

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

April 10, 2023

Commissioners Present: President William L Hartman
Vice President Michael Watson
Vice President Todd Sanderson

Others Present: Auditor Susan Sleeper
Deputy Auditor Jody Wiedenhoeft
Attorney Andrew Kruse

MATTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Dotty began by speaking about the jail and that they have hired two new recruits, and updating the Commissioners on the Sheriff's Office. The Health Department is continuing to struggle getting applicants with the same or similar benefit offerings as hospitals. She then moved to Community Corrections and the Change Academy has had multiple positions open, as well as several interviews, but has not had the right fit for the Juvenile Facilitator. The Auditor's Office, as well as the Assessor's office has openings, and those job postings closed this week.

Dotty then moved to security at the Annex Building, and said she is working diligently with IT to get security at that building. She is collaborating with IT, and will provide further updates as the project gets closer to being completed.

The Job Classification sub-committee met last week and all recommendations passed. Dotty went into further detail regarding multiple job descriptions.

PTO Payout- Dotty stated that after a very detailed spreadsheet provided by Auditor Sleeper, the Committee is going to recommend that we keep with the current PTO policy. Further discussion took place regarding the current policy. The Surveyor's Office worked with Dotty regarding the lead Surveying Tech, and the change in certain job descriptions in that department. President Hartman asked if it would change the salary of that lead position, but Dotty went on to explain that it is not tied to the First Deputy title, so the wage is opened up without as many restrictions. President Hartman went on to state that this may fill the gap from a full-time Surveyor and their wage. Rick Ring then spoke that most surveyors are not licensed. Rick went on to say he has spoken with multiple farmers in the community and they are very happy with the new Surveyor Glen Crawford, and his team for the work he has accomplished so far this year.

Rick Ring then updated the Commissioners on the 2024 Budget, and that we will be starting earlier this year. He stated that he would appreciate the Nursing wage re-evaluated, as it will be difficult to compete with outside companies, and would appreciate direction from the Commissioners on their recommendations and correcting several wages. William Hartman then brought up inflation, and said that it is difficult to catch up. Further discussion took place.

MATTER OF YMCA CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM MOU

Dotty provided an agreement with the YMCA, and shared that there has been a price increase for members as follows: Family Membership- \$51.00 / Single Membership- \$36.00. Rick Ring stepped to the podium, and explained that this is the lowest price of any North East Indiana YMCA, and that the DeKalb County Community can travel to any YMCA outside of our area, as just another benefit of the

membership. Mike Watson made a motion to approve the President to sign the YMCA MOU renewal to be part of the Corporate Membership Program. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT FOR POKA-BACHE CONNECTOR TRAIL

Jen Sharkey attending the meeting, and began by speaking about the group coalition last Friday, April 7, 2023. The task force will be meeting again soon. Andrew Kruse sees the agreement as low-risk. Rick Ring then spoke on the topic and that the County has a large section of the trails underway, and does not believe that the POKA-BACHE Trail will have a large budget, because they are technically not building anything. If there are any expenses, it will be at very minimum. William Hartman asked if we were still talking that this would primarily be a 80/20 grant, and Rick Ring stated that will be a portion of it, however, the communities will be raising some of the funds. President Hartman spoke about the asphalt that previously installed in the trails that shows a large amount of separation and has to be maintained, and Ring then stated that the gravel trails hold just as much maintenance as the asphalt trails.

Michael Watson made a motion to approve and all to sign the Inter-Local Agreement for Poka-Bache Connector Trail between Angola, Auburn, Bluffton, Fort Wayne, Hometown, Ossian, Waterloo, Allen County, DeKalb County, Steuben County and Wells County, and to approve a recommendation to the council. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF CODE ENFORCEMENT/PUBLIC NUISANCE

Paul White gave the Commissioners a briefing on other properties that are in his view from complaints around the County.

Todd Thrush- Not Present | 6841 County Road 7a, Garrett: This property has been on notice since January 2022. Due to Paul's full time job, he was not able to make the meeting in April 2022, and by fairness, he has restarted the process, resent notices, and at one point had the Sheriff's department do a welfare check on him. The sheriff's department was able to make contact with him and he is not willing to speak with Paul and unwilling to comply. Attorney Kruse made a comment on whether this could end up as a health hazard and Commissioner Watson believes that if Bernie went to the property that a citation would be issued.

Michael Watson made a motion for Attorney Kruse to prepare the necessary paperwork to move forward on the cleanup of the property. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

Eric Fuller | 6810 County Road 62, Saint Joe: This property has been on notice since January 2022, in September 2022 Commissioners gave a 30-day extension, as well as another 30-day extension on November 2022. Paul has seen progress on the property, although he was a little behind during the winter weather and holidays and was given a February 2023 deadline. Paul sent Eric a letter letting him know that he would meet with and update the Commissioners on the process that has happened. The Commissioners all agree to continue on the path and plan that is currently in place.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

Ben Parker began by asking the Commissioners to review and approve the Indiana Department of Transportation –Local Public Agency Project Coordination Contract #072448, Des. No. 1702950, LPA DUNS/UEI # YHX@K4MZRM2MI. Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve Contract #072448, and Michael Watson seconded, all approved.

Ben then provided quotes for forklifts to be used at the new highway department. The first quote from Crown lift trucks, totaled \$58,957.60 for the base price, with an additional \$325.32 for service and parts, \$843.15 for propane tanks, and \$135.14 with an approximate delivery date of 90 weeks. The second quote is from Hull Toyota Lift, totaled \$49,911.00 with an approximate delivery date of 90-120 days. Todd Sanderson asked if we could hold off on ordering, and checking around to see if there are any used options. William Hartman stated he would like to table this for now and see if we can pursue finding a used one to save a little money.

