.

On motion made and seconded, the Commissioners affirmed the Order of the Health Department and determined that at this time no civil penalty should be imposed. They state the 60 days statutory clean-up period is in effect from the date of the non-compliance order delivered on June 20, 2018.

RE: AMBULANCE SERVICES

Suzan Henke, Director of Medical Emergency Services, submitted a financial report of ambulance operations for fiscal years 2017, 2018, and 2019. The report indicates that it is projected that operating loss would be approximately \$30,000 greater in 2019 than in 2018. She stated that an ambulance trade-in will not occur during the 2019 fiscal year. The projected cost increase is based on allocation of total projected hospital expenses. The gross income is based on a 5% increase in fee charges. On motion duly made and seconded, the Budget was approved as submitted.

RE: IV-D OFFICE

Bill Shaneyfelt, the County Deputy Prosecutor for the IV-D program, appeared to advise that he has compared Dubois County's office with eight other offices in the State region. The Dubois County office has two full-time and one part-time employee. He desires to transfer the part-time employee to full-time. Employee wise, Dubois County is the eight lowest in employee hours. Currently, the office employees do not have time to perform a required 3-year review of each case. With additional hours, the review work could be completed. Currently, full-time employees work 37.5 hour weeks, but Shaneyfelt would propose to increase this to 40 hours. The hourly pay schedule was also discussed, as was the rate to be used for part-time employees. There was discussion as to the time to be required of the third employee, with Commissioners' opinion that an attempt should be made to use a part-time employee with additional number of hours. Therefore, on motion made and seconded, the Commissioners determined that the part-time employee should be converted to a 25 hour employee.

RE: CLERK'S OFFICE COPY MACHINE

County Clerk Bridgette Jarboe appeared to advise that the office copy machine will be traded in for a newer machine based on the fact that the current machine is giving poor performance. The copy machine would be paid from the Clerk's Perpetuation Fund. The Council will be contacted for the approval of expenditures of the funds.

RE: HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

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

Storm Recovery – Recent storms and rains have taken excess Highway Department time for clean-up. With the current dry period, the Department is back to paving and shoulder work.

Property Maintenance

- Virginia Seifrig is attempting to clean and cut yard and haul off trash. An extension of time for clean-up has been given based upon attempted clean-up;
- Keith Meyer property has been inspected and mortgage company is attempting to clean-up, with property being scheduled for tax sale.
- Dubois Property is being cleaned up by owner.

Frontier Damage Claim – Being investigated by Frontier's attorney.

Chip Seal Work – Work is being done when weather permits. New schedule has been prepared.

Shoulder Stone – All first round paving projects have been completed and shoulder work needs to be completed on three of those roads.

County Road 960 E - New owner intends to build on County Road 960E, a dirt road in Columbia Township.

Owner desires to add rock on road to his residence. Policy is that user may rock dirt road, but County will not maintain road. On motion made and seconded, the Commissioners authorized the Department to allow private improvement of the Road, with landowner to assume cost, with written agreement from owner to the policy that County assumes no obligation on maintenance of road.

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RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

Highway Engineer Wendholt submitted his report of current engineering projects at the Highway Department as follows:

Bridge Inspection – American Structurepoint submits invoice for \$3,572.11 for services. On motion made and seconded, payment approved.

Bridge 34 – Four requests for quotes for I-Beams were sent with one bid submitted by Westfield Steel for \$23,402.52. One company had question but no quote. On motion made and seconded, the bid of Westfield was accepted.

Re-Bar Stock Pile – Four requests for proposals sent with two bids returned: O'Neal Steel for \$16,953.84 and Westfield Steel for \$18,136.20 and with O'Neal offering extra 300 pieces for \$18,649.22, same rate. On motion made and seconded, the bid of O'Neal Steel, at the higher number, was accepted.

Paving Projects – All 2017 Community Crossing projects have been completed. Projects from the 2018 funding are in process.

Projects previously bid have been reviewed and recommends the following paving projects:

18-10	Stewart Road and Sycamore Lane	Calcar Paving	\$ 86,114.50
18-11	Mentor Road South	J.H. Rudolph	\$151,928.50
18-12	200 West and 900 South	J.H. Rudolph	\$187,686.95
18-13	650 W, 350 S and Town of Duff	Calcar Paving	\$110,008.50
18-14	Town of Haysville	Calcar Paving	\$ 95,040.00

Project 18-09, County Road 580 North, consideration should be delayed on this project in the coal mine area. On motion made and seconded, projects 18-10 through 18-14 were approved for award.

RE: PLATTING OF SUBDIVISIONS OF REAL ESTATE - ORDINANCE 2018-03

The Engineer reported that all required advertising of the proposed Ordinance has been completed. On motion made and seconded, the Ordinance was approved and adopted.

See Exhibit A

RE: TAX COMPENSATION CLASS ACTION

Commissioner Blessinger submitted proposed information regarding a proposed class action lawsuit by local units against the Federal Government for compensation from the Federal on road improvements, as filed in the case of Kane County vs U. S (17-739c and 17-1991c). The compensation is defined as Payment In Lieu of Tax (PILT) for years 2015, 2016, and 2017. On motion made and seconded, the Commissioners agreed to join as a party in the lawsuit.

RE: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT - 2019 BUDGET

Highway Supervisor Berg submitted to the Commissioners the Department's Budget for 2019. He explained the method used in computing salaries and wages within the budget, using the new schedule of wages prepared by the County Wage Committee. Discussion was held on the method used involving the classification of foreman. After further discussion, on motion made and seconded, the budget was approved subject to the fact that a working foreman's compensation will be moved to the foreman section of the budget and the workman's section of the budget will be reduced to remove the foreman's compensation.

RE: COMMISSIONERS' - 2019 BUDGET

The Commissioners devoted additional time to their proposed budget as discussed at the June 18, 2018 meeting. It was determined that the Records Librarian should be left in the budget for 2019, with a decision be made at a future time as to the continuation of the office. Other offices and positions were discussed. After lengthy discussion, with the addition of promotion fund, an ordinance violation enforcement fund, and \$1,000 increase in transportation, the budget was approved.

RE: OFFICE 365

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The Auditor described the installation of Office 365 on the County computer system. The current system is near the time when the program will no longer be supported. The initial cost will be in the approximate amount of \$43,250. On motion made seconded, the Auditor was authorized to proceed with approved funding of the program.

RE: JAIL STUDY

The Commissioners discussed the current number of persons at the County Security Center and the various thoughts on the need for future expansion and the study which must be completed before any action could be taken.

RE: TRAVEL MEALS

The commissioners discussed future policy to be followed by employees on travel away from the County. The current level is \$50.00 per day for three meals.

RE: FLAG LOWERING

Commissioner Blessinger distributed a statement regarding lowering of flags upon death of County local personnel or officer holders. The policy is to be reviewed by the Commissioners.

RE: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBER

The Board discussed the fact that Barry Day has expressed his intention to resign as a member of the RDA Board as soon as a replacement can be found. Upon recommendation by Huntingburg Mayor Spinner and on motion made and seconded, the Commissioners approved the appointment of David Drake, of Huntingburg, as successor RDA Board member.

RE: FUTURE MEETINGS

The Commissioners will meet on Monday, July 16, 2018, at 8:30 a.m., in the Council Chambers of the Courthouse Annex due to the remodeling of the Commissioners Room.