

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

June 5, 2023

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

Others Present: Auditor Susan Sleeper
 Attorney Andrew Kruse

MATTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Dotty relayed that the Insurance Broker is working on the enrollment documents, but there are a few things to confirm. Since the Commissioners have decided to allow Vision and Dental to be voluntary they have created a Cafeteria Plan, where the employee can choose something different for anyone in their family, which will be a bit different for payroll, but the Commissioners confirmed that is the plan they want. Department Heads meeting is this coming Wednesday, June 7th. The Job Classification Committee met last week and Dotty explained what was covered in the meeting. Jasper County visited DeKalb County HR last week to gain information on putting an HR Department together. Dotty then covered recruitment around the County. Commissioner Hartman does not feel offering benefits to the Public Defenders part-time attorneys is doable, that it would have to be across the board – Discussion took place on the topic and there is more details being gathered.

MATTER OF JESSICA SHULL & ANDREW PROVINES ON SOLAR

Jessica Shull 3869 Cr 79 Butler | checking to see if there were any solar updates, if there have been any changes or completed applications submitted. The commissioners and their attorney explained there have not been any completed projects. Jessica Shull wants to discuss acceptable risks and to ask what is the level of risk the County is willing to take in order to gain Economic Development. Jessica asked if Mechanic Liens are an acceptable risk for DeKalb County as happened in Randolph County. Jessica spoke with Jerry Warren. Jessica continued to ask if certain topics would be an acceptable risk for DeKalb County. Jessica stated that she is pretty sure how Commissioner Watson will vote, who responded that she does not know anything about him and has consistently mischaracterized virtually everything that has to do with this topic. Jessica is asking that when it is time that DeKalb County shut solar out of DeKalb County.

Andrew Provines 3920 CR 75 Butler | asked Attorney Kruse at what point does the liability go to the County versus on the Solar Company? He also asked at what dollar value does the County go bankrupt? Attorney Kruse has not seen a lot of or a specific lawsuit against the County for having zoning. Further discussion took place.

MATTER OF MAINTENANCE

Larry said the light posts should be finished this week. The Prosecutors Office has requested a card reader at their back door for their access vs. entering the South door by the hallway of their office. An estimate would be \$6,000 or more depending on if the panel has to be increased. The

Commissioners are in agreement that it is not needed at this time for convenience. Last Thursday discussion took place at the Development Services Office on whether to move the office or how to handle the air conditioning situation, Larry feels putting in a new air conditioner may be a good way to go and buy some time before deciding on a new building. The Commissioners requested Larry to get a quote for a new unit.

MATTER OF CEDAR CREEK STABILIZATION PROJECT BID OPENING

Nellie Peffley opened the two bids that were received in the DeKalb County Auditor's office on June 5, 2023.

Flatland Resources: \$340,013.33, possibly savings of \$53,179.65 with a bare root planting in Acres, but keep the 5-gal planting in Eckhart Park

The Stanger Group: \$312,502.00, potential savings should be close to the same

The reason for the tree plantings is to meet the DNR guidelines was explained by David Heilman from Flatland Resources. Commissioner Hartman feels the planting should be bare root and not to spend the extra money. Commissioner Watson asked what the vitality of the bare root planting is compared to the initial cost.

Nellie believes it would be a good idea for the City, County and Cedar Creek Drainage Board to review the bids and come together for an award of project.

Eric Ditmars, park superintendent said 25% of trees are actually being planted in Eckhart Park, and it was explained that the DNR requires at least 70% vitality of the trees and if many of them die out then they will have to be replaced. Eric feels inside of Eckhart Park the planting should remain at the 5-gallon plantings.

Colby Stanger with the Stanger Group stated his cost savings were in other areas in the bid that will be reviewed.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

New Highway waterline installation was discussed and how to proceed with the permit to bore under cedar creek. Ben discussed with the commissioners about who should file for the permit. The surveyor's office says according to the drainage code and the drainage board whoever is going to own the utility needs to submit the permit. Ben spoke with Waterloo and they would like the county to keep ownership of the water main for one year or do a one-year maintenance bond if they take it over after it is installed. Ben asked the commissioners to bring this topic up at the next drainage board meeting to see who needs to submit the permit and proof of insurance to appease the board.

The highway department has worked on updating their current utility permit. Ben handed out the most recent draft and asked the commissioners to look it over and let him know of any question or concerns. The changes mostly consist of adding a cost for the permit and penalties. Ben stated this permit was drafted following Allen County's permit and that Andrew Kruse has already reviewed it. Mike Watson stated this is good to see and will look it over and this could help with the cost of bringing on an inspector. Updated Utility Permit Fees in draft form for review to come back for decision and or changes on next week.

Highway Build: Building #2 was delivered on site last Tuesday and Crawford was still moving dirt on site. Ben stated that the groundbreaking went really well and everything is starting to come together so we should start to see many things happening.

