

CONTINUED MEETING DUBOIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JANUARY 22, 2018

The continued 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 January 22, 2018. Present were Commissioners Nick Hostetter and Chad A. Blessinger. 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 January 8, 2018, meeting of the Commissioners were approved as presented. On motion made and seconded, the Commissioners approved the Claims and Allowance Docket and Payroll Docket, payment of said items was authorized.

RE: AMBULANCE SERVICE

Suzan Henke, Director of Ambulance Services, appeared to discuss with the Commissioners two proposed changes in billing for services provided on ambulance runs: 1) BLS Base Rate. 2) Response Without Transport. Henke also advised that Medicare now permits billing when an ambulance transports an individual but is required to stand-by for more than one hour for return transportation. On motion made and seconded, the Commissioners approved the stand-by charge of \$250 and the Response Without Transport charge of \$200, an increase of Base Rate DOA from \$259.25 to \$530.74. These changes will affect the Medicare payment rate. She also advised that the Operating Revenue for the last six months of 2017 was \$939,670, a result in net loss of \$311,332, for which Memorial was entitled to a subsidy of \$215,371 from the County.

RE: DARYL THEISING - ROSENVOLK GERMAN MEDIEVAL PROJECT

Daryl Theising appeared to discuss with the Commissioners the location of the Rosenvolk German Medieval project near the Town of Dubois in Hall Township. The speaker owns real estate adjacent to the proposed project and stated his opposition to the project. He stated that owners of real estate in the neighborhood also have expressed their opposition to the project.

RE: JASPER CHALK WALK

Corinna Mack, representing Jasper Arts Commission, appeared to request use of the Courthouse facility for the Annual Jasper Chalk Walk program on June 2, 2018, from 5:30 am to 5:00 pm, including lawn and restrooms. On motion duly made and seconded, the Commissioners authorized use of Courthouse lawn and restrooms under the normal County use requirements.

RE: DUBOIS STRONG AND GROW DUBOIS COUNTY

The Auditor submitted proposed Agreements for County Professional Economic Development, with Dubois Strong for 2018 and Grow Dubois County for 2017 and 2018. After review, it was found that Dubois Strong agreement was in order but that the 2018 agreement for Grow Dubois County proposal is in need of changes. On motion made and seconded, the Dubois Strong agreement was approved, and the agreement for Grow Dubois County was placed on hold pending necessary revisions by Grow Dubois County.

RE: COUNTY EMPLOYEE MEDICAL DRUG PROGRAM

The Auditor reported that the proposed agreement with True Scripts, the new employee drug insurer, is still in the negotiation process. The attorneys for the parties are attempting to reach a solution. One County employee is involved with problems due to the change in insurer and the Auditor will encourage a solution to the problem.

RE: HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

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

Shooting Incident – Discussed a shooting incident which occurred during the recent period of ice, snow and subzero weather. The effect of such an incident on all department employees was discussed. The stress of the weather conditions on employees must be recognized.

Road Treatment – The recent road conditions with ice, snow and temperature combinations involve treatment of 660 miles of roads of which 527 are paved and have been difficult. The County has 16 plows to cover these roads; crews have worked countless hours without rest in an attempt to make roads usable. For comparison purposes, the City of Jasper has the same number of staff and equipment as the County to service less than 20% of the road miles. Also, the County does not have the funding to annually prepare for such road conditions which occur once in every five or six years. The Department is doing the best it can with the staff and equipment available.

Project Report – The Supervisor submitted a report of the cost of road surface maintenance during 2017.

Bituminous Tank – Supervisor advised that another County has advertised a surplus bituminous tank for sale with buyer to be responsible for tear down and relocation. The current Dubois County tank is too small and has increased material costs. After discussion of the current situation and need, on motion made and seconded, the Supervisor was granted authority to bid and purchase the bituminous tank at auction.

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RE: HIGHWAY ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

Paving Projects – submitted a proposed list for 2018 paving projects, having a projected cost of \$738,600 and requested permission to obtain County Council approval for \$150,000 additional appropriation from LRS Paving and \$650,000 from MVH Paving accounts. On motion made and seconded, the Engineer was granted authority to request the funding.

Highway Department Roof Replacement – Roof is currently in failure over office and storage area and needs replacement. A proposal has been received from a professional contractor. On motion made and seconded, the Department was instructed to obtain one additional professional proposal and to award the project to either contractor if within 10% of the lowest bid. It is acknowledged that during construction, additional replacement may be required for subfloor which cannot currently be inspected, but is suspected to need replacement.

Additional Building Repairs – The Engineer also reported that additional repair work may be needed and will be presented at the next meeting. If acceptable, the County Council must be consulted for funding.

RE: COMMISSIONER AND COUNCIL JOINT OFFICE

The Commissioners discussed the possible joint use of a single office for both Commissioners and County Council purposes and the advantages.

RE: PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE SECURITY

Engineer Wendholt reported on his discussion with the Prosecutor regarding security for the Prosecutor's office. A proposed plan would involve rearranging the Commissioners' Room and removal of the east door into Commissioners' Room from public use.

RE: DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING

Commissioner Blessinger reported on the recent Courthouse Department Head meeting and on the upcoming website training and development meeting.

RE: SCANNING OF ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS

The Commissioners requested future ordinances and resolutions adopted by the Commissioners be scanned for placement on the Dubois County website.

RE: FUTURE MEETINGS

The Commissioners will meet on Monday, February 5, 2018, at 8:00 a.m. and Tuesday, February 20, 2018, at 8:00 a.m., both meetings to be held in the Commissioners' Room of the Courthouse Annex.

Nick Hostetter

Chad A. Blessinger

Elmer Brames

Attest: _____
Kathleen M. Hopf, Auditor