MATTER OF REQUEST TO INDOT TO INSTALL ILLUMINATED STOP SIGNS AT STATE ROAD 1 AND COUNTY ROAD 40

Ben asked Andrew Kruse to draft a letter to send to INDOT regarding the intersection of County Road 40, and State Road 1, in the hopes of installing an illuminated stop sign at the intersection. There has been a large amount of phone calls from residents of DeKalb County who are concerned about the intersection, and cited the amount of recent car accidents and some fatalities at that intersection. Todd Sanderson made a motion for the Commissioners to sign and send the letter to INDOT. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Michael Watson made the motion to approve the minutes as dated April 3, 2023, as amended. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF CLAIMS

Michael Watson made a motion to approve General Claims consisting of warrant #134116 thru 134152 in the amount of \$683,951.83, and wire transfer # 24153 thru 24263 for \$847,981.65. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve the following travel requests:

- 1) Casey Taylor to attend The Search for Contraband-Lion Shield held at the Wells County 4H Facility on April 3, 2023. Estimated cost of \$0.00.
- 2) Angela Sorg to attend Grand Rounds 3.0 held at Ball State University Muncie on April 3, 2023. Estimated cost of \$87.00.
- 3) Effie Campbell to attend DEI Day Away held at Camp Counselor Training in Columbia City, on April 12, 2023. Estimated cost of \$29.00.
- 4) Kurt Grimm to attend Board of Directors Judicial Conference, held at the Indianapolis Marriott East, on April 18, 2023. Estimated cost of \$0.00.
- 5) Effie Campbell to attend DEI Day Away held at 4-H Camp Planning in Huntington, on April 21, 2023. Estimated cost of \$51.00.

- 6) Cheryl Lynch, Debra Krafft, and Theresa Overy to attend the Trauma Symposium, held at Ceruti's Summit Park in Fort Wayne, on May 18, 2023. Estimated cost of \$225.00.
- 7) Dotty Miller to attend the AIC 2023 Northeast District Meeting, held at the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum in Auburn, on May 24, 2023. Estimated cost of \$45.00.
- 8) Richard Ring to attend the AIC 2023 Northeast District Meeting, held at the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum in Auburn, on May 24, 2023. Estimated cost of \$45.00.
- 9) Susan Sleeper, Carla Winebrenner, and Jody Wiedenhoef to attend the AIC 2023 Northeast District Meeting and Institute Class, held at the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum in Auburn, on May 24, 2023. Estimated cost of \$315.00.
- 10) Tiffany Weimer, Amanda Thomas, Dave Myers, and Aaron Goldner to attend the Spring IDACS Meeting held at Notre Dame, on May 25, 2023. Estimated cost of \$0.00.
- 11) Ronda Hunkler & Travis Holcomb to attend the Annual Service Officer Training Conference held at the Indiana War Memorial, in Indianapolis, May 31-June 1, 2023. Estimated cost of \$660.00.
- 12) Mark Olivero, Kevin Likes, Randy Coffey, Joe Carlin, Cory Swagger, John Watkins, Stephanie Hamilton, and Ben Nordmann to attend the IPDC Annual Update at the Carmel Indiana Event Center, on June 9, 2023. Estimated cost of \$2,548.08.

Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF FARMERS MARKET

Michael Watson began by stating Ann Finchum, of the Auburn Main Street Group, contacted him to see if the County Commissioners would allow the farmers market to be held in the DeKalb County parking lot on Saturday morning's only. Discussion took place regarding the liability insurance policies. Michael Watson made a motion to approve the Farmers Market to set up in the County's parking lot for Saturday's only. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF NALOXONE BOX INSTALLATION

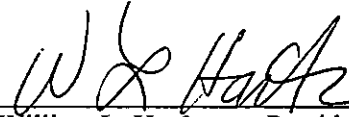
Cheryl Lynch provided documentation to request a Naloxone Box placed near the front door of the Health Department entrance. According to her correspondence, these boxes would have no cost associated for the box, or the medication provided. In her email, Cheryl stated that the medication does not require a medical person to administer it, and said that this medication is used to reverse an opioid overdose when sprayed in the nose. Discussion took place, and the Commissioners need to think on this, as they do not want to provide the box as a service and enable drug use in our community. Todd Sanderson stated he would prefer to speak with Cheryl directly on this matter, and tabled the request until a later time.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

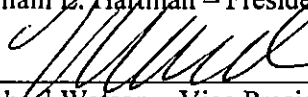
Topics include Central Communications, County Road 56 Project, Todd Land Drive-Way

MATTER OF JOINT RESOLUTION OF DEKALB CO. COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION 2023-R-6: DCC 4-1-3-38 AND DEKALB CO. COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2023-RCC-4

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve and sign Commissioner Resolution 2023-R-6; DCC 4-1-3-38; Council Resolution # 2023-RCC-4. A joint resolution with the DeKalb County Commissioners and DeKalb County Council for the H. Charles (Charlie) Winans Memorial. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.



William L. Hartman – President

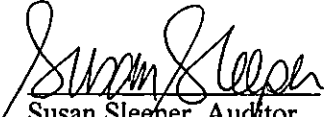


Michael Watson – Vice President



Todd Sanderson – Vice President

Attest:



Susan Sleeper, Auditor