MATTER OF BRIDGE #57 – CR 40 OVER METCALF DITCH

Todd Sanderson made a motion to award Milestone Contractors, L.P. the project with the lowest bid coming in at \$157,757.67. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF ENGAGING UNITED FOR CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION ON BRIDGE #57

Todd Sanderson made a motion for United Consulting to do the construction inspection for bridge #57 on CR 40 for the fee to not exceed \$15,000.00 on an hourly basis. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT WITH SURF INTERNET

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve and move forward with the Hold Harmless Agreement with SURF Internet. Michael Watson seconded and all approved

MATTER OF BROOKS QUOTE AT THE HIGHLANDS ADDITION

Ben had asked for a quote from Brooks since they are the company awarded the CCMG project to maintain the Highlands Addition road and that came in at \$26,520. This includes milling/cleaning butt joints, asphalt for tack coat, HMA type surface: type B 9.5mm, and traffic control.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to accept the quote from Brooks in the amount of \$26,520 to have the roads maintained in the Highlands Addition in conjunction with the Community Crossing Project. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF CR 11-A LIGHTPOLE CLAIM

Michael Watson moved to have Attorney Kruse move forward with finalizing the claim for the compromised settlement of \$4,846.20 which applies 8% depreciation to material components only per Damage Claim Services. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF PAYROLL

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve payroll for the period May 7-20, 2023 that was pre-approved by Michael Watson due to Memorial Day falling on a Monday and Commissioners meeting not held. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF CLAIMS

Michael Watson made a motion to approve May 2023 Bookkeeper and Payroll claims along with General claims processed on June 5, 2023 in the amount of \$1,206,165.33 consisting of warrant #'s 134264 thru 134301 and wire transfer #'s 24715 thru 24827. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Todd Sanderson made the motion to approve the minutes as dated May 22, 2023. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS

Michael Watson made a motion to approve the following travel requests:

- 1) Deputy Orwig to attend Re-certification on Patrol Stops held on June 6-7, 2023 at the Goshen Police Department. Estimated cost \$425.00 paid by department travel.
- 2) Cheryl Lynch, Debra Krafft & Theresa Overy to attend Meeting with VaxCare – billing services held on June 7, 2023 at Jeff Stout Government Center in Kokomo. Estimated cost of \$0.00.
- 3) Mike Watson to attend IEDC READI 2.0 Regional Meeting held on June 22, 2023 at the Armory Kitchen in South Bend. Estimated cost \$87.00 paid by department travel.
- 4) Rick Ring to attend State Called Meeting held June 23-24, 2023 at the Renaissance Hotel. Estimated cost \$289.60 paid by department travel.
- 5) Deputy Yoder to attend Vehicle Counter Assault Training held July 14, 2023 at the Briggs Core Dynamics Center. Estimated cost \$300.00 paid by department travel.
- 6) Joni Humbarger to virtually attend the NACo class of Leading Analytics 8-week class. Estimated cost \$995.00 paid by department travel.

Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF EASTERN ENGINEERING SUPPLY AGREEMENT

Michael Watson made a motion to approve and for the president to sign the Equipment Rental Agreement for the three large plotter printers for the Surveyor, Development Services & Auditors Offices. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF OCRA GRANT SIGNATURE

Michael Watson made a motion to approve and the President to sign the Income Survey Certification document, Census Data and Income Survey Differences Letter, and the Resident Letter for the St. Joe Sewer District OCRA Grant submission. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved

MATTER OF THIRD PARTY LEASE & SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR CAPITAL PURCHASED FOR DART

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve and the president to sign the Third Party Lease & Service Agreement for Capital Equipment between DeKalb County Commissioners and DeKalb County Council on Aging for the vehicles listed below beginning May 22, 2023 and continue up and until a vehicle is submitted and approved for INDOT Disposition. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

VIN #'s:

2C7WDGBG4HR743038
1FDDE4FS7JDC01489
2C7WDGBG7FR634408
2C7WDGBG7FR634411
1FDEE3FS4FDA09623

1FDEE3FS7GDC55065
2C7WDGBGSKR649614
2C7WDGBGSKR808289
2CFRC1AG7MR550100

**MATTER OF ORDINANCE 2023-O-1: DCC 28-9-12 | AN ORDINANCE
ESTABLISHING A RESTRICTED FUND FOR DONATIONS FOR THE ADDICTION
TREATMENT COURT THROUGH DEKALB SUPERIOR COURT I**

**MATTER OF ORDINANCE 2023-O-2: DCC 28-9-13 | AN ORDINANCE
ESTABLISHING A RESTRICTED FUND FOR DONATIONS FOR THE
VETERANS COURT OPERATED THROUGH THE DEKALB CIRCUIT COURT**

**MATTER OF ORDINANCE 2023-O-3: DCC 28-9-14 | AN ORDINANCE
ESTABLISHING A RESTRICTED FUND FOR DONATIONS TO THE
FAMILY RESTORATION COURT**

**MATTER OF ORDINANCE 2023-O-4: DCC 28-9-15 | AN ORDINANCE
ESTABLISHING A RESTRICTED FUND FOR FUNDS FOR THE DRUG TESTING
DONE BY THE ADDICTION TREATMENT COURT**


Michael Watson moved to approve all the ordinances listed above: 2023-O-1, 2023-O-2, 2023-O-3, & 2023-O-4 on FIRST Reading. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.


MATTER OF ALLIANCE UPDATE


Leta Hullinger introduced Erin Potter-the new Director of Alliance Industries. Erin began with thanking the Commissioners for supporting Alliance Industries and she went over the programs they offer and the positive outcomes for those employed at Alliance. Erin personally invited the Commissioners to the Open House on July 20th from 11-2. Leta encouraged everyone to come see the facility as it has grown.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Topics include- Mole Control Estimate for Bat Removal in Annex Building,


William L. Hartman – President


Michael Watson – Vice President


Todd Sanderson – Vice President

Attest:


Susan Sleeper, Auditor